

The employment position of the industry for 1934 is the most favourable for the past four years. The value added by manufacture, which is a reliable indication of the net trading result, declined by £50,161, due to the cost of materials used, which increased by £103,435. An increase in turnover is reported by Auckland factories, but managers of these factories point out that the increased price of pigs combined with keen competition will result in small margins of profit being obtained during the current year.

*Bricks, Pipes, Tiles, and Pottery Making.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1932.	1933.	1934.
Establishments (number) .. ..	50	44	43
Employees (number) .. ..	563	405	467
Wages paid .. * ..	£102,694	£74,167	£82,664
Value of output .. ..	£253,356	£180,785	£212,263
Value added by manufacture .. ..	£233,969	£168,548	£197,984

The improvement in the building trade has created a most optimistic tone. While the 1934 figures show an improvement under each heading compared with 1933, the figures are considerably under the figures for 1931. For comparison purposes the relative figures are set out hereunder:—

	1931.	1934.
Employees .. ..	946	467
Wages paid .. ..	£213,895	£82,664
Value of output .. ..	£564,489	£212,263
“ Added ” value .. ..	£537,775	£197,984

*Flax-milling.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1932.	1933.	1934.
Establishments (number) .. ..	17	20	23
Employees (number) .. ..	135	213	258
Wages paid .. ..	£13,198	£27,349	£35,456
Value of output .. ..	£33,878	£54,658	£74,291
Value added by manufacture .. ..	£24,399	£38,591	£58,383

*Rope and Twine Making.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1932.	1933.	1934.
Establishments (number) .. ..	6	5	6
Employees (number) .. ..	205	214	228
Wages paid .. ..	£35,304	£34,684	£34,828
Value of output .. ..	£121,732	£144,502	£130,903
Value added by manufacture .. ..	£64,831	£72,654	£69,362

The flax industry continues to show a slight progressive improvement during the past four years. The figures for 1934 show a relative substantial improvement over the 1933 period, but when compared with statistics of a few years earlier the position is far from satisfactory.

Exports of hemp and tow in each of the past eight calendar years were as follows:—

Calendar Year.	Tons.	£
1927 .. ..	19,600	535,526
1928 .. ..	15,683	394,450
1929 .. ..	14,720	379,942
1930 .. ..	9,493	221,923
1931 .. ..	2,398	38,407
1932 .. ..	3,850	47,312
1933 .. ..	4,402	47,632
1934 .. ..	4,173	52,018

The reports of rope and twine manufacturers for the current year are distinctly favourable, but competition from imported manilla binder twine is having a disturbing effect on the market.

The manufacture of wool-packs from *Phormium tenax* is now passing the experimental stages, and, while the packs of 1934 did not receive favourable reception from the wool interests at Bradford, it appears quite certain that no objection will be taken to the general use of packs of the quality of the sample packs of 1935 recently displayed to the British Wool Buyers' Association. Further improvements are now being made to the pack which will remove all possible doubt of their suitability as wool-containers.

*Clothing.*

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1932.	1933.	1934.
Establishments (number) .. ..	244	254	249
Employees (number) .. ..	7,155	7,616	7,877
Wages paid .. ..	£784,668	£807,206	£831,871
Value of output .. ..	£2,153,467	£2,400,599	£2,631,182
Value added by manufacture .. ..	£1,109,276	£1,188,153	£1,264,304
Imports, calendar years—			
Apparel and ready-made clothing (including fur clothing) .. ..	£926,152	£941,466	£1,030,584

Reports from Auckland manufacturers indicate better conditions than those of 1934. Most factories report a fair amount of overtime being worked.

The import value of apparel and ready-made clothing (imported in 1934) shows an increase of £89,118, while the increase in value from local mills, as shown above, was £230,583.