

22. *Hosiery-factories.*

Official statistics—	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Establishments (number) ..	33	33	35	35
Employees (number) ..	998	1,012	1,226	1,298
Salaries and wages paid ..	£111,551	£114,379	£146,623	£167,975
Value of output ..	£440,089	£461,653	£564,990	£590,253
Added value ..	£214,178	£248,236	£258,715	£271,972
Imports (calendar years) ..	£196,630	£246,536	£429,525	£365,161

Factories have been producing at maximum capacity and expansion of plant is under way. It is essential that output should be maintained as overseas competition has served to keep the profit margin fine. Youthful labour has been scarce and has caused considerable concern.

23. *Tinned-plate and Sheet-metal Working.*

Official statistics—	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Establishments (number) ..	130	127	128	126
Employees (number) ..	1,452	1,384	1,554	1,690
Salaries and wages paid ..	£214,918	£204,118	£270,608	£321,498
Value of output ..	£763,682	£792,461	£1,032,347	£1,191,603
Value added by manufacture ..	£358,577	£344,107	£451,464	£518,986

A busy year, with prospects for the future remaining good.

24. *Electrical Engineering.*

Official statistics—	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Establishments (number) ..	53	69	74	84
Employees (number) ..	355	617	598	855
Salaries and wages paid ..	£52,683	£90,080	£94,837	£148,926
Value of output ..	£162,755	£302,056	£321,306	£492,818
Value added by manufacture ..	£86,944	£172,614	£181,541	£265,494

Business has been brisk throughout the year and gives every indication of continuing. Skilled labour is by no means plentiful.

25. *Range-making.*

Official statistics—	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Establishments (number) ..	11	8	11	12
Employees (number) ..	408	436	683	689
Salaries and wages paid ..	£69,748	£74,650	£125,517	£134,001
Value of output ..	£199,920	£206,527	£319,650	£325,826
Value added by manufacture ..	£136,511	£148,044	£219,759	£213,493

*Coal Ranges.*—Business has been quiet, due, no doubt, to the increasing popularity of gas and electric ranges.

*Electric Ranges.*—Output has been fair during the year, and prices have been cut too fine to be satisfactory. The import restrictions have brightened the prospects, and conditions should improve considerably.

*Gas-cookers.*—The latter part of the year has provided a gratifying recovery after most disappointing conditions early in the year. The outlook is now decidedly more optimistic.

26. *Wireworking.*

Official statistics—	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Establishments (number) ..	19	20	23	25
Employees (number) ..	160	195	231	248
Salaries and wages paid ..	£26,993	£34,235	£50,104	£54,532
Value of output ..	£125,618	£154,868	£227,411	£240,343
Value added by manufacture ..	£68,152	£79,788	£107,305	£117,769

Conditions improved somewhat towards the end of the year. Prospects for the future are good.

27. *Tanneries.*

Official statistics—	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.	1937-38.
Establishments (number) ..	15	16	14	13
Employees (number) ..	531	543	571	497
Salaries and wages paid ..	£100,668	£104,888	£117,755	£119,890
Value of output ..	£492,604	£519,157	£614,113	£583,287
Value added by manufacture ..	£198,454	£210,692	£217,565	£206,607

The first half year was a very slack period for the tanning industry. About September, with the improvement in the footwear trade, better conditions prevailed, although recovery was slow because of the large stocks of footwear held by retailers. Considerable benefit was derived from the Import Regulations, and plans are under way for extensions to plants and factories.