

STATISTICS RELATING TO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES.

In many respects the manufacturing industries of New Zealand continue to expand, but it is regretted that, taken as a whole, the progress expected has not been realized. This lack of progress is exemplified from a study of the official statistics for the years 1926–27 and for those of 1927–28. There has been a reduction of 164 in the number of employees engaged, explainable, no doubt, by the depression in the sawmilling, footwear, and woollen industries. The wages paid were also down by £171,000; but perhaps the most surprising unfavourable difference occurs in the item “Added value”—i.e., the difference between the cost of materials and the value of products—which stood at £32,421,285 in 1927–28 against £32,799,021 in 1926–27.

The following table, showing certain summarized statistics of all the Dominion’s factories, indicates the general growth during the past year:—

	Year ended 31st March,		Differences, 1927–28.	
	1927.	1928.	Absolute.	Relative per Cent.
Establishments (number)	5,088	5,166	78	1·53
Persons engaged—				
Males (number)	66,976	65,995	—981	—1·46
Females (number)	14,928	15,745	817	5·47
Total	81,904	81,740	—164	—0·20
Salaries and wages paid—	£	£	£	£
To males	15,534,622	15,299,985	—234,637	—1·51
To females	1,513,101	1,575,890	62,789	4·15
Total	17,047,723	16,875,878	—171,845	—1·01
Motive power (h.p.)	408,739	417,105	8,366	2·05
Cost of materials used	£ 50,213,482	£ 55,308,197	£ 5,094,715	£ 10·15
Value of products	83,012,503	87,729,482	4,716,979	5·68
Added value	32,799,021	32,421,285	—377,736	—1·15
Value of land and buildings	£ 22,875,447	£ 23,301,449	£ 426,002	£ 1·86
Value of plant and machinery	39,847,678	41,372,701	1,525,023	3·83
Total	62,723,125	64,674,150	1,951,025	3·11

NOTE.—The minus sign (—) denotes decrease.

In the following table a summary is given of the position of industry, under three main headings, in each of the four provinces indicated. It will be noted that Auckland and Wellington run very closely so far as value of production is concerned, and that in both of these provinces the figures exceed the value of products of both Canterbury and its allied districts and of Otago and Southland. This is mainly due, of course, to the high value of output from the semi-primary, dairying, and allied industries in the North Island. In the purely manufacturing field both the Canterbury and neighbouring districts, and Otago and Southland, occupy a very important place.

Summary by Districts.

	Persons engaged.	Salaries and Wages.	Value of Products.
Auckland	26,815	£ 5,682,534	£ 30,780,743
Hawke’s Bay, Taranaki, Wellington ..	23,386	5,032,582	28,345,219
Marlborough, Nelson, Westland, Canterbury	17,478	3,492,945	16,864,705
Otago, Southland	14,077	2,669,717	11,741,336
Totals	81,756	16,877,778	87,732,003