

FACTORIES ACT.

STATISTICAL.

The totals quoted below show that the number of factories registered continues to grow, there being an increase of ninety-four factories on the previous year, and in thirteen years the number has doubled. The total number of factory workers is also given (showing a small increase over the last year). The latter figures should, however, be regarded as only approximate. It is explained that the figures published from year to year mainly comprise, in column 2, the factories in existence at registration-time (April). Similarly, in column 4, the factory workers mentioned are mainly those employed at that time. To these have been added the few new factories which opened up during the succeeding eleven months, together with the workers employed therein, but no allowance has been made for any factories (or the workers employed therein) that may have been closed down during the same period. Although the figures are shown as being for each year April–March, it may be said therefore that they substantially relate to the first month of the year only—viz., April.

Year. (1.)	Factories. (2.)	Increase. (3.)	Factory Workers. (4.)	Increase. (5.)
April to March.				
1894-95	4,109	...	29,879	...
1895-96	4,647	538	32,387	2,508
1896-97	5,177	530	36,918	4,531
1897-98	5,601	424	39,672	2,754
1898-99	6,286	685	45,305	5,633
1899-1900	6,438	152	48,938	3,633
1900-1	6,744	306	53,460	4,522
1901-2	7,203	459	55,395	1,935
1902-3	7,675	472	59,047	3,652
1903-4	8,373	698	63,968	4,921
1904-5	9,123	750	67,713	3,745
1905-6	9,881	758	70,403	2,690
1906-7	10,788	907	75,310	4,907
1907-8	11,586	798	78,625	3,315
1908-9	12,040	454	78,848	223
1909-10	12,302	262	77,806	Decrease. 1,042
1910-11	12,768	466	78,790	Increase. 984
1911-12	12,847	79	*	*
1912-13	13,375	428	86,598	7,808
1913-14	13,469	94	87,517	919

* Not ascertained.

Tables showing further particulars of the factories and of the workers employed therein during the year 1913-14, divided into districts and trades, are given on page 46. It should perhaps be further pointed out, first, that the total numbers of persons shown as engaged in the several trades do not indicate the actual number which the trades are capable of employing, as many trades may be unusually slack or busy during the month of April; and, second, that the total wages shown for each trade represents the wages paid to the persons employed throughout the year in question, not merely to those engaged in April.

Several trades show substantial increases in the number of persons employed as compared with the previous returns. In the meat-slaughtering and allied trades 4,345 hands were employed, as against 3,934—an increase of 411. Other increases are—

	1913.	1914.	Increase.
Fruit-preserving	351	520	169
Cycle and motor engineering	1,488	1,646	158
Flax-milling	1,792	2,011	219
Printing, &c.	4,136	4,287	151

Other trades have remained almost stationary or show a slight falling-off. This is largely accountable to the fact that suitable hands could not be obtained. These are—

	1913.	1914.	Increase.
Ready-made clothing, shirtmaking, and tailoring	9,204	9,287	83
Dressmaking	6,648	6,517	131
Cabinetmaking	2,746	2,744	2
Woollen-milling	1,843	1,812	31