

*Woollen-manufacturing.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—				1928.	1929.	1930.
Establishments (number)	..	..	..	12	12	12
Employees (number)	..	..	..	2,451	2,576	2,478
Wages paid	..	..	..	£381,561	£399,560	£364,549
Value of output	..	..	..	£1,209,150	£1,236,578	£1,085,279
Value added by manufacture	..	..	..	£627,305	£647,699	£612,793

This industry reports depressed conditions, sales having declined and staffs having been reduced. Imports have also decreased by the substantial amount of £120,393, due in some measure to bank exchange rates operating adversely against imports. At the present time a demand is being experienced for knitting-wools for home-made garments. The import figures given hereunder indicate the competition from overseas in woollen, cotton, silk, and artificial-silk piece-goods. All these competing fabrics show substantial decreases, the total decrease for the three groups being no less than £419,053.

Piece-goods.				1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
				£	£	£	£
Artificial and pure silk	..	..	..	831,782	1,001,569	1,211,335	1,020,019
Woollen	..	..	..	787,986	785,593	742,649	622,256
Cotton and linen	..	..	..	1,794,847	1,863,355	1,841,997	1,734,653

*Printing and Publishing.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—				1928.	1929.	1930.
Establishments (number)	..	..	..	346	358	350
Employees (number)	..	..	..	8,053	8,322	8,255
Wages paid	..	..	..	£1,805,690	£1,838,262	£1,859,182
Value of output	..	..	..	£4,411,052	£4,642,725	£4,772,811
Value added by manufacture	..	..	..	£3,276,179	£3,476,787	£3,569,680

The production figures show substantial increases, value of output increasing by £130,086, value added by manufacture by £92,893, and wages by £20,920. Competition is reported as being extremely keen, due, it is stated, to smaller volume of business offering. Some establishments have been compelled to reduce staffs, and conditions generally for the past year have not been bright.

*Brush and Broom making.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March :—				1928.	1929.	1930.
Establishments (number)	..	..	..	9	10	14
Employees (number)	..	..	..	223	215	239
Wages paid	..	..	..	£38,192	£40,332	£41,733
Value of output	..	..	..	£120,130	£111,898	£135,047
Value added by manufacture	..	..	..	£65,046	£67,074	£73,212
Imports, calendar years :—						
Brushes, brushware, and brooms	..	..	..	£76,291	£81,963	£78,003

The above figures for 1929–30 show a substantial increase in value of output of £23,149 as compared with the figures for the previous year. Value added by manufacture also shows an increase of approximately 10 per cent. Conditions are described as sluggish. Competition is keen; the number of employees has decreased; and prospects are not bright. Complaint is made of the prevalence of dumping of overseas brushware.

*Approximate Cost of Paper.*—Preparation, not given; printing (1,250 copies), £36 10s.

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