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 THE WHOLESALE BOTTLING TRADE.
 

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### Introductory.\*

The Tables on pages 188-191 are based on Returns received from firms in Great Britain and Northern Ireland whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the bottling of beer, wines, spirits and other liquors on a wholesale scale. The number of such separate Returns was 903. About 100 firms to which schedules were sent did not furnish Returns, but these firms for the most part had relatively small establishments. On the basis of the information available it is estimated that they did not employ more than 500 persons in all and that their total net output probably lay between £90,000 and £120,000.

*Summary of results.*—The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1924 and 1907; the Bottling Trade was not

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\* See also the Notes on pages vii-xiv.

included in the Census for 1912. Comparisons between the figures for the two years are subject to the qualifications mentioned in the next paragraph :—

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1907.
Value of products and work done (Gross output)	£'000	37,095	12,795
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	28,030	9,655
Net output .. .. .	"	9,065	3,140
Average number of persons employed .. .. .	No.	19,729	20,265
Net output per person employed .. .. .	£	459	155
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	3,056	3,046
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	7,519	(not recorded)

Firms that bottled liquors solely for their own retail trade were not required to furnish Returns. The above figures are, for the most part, also exclusive of bottling stores situated at breweries and distilleries and at establishments mainly concerned with the rectification and compounding of spirits and the manufacture of table waters, cider, etc.

*Qualifications affecting comparisons.*—In considering the above table and the other tables in this Report which show figures for the two 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 and in the rates of duty on liquors subject to duty.

(2) The Census of 1907 covered the whole of Great Britain and Ireland, but that of 1924 applied only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. According to the Census of Production taken by the Government of the Irish Free State in respect of the year 1926, the total value of bottled beers, wines, spirits and other liquors produced in that year, other than at breweries and distilleries, was £1,903,000; the number of persons employed in the Aerated Waters\* and Bottling Trades together was 2,100.

### Production.

Detailed information as to the output of the Wholesale Bottling Trade in 1924 will be found in Table II on page 188.

*Liquors bottled.*—The following table shows, for 1924 and 1907, the value and, where recorded, the quantity of the different kinds of liquors bottled during the year by wholesale bottlers. The output of similar products recorded on schedules for trades other than the Wholesale Bottling Trade is included in the totals for each year.

\* See page 192.

Liquors bottled.	1924.				1907.	
	Returned on schedules for				Total.	
	The Wholesale Bottling Trade.		All trades.			
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Th. galls.	£'000.	Th. galls.	£'000.	Th. galls.	£'000.
Beer, ale, stout, etc. ..	59,776	14,557	69,296	16,875	84,855	6,690
Spirits .. .. .	10,924	18,261	10,924*	18,262	7,727	5,146
Wines .. .. .	3,857	3,408	3,903	3,443	3,100	1,359
Cider and perry .. .. .	824	177	898	190	517	49
Other liquors .. .. .	402	97	506	119	..	32
Liquors not separately distinguished .. .. .	..	12	..	8,557	—	—
<b>TOTAL VALUE .. .. .</b>	..	<b>36,512</b>	..	<b>47,446</b>	..	<b>13,276</b>

\* The quantity returned on other schedules was less than 500 galls.

The values shown above are free from duplication.

Exports and imports of liquors are dealt with in the Reports on the Brewing and Malting Trades, the Aerated Waters, Cider, etc., Trades and the Spirit Distilling Trade.† Separate figures relating to exports and imports of liquors in bottles are not available.

*Other products.*—In addition to the bottled liquors dealt with in the preceding paragraph, firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Wholesale Bottling Trade recorded in 1924 an output of other goods, as shown below. These goods, being of kinds mainly produced by other trades are dealt with in the Reports on those trades. The corresponding figures for 1907 are also given.

Kind of goods.	1924.	1907.
	Value.	Value.
	£'000.	£'000.
Aerated waters, mineral waters and non-alcoholic drinks made ..	38	66
Crates, cases and boxes made and repaired .. .. .	37	11
Other goods made and work done .. .. .	4	6
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>83</b>

*Bottling done on commission.*—Firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Wholesale Bottling Trade stated that they received £504,000 for bottling done on commission. The amount received for similar work in 1907 was £36,000.

*Cost of materials.*—The cost of materials used by firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Wholesale Bottling Trade was returned as £28,030,000 in 1924, and £9,655,000 in 1907.

† See pages 164, 196 and 206 respectively.

*Net output.*—The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Wholesale Bottling Trade (whose gross output was valued at £37,095,000) was £9,065,000, that sum representing, without duplication, the total amount by which the value (at works) of the aggregate output exceeded the cost (at works) of the materials used.

The net output per head of persons employed in the censal year 1924 was £459 as compared with £155 in 1907.

#### 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 Wholesale Bottling Trade which 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, 8,616 operatives, or 55 per cent. of the total of 15,750 operatives for the trade as a whole, and their net output totalled £4,480,000, or 49 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £9,065,000 for the trade as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £912,000, representing about 20 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

#### Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on pages 189–190. 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.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
	<b>1924.</b>					
Operatives .. .. .	1,338	8,763	1,172	6,702	2,510	15,465
Administrative, etc. ..	223	3,407	78	857	301	4,264
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,561</b>	<b>12,170</b>	<b>1,250</b>	<b>7,559</b>	<b>2,811</b>	<b>19,729</b>
<b>1907.</b>						
Wage earners .. .. .	3,115	12,908	697	3,845	3,812	16,753
Salaried .. .. .	278	3,267	20	245	298	3,512
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>3,393</b>	<b>16,175</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>4,090</b>	<b>4,110</b>	<b>20,265</b>

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 954 above the average, in December, to 725 below the average, in April (see Table IIIB, page 190).

#### Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 191. 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 ..	635	193	828	1,082
Steam turbines .. .. .	—	—	—	23
Gas engines .. .. .	1,306	386	1,692	} 1,789
Petrol and light oil engines ..	491	10	501	
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	3	—	3	
Water power .. .. .	32	—	32	
Other .. .. .	—	—	—	
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>3,046</b>
<b>ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—</b>	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines ..	26	1	27	133
Steam turbines .. .. .	—	—	—	} 11
Gas engines .. .. .	304	84	388	
Petrol and light oil engines ..	45	1	46	
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	—	—	—	
Water power .. .. .	9	—	9	
Other prime movers .. .. .	—	—	—	2
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>144</b>

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 .. ..	314	54	368
Purchased electricity .. .. .	6,818	701	7,519

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 1,022,000.

## TABLES.

## I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.	Northern Ireland.
Value of products and work done ..	£'000	24,580	11,921	36,501	594
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	18,668	8,880	27,548	482
Net output .. .. .	"	5,912	3,041	8,953	112
Average number of persons employed	No.	15,359	4,122	19,481	248
Net output per person employed ..	£	385	738	460	452
Mechanical power available :—					
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	2,620	390	3,010	46
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	6,420	1,086	7,506	13

## II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	Unit	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.	Northern Ireland.
Beer, ale, stout and porter bottled	<i>Th. galls.</i>	56,819	2,675	59,494	282
	£'000	13,858	616	14,474	83
Spirits bottled .. .. .	<i>Th. galls.</i>	3,458	7,355	10,813	111
	£'000	7,300	10,537	17,837	424
Wines bottled .. .. .	<i>Th. galls.</i>	3,540	264	3,804	53
	£'000	3,091	242	3,333	75
Cider and perry bottled ..	<i>Th. galls.</i>	816	7	823	1
	£'000	176	1	177	†
Other liquors bottled ..	<i>Th. galls.</i>	384	18	402	—
	£'000	91	6	97	—
Beers, wines, spirits and other liquors, not separately distinguished, bottled .. .. .	£'000	—	—	—	12
Aerated waters, mineral waters and non-alcoholic drinks made ..	"	*	*	38	—
Crates, cases and boxes made and repaired .. .. .	"	*	*	37	—
Other goods made and work done..	"	4	—	4	—
Bottling done on commission ..	"	*	*	504§	—
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)	£'000	24,580	11,921	36,501	594

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

† Less than £500.

§ 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 .. .. .	1,197	7,391	861	4,800	2,058	12,191
Administrative, etc.*	176	2,672	60	593	236	3,265
TOTAL .. .. .	1,373	10,063	921	5,393	2,294	15,456
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	140	1,392	331	1,987	471	3,379
Administrative, etc.*	46	689	17	242	63	931
TOTAL .. .. .	186	2,081	348	2,229	534	4,310
<i>Great Britain :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	1,337	8,783	1,192	6,787	2,529	15,570
Administrative, etc.*	222	3,361	77	835	299	4,196
TOTAL .. .. .	1,559	12,144	1,269	7,622	2,828	19,766
<i>Northern Ireland :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	27	146	1	34	28	180
Administrative, etc.*	1	46	1	22	2	68
TOTAL .. .. .	28	192	2	56	30	248
<i>United Kingdom :—</i>						
TOTAL .. .. .	1,587	12,336	1,271	7,678	2,858	20,014

\* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

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

England and Wales. (Annual average : Males, 7,290 ; Females, 4,804 ; Total, 12,094.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	7,183	4,771	11,954	July 19th ..	7,427	4,982	12,409
Feb. 16th ..	7,061	4,625	11,686	Aug. 16th ..	7,478	4,949	12,427
March 15th ..	7,005	4,513	11,518	Sept. 13th ..	7,426	4,837	12,263
April 12th ..	7,057	4,580	11,637	Oct. 18th ..	7,391	4,800	12,191
May 17th ..	7,206	4,837	12,043	Nov. 15th ..	7,376	4,842	12,218
June 21st ..	7,344	4,966	12,310	Dec. 13th ..	7,523	4,943	12,466

Scotland. (Annual average : Males, 1,327 ; Females, 1,864 ; Total, 3,191.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	1,308	1,841	3,149	July 19th ..	1,278	1,722	3,000
Feb. 16th ..	1,275	1,815	3,090	Aug. 16th ..	1,305	1,797	3,102
March 15th ..	1,276	1,827	3,103	Sept. 13th ..	1,323	1,725	3,048
April 12th ..	1,257	1,667	2,924	Oct. 18th ..	1,392	1,987	3,379
May 17th ..	1,294	1,796	3,090	Nov. 15th ..	1,429	2,101	3,550
June 21st ..	1,308	1,801	3,109	Dec. 13th ..	1,482	2,287	3,769

Great Britain. (Annual average : Males, 8,617 ; Females, 6,668 ; Total, 15,285.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	8,491	6,612	15,103	July 19th ..	8,705	6,704	15,409
Feb. 16th ..	8,336	6,440	14,776	Aug. 16th ..	8,783	6,746	15,529
March 15th ..	8,281	6,340	14,621	Sept. 13th ..	8,749	6,562	15,311
April 12th ..	8,314	6,247	14,561	Oct. 18th ..	8,783	6,787	15,570
May 17th ..	8,500	6,633	15,133	Nov. 15th ..	8,805	6,943	15,748
June 21st ..	8,652	6,767	15,419	Dec. 13th ..	9,005	7,230	16,235

Northern Ireland. (Annual average : Males, 146 ; Females, 34 ; Total, 180.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	150	34	184	July 19th ..	145	34	179
Feb. 16th ..	144	34	178	Aug. 16th ..	156	34	190
March 15th ..	143	34	177	Sept. 13th ..	152	34	186
April 12th ..	145	34	179	Oct. 18th ..	146	34	180
May 17th ..	135	34	169	Nov. 15th ..	144	34	178
June 21st ..	144	34	178	Dec. 13th ..	150	34	184

## IV.—Mechanical Power.

## PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

(a) Ordinarily in use. (b) In reserve or idle.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.	Northern Ireland.
PRIME MOVERS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines ..	{ (a) 525 (b) 133	100 60	625 193	10 —
Gas engines .. .. .	{ (a) 1,125 (b) 386	177 —	1,302 386	4 —
Petrol and light oil engines ..	{ (a) 436 (b) 10	53 —	489 10	2 —
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	{ (a) 3 (b) —	— —	3 —	— —
Water power .. .. .	{ (a) 2 (b) —	— —	2 —	30 —
TOTAL .. .. .	{ (a) 2,091 (b) 529	330 60	2,421 589	46 —
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED .. .. .	2,620	390	3,010	46
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines ..	{ (a) 26 (b) 1	— —	26 1	— —
Gas engines .. .. .	{ (a) 264 (b) 84	40 —	304 84	— —
Petrol and light oil engines ..	{ (a) 5 (b) 1	40 —	45 1	— —
Water power .. .. .	{ (a) — (b) —	— —	— —	9 —
TOTAL .. .. .	{ (a) 295 (b) 86	80 —	375 86	9 —
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED .. .. .	381	80	461	9
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—				
Electricity generated in own works .. .. .	{ (a) 164 (b) 54	148 —	312 54	2 —
Purchased electricity .. .. .	{ (a) 5,761 (b) 659	1,048 38	6,809 697	9 4