

Southern factories report a general improvement in the industry, with a small increase in sales resulting in increased numbers finding employment, and a good deal of overtime during rush periods. In the North, conditions have improved during recent months.

Although competition is keen as between New Zealand manufacturers and those from overseas, prospects for the current year are considered bright.

Furniture and Cabinet Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	299	281	285
Employees (number)	1,584	1,576	1,874
Wages paid	£236,860	£233,300	£285,081
Value of output	£611,019	£616,365	£773,810
Value added by manufacture	£348,980	£347,121	£414,012

Conditions throughout the year have shown a distinct improvement, and existing factories have increased their output considerably—from 10 per cent. to 27 per cent. in individual cases—while, in addition, a number of new units have sprung up. Increased building activity, more confidence in the future by the general public, and the setting-up of a larger number of new homes are considered the main factors operating in the general improvement. At the present time factories are working at pressure; in the North some difficulty has been experienced in procuring skilled hands.

Ham and Bacon Factories.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	40	39	43
Employees (number)	398	427	395
Wages paid	£87,675	£91,000	£79,993
Value of output	£702,442	£755,716	£805,113
Value added by manufacture	£275,572	£225,411	£228,608
Cost of materials used	£426,870	£530,305	£576,505

A steady improvement has taken place throughout the year and turnovers have increased: the increases in sales range from 5 per cent. to 17 per cent. in the South. The outlook for the current year is fairly promising, but in the North there is a reported scarcity of pigs, with higher prices ruling.

Bricks, Pipes, Tiles, and Pottery Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	44	43	47
Employees (number)	405	467	618
Wages paid	£74,167	£82,664	£111,988
Value of output	£180,785	£212,263	£285,164
Value added by manufacture	£168,548	£197,984	£264,729

The figures indicate a decided improvement during the past two years. The industry has enjoyed the benefits accruing from the increased activity in the building trade. Sales are reported to have increased greatly, resulting in a considerable increase in the numbers employed.

Flax-milling.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	20	23	21
Employees (number)	213	258	316
Wages paid	£27,349	£35,456	£42,160
Value of output	£54,658	£74,291	£80,711
Value added by manufacture	£38,591	£58,383	£68,911

Rope and Twine Making.

Official statistics, year ended 31st March—	1933.	1934.	1935.
Establishments (number)	5	6	6
Employees (number)	214	228	228
Wages paid	£34,684	£34,828	£36,052
Value of output	£144,502	£130,903	£128,506
Value added by manufacture	£72,654	£69,362	£69,668

Conditions in the flax industry have displayed a steady improvement during the past five years. The position of the industry is far from satisfactory, however, and the relatively small export trade now secured is due to the assistance extended to the industry by way of subsidies from the Employment Promotion Fund.