

29 FACTORY EMPLOYMENT IN MELBOURNE 1949

cent. of the employment in this field, and covers a broad range from large-scale meat killing and processing establishments with extensive land holdings for handling livestock to smaller canning and food processing organisations, and from large-scale grain milling to biscuit manufacturing and bakeries, both large and small. Confectionery, smallgoods and ice cream manufacture add further variety. The food section is a mixture of both small and large factories according to the type of industry. Forty per cent. of total employment is in factories employing over 50 persons each while one-third is in factories employing over 200 persons each.

The manufacture of drink absorbs about 17 per cent. of labour in the food industry and comprises four large breweries, several medium-size aerated water and cordial manufacturers, and distilleries. A relatively new development in this field has been the growth of several large milk pasteurising and bottling establishments supplying a wide range of smaller retail milk distributors.

The tobacco industry accounts for about eight per cent. of employment in the food industry and is dominated by several fairly large organisations.

Paper and Printing

There are one large and several small paper and cardboard mills located in the metropolitan area, while the printing industry, which accounts for the bulk of this type of employment, consists of three large newspaper establishments in the city proper and a variety of small and large commercial printing organisations spread around the inner suburbs. The industry produces primarily for local requirements.

Timber and Furniture

The timber, furniture and woodworking industry is also primarily local in character. Almost 50 per cent. of the labour in this group is engaged in joinery or sawmilling, most of the establishments being large ones located near the port. The furniture industry employs 45 per cent. of the labour and is made up of quite a number of both small and medium establishments. Three-quarters of employment

in this latter section is in firms employing fewer than fifty persons each.

Chemicals

The chemical industry, although absorbing only about five per cent. of all factory labour, is one that has expanded considerably since the war. About half the labour force in this industry is engaged in the field of basic chemicals, oil refinery, explosives and fertiliser manufacture, while the remainder covers the manufacture of soap, matches, paint, pharmaceutical products, cosmetics, etc. The basic chemical group is the heavy side of the industry and is confined to a limited number of large organisations, which require large and specially-located sites. The other section is a mixture of small and large organisations generally located closer in. The manufacture of soap and matches is largely confined to individually large concerns. Organisations manufacturing pharmaceutical products and paint are mainly medium to large size. Cosmetics includes many smaller establishments. Nearly one-half of all employment in the chemical field is by firms employing over 200 persons. The bulk of this industry produces for Australia-wide distribution.

Rubber and Plastics

Of the remaining sections of industry, rubber and plastics are among the most important in terms of expansion. The rubber industry, although employing less than two per cent. of Melbourne's factory labour force, is an important one nationally, as Melbourne produces about 45 per cent. of the Australian output in tyres and tubes. This industry is comprised of two very large firms and several relatively small organisations. The manufacture of plastics has been of recent rapid growth. It was practically non-existent before the war, yet now accounts for more than one per cent. of factory labour and is expanding rapidly as new fields for plastics are discovered and exploited. Three large organisations employ most of the workers in this industry, one of them being the largest plastics manufacturer in the southern hemisphere. There is also a number of very small organisations.

LOCATION OF INDUSTRY

Skins, Leather and Furs

Two-thirds of employment in this section of industry is in tanneries and fellmongery establishments, Melbourne having a number of large tanneries associated with the development of the boot and shoe trade. Furriers and leather goods manufacturers are mainly small.

Miscellaneous Industries

These include working in precious metals and the manufacture of jewellery and plate, which together account for about one per cent. of total factory employment, and the making of photographic equipment, brushes and brooms, linoleum, toys, musical and scientific instruments and sporting goods, which jointly make up nearly two per cent. of factory employment. They consist of both small and medium-size establishments.

LOCATION OF INDUSTRY

Industry is now using approximately 6,300 acres of land within the metropolitan area, or about 4.2 per cent. of the whole urban area. Some of this land is only partially developed, especially in the outer suburbs, where many industries are expanding on newly-acquired sites. Of this 6,300 acres, 18 per cent. is used by extractive industries and another 19 per cent. by the oil and explosives industries, leaving 63 per cent., or some 4,000 acres, being used by the remainder of industry. In addition, industry is holding another 3,750 acres within and adjoining the urban area for possible future development. The present distribution of land being used by industry is shown in map 30 and Table 31.

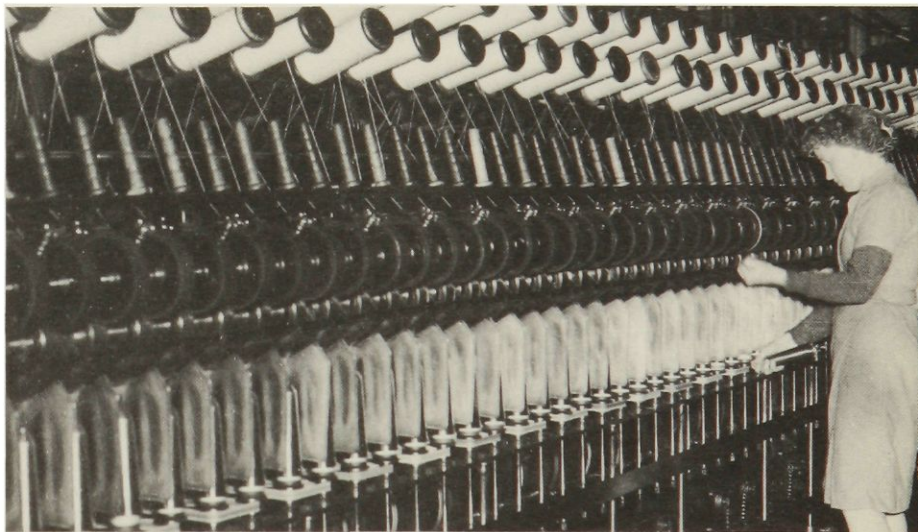
The land used and held by the oil and explosives industries is practically all to the west of Melbourne. The land used by the extractive industries is spread throughout all except the innermost suburbs. Most of the land used by the remainder of industry is in the inner suburbs, although an increasing proportion is being developed in the outer suburbs, especially to the west (19%) and south-east (17%).

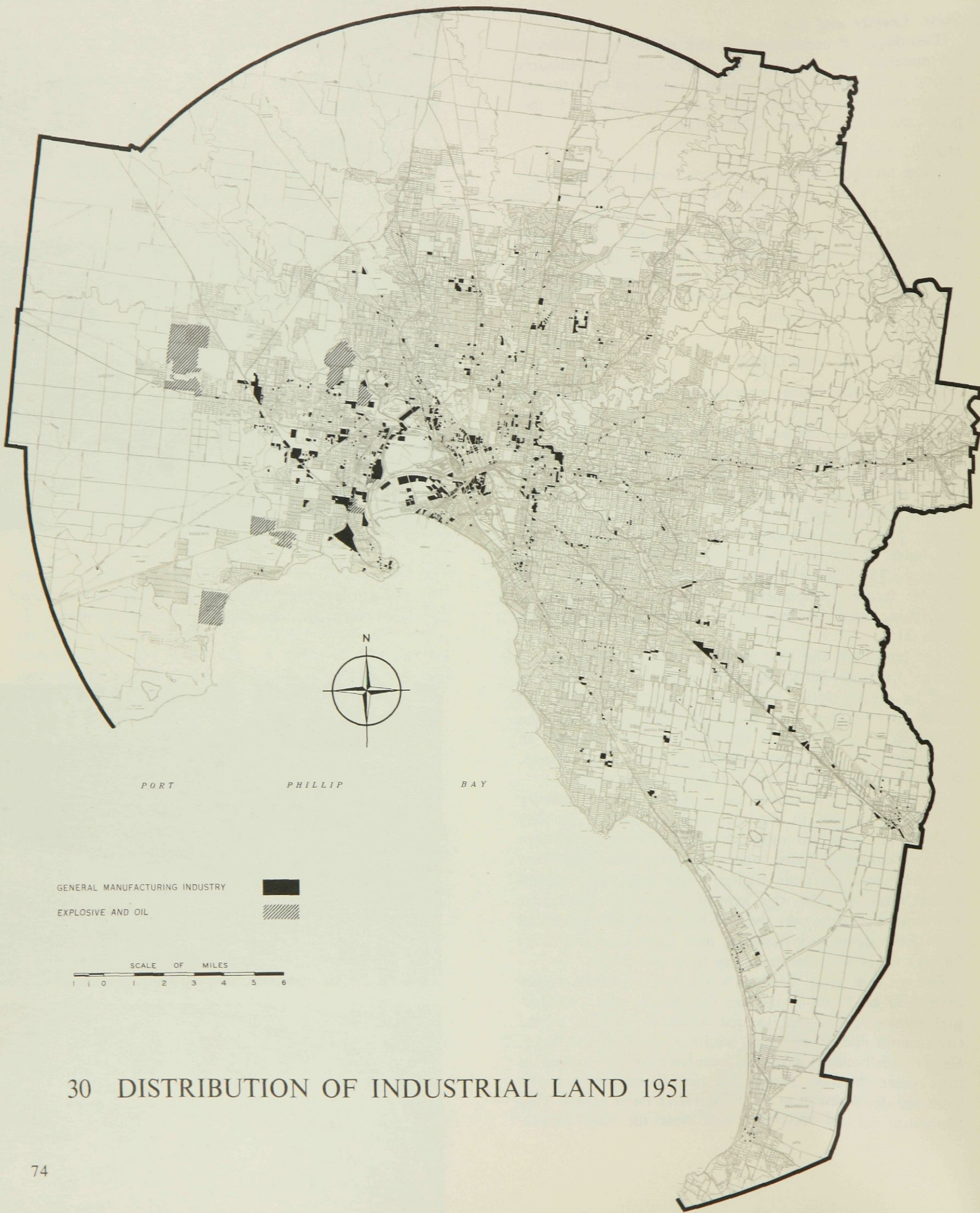
In terms of employment, most of Melbourne's industry is centrally located in the old inner suburbs of the city close to the port and railheads. This follows the pattern of most industrial cities, where the early industries have occupied sites near main transport and distributive centres so that transport costs were kept to a minimum and labour was most accessible. As the city has grown and residential areas have developed outward, new industries have been forced to seek sites further away from the centre.

Despite this trend, Melbourne's industry remains highly centralised as shown by the fact that 60 per cent. of industrial employment is still located within three miles of the city's centre and 80 per cent. within a radius of five miles. Most of Melbourne's principal industries are still located in these inner suburbs. There has been considerable recent industrial development in the Fishermen's Bend area of Port Melbourne, where reclaimed land near the river mouth,



Engineering, Clothing, Textiles and Food account for most factory employment





30 DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRIAL LAND 1951