

RETURN SHOWING NUMBER OF APPRENTICES EMPLOYED IN SKILLED TRADES, APRIL, 1934.

(The figures for the previous year are shown in parentheses.)

Trade.	Number of Apprentices employed.	Trade.	Number of Apprentices employed.	Trade.	Number of Apprentices employed.
Baking ..	153 (219)	Electrical ..	287 (329)	Plumbing ..	300 (391)
Boatbuilding ..	11 (19)	Engineering ..	524 (672)	Plastering ..	68 (106)
Boilermaking ..	37 (45)	Motor-engineering ..	659 (861)	Printing ..	538 (596)
Bootmaking ..	136 (145)	Furniture ..	312 (421)	Saddlery ..	24 (33)
Boot-repairing ..	19 (32)	Gardening ..	14 (15)	Sail, tent, &c. ..	1 (1)
Blacksmithing ..	21 (25)	Hairdressing ..	78 (107)	Tailoring ..	14 (16)
Bricklaying ..	15 (33)	Hatmaking ..	.. (2)	Tinsmithing ..	92 (117)
Carpentering ..	505 (757)	Jewellery ..	28 (36)	Wicker-working ..	13 (14)
Clothing ..	51 (53)	Leadlight ..	16 (20)		
Coachbuilding ..	140 (217)	Masonry ..	16 (16)	Totals ..	4,303 (5,594)
Coopering ..	5 (5)	Moulding ..	62 (85)		
Cycle-working ..	12 (11)	Painting ..	152 (195)		

The following table shows the number of apprentices employed in each year during the past six years :—

April,	Number of Apprentices.	April,	Number of Apprentices.
1928	10,227	1932	6,910
1929	9,943	1933	5,594
1930	9,826	1934	4,303
1931	8,901		

AMENDMENT OF ACT.

The provisions of section 56 of the Finance Act, 1932, which give Magistrates power, on application by any party concerned, to amend, suspend, or cancel any contract of apprenticeship in force at the date of the passing of the Act, are still being invoked to a considerable extent, owing to the difficulty experienced by employers in finding employment for their apprentices. Before a Magistrate, however, can cancel a contract under this section he is required to be satisfied that, owing to the economic conditions affecting the industry concerned or the particular business of the employer, the employer cannot reasonably be expected to continue to carry out the terms of the contract, but in the event of his ordering cancellation of the contract he may, if he thinks fit, award compensation to the apprentice.

The following table shows the number of applications dealt with under this legislation during the year ended the 31st March, 1934 :—

APPLICATIONS UNDER SECTION 56 OF THE FINANCE ACT, 1932, FOR RELIEF FROM THE PROVISIONS OF APPRENTICESHIP CONTRACTS.

Trade.	Total Number of Applications.	Nature of Decision.			
		Contracts varied.	Contracts suspended.	Contracts cancelled.	Relief refused.
Baking	7	6	..	1	..
Boilermaking ..	3	3	..	..	..
Bricklaying ..	1	..	1	..	..
Carpentering ..	31	25	2	2	2
Coachbuilding ..	1	1	..	..	..
Electrical	8	6	1	1	..
Engineering	36	36	..	..	..
Motor-engineering ..	29	21	4	4	..
Furniture	7	7	..	..	..
Gardening	1	1	..	..	..
Hairdressing	6	6	..	..	..
Leadlight	3	3	..	..	..
Painting	11	8	1	1	1
Plumbing	36	32	1	2	1
Plastering	3	2	..	1	..
Printing	210	185	..	..	25
Saddlery	3	3	..	..	..
Tinsmithing	3	3	..	..	..
Totals	399	348	10	12	29