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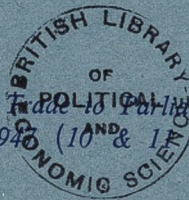
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*The Report on the  
Census of Production  
for 1954*

Volume 12: Industry B

LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
(BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING)

Presented by the Board of Trade to Parliament in pursuance of the  
Statistics of Trade Act, 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6 Ch. 39, Sec. 7)



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1958

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# The Report on the Census of Production for 1954

VOLUME 12 INDUSTRY B

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING)

THIS REPORT relates to the work of building construction, repair and renewal, and civil engineering work carried out by persons in the direct employment of Local Authorities.

This industry corresponds to minimum list headings 200(2) (Building) and part of 202(2) (Civil Engineering) in the Standard Industrial Classification.

The report does not include any building or civil engineering work carried out by the employees of Public Utility Undertakings owned by Local Authorities, or work done on behalf of Local Authorities by contractors. Particulars of work done furnished by such undertakings or contractors are included in the reports on the industries concerned.

Certain maintenance workers (e.g. those engaged on street cleaning and watering, the collection and disposal of refuse, park and green keepers and gardeners maintaining flower beds and greens) and the work done by them are excluded from the report. The report also excludes work done by employees of parish councils and parish meetings, and work carried out by employees of Regional Hospital Boards, Hospital Management Committees, and Teaching Hospitals.

Local Authorities were asked to return their output in terms of work done in the year of return, valuing that work on the basis of the cost of materials used and wages and salaries paid, together with the establishment charges attributable to the work carried out. Similarly, the cost of materials related to materials used, not materials purchased in the year. Gross output was therefore not obtained by the standard method described overleaf. In calculating net output, an extra deduction was made in respect of payments for the hire of plant and machinery.

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IMPORTANT NOTES and definitions appear on the next page. In interpreting the data in the following tables, it is essential to bear these in mind.

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The following notes describe terms in general use in the tables of the report. More detailed explanations of the terms used and a description of the scope and method of taking the census are given in the separate booklet entitled 'The Report on the Census of Production for 1954 - Introductory Notes' (price 1s. 6d. net).

**Industrial Classification:** Establishments are classified to industries according to the nature of their output and, as far as possible, in conformity with the Standard Industrial Classification. Certain products are identified as the principal products of individual industries, the principal products for a given industry being of a similar nature or commonly associated in production. The principle of classification normally followed is that an establishment is classified to an industry if its output of the principal products of that industry accounted for a greater proportion of the value of its output than did its output of the principal products of any other industry.

**Specialist producers** normally comprise those establishments 50 per cent. or more of whose total output by value is accounted for by the characteristic products of the specialist group.

**Intermediate products:** For some industries figures are given showing the total quantities made during the year of intermediate products, i.e., products which may be further processed in the establishments in which they are produced.

**Larger establishments:** The information given in the report relates mainly to 'larger establishments', i.e., establishments of firms employing on the average more than 10 persons. In most cases an establishment comprises the whole of the premises under the same ownership or management at a particular address (e.g., a mine or factory). Offices, warehouses, laboratories and other ancillary places of business situated apart from the producing works are not regarded as separate establishments and are included in the return for the works.

**Small firms** are those employing on the average 10 or fewer persons.

The estimates for the industry as a whole given in Table 1 are normally obtained by increasing the other items shown in the same proportion as total employment.

**Gross output (production)** is the total value of goods made and other work done during the year; it is obtained by adjusting the value of sales and work done during the year for changes in the value of stocks of products on hand for sale and work in progress.

**Net output** is the amount left after deducting from the value of gross output the aggregate of the cost of materials and fuel used, the amount paid for work given out, and, for 1951 and 1954, any transport payments made. This represents the value added to materials by the process of production, and constitutes the fund from which wages, salaries, rents, rates and taxes, advertising and other selling expenses and all other similar charges have to be met, as well as depreciation and profits.

**Sales** means sales during the year of goods made in the establishment covered by the return or made on commission for it, whether produced in the year or not. The value of sales is the net selling value, i.e., the amount charged to customers, whether on an ex-works or delivered basis, and net of any trade discounts, agents' commissions, allowances for returnable cases, purchase tax, etc. For goods charged on a delivered basis to customers overseas, firms were required to give the f.o.b. value.

**Materials and fuel:** The total cost of materials and fuel purchased includes all purchases during the year of materials for use in production, and of fuel (includ-

ing oil, gas and electricity) for all purposes; packing materials, including the full cost of returnable cases when first purchased; workshop and office materials; water charges; materials for repairs to buildings, plant and vehicles when carried out by firms' own work-people included in their returns; consumable tools; and parts for machinery purchased as replacements. Purchases of goods for merchanting are excluded. The cost of materials and fuel used, given in Table 2, is obtained by adjusting purchases for changes during the year in the value of stocks.

**Stocks:** Firms were required to give stocks of materials and fuel, products on hand for sale, and work in progress, at income tax values.

**Customs and Excise Duty** paid on materials purchased is normally included in the cost of materials. Finished goods are similarly valued as they were sold, duty-paid or duty-free. The net amount of any duty paid is deducted in arriving at net output.

**Employment:** Total employment includes working proprietors, administrative, technical and clerical employees, and operatives, but excludes outworkers, canteen employees and persons engaged in merchanting or any other activity not covered by a firm's return, who are shown separately as excluded employees. Employees are persons on the pay-roll (i.e., persons whose National Insurance cards were held by employers), whether employed full-time or part-time.

**Working proprietors** are proprietors of businesses other than limited companies, together with members of their families who worked in the business without receiving fixed wages or salaries. Any persons working less than half the normal hours are excluded. For Northern Ireland directors of limited companies (other than those paid by fee only) are also included.

**Administrative, technical and clerical employees** include directors, other than those paid by fee only (except in Northern Ireland); managers, superintendents and works foremen; research, experimental, development, technical and design employees (other than operatives); draughtsmen and tracers; travellers; and office (including works office) employees.

**Operatives** include all other classes of employees, i.e., broadly speaking, all manual workers.

**Outworkers** are persons employed by the firm who work on materials supplied by the firm in their own homes.

**Wages and salaries** include all overtime payments, bonuses and commissions without any deductions for income tax, insurances, contributory pensions etc. They exclude payments to working proprietors.

**Capital expenditure** includes expenditure on new building work, and on plant, machinery and vehicles, charged to capital account during the year, including any transport and installation costs involved. It includes expenditure in respect of establishments in Great Britain which had not begun production before the end of the year (which has not previously been included in the Census of Production reports for individual industries).

**Symbols used:**

.. for not available

- for nil or negligible (less than half the final digit shown).

Where figures are rounded, e.g., given to the nearest £ thousand, there may be apparent slight discrepancies between the sums of constituent items and the totals shown. In some cases, figures have been combined with others of a similar nature where publication of separate details might disclose information relating to an individual undertaking.

## Industry summary

## Estimates for the industry as a whole

TABLE 1

	United Kingdom			Scotland 1954	Wales 1954
	1948	1951	1954		
Gross output (production)	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
Net output	112.4	132.9	159.7	18.64	11.67
Capital expenditure less disposals (a)	64.4	73.0	90.7	9.12	6.78
Wages and salaries	(b)	3.6	3.8	0.43	0.28
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Total employment	58.6	65.9	79.9	8.23	5.96
	201.8	191.7	193.2	20.54	15.15

(a) Capital expenditure on new building work, plant, machinery and vehicles, less amounts received for plant, machinery and vehicles disposed of.

(b) Not ascertained.

## Summary of returns received

TABLE 2 (i)

## Larger establishments

	Unit	Great Britain 1948	United Kingdom	
			1951	1954
Number of establishments	No.	970	994	1,019
Gross output (production)	£'000	109,312	131,306	157,769
Cost of materials and fuel purchased and used	"	39,816	50,740	60,192
Payment for the hire of plant and machinery	"	1,492	1,991	2,171
Payment for transport (a)	"	5,626	6,554	5,833
Net output	"	62,377	72,021	89,573
Average number of employees	{operatives No.	177,178	169,329	169,984
Total employment	{others No.	18,449(b)	19,450	20,269
Net output per person employed	£	195,627	188,779	190,253
		319	382	471
Wages and salaries	{of operatives £'000	49,305	55,642	67,342
	{of others "	7,528	9,285	11,305
Capital expenditure				
New building work	"		1,048	925
Plant and machinery	{acquisitions "		1,527	1,906
	{disposals "		67	56
Vehicles	{acquisitions "	(c)	1,048	1,030
	{disposals "		38	47

(a) Payments to other firms and undertakings and to authorities' own separate transport organisations.

(b) Number in week ended September 25, 1948.

(c) Not ascertained.

TABLE 2 (ii)

## Small establishments in Great Britain (a)

	Unit	1948	1951	1954
Number of returns	No.	438	501	448
Gross output (production)	£'000	1,016	1,483	1,728
Cost of materials and fuel purchased and payment for transport	"	(b)	621	719
Payment for the hire of plant and machinery	"	(b)		
Net output	"	(b)	862	993
Total employment	No.	2,386	2,672	2,636
Males	"	2,327	2,618	2,570
Females	"	59	54	66

(a) Establishments, employing on the average ten or fewer persons, that made satisfactory returns. In 1954 there were 33 small establishments in Northern Ireland employing 206 persons (190 males and 16 females).

(b) Not ascertained.

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING)

Analysis by size, 1954

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 3

Average number employed	Establishments	Gross output	Net output	Employees		Wages and salaries		Capital expenditure (a)	Net output per person employed
				Operatives	Others	Operatives	Others		
	Number	£'000	£'000	Number	Number	£'000	£'000	£'000	£
11 - 24	167	2,087	1,334	2,511	448	957	224	109	451
25 - 49	221	5,709	3,560	6,830	1,010	2,624	515	203	454
50 - 99	236	12,747	7,744	14,853	2,129	5,654	1,123	496	456
100 - 199	158	17,861	10,610	20,101	2,696	7,865	1,473	427	465
200 - 299	65	13,382	7,653	13,868	1,666	5,626	963	248	493
300 - 399	47	14,405	7,983	14,707	1,712	5,907	955	398	486
400 - 499	38	13,802	7,683	15,046	1,652	5,903	934	299	460
500 - 749	41	21,112	11,632	22,206	2,651	8,803	1,482	319	468
750 - 999	20	14,913	7,967	16,121	1,691	6,170	966	376	447
1,000 - 1,499	18	20,228	10,827	19,872	2,541	7,608	1,461	559	483
1,500 - 1,999	3	3,931	2,313	4,465	419	1,796	245	193	474
2,000 and over	5	17,592	10,266	19,404	1,654	8,430	963	233	488
Total	1,019	157,769	89,573	169,984	20,269	67,342	11,305	3,860	471

(a) Capital expenditure on new building work and on acquisition of plant, machinery and vehicles.

TABLE 4 - Analysis according to specialisation within the industry, 1954

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

No specialisation within this industry was distinguished.

## Building and civil engineering work done (a)

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom (b)

TABLE 5 (i)

	1951		1954	
	Value of work done in the year (c)	£'000	Value of work done in the year (c)	£'000
Construction of new houses and flats (including site preparation and estate roads) (d)	23,528(e)		30,335	
Repair and maintenance of houses and flats (including conversions and alterations)	18,798		24,897	
Construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of Tramways and trackless trolley systems (permanent way, bridges, overhead wires, etc.)	541		346	
Highways (roads, bridges, footpaths, installation of street lighting and street furniture, surface drains, etc.)	64,827		72,133	
Parks, promenades, gardens, cemeteries, open spaces (including recreation or sports grounds, tennis courts, bowling greens, swimming pools, etc.)	2,807		4,405	
Harbours, wharves, docks and piers, canals and waterways (including streams), sea walls and embankments	617		695	
Waterworks (including reservoirs, aqueducts, wells, mains, hydraulic works and pumping stations)	798		1,077	
Sewers and sewage disposal works	6,002		6,167	
New construction work (including site preparation and major extensions and alterations) on				
Factories, workshops and other industrial premises, warehouses and storage premises, repair garages, etc.	224		304	

(89100)

## LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING)

TABLE 5 (i) (contd.)

	1951		1954	
	Value of work done in the year (c)	£'000	Value of work done in the year (c)	£'000
New construction work (including site preparation and major extensions and alterations) on (contd.)				
Hospitals, clinics, schools and college buildings	832(f)		1,310	
Buildings owned by Local Authorities and Government Departments (including Service Departments), not elsewhere specified (that is, excluding houses, schools, etc.)	180(g)		1,031	
Department stores and shops	177		177	
Other new construction work	263		266	
Shop and Office fitting	90		50	
Demolition work not included above	127		180	
All repairs and maintenance work not included above	11,226(h)		14,242	
Total		131,037		157,617
				1,019

(a) The figures shown in this table do not include civil engineering or other productive work carried out by Local Authorities and recorded on schedules for other industries, e.g., civil engineering work carried out by Public Utility Undertakings owned by Local Authorities.

(b) For output of small establishments see Table 5(ii).

(c) Valued at cost, see Introductory Note.

(d) Including the enlargement of existing buildings.

(e) Including permanent prefabricated houses.

(f) Excluding clinics.

(g) Including clinics.

(h) Including unspecified construction, alteration, repair and maintenance work.

## Total output of small establishments in Great Britain (a)

TABLE 5 (ii)

	1951		1954	
	Value of work done in the year	£'000	Value of work done in the year	£'000
Building and construction work				
Construction of new buildings				
Houses and flats	14		72	
Other new building construction	16		15	
Repair and maintenance work to buildings (e.g. painting, decorating, plumbing, heating, lighting, carpentry work)	785		1,032	
All other work done	667		610	
Goods made and sold and not used in the work entered above	-		-	
Total		1,483		1,728
				448

(a) Establishments employing on the average ten or fewer persons that made satisfactory returns.

TABLE 6 - Sales of principal products of the industry by establishments classified to other industries

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

This table is not applicable to this industry.

(89100)

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BUILDING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING)  
Output in the industry other than that shown in Table 5 (i)  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom (a)

TABLE 7

	1954
	Value
	£'000
Roadmaking materials	112
Other goods	39
Total	151

(a) For output of small establishments see Table 5 (ii).

TABLE 8 - Total make of intermediate products  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom  
This table is not applicable to this industry.

Materials and fuel, purchased and used, 1954  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 9

	Quantity	Cost
	Mn.	£'000
Materials		
Bricks	335	2,815
Cement	Th. tons 369	1,895
Steel used for reinforcement	4.7	184
	..	51
Other structural iron and steel	3.8	156
	..	27
Wrought iron and steel tubes and fittings	2.5	140
	..	123
Wood and timber other than reclaimed		
Joinery and other fabricated woodwork		1,255
Other including timber used for packing case manufacture		
Hardwood		312
Softwood		2,596
Insulated electric wires and cables and other electrical materials		1,264
All other purchased materials		45,450
Fuel (including coal, coke, gas, petrol and other oil fuel) and electricity used for all purposes		3,923
Total cost		60,192

Average number of employees, and wages, salaries  
and superannuation payments  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 10

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
Average number of employees		
Operatives	169,329	169,984
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	19,450	20,269
Total	188,779	190,253
Wages and salaries paid to	£'000	£'000
Operatives	55,642	67,342
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	9,285	11,305
Total	64,928	78,646
Wages and salaries per head	£	£
Operatives	329	396
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	477	558
		£'000
Superannuation and other pension funds for employees and dependents (a)		
Employers' contributions	..	3,004
Employees covered	..	Number 107,018
		£'000
Pension, etc. payments to former employees and dependents (a)	..	462

(a) The figures given relate to larger establishments in Great Britain only.

Employment in a specified week (a)  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 11

	1951			1954		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Operatives	169,348	425	169,773	170,671	277	170,948
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	16,714	2,744	19,458	17,738	2,597	20,335
Total employees	186,062	3,169	189,231	188,409	2,874	191,283

(a) Week ended September 22, 1951, or October 30, 1954.

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