

THE CANVAS GOODS AND SACK TRADE.

Note.—For information regarding the scope of the Census, instructions given to firms for making returns, and definitions of the terms used in this report, reference should be made to the Introductory Notes on pages v to xviii.

Introductory.

This trade comprises firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture and repair of sacks and bags and the making-up of canvas goods. The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1930 and 1924 in respect of firms in Great Britain that employed an average of more than 10 persons :—

Particulars.	Unit.	1930.	1924.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	4,814	6,906
Cost of materials used	"	3,506	5,149
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	6	*
Net output	"	1,302	1,757
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)... ..	No.	7,528	8,680
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	173	202
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	2,135	1,652
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity...	"	4,573	4,119
Number of returns	No.	176	187
Number of establishments	"	211	†

* Not ascertained.

† Not available.

Deficiencies in 1930 aggregates.—The aggregate number of persons employed in 1930 by firms that stated that they employed not more than 10 persons on the average was 1,740, the corresponding figure for 1924 being 1,387. Though the number employed in 1930 by the small firms was about 19 per cent. of the total number recorded by *all* firms, the deficiency in the gross and net output is unlikely to have been so great. In 1924 the number employed by the small firms represented 14 per cent. of the total, but the gross output of these firms was under 9 per cent. of the total. It should be noted, however, that 57 firms to which schedules were sent at the Census of 1930, and 120 at that of 1924 furnished no information; these firms either had small businesses or had ceased productive operations before the end of the censal year.

The value of the gross output of the small firms in 1924 was £617,000. Particulars of the classes of goods made and work done included in this figure are given below :—

		£'000
New sacks and bags :—		
Of jute	62*	(367,000 dozen)
Of cotton	37*	(103,000 dozen)
Of hemp and other textiles	6	
Second-hand sacks and bags	130	
Made-up canvas goods	392*	
Cotton, canvas and paper, waterproofed for packing	14	
Other goods made	21	
Work done for the trade, etc.	36	
Total	698*	

Sub-divisions of the trade.—The firms that made their returns for 1930 on schedules for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trade may be divided into four groups, according to whether they were chiefly engaged in (a) the production of new sacks and bags; (b) the repairing of second-hand sacks and bags; (c) the making-up of canvas goods; or (d) the production of other products (including those working on commission for other firms). The following table summarises the chief particulars recorded in respect of these groups :—

Group.	No. of returns.	Gross output.	Net output.	Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers).	Net output per person employed.
		£'000	£'000		£
Makers of new sacks and bags	33	1,270	248	1,414	176
Repairers of second-hand sacks and bags	66	1,691	390	2,499	156
Producers of made-up canvas goods	52	1,031	352	2,000	176
Other firms, including firms working on commission ...	25	822	312	1,615	193
TOTAL	176	4,814	1,302	7,528	173

* These items include the output of firms in Northern Ireland. While separate particulars for the individual items cannot be given, the total value so included is £81,000.

Size of firms.—In the following table the main particulars recorded at the Census of 1930 are grouped according to the average numbers of persons shown in the returns :—

Size of firm (average numbers employed).	No. of returns.	Gross output.	Net output.	Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers).	Net output per person employed.
		£'000	£'000		£
11-24	83	855	238	1,375	173
25-49	44	960	254	1,562	163
50-99	34	1,333	403	2,432	166
100 and over ...	15	1,666	407	2,159	189
TOTAL	176	4,814	1,302	7,528	173

Regional distribution.—In the following table the results recorded at the Censuses of 1930 and 1924 are grouped according to the principal areas* of Great Britain in which firms in this trade are situated :—

Area.	No. of returns.	Gross output.	Net output.	Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers).	Net output per person employed.
		£'000	£'000		£
1	1930 47	1,257	301	2,089	144
	1924 52	1,662	403	2,466	163
2	1930 46	1,190	314	1,830	172
	1924 52	2,920	717	2,575	278
5	1930 11	234	78	444	176
	1924 9	242	80	472	169
6	1930 28	537	172	1,026	167
	1924 25	519	155	866	179
9	1930 18	612	147	728	202
	1924 17	423	93	592	157
10	1930 17	862	254	1,171	217
	1924 19	930	245	1,345	182
3, 4 and 7	1930 9	122	36	240	149
	1924 13	210	64	364	176
TOTAL... ..	1930 176	4,814	1,302	7,528	173
	1924 187	6,906	1,757	8,680	202

* For particulars see page xviii.

Northern Ireland.—The following table summarises the particulars recorded at the Census of Production taken by the Government of Northern Ireland for 1930. It should be borne in mind that this information relates to firms that employed an average of more than *five* persons. Corresponding particulars obtained in respect of *all* firms at the 1924 Census are also shown.

Particulars.	Unit.	1930.	1924.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output) ...	£'000	181	295
Cost of materials used ...	"	129	258
Net output ...	"	52	37
Average number of persons employed ...	No.	218	291
Net output per person employed ...	£	239	127
Mechanical power available:—			
Prime movers ...	H.P.	18	—
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity ...	"	174	101

Owing to the fact that the manufacture of new sacks in 1930 was confined to two firms it was not possible to furnish detailed information in regard to the output.

Production.

Principal products.—The following table shows the value and, where available, the quantity of new sacks and bags, made-up canvas goods, etc., made in 1930 and 1924 for sale:—

Kind of goods.	1930.						1924.	
	Returned on schedules for						Total.	
	The Canvas Goods and Sack Trade.			All trades.				
Quantity.	Value.	Ent-ries.	Quantity.	Value.	Ent-ries.	Quantity.	Value.	
	£'000.	No.		£'000.	No.		£'000.	
New sacks and bags:—								
Of jute:—								
<i>Weight and number stated</i>	Th. cwts. 339·0 Th. doz. 3,340	904	51	Th. cwts. 485·8 Th. doz. 4,423	1,306	73	Th. cwts. 385·0 Th. doz. 3,003	1,096
<i>Number only stated</i>	Th. doz. 104			21			4		Th. doz. 359	92	5	Th. doz. 1,404	502
Of cotton:—								
<i>Weight and number stated</i>	Th. cwts. 14·8 Th. doz. 316	76	4	Th. cwts. 14·8 Th. doz. 316	76	4	Th. cwts. 12·7 Th. doz. 369	127
<i>Number only stated</i>	Th. doz. 3,518			211			8		Th. doz. 3,518	211	8	Th. doz. 2,273	439
<i>Value only stated</i>	—	—	—	—	11	2	—	—

Kind of goods.	1930.						1924.	
	Returned on schedules for						Total.	
	The Canvas Goods and Sack Trade.			All trades.				
Quantity.	Value.	Ent-ries.	Quantity.	Value.	Ent-ries.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Th. doz.	£'000.	No.	Th. doz.	£'000.	No.	Th. doz.	£'000.
Of hemp:—								
<i>Number stated</i> ...	11	32	16	14*	45	20	3	12
<i>Value only stated</i> ...	...	27	2	...	27	3	...	35
Of other and unclassified textiles:—								
<i>Weight and number stated</i>	Th. cwts. 10·5 Th. doz. 4	6	3	Th. cwts. 10·5 Th. doz. 4	6	3	Th. cwts. 5·6 Th. doz. 8	7
<i>Number only stated</i>	Th. doz. 5			2			6		Th. doz. 5	2	6	—
<i>Weight only stated</i>	Th. cwts. 1·5	3	1	Th. cwts. 1·5	3	1	—	—
<i>Value only stated</i> ...	...	8	2	...	16	4	...	37
TOTAL VALUE—New sacks and bags ...	...	1,290	...	...	1,795	...	...	2,255
Second-hand sacks and bags repaired, and sold or added to stock ...	...	1,573	78	...	1,575	80	...	2,860
Made-up canvas goods, including sails, tents, marquees, awnings, tarpaulins, rick cloths, wagon covers, motor hoods, flags, bunting, etc. ...	...	990	76	...	1,177	98	...	1,334†
Brattice cloth ...	...	135	7	...	135	7	...	220
Cotton, canvas and paper waterproofed for packing ...	...	412	10	...	412	10	...	675
TOTAL VALUE—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ...	...	4,400	...	...	5,094	...	...	7,344

* Of which 1,913 dozen, valued at £8,800, were stated to have weighed 790 cwts.

† This figure includes canvas hose-pipes returned on the schedule for the Linen and Hemp Trade, for which separate particulars are not available. For 1930 canvas hose-pipes will be found in the report on the Linen and Hemp Trade (see page 140).

Prices.—The average selling values of new sacks and bags in 1930 and 1924, as calculated from the Census returns, are shown in the following table:—

Kind of goods.	Average value.		1930 as a percentage of 1924.
	1930.	1924.	
New sacks and bags :—	s. per doz.	s. per doz.	Per cent.
Of jute	5.85	7.25	80.7
Of cotton $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Weight stated} \\ \text{Weight not stated} \end{array} \right.$	4.79	6.88	69.6
Of hemp	65.52	87.58	74.8
Of other and unclassified textiles	16.46	19.52	84.3

It should be borne in mind that these comparisons do not take account of any changes that may have occurred since the earlier year in the quality or type of goods included under the specified descriptions. In this connection, it will be noted that the apparent variation in the average value of cotton bags between 1924 and 1930 was much smaller for those whose weight was recorded than for those the weight of which was not stated. Further, of those recorded by weight, the average weight in 1930 was much greater than in 1924, and measured by weight, the decrease in average value in 1930 compared with 1924 was 49.2 per cent. instead of the 30.4 per cent. shown in the table.

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—The following table compares the volume of production of sacks and bags, etc., in 1930 and 1924 :—

Kind of goods.	Total production.			1930 as a percentage of 1924.
	1930.	1924.		
	As returned.	As returned.	At 1930 average values.	
New sacks and bags :—	£'000	£'000	£'000	Per cent.
Of jute	1,398	1,598	1,290	108
Of cotton	298	566	230	130
Of hemp	72	47	35	206
Of other and unclassified textiles	27	44	37	73
Second-hand sacks and bags repaired	1,575	2,860	2,308*	68
Made-up canvas goods	1,505†	1,334	1,046‡	144
Other principal products	547	895	662§	83
TOTAL	5,422†	7,344	5,608	97

* Based on average values of new sacks and bags of jute.

† Including £328,000 in respect of canvas hose-pipes. For 1930 these goods are dealt with in the Linen and Hemp Trade, but are included in the above table in order to preserve comparability with 1924, when they were included with made-up canvas goods.

‡ Based on average values of sailcloth and canvas, wages and other relative data.

§ Based on average revaluation of aggregate of preceding products.

Production, exports and imports.—The following figures show, in relation to production, the quantities of jute sacks and bags exported from the United Kingdom in 1930 and 1924, together with the quantities imported and retained. As regards the figures of production, particulars of the relatively small output of small firms and of firms in Northern Ireland are included for 1924 but not for 1930. Particulars of the overseas trade in the other products of this trade are not recorded separately in the trade returns.

New sacks and bags of jute.	Unit.	1930.	1924.
Production	Th. doz.	4,782	4,803
Exports	"	1,194	2,789
Proportion of production exported	Per cent.	25.0	58.1
Retained imports	Th. doz.	3,253	2,463
Available for use in the United Kingdom	"	6,841	4,477
Share of home market held by British products	Per cent.	52.4	45.0

Work done for the trade or on commission, etc.—Firms that made their returns on schedules for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trade stated that they received the sum of £283,000 for work done in 1930 for other firms, to which is added £4,000 for similar work recorded on schedules for other trades; the corresponding total for 1924 was £292,000. Details of this work are as follows :—

Kind of work done.	Amount received.	
	1930.	1924.
	£'000	£'000
Making of bags, sacks and other canvas goods from customers' materials	168	173
Baling of goods in hessian and sacking... ..	58	40
Cleaning and repairing bags, sacks and other canvas goods for customers	21	68
Other work done	40	11
TOTAL	287	292

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on pages 244-5, firms that made their returns on schedules for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trade recorded, in 1930, an output of other goods, chiefly cordage, clothing and other textile manufactures, valued at £131,000. These goods are dealt with in the reports on those trades in which the principal output was recorded. The corresponding figure for 1924 was £145,000.

Employment and Wages.

Employment.—The following table shows the average numbers of persons employed in 1930 and 1924 :—

Persons employed.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
1930.						
Operatives (average for the year)	176	1,897	1,134	4,598	1,310	6,495
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	57	671	55	362	112	1,033
TOTAL	233	2,568	1,189	4,960	1,422	7,528
1924.						
Operatives (average for the year)	199	2,019	1,129	5,598	1,328	7,617
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	62	720	45	343	107	1,063
TOTAL	261	2,739	1,174	5,941	1,435	8,680
Average number of out-workers :—						
1930... ..	30		51		81	
1924... ..	9		60		69	

Wages.—The available information as to the amount of wages paid in 1930 and 1924 is given on pages 18 and 19.

Power.

The following table shows the capacity of prime movers, electric generators and electric motors ordinarily in use and in reserve or idle in 1930 and 1924 :—

Power equipment.	1930.			1924.		
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.
PRIME MOVERS.						
Reciprocating steam engines	1,024	652	1,676	760	368	1,128
Steam turbines	—	—	—	40	—	40
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	219	52	271	279	55	334
Heavy oils	28	—	28	—	—	—
Water engines	130	30	160	75	75	150
TOTAL	1,401	734	2,135	1,154	498	1,652

Power equipment.	1930.			1924.		
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.
ELECTRIC GENERATORS.						
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	377	400	777	326	230	556
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	3	—	3	10	—	10
Heavy oils	4	—	4	—	—	—
Water engines	33	—	33	25	20	45
TOTAL	417	400	817	361	250	611
ELECTRIC MOTORS.						
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works	433	82	515	346	100	446
Electricity generated in other works under same ownership						
	67	—	67	—	—	—
Purchased electricity	4,169	404	4,573	3,585	534	4,119
TOTAL	4,669	486	5,155	3,931	634	4,565

Consumption of fuel.

The following table shows the quantities of coal, coke and electricity recorded as used in 1930 :—

Kind of fuel used.	For power (driving engines).	For other purposes (so far as recorded).	For power and other purposes, not separately distinguished.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Coal	7,886	5,621*	824
Coke	17	741*	—
Electricity used for all purposes :—			B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Generated in same works			313
Generated in other works under same ownership			†
Purchased			2,170
TOTAL—Electricity			2,483

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 94.6 per cent. of the net output of the whole trade.

† Not recorded.

TABLES.

I. Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	3,340	1,474	4,814
Cost of materials used	"	2,436	1,070	3,506
Paid for work given out to other firms... ..	"	3	3	6
Net output	"	901	401	1,302
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	5,629	1,899	7,528
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	160	211	173
Mechanical power available:—				
Prime movers	H.P.	1,241	894	2,135
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	2,748	1,825	4,573

II. Production.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
New sacks and bags:—				
Of jute:—				
<i>Weight and number stated</i>	<i>Th. cwts.</i>	127·6	211·4	339·0
	<i>Th. doz.</i>	1,891	1,449	3,340
	£'000	342	562	904
<i>Number only stated</i>	<i>Th. doz.</i>	104	—	104
	£'000	21	—	21
Of cotton:—				
<i>Weight and number stated</i>	<i>Th. cwts.</i>	*	*	14·8
	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	316
	£'000			76
<i>Number only stated</i>	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	3,518
	£'000			211
Of hemp:—				
<i>Weight and number stated</i>	<i>Th. cwts.</i>	*	*	0·8
	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	2
	£'000			2
<i>Number only stated</i>	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	9
	£'000	*	*	30
<i>Value only stated</i>	£'000	*	*	27
Of other and unclassified textiles:—				
<i>Weight and number stated</i>	<i>Th. cwts.</i>	*	*	10·5
	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	4
	£'000			6
<i>Number only stated</i>	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	5
	£'000	*	*	2
<i>Weight only stated</i>	<i>Th. cwts.</i>	*	*	1·5
	£'000	*	*	3
<i>Value only stated</i>	£'000	*	*	8
TOTAL VALUE—NEW SACKS AND BAGS	£'000	657	633	1,290

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Second-hand sacks and bags, repaired and sold or added to stock... ..	£'000	1,307	266	1,573
Made up canvas goods (sails, tents, marquees, awnings, tarpaulins, rick-cloths, wagon covers, motor-hoods, flags, bunting, etc.)	"	759	228	987
Brattice cloth	"	*	*	135
Cotton, canvas and paper, waterproofed for packing	"	*	*	412
Other canvas goods	"	3	—	3
Cordage, clothing and other textile manufactures... ..	"	50	23	73
Baskets, furniture and other goods made	"	58	—	58
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE	£'000	3,227	1,304	4,531
		Amount received.	Amount received.	Amount received.
Work done:—				
Baling of goods in hessian and sacking	£'000	*	*	55
Making of bags, sacks and other canvas goods from customers' materials	"	45	123	168
Cleaning and repairing bags, sacks and other canvas goods for customers	"	*	*	20
Other work done	"	11	29	40
TOTAL VALUE OF WORK DONE	£'000	113	170	283
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)	£'000	3,340	1,474	4,814

* Owing to the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars for England and Wales and for Scotland cannot be given.

III. Employment.

A. NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1930
(EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

Persons employed (excluding outworkers).	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
	<i>England and Wales</i> :—					
Operatives	123	1,350	829	3,447	952	4,797
Administrative, etc.*	43	533	38	265	81	798
TOTAL	166	1,883	867	3,712	1,033	5,595
<i>Scotland</i> :—						
Operatives	50	510	283	1,060	333	1,570
Administrative, etc.*	14	138	17	97	31	235
TOTAL	64	648	300	1,157	364	1,805
<i>Great Britain</i> :—						
Operatives	173	1,860	1,112	4,507	1,285	6,367
Administrative, etc.*	57	671	55	362	112	1,033
TOTAL	230	2,531	1,167	4,869	1,397	7,400

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

B. OPERATIVES (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS) EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK
IN EACH MONTH OF 1930.

Week ended	Males and females.			Week ended	Males and females.		
	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.		England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
	Jan. 18th	4,944	1,681		6,625	July 19th	4,905	1,688	6,593
Feb. 15th	4,864	1,751	6,615	Aug. 16th	4,790	1,611	6,401
Mar. 15th	4,829	1,677	6,506	Sept. 13th	4,733	1,578	6,311
Apr. 12th	4,852	1,690	6,542	Oct. 18th	4,797	1,570	6,367
May 17th	4,894	1,749	6,643	Nov. 15th	4,732	1,642	6,374
June 21st	4,902	1,661	6,563	Dec. 13th	4,730	1,674	6,404
AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS					4,831	1,664	6,495

C. NUMBERS OF OUTWORKERS AT TWO SPECIFIED PERIODS IN 1930.

Country.	January.			July.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>England and Wales</i> *	5	40	45	54	62	116

* No outworkers were recorded for Scotland.

IV. 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.
Reciprocating steam engines	837	137	187	515	1,024	652
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	187	52	32	—	219	52
Heavy oils	28	—	—	—	28	—
Water engines	—	—	130	30	130	30
TOTAL	1,052	189	349	545	1,401	734
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	1,241		894		2,135	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	307	50	70	350	377	400
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	3	—	—	—	3	—
Heavy oils	4	—	—	—	4	—
Water engines	—	—	33	7	33	7
TOTAL	314	50	103	357	417	407
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	364		460		824	

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.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
ELECTRIC MOTORS.						
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works ...	155	30	278	52	433	82
Electricity generated in other works under same ownership ...	67	—	—	—	67	—
Purchased electricity ...	2,476	272	1,693	132	4,169	404
TOTAL ...	2,698	302	1,971	184	4,669	486
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC MOTORS INSTALLED ...	3,000		2,155		5,155	

V. Consumption of fuel.

Kind of fuel used.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Coal used for power* ...	6,789	1,097	7,886
Coke used for power ...	17	—	17
	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Electricity used for all purposes :—			
Generated in same works ...	77	236	313
Generated in other works under same ownership ...	†	—	†
Purchased ...	1,236	934	2,170
TOTAL—Electricity ...	1,313	1,170	2,483

* In addition 824 tons (all in England and Wales) were returned as used for power and other purposes, not separately distinguished.

† Not recorded.