

## THE BRUSH TRADE.

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## Introductory.\*

The tables on pages 152 to 156 are based on returns received from firms in Great Britain and Northern Ireland whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the manufacture of brushes. The number of such separate returns was 450. About 120 firms to which schedules were sent did not furnish returns, but these firms for the most part had very small establishments and they included some which had ceased operations before the end of the censal year. On the basis of the information available it is estimated that they did not employ more than 350 persons in all and that their total net output probably did not exceed £50,000.

*Summary of results.*—The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1924, 1912 and 1907, comparisons between the figures for the three years being subject to the qualifications mentioned in the next paragraph :—

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1912.	1907.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output) .. .. .	£'000	3,578	1,752	1,828
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	1,817	935	969
Net output .. .. .	"	1,761	817	859
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	No.	11,192	10,526	11,142
Net output per person employed (ex- cluding outworkers) .. .. .	£	157	78	77
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	4,235	2,209	2,116
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	2,250	481	(not recorded)

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

*Qualifications affecting comparisons.*—In considering the above table and the other tables in this report which show figures for different censal years, it should be borne in mind that :—

(1) The comparability of figures relating to value or cost is affected by the changes which have taken place in the general purchasing power of money.

(2) The Censuses of 1907 and 1912 covered Great Britain and the whole of Ireland, but that of 1924 applied only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The exclusion of Southern Ireland in 1924 does not, however, seriously affect the comparability of the figures.

(3) The Censuses of 1907 and 1924 extended to all firms, however small, but in 1912 firms employing not more than five persons (excluding the proprietors) were required to state only the average number of persons employed by them in the year. According to the information so furnished, the average number of persons employed in the establishments thus excluded was 959, or 9 per cent. of the number employed by the remaining firms, as shown in the above table. Moreover, correspondence on defective returns for 1912 had not been completed when the war compelled suspension of this work. In these circumstances detailed information for 1912 is not given in the remainder of this report. The resulting defects in the aggregate figures given above are, however, not important.

### Production.

Detailed information regarding the output of the Brush Trade in 1924 is shown in Table II on page 153.

In addition to the output dealt with in this report, brushes valued, on a cost basis, at £8,000 were made in 1924 by Local Authorities and in H.M. Prisons.

*Brushes.*—The following statement shows, for the years 1924 and 1907, the value of the output of the chief classes of brushes made, the figures for each year being inclusive of the value of similar goods recorded by firms that made their returns on schedules for other trades ; the quantities returned as made in 1924 are also shown :—

Kind of brushes.	1924.		1907.
	Quantity.	Selling value.	Selling value.
	Th. dozens.	£'000.	£'000.
Household brooms and brushes .. .. .	3,142	1,595	1,028
Toilet brushes .. .. .	1,094	886	261
Painters' and decorators' brushes .. .. .	1,133	860	366
Other trade brushes .. .. .	..	275	102
Artists' brushes .. .. .	405	64	—
Brushes not separately distinguished .. .. .	..	52	46
Parts of brushes .. .. .	..	146	19
Mops, pads, feather brushes, etc. .. .. .	..	43	—
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>3,921</b>	<b>1,822</b>

In 1907, firms could not be required to state the quantity of their output in the detail shown in the foregoing table, but firms whose output of brushes was valued at about one-third of the total supplied the following information as to the numbers of brushes made by them :—

Kind of brushes.	Quantity.	Selling value.
	Th. dozens.	£'000.
Household and trade brooms and brushes .. .. .	1,520	399
Painters', decorators' and whitewashers' brushes .. .. .	123	101
Fancy and toilet brushes, not of bone .. .. .	70	52
Bone brushes .. .. .	201	40
Machinery brushes .. .. .	28	32
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,942</b>	<b>624</b>

If the returns summarised in this table may be accepted as furnishing a fair sample of the whole, there were substantial increases in the output of all kinds of brushes in 1924 compared with 1907, except in the case of *household brooms and brushes* ; this conclusion is supported by the values shown for the two years.

When arrangements were being made for the Census of 1924 the British Brush Manufacturers' Association advised the Board of Trade that the value of the results of the Census would be greatly enhanced if a more detailed classification of brushes were adopted than that provided in the Import and Export List. Although manufacturers could not be required compulsorily to furnish this greater detail, the recommendation was accepted and the particulars in question were in fact supplied as regards more than 88 per cent. of the value of the total output of brushes. The following table gives particulars regarding the output of brushes in 1924 :—

Kind of brushes.	Returned on schedules for				Total.	
	The Brush Trade.		Other trades.		Quantity.	Selling value.
	Quantity.	Selling value.	Quantity.	Selling value.		
	Th. doz.	£'000.	Th. doz.	£'000.	Th. doz.	£'000.
Household brooms and brushes :—						
Pan set .. .. .	701	826	3	3	704	829
Hand drawn .. .. .	228	182	—	—	228	182
Machine filled .. .. .	2,022	479	13	3	2,035	482
Other methods of manufacture .. .. .	90	61	4	3	94	64
Not separately distinguished .. .. .	81	38	—	—	81	38
<b>TOTAL—HOUSEHOLD BROOMS AND BRUSHES</b>	<b>3,122</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,142</b>	<b>1,595</b>
Toilet brushes :—						
Tooth brushes—						
In celluloid .. .. .	4	1	257	79	261	80
In bone .. .. .	452	238	—	—	452	238
Shaving brushes .. .. .	86	98	3	4	89	102

Kind of brushes.	Returned on schedules for				Total.	
	The Brush Trade.		Other trades.		Quantity.	Selling value.
	Quantity.	Selling value.	Quantity.	Selling value.		
	Th. doz.	£'000.	Th. doz.	£'000.	Th. doz.	£'000.
Toilet brushes ( <i>contd.</i> )						
Other toilet brushes :—						
In wood—						
Machine filled ..	164	124	*	8	164	132
Hand drawn ..	71	205	—	—	71	205
In celluloid, etc.—						
Machine filled ..	1	1	30	77	31	78
Hand drawn ..	1	5	9	29	10	34
In ivory ..	*	3	—	—	*	3
Toilet brushes, not separately distinguished	16	14	—	—	16	14
<b>TOTAL—TOILET BRUSHES</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>886</b>
Painters' and decorators' brushes :—						
Flat pinned varnish brushes ..	636	287	—	—	636	287
Machine compressed brushes ..	107	39	—	—	107	39
Other kinds ..	345	506	2	3	347	509
Not separately distinguished ..	43	25	—	—	43	25
<b>TOTAL—PAINTERS' AND DECORATORS' BRUSHES</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>860</b>
Artists' brushes (fitches, pencils, writers, etc.) ..	69	15	336	49	405	64
Machinery brushes, special trade brushes, etc. :—						
<i>Quantity stated</i> ..	40	36	—	—	40	36
<i>Quantity not stated</i> ..	..	236	..	3	..	239
Brushes not separately distinguished ..	..	52	—	—	..	52
Parts of brushes (stocks, handles, etc.) ..	..	2	..	144	..	146
Mops, pads, feather brushes, etc. ..	..	39	..	4	..	43
<b>TOTAL VALUE ..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>3,512</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>3,921</b>

\* Under 500 dozen.

*Other products.*—In addition to the output dealt with in the preceding paragraphs, firms that made their returns on schedules for the Brush Trade recorded in 1924 an output of other goods (hair curlers, wire brushes, etc.) valued at £45,000. These goods, being of kinds mainly produced in other trades, are dealt with in the reports on those trades. The corresponding figure for 1907 was £23,000.

*Repairs and work done for the trade.*—The amount recorded in 1924 on schedules for the Brush Trade as received for repair work was £3,000 and for work done for the trade, £18,000. The total amount received for work done in 1907 was £8,000.

*Value of output free from duplication.*—Out of the total value of the output, £3,578,000, returned by the firms furnishing particulars on schedules for the Brush Trade, duplication may be involved in respect of £2,000 entered as the value of *parts of brushes*, but this sum may well represent only some addition to parts made and held in stock. The *work done for the trade*, for which £18,000 was received, was probably work done for merchants on materials supplied by them; no amounts were returned in respect of payments made to other firms in the trade for work given out to them. Thus the total value of the output may be taken as being free from material duplication.

*Cost of materials.*—The cost of materials used by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Brush Trade was returned as £1,817,000 in 1924, a sum which is substantially free from duplication; the corresponding figure for 1907 was £969,000.

*Net output.*—The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their returns on schedules for the Brush Trade (whose gross output was valued at £3,578,000) was £1,761,000, 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 £157 as compared with £77 in 1907.

*Kinds of materials used.*—All firms receiving schedules for the Brush Trade were asked to state the quantities of certain materials used by them in the year, and firms with an output of £1,691,000, or 47 per cent. of the total output of the trade, furnished the following particulars :—

	<i>Th. lb.</i>		<i>Th. lb.</i>	
Bristles :—				
European and Siberian	336	Palmyra fibre ..	689	
Chinese .. ..	542	Cocoa fibre ..	663	
Indian .. ..	37	Mexican fibre ..	1,062	
Piassava :—				
Bahia .. ..	971	Italian whisk ..	218	
African .. ..	965	Mexican whisk ..	116	

The quantity of each of the main classes of brushes made by the firms that furnished the above particulars, in relation to the total quantity recorded for each such class of brushes, was as follows :—

Kind of brushes.	Output of firms that furnished particulars of materials used.	Proportion of total output of trade.
	Th. doz.	Per cent.
Household brooms and brushes .. ..	1,453	46·5
Tooth brushes .. ..	389	85·3
Shaving brushes .. ..	18	20·9
Other toilet brushes .. ..	104	43·9
Painters' and decorators' brushes .. ..	497	43·9
Artists' brushes .. ..	30	43·5

*Exports and imports.*—The following table, relating to the year 1924, shows the production of the principal kinds of brushes in relation to the exports and imports of similarly described goods :—

Kind of brushes.	Production.	Exports.	Net imports.	Available for use in United Kingdom.	
				Total.	Of which British-made.
	Th. doz.	Th. doz.	Th. doz.	Th. doz.	Per cent.
Household brooms and brushes ..	3,142	234	1,147	4,055	71.7
Tooth brushes .. .. .	713	209	706	1,210	41.7
Other toilet brushes .. .. .	381	135	470	716	34.4
Painters' and decorators' brushes ..	1,133	155	657	1,635	59.8
Artists' brushes .. .. .	405	36	203	572	64.5
Other descriptions .. .. .	..	107	303	..	..

The figures in the last two columns of the table leave out of account any brushes of the classes named that may, for lack of sufficient information, be included under the heading "Other descriptions."

#### 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 Brush 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, 6,266 operatives, or 64 per cent. of the total of 9,759 operatives for the trade as a whole, and their net output totalled £1,101,000, or 62 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £1,761,000 for the trade as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £595,000, representing about 54 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

#### Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on pages 154 and 155. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year, together with those relating to the 1907 Census. 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.

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 253 above the average, in May, to 294 below the average, in August (see Table III B, page 155). The period of more active employment extended from March to June inclusive.

Average number (excluding outworkers).	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<b>1924.</b>						
Operatives .. .. .	640	4,958	1,236	4,858	1,876	9,816
Administrative, etc. ..	57	1,039	41	337	98	1,376
TOTAL .. .. .	697	5,997	1,277	5,195	1,974	11,192
<b>1907.</b>						
Wage earners .. .. .	1,016	5,838	1,169	4,022	2,185	9,860
Salaried .. .. .	118	1,079	36	203	154	1,282
TOTAL .. .. .	1,134	6,917	1,205	4,225	2,339	11,142
Average number of outworkers :—						
1924 .. .. .	59			(Not ascertained)		
1907 .. .. .				1,543		1,602

#### Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 156. The following table sets out the particulars for 1924 and 1907 relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers* and the capacity of *electric generators* installed.

Power equipment.	1924.			1907.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
<b>PRIME MOVERS :—</b>	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines ..	1,429	485	1,914	968
Steam turbines .. .. .	—	—	—	30
Gas engines .. .. .	1,533	330	1,863	1,064
Petrol and light oil engines ..	24	—	24	
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	244	150	394	
Water power .. .. .	40	—	40	54
TOTAL .. .. .	3,270	965	4,235	2,116
<b>ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—</b>	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines ..	556	335	891	260
Gas engines .. .. .	312	65	377	126*
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	110	100	210	
TOTAL .. .. .	978	500	1,478	386

\* Recorded as driven by prime movers other than reciprocating steam engines.

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

Electric motors.	1924.		
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.
Driven by—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in own works ..	1,588	122	1,710
Purchased electricity .. .. .	2,020	230	2,250

Corresponding information was not required for 1907. The total number of Board of Trade units of electricity purchased for power and lighting purposes in that year was returned as 91,000.

## TABLES.

## I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.	Northern Ireland.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output) .. .. .	£'000	3,424	142	3,566	12
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	1,731	80	1,811	6
Net output .. .. .	"	1,693	62	1,755	6
Average number of persons employed .. .. .	No.	10,757	399	11,156	36
Net output per person employed	£	157	156	157	163
Mechanical power available :—					
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	4,224	10	4,234	1
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	2,173	70	2,243	7

## II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*		Scotland.		United Kingdom.	
	Quantity.	Selling value.	Quantity.	Selling value.	Quantity.	Selling value.
	Th. doz.	£'000.	Th. doz.	£'000.	Th. doz.	£'000.
Household brooms and brushes :—						
Pan set .. .. .	651	754	50	72	701	826
Hand drawn .. .. .	212	166	16	16	228	182
Machine filled .. .. .	2,004	471	18	8	2,022	479
Other methods of manufacture	87	59	3	2	90	61
Not separately distinguished	81	38	—	—	81	38
TOTAL—HOUSEHOLD BROOMS AND BRUSHES .. .. .	3,035	1,488	87	98	3,122	1,586
Toilet brushes :—						
Tooth brushes—						
In bone .. .. .	452	238	—	—	452	238
In celluloid .. .. .	4	1	—	—	4	1
Shaving brushes .. .. .	86	98	—	—	86	98
Other toilet brushes :—						
In wood—						
Machine filled .. .. .	164	124	—	—	164	124
Hand drawn .. .. .	71	205	—	—	71	205
In celluloid, erinoid, etc.—						
Machine filled .. .. .	1	1	—	—	1	1
Hand drawn .. .. .	1	5	—	—	1	5
In ivory .. .. .	†	3	—	—	†	3
Not separately distinguished	15	13	1	1	16	14
TOTAL—TOILET BRUSHES .. .. .	794	688	1	1	795	689
Painters' and decorators' brushes :—						
Flat pinned varnish brushes ..	§	§	§	§	636	287
Machine compressed brushes	107	39	—	—	107	39
Other kinds .. .. .	335	479	10	27	345	506
Not separately distinguished	43	25	—	—	43	25
TOTAL—PAINTERS' AND DECORATORS' BRUSHES .. .. .	§	§	§	§	1,131	857
Artists' brushes (fitches, pencils, writers, etc.) .. .. .	§	§	§	§	69	15
Machinery brushes, special trade brushes, etc. :—						
{ Quantity stated .. .. .	39	35	1	1	40	36
{ Quantity not stated .. .. .	..	231	..	5	..	236
Brushes, not separately distinguished .. .. .	..	48	..	4	..	52
TOTAL VALUE—BRUSHES OF ALL KINDS .. .. .	..	3,329	..	142	..	3,471
Parts of brushes (stocks, handles, etc.) .. .. .	..	2	—	—	..	2
Mops, pads, feather brushes, etc. .. .. .	..	39	—	—	..	39
Other goods made .. .. .	..	45	—	—	..	45
Repair work .. .. .	..	3‡	—	—	..	3‡
Work done for the trade .. .. .	..	18‡	—	—	..	18‡
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT) .. .. .	..	3,436	..	142	..	3,578

\* In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms in Northern Ireland, the figures for that division of the United Kingdom have been combined with those for England and Wales.

† Less than 500 dozen.

§ In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, figures are given only for the United Kingdom as a whole.

‡ Amount received for work done.

## 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.
<i>England and Wales</i> :—						
Operatives .. ..	612	4,660	1,214	4,747	1,826	9,407
Administrative, etc.*	50	966	39	314	89	1,280
TOTAL .. ..	662	5,626	1,253	5,061	1,915	10,687
<i>Scotland</i> :—						
Operatives .. ..	17	230	18	93	35	323
Administrative, etc.*	4	61	2	23	6	84
TOTAL .. ..	21	291	20	116	41	407
<i>Great Britain</i> :—						
Operatives .. ..	629	4,890	1,232	4,840	1,861	9,730
Administrative, etc.*	54	1,027	41	337	95	1,364
TOTAL .. ..	683	5,917	1,273	5,177	1,956	11,094
<i>Northern Ireland</i> :—						
Operatives .. ..	6	28	—	1	6	29
Administrative, etc.*	3	12	—	—	3	12
TOTAL .. ..	9	40	—	1	9	41
<i>United Kingdom</i> :—						
TOTAL .. ..	692	5,957	1,273	5,178	1,965	11,135

\* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

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

*England and Wales.* (Annual average : Males, 4,715 ; Females, 4,762 ; Total, 9,477.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	4,690	4,713	9,403	July 19th ..	4,725	4,723	9,448
Feb. 16th ..	4,741	4,767	9,508	Aug. 16th ..	4,604	4,578	9,182
March 15th ..	4,773	4,798	9,571	Sept. 13th ..	4,609	4,680	9,289
April 12th ..	4,787	4,837	9,624	Oct. 18th ..	4,660	4,747	9,407
May 17th ..	4,827	4,897	9,724	Nov. 15th ..	4,671	4,810	9,481
June 21st ..	4,798	4,794	9,592	Dec. 13th ..	4,698	4,794	9,492

*Scotland.* (Annual average : Males, 220 ; Females, 95 ; Total, 315.)

Jan. 12th ..	210	95	305	July 19th ..	216	97	313
Feb. 16th ..	223	101	324	Aug. 16th ..	218	97	315
March 15th ..	226	102	328	Sept. 13th ..	218	87	305
April 12th ..	219	101	320	Oct. 18th ..	230	93	323
May 17th ..	219	102	321	Nov. 15th ..	218	85	303
June 21st ..	221	98	319	Dec. 13th ..	221	88	309

*Great Britain.* (Annual average : Males, 4,935 ; Females, 4,857 ; Total, 9,792.)

Jan. 12th ..	4,900	4,808	9,708	July 19th ..	4,941	4,820	9,761
Feb. 16th ..	4,964	4,868	9,832	Aug. 16th ..	4,822	4,675	9,497
March 15th ..	4,999	4,900	9,899	Sept. 13th ..	4,827	4,767	9,594
April 12th ..	5,006	4,938	9,944	Oct. 18th ..	4,890	4,840	9,730
May 17th ..	5,046	4,999	10,045	Nov. 15th ..	4,889	4,895	9,784
June 21st ..	5,019	4,892	9,911	Dec. 13th ..	4,919	4,882	9,801

*Northern Ireland.* (Annual average : Males, 23 ; Females, 1 ; Total, 24.)

Jan. 12th ..	23	1	24	July 19th ..	15	1	16
Feb. 16th ..	22	1	23	Aug. 16th ..	24	1	25
March 15th ..	21	1	22	Sept. 13th ..	30	1	31
April 12th ..	21	1	22	Oct. 18th ..	28	1	29
May 17th ..	23	1	24	Nov. 15th ..	26	1	27
June 21st ..	17	1	18	Dec. 13th ..	26	1	27

## IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND  
ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England and Wales.	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
PRIME MOVERS :—	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	1,419	485
Gas engines .. .. .	1,532	330
Petrol and light oil engines .. .. .	24	—
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	244	150
Water power .. .. .	40	—
TOTAL .. .. .	3,259	965
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED ..	4,224	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—		
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	556	335
Gas engines .. .. .	312	65
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	110	100
TOTAL .. .. .	978	500
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	1,478	
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—		
Electricity generated in own works .. .. .	1,588	122
Purchased electricity .. .. .	1,943	230

The mechanical power available in Scotland and Northern Ireland was as follows :—

	Scotland.	Northern Ireland.
PRIME MOVERS :—		
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	10 h.p.	—
Gas engines .. .. .	—	1 h.p.
ELECTRIC MOTORS driven by purchased electricity	70 h.p.	7 h.p.

These engines and motors were all recorded as being ordinarily in use.