

PART II—INDUSTRY

1. EXPANSION

Appendices A, B, and C to this report summarize certain of the principal statistical data relating to factories.*

It will be observed from Appendix A that the steady increase in the number of factories since 1933-34 was arrested in 1940-41 because of the war. Despite labour shortages and building restrictions factory expansion increased its momentum from 1944-45 onwards, no doubt stimulated by the deferment of projects during the war years. With the upsurge of employment from the depression years, the numbers of workers employed show a marked increase from 1933-34 to 1937-38, a relative flattening off during 1938-39 to 1943-44, and a marked rise again from 1944-45 to 1947-48. The volume of production indices (Appendix B) show a consistently upward trend.

The expansion between 1938-39 and 1947-48, whilst high, was, however, not exceptional compared with some other countries, as is shown by the following tabulation :—

TABLE 5—INDICES OF EMPLOYEES IN MANUFACTURING

Year.			Australia.*	Canada.*	U.S.A.*	New Zealand.
1938	..	..	104	97	85	100 (1938-39)
1948	..	..	160	179	147	136 (1947-48)

* United Nations "Bulletin of Statistics."

The percentages of the total working population employed in factories in 1935-36 (the first year for which these figures are available), 1937-38, and 1947-48 were :—

TABLE 6—FACTORY WORKERS AS PERCENTAGE OF WORKING POPULATION

Year.					Factories Covered by the Statistical Report on Factory Production.	Registered Factories.
					Per Cent.	Per Cent.
1935-36	..	..	..	..	12·9	15·3
1937-38	..	..	..	..	14·9	18·0
1947-48	..	..	..	..	19·8	23·0

By way of comparing the increase in volume of factory production in recent years, taking 1938-39 = 100 as the base year, the volume of factory production index figure increased to 151 in 1947-48 and farm production to 113. The growing importance of factory production in our economy can readily be seen from these figures.

* The statistical information in this review has mainly been taken from the "Statistical Report on the Factory Production of New Zealand" compiled by the Census and Statistics Department. This report does not cover all registered factories—for instance, in 1947-48 registered factories numbered 19,102, employing 162,802 persons, whilst factories covered by the report totalled 7,966 and employed 140,267 persons—but is the only complete statistical survey of factories available and, furthermore, as it has been compiled on a uniform basis over the period under review is satisfactory for comparative purposes.