
 THE BILLIARD TABLE AND SPORTS REQUISITES TRADES.

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Introductory.*

The tables on pages 423 to 425 are based on returns received from firms in Great Britain whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the manufacture of billiard tables and sports requisites. The number of such separate returns was 294. About 70 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 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 200 persons in all and that their total net output probably did not exceed £25,000. No production was recorded in Northern Ireland.

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

* See also the Notes on pages vii to xv.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1912.	1907.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	3,407	1,520	1,161
Cost of materials used	"	1,637	755	500
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	5	7	3
Net output	"	1,765	758	658
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) ..	No.	7,504	6,446	6,510
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	235	118	101
Mechanical power available:—				
Prime movers	H.P.	2,712	1,599	1,245
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	3,175	626	(not recorded)

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

(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, appreciably 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 merely required to state the average number of persons employed by them in the year. According to the information so furnished, the number of persons employed in the establishments thus excluded was 249, or nearly 4 per cent. of the number employed by the remaining firms, as shown in the above table. Further, 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 relating to the output of the Billiard Table and Sports Requisites Trades in 1924 will be found in Table II on page 423.

Principal products.—The following table shows, for 1924 and 1907, the value of the principal classes of output of these trades, the totals for each year being inclusive of similar goods returned on schedules for other trades.

Kind of goods.	1924.		1907.
	Returned on schedules for		Total.
	The Billiard Table, etc., Trades.	All trades.	
	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
Billiard and bagatelle tables, parts and accessories (including billiard-room furniture and fittings, setting-up and repair work, and the value added in re-fitting second-hand tables, and also the estimated value of tables made by the firm in the year of return to be let out on hire)	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Balls:—			
Golf	54	54	1,454
Tennis	553	553	
Other kinds	193	193	
Outdoor and athletic games and sports requisites (i.e. for cricket, tennis, golf, gymnastics, etc.), exclusive of balls but inclusive of repair work	1,594	1,653	
Leather sports' goods	116	252	
Fishing tackle, gut strings for racquets, etc. ..	237	669	
Golf, tennis and other rubber balls, and other sports' requisites, not separately distinguished	—	1,058	
TOTAL VALUE	3,337	5,026	1,792

The output shown above is substantially free from duplication. It would appear that a large proportion of the output of golf balls was not returned separately but included in the miscellaneous output shown as the last item in the above table.

Particulars of quantities produced were not required for any of the products shown in the above table. Certain voluntary information as to quantity was, however, asked for in 1924 and firms with an output of golf balls valued at £34,000, or 63 per cent. of the total value returned by firms in these trades, stated that their output amounted to 5,781 gross; similarly, firms that made tennis balls to the value of £490,000, or 88 per cent. of the total returned by firms in these trades, stated that their output amounted to 56,228 gross.

Other products.—In addition to the products set out in the preceding table, firms in the Billiard Table and Sports Requisites Trades returned an output of other goods in 1924 to the value of £60,000. 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 £40,000.

Work done for the trade.—The amount recorded as received for work done for the trade in 1924 was £10,000, as compared with £12,000 in 1907.

Cost of materials and work given out.—The cost of materials used by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Billiard Table and Sports Requisites Trades was returned as £1,637,000 in 1924. This figure contains no substantial element of duplication. The corresponding figure for 1907 was £500,000.

The amount paid to other firms for work given out to them was returned as £5,000 in 1924 and £3,000 in 1907.

Net output.—The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their returns on schedules for the Billiard Table and Sports Requisites Trades (whose gross output was valued at £3,407,000) was £1,765,000, 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 and the amount paid to other firms for work given out to them.

The net output per head of persons employed (excluding outworkers) in the censal year 1924 was £235, as compared with £101 in 1907.

Exports and imports.—The values of the exports and net imports of billiard tables and sports requisites and of rubber balls (mainly golf and tennis balls) in 1924 were as follows:—

Kind of goods.	Exports.	Net imports.
Billiard and bagatelle tables and accessories ..	£'000. 57	£'000. 24
Sports goods:—		
Cricket, hockey, lacrosse, croquet, tennis and polo materials	314	45
Fishing tackle	148	26
Leather sports' goods	70	2
Other descriptions	226	36
Rubber balls	510	88

The aggregate f.o.b. value of the exports of the goods shown above (£1,639,000) was rather over 30 per cent. of the aggregate value, at place of production, of similarly described goods produced, while the net imports were relatively small.

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 Billiard Table and Sports Requisites Trades 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, 3,746 operatives, or 59 per cent. of the total of 6,272 operatives for the trades as a whole, and their net output totalled £1,162,000, or 66 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £1,765,000 for the trades as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £533,000, representing about 46 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on pages 424 and 425. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those obtained at 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.

Average number (excluding outworkers).	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
1924.						
Operatives	703	4,566	547	1,891	1,250	6,457
Administrative, etc. ..	27	684	51	363	78	1,047
TOTAL	730	5,250	598	2,254	1,328	7,504
1907.						
Wage earners	604	4,154	590	1,608	1,194	5,762
Salaried	54	600	39	148	93	748
TOTAL	658	4,754	629	1,756	1,287	6,510
Average number of outworkers:—						
1924	17		794		811	
1907	70		394		464	

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 360 above the average, in May, to 280 below the average, in December (see Table IIIB, page 424). After rising steadily during the early months of the year, the numbers fell off progressively till the end of the year. In 1924 the number of male operatives was 10 per cent. greater than in 1907, while the increase of female operatives amounted to 18 per cent.

Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 425. 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.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
PRIME MOVERS :—				
Reciprocating steam engines ..	431	120	551	} 433
Gas engines	1,662	357	2,019	
Petrol and light oil engines ..	41	—	41	
Heavy oil engines	94	7	101	
Water power	—	—	—	15
TOTAL	2,228	484	2,712	1,245
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—				
Driven by—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Reciprocating steam engines..	100	100	200	} 100
Gas engines	135	80	215	
Petrol and light oil engines ..	—	—	—	
Heavy oil engines	35	—	35	
Water power	—	—	—	81
TOTAL	270	180	450	181

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

Electric motors.	1924.		
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—			
Electricity generated in own works	650	—	650
Purchased electricity	2,861	314	3,175

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 205,000.

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 and work done (Gross output)	£'000	3,117	290	3,407
Cost of materials used	"	1,518	119	1,637
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	3	2	5
Net output	"	1,596	169	1,765
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) ..	No.	6,594	910	7,504
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	242	186	235
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	2,434	278	2,712
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	2,268	907	3,175

II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Billiard and bagatelle tables, parts and accessories (including billiard-room furniture and fittings, setting-up and repair work, and the value added in re-fitting second-hand tables, and also the estimated selling value of tables made by the firm in the year of return to be let out on hire)	*	*	590
Balls :—			
Golf	*	*	54
Tennis	553	—	553
Other kinds	163	30	193
Outdoor and athletic games and sports requisites (i.e. for cricket, tennis, golf, gymnastics, etc.) exclusive of balls but inclusive of repair work	1,393	201	1,594
Leather sports goods	116	—	116
Fishing tackle, gut strings for racquets, etc. ..	215	22	237
Other products	57	3	60
Work done for the trade	10†	—	10†
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT) ..	3,117	290	3,407

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

† Amount received for work done.

III.—Employment.

A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1924
(EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

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	605	3,934	443	1,548	1,048	5,482
Administrative, etc.*	26	611	48	315	74	926
TOTAL	631	4,545	491	1,863	1,122	6,408
<i>Scotland</i> :—						
Operatives	91	586	64	204	155	790
Administrative, etc.*	1	73	3	48	4	121
TOTAL	92	659	67	252	159	911
<i>Great Britain</i> :—						
Operatives	696	4,520	507	1,752	1,203	6,272
Administrative, etc.*	27	684	51	363	78	1,047
TOTAL	723	5,204	558	2,115	1,281	7,319

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

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

England and Wales. (Annual average : Males, 3,980 ; Females, 1,688 ; Total, 5,668.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	3,976	1,633	5,609	July 19th ..	4,008	1,735	5,743
Feb. 16th ..	3,973	1,650	5,623	Aug. 16th ..	3,864	1,649	5,513
March 15th ..	4,007	1,773	5,780	Sept. 13th ..	3,913	1,585	5,498
April 12th ..	4,075	1,830	5,905	Oct. 18th ..	3,934	1,548	5,482
May 17th ..	4,110	1,894	6,004	Nov. 15th ..	3,904	1,580	5,484
June 21st ..	4,100	1,807	5,907	Dec. 13th ..	3,889	1,576	5,465

Scotland. (Annual average : Males, 586 ; Females, 203 ; Total, 789.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	584	191	775	July 19th ..	596	219	815
Feb. 16th ..	587	206	793	Aug. 16th ..	575	226	801
March 15th ..	592	209	801	Sept. 13th ..	596	205	801
April 12th ..	607	215	822	Oct. 18th ..	586	204	790
May 17th ..	599	214	813	Nov. 15th ..	558	165	723
June 21st ..	619	208	827	Dec. 13th ..	535	177	712

Great Britain. (Annual average : Males, 4,566 ; Females, 1,891 ; Total, 6,457.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	4,560	1,824	6,384	July 19th ..	4,604	1,954	6,558
Feb. 16th ..	4,560	1,856	6,416	Aug. 16th ..	4,439	1,875	6,314
March 15th ..	4,599	1,982	6,581	Sept. 13th ..	4,509	1,790	6,299
April 12th ..	4,682	2,045	6,727	Oct. 18th ..	4,520	1,752	6,272
May 17th ..	4,709	2,108	6,817	Nov. 15th ..	4,462	1,745	6,207
June 21st ..	4,719	2,015	6,734	Dec. 13th ..	4,424	1,753	6,177

C.—NUMBER OF OUTWORKERS AT TWO SPECIFIED PERIODS IN 1924.

Country.	January.			July.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>England and Wales</i> * ..	16	601	617	18	986	1,004

* No outworkers were recorded as employed in Scotland.

IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND
ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Great Britain.	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
PRIME MOVERS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines	421	120	10	—	431	120
Gas engines	1,401	357	261	—	1,662	357
Petrol and light oil engines	34	—	7	—	41	—
Heavy oil engines ..	94	7	—	—	94	7
TOTAL	1,950	484	278	—	2,228	484
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	2,434		278		2,712	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—						
Reciprocating steam engines	100	100	—	—	100	100
Gas engines	135	80	—	—	135	80
Heavy oil engines ..	35	—	—	—	35	—
TOTAL	270	180	—	—	270	180
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	450		—		450	
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—						
Electricity generated in own works ..	650	—	—	—	650	—
Purchased electricity	2,159	109	702	205	2,861	314