

## THE LINOLEUM AND OILCLOTH TRADE.

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### Introductory.\*

The tables on pages 392 to 394 are based on returns received from firms in Great Britain whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the manufacture of linoleum, cork carpet and oilcloth. The number of such separate returns was 29. Two firms to which schedules were sent did not furnish returns, but these firms had very small establishments and their output may be ignored. These products were not manufactured in Northern Ireland in 1924 or in Ireland in 1912 or 1907.

*Summary of results.*—The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1924, 1912 and 1907. It should be borne in mind throughout this report that the comparability of figures relating to value or cost in different censal years is affected by the changes which have taken place in the general purchasing power of money.

\* See also the Notes on pages vii to xv.



Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1912.	1907.
Value of goods made (Gross output)	£'000	11,340	5,564	4,747
Cost of materials used .. ..	"	6,091	3,411	2,375
Net output .. .. .	"	5,249	2,153	2,372
Average number of persons employed	No.	12,355	9,349	11,400
Net output per person employed	£	425	230	208
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	37,466	36,694	26,819
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. ..	"	5,760	539	(not recorded).

### Production.

Detailed information relating to the output of the Linoleum and Oilcloth Trade in 1924 will be found in Table II on page 392.

*Amount of output.*—At the Censuses of 1912 and 1907 manufacturers were required to state, in one aggregate figure, the value only of their output of linoleum and oilcloth. The following statement shows, for the three censal years, the value of the output of the Linoleum and Oilcloth Trade; no production of similar goods was recorded on schedules for other trades in any of the three years.

Kind of goods made.	1924.	1912.	1907.
	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
Linoleum, oilcloth and cork carpet ..	£'000 11,315	£'000 5,534	£'000 4,739
Other goods .. .. .	25	30	8
<b>TOTAL</b> .. .. .	<b>11,340</b>	<b>5,564</b>	<b>4,747</b>

The output shown above is believed to be free from duplication.

Particulars of quantities produced in 1924 are shown in the table on page 389 in relation to exports and imports. In the absence of information as to the quantity of the output in the earlier years, it is impossible to say what change has taken place in the volume of output of the trade. There can be little doubt, however, that the output was substantially greater in 1924 than in 1912 or 1907, since both the number of persons employed and the mechanical power available were considerably greater in 1924 than in either of the earlier years.

*Cost of materials.*—The cost of materials used by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Linoleum and Oilcloth Trade was returned as £6,091,000 in 1924; the corresponding figure for 1912 was £3,411,000 and that for 1907, £2,375,000.

*Net output.*—The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their returns on schedules for the Linoleum and Oilcloth Trade (whose gross output was valued at £11,340,000) was £5,249,000, that sum

representing the total amount by which the value, as delivered, of the aggregate output exceeded the cost, as purchased, of the materials used.

The net output per head of persons employed in the censal year 1924 was £425, as compared with £230 in 1912, and £208 in 1907.

*Exports and imports.*—The following table, relating to the year 1924, shows the quantities of linoleum, oilcloth and cork carpet produced in relation to the exports and imports of similarly described goods.

Kind of goods.	Production.	Exports.	Net imports.
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Quantity.
	Th. sq. yds.	Th. sq. yds.	Th. sq. yds.
Linoleum :—			
Inlaid .. .. .	10,518 (27,940) (Tons)	3,595 (8,270)	15 (50)
Other .. .. .	46,022 (76,860) (Tons)	18,168 (28,680)	1,450 (2,250)
<b>TOTAL—Linoleum</b> .. .. .	<b>56,540</b> <b>(104,800)</b> <b>(Tons)</b>	<b>21,763</b> <b>(36,950)</b>	<b>1,465</b> <b>(2,300)</b>
Cork carpet .. .. .	704 (1,970) (Tons)	256 (450)	15 (20)
Oilcloth :—			
For upholstery purposes .. ..	27,869	8,911	750
For all other purposes .. .. .	23,094	6,951	382
For purposes not separately distinguished .. .. .	1,877	—	—
<b>TOTAL—Oilcloth</b> .. .. .	<b>52,840</b>	<b>15,862</b>	<b>1,132</b>

In all these classes of goods net imports were small compared with production and exports. For each class shown by weight, the goods exported weighed on the average less per square yard than those retained for use in the United Kingdom, especially in the case of cork carpet. The total value (f.o.b.) of the exports shown above was £4,417,000, representing nearly 40 per cent. of the value (at factory) of the production.

### Wages in 1924.

Under the Census of Production Act, 1906, the powers of the Board of Trade to require information do not extend to particulars of the amount of wages paid, and, consequently, no information on this head was secured in connexion with the Census of 1924. As a result, however, of the voluntary enquiry undertaken by the Ministry of Labour into wages and hours in the United Kingdom in 1924, information was obtained as to the total wage-bill of a group of firms in the Linoleum and Oilcloth Trade that made returns both to the Ministry of Labour and to the Census of Production office.



According to the Census records this group of firms employed, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, 7,663 operatives, or 68 per cent. of the total of 11,245 operatives for the trades as a whole, and their net output totalled £3,707,000, or 71 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £5,249,000 for the trades as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £1,097,000, representing about 30 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

### Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on page 393. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those relating to the two previous censal years. For the purpose of this comparison, the average numbers of operatives of each sex returned for 1924 have been divided between the two age-groups in the proportions shown by the data relating to the week ended 18th October.

Average number.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<b>1924.</b>						
Operatives .. .. .	1,300	10,119	230	1,215	1,530	11,334
Administrative, etc. ..	73	844	13	177	86	1,021
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>10,963</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>1,392</b>	<b>1,616</b>	<b>12,355</b>
<b>1912.</b>						
Wage earners .. .. .	1,258	8,580	38	177	1,296	8,757
Salaried .. .. .	46	572	2	20	48	592
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,304</b>	<b>9,152</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1,344</b>	<b>9,349</b>
<b>1907.</b>						
Wage earners .. .. .	4,225	10,759	23	89	4,248	10,848
Salaried .. .. .	93	516	—	36	93	552
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>4,318</b>	<b>11,275</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>11,400</b>

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month showed little variation throughout 1924, ranging from 149 above the average, in April, to 148 below the average, in November (see Table IIIB, page 393). The increase in the number of female operatives in 1924 is noteworthy.

### Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 394. The following table sets out the particulars for the three censal years relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers* and the capacity of *electric generators* installed.

Power equipment.	1924.			1912.	1907.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total	Total.	Total.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
<b>PRIME MOVERS :—</b>					
Reciprocating steam engines ..	21,805	4,939	26,744	32,243	26,222
Steam turbines .. .. .	8,934	—	8,934	1,330	450
Gas engines .. .. .	130	28	158	1,631	—
Petrol and light oil engines ..	22	—	22	1,480	133
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	160	1,250	1,410	—	—
Water power .. .. .	178	20	198	10	14
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>31,229</b>	<b>6,237</b>	<b>37,466</b>	<b>36,694</b>	<b>26,819</b>
<b>ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—</b>					
Driven by—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Reciprocating steam engines	2,599	1,158	3,757	5,315	3,292
Steam turbines .. .. .	5,752	—	5,752	450	272
Gas engines .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
Petrol and light oil engines ..	19	—	19	364	—
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	—	820	820	—	—
Water power .. .. .	10	21	31	—	—
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>8,380</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>10,379</b>	<b>6,129</b>	<b>3,564</b>

The capacity of *electric motors* recorded in 1924 and in 1912 was as shown below :—

Electric motors.	1924.			1912.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—				
Electricity generated in own works ..	14,039	1,253	15,292	2,285
Purchased electricity .. .. .	5,326	434	5,760	539

Corresponding information was not required for 1907, and no electricity was recorded as purchased for power and lighting purposes in that year.



## TABLES.

## I.—Summary of results.

Note :—No production was recorded in Northern Ireland.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Value of goods made (Gross output)	£'000	7,191	4,149	11,340
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	4,103	1,988	6,091
Net output .. .. .	"	3,088	2,161	5,249
Average number of persons employed	No.	8,302	4,053	12,355
Net output per person employed ..	£	372	533	425
Mechanical power available :				
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	26,541	10,925	37,466
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	3,412	2,348	5,760

## II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock.	Great Britain.*	
	Quantity.	Selling value.
	Th. sq. yds.	£'000
Linoleum :—		
Inlaid .. .. .	10,518	2,191
(Tons) (27,940)		
Other .. .. .	46,022	5,067
(Tons) (76,860)		
Cork carpet .. .. .	704	150
(Tons) (1,970)		
Oilcloth :—		
For upholstery purposes .. .. .	27,869	2,464
For other purposes .. .. .	23,094	1,346
For purposes not separately distinguished ..	1,877	97
Other products .. .. .	..	25
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE (GROSS OUTPUT)	..	11,340

\* In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, figures are given only for Great Britain as a whole.

## III.—Employment.

## A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1924.

Kind of staff.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
Great Britain :—*						
Operatives .. .. .	1,295	10,074	223	1,171	1,518	11,245
Administrative, technical and clerical staff ..	73	844	13	177	86	1,021
TOTAL .. .. .	1,368	10,918	236	1,348	1,604	12,266

\* See footnote to Table II.

## B.—OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1924.

Great Britain.\* (Annual average : Males, 10,119 ; Females, 1,215 ; Total, 11,334.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th .. .. .	10,065	1,261	11,326	July 19th .. .. .	10,129	1,194	11,323
Feb. 16th .. .. .	10,102	1,289	11,391	Aug. 16th .. .. .	10,111	1,179	11,290
March 15th .. .. .	10,133	1,265	11,398	Sept. 13th .. .. .	10,139	1,179	11,318
April 12th .. .. .	10,195	1,288	11,483	Oct. 18th .. .. .	10,074	1,171	11,245
May 17th .. .. .	10,185	1,223	11,408	Nov. 15th .. .. .	10,036	1,150	11,186
June 21st .. .. .	10,127	1,211	11,338	Dec. 13th .. .. .	10,125	1,170	11,295

\* See footnote to Table II.



## IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS  
AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	Great Britain.*	
	In use.	In reserve or idle.
	H.P.	H.P.
PRIME MOVERS :—		
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	21,805	4,939
Steam turbines .. .. .	8,934	—
Gas engines .. .. .	130	28
Petrol and light oil engines .. .. .	22	—
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	160	1,250
Water power .. .. .	178	20
TOTAL .. .. .	31,229	6,237
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED .. .. .	37,466	
	Kw.	Kw.
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—		
Driven by—		
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	2,599	1,158
Steam turbines .. .. .	5,752	—
Petrol and light oil engines .. .. .	19	—
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	—	820
Water power .. .. .	10	21
TOTAL .. .. .	8,380	1,999
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED .. .. .	10,379	
	H.P.	H.P.
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—		
Driven by—		
Electricity generated in own works .. .. .	14,039	1,253
Purchased electricity .. .. .	5,326	434

\* See footnote to Table II.