

apprentices and journeymen recorded steadily increased until on the 1st April, 1929, there were 9,943 apprentices, with 31,773 journeymen, but the proportion has remained at 1 to 3·2. The proportion had up till a year ago also considerably increased, there being then 1 apprentice to every 2·9 journeymen, which is 871 more than in 1924, but this was doubtless due to the fact that during the trade depression employers had been compelled to reduce their staffs of journeymen, while obliged to retain their apprentices. The increase in the number of apprentices (as well as of journeymen) is in part due to the fact that the apprenticeship orders issued by the Court from time to time have covered a wider field. The notable increases are in the baking and pastry-cooking, carpentering and joinery, furniture, painting, plumbing, and plastering trades.

Details are shown in the following return :—

RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF APPRENTICES AND JOURNEYMEN EMPLOYED IN THE SKILLED TRADES TO WHICH THE APPRENTICES ACT APPLIES, TOGETHER WITH THE ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL NUMBER OF APPRENTICES THAT MAY BE EMPLOYED (APRIL, 1929).

(1) Trade.	(2) Number of Journeymen and Working Employers for whom Apprentices are allowable.	(3) Number of Apprentices employed.	(4) Estimated Additional Number of Apprentices that may be employed.
Baking and pastry-cooking ..	1,662	373	628
Boatbuilding .. ..	165	45	32
Boilermaking .. ..	321	96	80
Bootmaking .. ..	904	201	206
Boot-repairing .. ..	654	82	281
Blacksmithing and farriery ..	550	51	195
Bricklaying .. ..	423	93	104
Carpentering and joinery ..	6,569	1,620	1,465
Chemistry .. ..	579	156	169
Clothing trades .. ..	506	69	171
Coachbuilding (including motor-body building)	1,011	320	302
Coopering .. ..	51	5	12
Cycle-working .. ..	251	83	82
Electrical working .. ..	1,422	767	192
Engineering .. ..	1,778	943	1,769
Engineering (motor) .. ..	2,473	1,272	1,153
Furniture trades .. ..	1,869	725	324
Gardening .. ..	225	20	61
Hairdressing .. ..	947	196	313
Hatmaking (felt) .. ..	30	5	13
Jewellery and watchmaking ..	361	66	134
Leadlight and glass working ..	161	62	18
Masonry (stone and monumental) ..	264	41	65
Moulding .. ..	442	108	140
Painting .. ..	2,118	449	538
Plumbing and gasfitting .. ..	1,576	770	283
Plastering .. ..	660	213	125
Printing (all branches) .. ..	1,946	787	415
Saddlery and bagmaking .. ..	371	51	187
Sail, tent, and cover making ..	36	4	3
Tailoring .. ..	902	51	403
Tinsmithing .. ..	405	166	94
Wicker-working .. ..	141	53	31
	31,773	9,943	9,988

Regarding column 4, the following are given as generally the reasons that a larger number of apprentices are not employed :—

- (1) In some trades the work is irregular and there is therefore not sufficient continuity of employment—*e.g.*, the building trades.
- (2) A number of “one-man” establishments exist, many of which have not the facilities to teach apprentices. A number of other shops have no facilities, and applications to employ apprentices have been refused by the Committees.
- (3) Some jobs are unsuitable for apprentices—*e.g.*, outside work, repairs, and small jobs.
- (4) The introduction of machinery has the effect of reducing the opportunities for apprentices.