

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The number of shops existent in New Zealand during the year (1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908) was 11,981. In these shops 32,306 persons were engaged in business, but this includes working employers as well as shop-assistants, the latter of whom number 20,302.

The following table shows the number of shops, persons engaged, assistants, &c., in each of the four cities and in each industrial district (excluding the four cities):—

District.	Number of Shops.			Number of Persons engaged, including Employers.			Total Wages paid during Year ending 31/3/07.
	Without Assistants.	With Assistants.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Auckland City	520	660	1,180	2,999	1,160	4,159	£ 221,097
Wellington City	621	564	1,185	2,609	809	3,418	212,087
Christchurch City	628	602	1,230	2,860	889	3,749	228,713
Dunedin City	668	566	1,234	2,516	941	3,457	189,215
Northern Industrial District*	768	861	1,629	3,036	708	3,744	149,830
Taranaki Industrial District	290	317	607	1,127	284	1,411	54,521
Wellington Industrial District†	823	1,014	1,837	3,939	934	4,873	259,454
Marlborough Industrial District	50	87	137	307	71	378	16,939
Nelson Industrial District ...	148	136	284	537	157	694	37,157
Westland Industrial District	263	258	521	965	198	1,163	51,779
Canterbury Industrial District‡	441	444	885	1,853	418	2,271	113,981
Otago and Southland Industrial District§	599	653	1,252	2,386	603	2,989	140,332
	5,819	6,162	11,981	25,134	7,172	32,306	1,675,105

* Not including Auckland City and suburbs.
including Christchurch City and suburbs.

† Not including Wellington City and suburbs.
§ Not including Dunedin City and suburbs.

‡ Not

Wages in Shops.

□ The money paid in wages in shops amounted to £1,675,105. This sum divided among the 20,302 shop-assistants gives an average of £82 10s. as the annual earnings of the New Zealand shop-assistant.

□ The following table shows—(1) Number of hands employed in shops, excluding employers; (2) total wages; and (3) annual wage of employees:—

District.	Employees.			Wages paid during the Year ending 31st March, 1907.	Average Annual Wage per Employee.
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Auckland City	1,922	986	2,918	221,097	£ 75 15 5
Wellington City	1,517	692	2,209	212,087	96 0 0
Christchurch City	1,834	705	2,539	228,713	90 11 7
Dunedin City	1,509	690	2,199	189,215	86 1 0
Northern Industrial District ..	1,559	569	2,128	149,830	70 8 0
Taranaki Industrial District ..	557	236	793	54,521	68 15 1
Wellington Industrial District ..	2,247	804	3,051	259,454	85 0 1
Marlborough Industrial District ..	169	62	231	16,939	73 6 7
Nelson Industrial District	294	129	423	37,157	87 16 9
Westland Industrial District ..	483	153	636	51,779	81 8 3
Canterbury Industrial District ..	1,067	344	1,411	113,981	80 15 7
Otago and Southland Industrial District	1,309	455	1,764	140,332	79 11 1
	14,477	5,825	20,302	1,675,105	82 10 0

— In this table it may be noted that Wellington pays its shop-assistants more highly than any other of the chief towns, and also that the wages of the shop-assistants in the country are considerably lower than those paid in the shops of cities.