

THE ROOFING FELTS 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 of roofing felts. As separate particulars for England and Wales and for Scotland cannot be published for the year 1930 owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, the summary table (I) and the tables showing details of power equipment (IV) and coal, coke and electricity used (V) are not appended to this report. The whole of this information is available in the tables given in the report itself.

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 (Gross output)	£'000	882	711
Cost of materials used	"	520	426
Net output	"	362	285
Average number of persons employed	No.	964	807
Net output per person employed	£	376	353
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	1,113	747
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity...	"	783	229
Number of returns	No.	16	18
Number of establishments	"	20	*

* 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 20, the corresponding figure for 1924 being 25. The value of the gross output of the small firms in 1924 was £9,000, of which £4,000 was in respect of 295,800 sq. yds. of paper felts, tarred and sanded or similar finish. At both Censuses returns were made by all firms to which schedules were sent.

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.	Net output per person employed.
11-49	9	£'000 151	£'000 62	212	£ 293
50 and over ...	7	731	300	752	399
TOTAL	16	882	362	964	376

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.	Net output per person employed.
		£'000.	£'000.		£
1 { 1930	7	601	258	543	476
{ 1924	8	513	210	490	429
2, 4, 6, 9 and 10 1930	9	281	104	421	246
2, 4, 6 and 10 ... 1924	10	198	75	317	237
TOTAL { 1930	16	882	362	964	376
{ 1924	18	711	285	807	353

Northern Ireland.—The following table summarises the particulars recorded at the Census of Production of Northern Ireland for 1930 and 1924. For 1930 the information relates to firms that employed an average of more than *five* persons, and, for 1924, to *all* firms. The particulars shown relate only to a few firms, and details of production cannot be given owing to the risk of disclosing information relating to individual businesses.

* For particulars see page xviii.

Particulars.	Unit.	1930.	1924.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	152	220
Cost of materials used	"	73	118
Net output	"	79	102
Average number of persons employed	No.	263	310
Net output per person employed	£	300	328
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	571	571
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	132	85

Production.

Principal products.—The following table shows the value and, where available, the quantity of roofing felts made in 1930 and 1924 for sale :—

Kind of goods.	1930.						1924.	
	Returned on schedules for						Total.	
	The Roofing Felts Trade.			All trades.				
Quantity.	Value.	Ent- ries.	Quantity.	Value.	Ent- ries.	Quantity.	Value.	
	Th. sq. yds.	£'000.	No.	Th. sq. yds.	£'000.	No.	Th. sq. yds.	£'000.
Roofing felts (in- cluding all felts used for sarking and sheathing) :—								
Tarred flax felts	2,435	56	3 {	2,435 *	56 25	6	2,747	53
Paper felts :—								
Bituminous self- finished felts	22,883	509	14	22,883	509	14	16,979	433
Tarred and sanded or similar finish felts... ..	3,593	60	10	3,593 *	60 31 9	10	4,714	94
Hair felts	527	31	5 {	527 *	31 9	7	429	27
TOTAL — Roofing felts	29,438	656	...	...	690	...	24,869	607
Dampcourses and similar fabrics ...	...	111	15	...	115	18	...	73†
TOTAL VALUE— PRINCIPAL PRO- DUCTS ... ..	...	767	...	...	805	...	...	680

* Quantity not stated.

† Including £19,000 for dampcourses and roofing felts, not separately distinguished.

The above table does not include particulars of the production of *tarred and other roofing paper*; this is dealt with in the report on the Paper Trade which forms part of a separate volume.

Prices.—The average selling values of the different kinds of roofing felts in 1930 and 1924, as calculated from the Census returns, are shown in the following table. 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.

Kind of goods.	Average value.		1930 as a percentage of 1924.
	1930.	1924.	
	Pence per sq. yd.	Pence per sq. yd.	Per cent.
Roofing felts (including all felts used for sarking and sheathing):—			
Tarred flax felts	5.5	4.6	119.6
Paper felts:—			
Bituminous self-finished felts	5.3	6.1	86.9
Tarred and sanded or similar finish felts	4.0	4.8	83.3
Hair felts	14.1	15.1	93.4

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—The following table compares the volume of production of roofing felts, 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.	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	Per cent.
Roofing felts (including all felts used for sarking and sheathing):—				
Tarred flax felts	81	53	63	129
Paper felts:—				
Bituminous self-finished felts	509	433	375	136
Tarred and sanded or similar finish felts	60	94	79	76
Hair felts	40	27	25	160
Dampcourses and similar fabrics	115	73	68*	169
TOTAL	805	680	610	132

* Based on average value of hair felts.

Exports and imports.—Comparison between production and overseas trade in roofing felts is rendered impracticable by the absence of information regarding the output in 1930 of firms in Northern Ireland, and by the use of a different unit of quantity for recording production and exports and imports. The quantity and value of roofing felts exported from the United Kingdom in 1930 and 1924 are shown below, together with the quantity and value of similar goods imported and retained.

	1930.		1924.	
	Th. cwts.	£'000.	Th. cwts.	£'000.
Exports	159.9	153	110.1	137
Retained imports	11.5	9	20.1	24

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 297, firms that made their returns on schedules for the Roofing Felts Trade recorded a sum of £115,000 in respect of floor coverings, paints and other goods made in 1930, the corresponding figure for 1924 being £50,000. These goods are dealt with in the reports on those trades in which the principal output was recorded.

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)	68	617	3	73	71	690
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	14	207	2	67	16	274
TOTAL	82	824	5	140	87	964
1924.						
Operatives (average for the year)	56	549	1	50	57	599
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	11	163	2	45	13	208
TOTAL	67	712	3	95	70	807

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.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines	713	113	826	451	93	544
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	130	52	182	203	—	203
Heavy oils	105	—	105	—	—	—
TOTAL	948	165	1,113	654	93	747
ELECTRIC GENERATORS.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	153	—	153	22	—	22
TOTAL	153	—	153	22	—	22
ELECTRIC MOTORS.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works	174	8	182	—	—	—
Purchased electricity	662	121	783	191	38	229
TOTAL	836	129	965	191	38	229

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).
	Tons.	Tons.
Coal	5,857	4,081*
Coke	360	1,002*
		B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Electricity used for all purposes :—		'000
Generated in same works		232
Purchased		466
TOTAL—Electricity		698

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 93.6 per cent. of the net output of the whole trade.

TABLES.

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

I. Summary of results (see page 295).**II. Production.**

Goods sold or added to stock.	Quantity.	Value.
	Th. sq. yds.	£'000
Roofing felts (including all felts used for sarking and sheathing) :—		
Tarred flax felts	2,435	56
Paper felts :—		
Bituminous self-finished felts	22,883	509
Tarred and sanded or similar finish felts	3,593	60
Hair felts	527	31
TOTAL—ROOFING FELTS	29,438	656
Dampcourses and similar fabrics ... ..	...	111
Other goods made (floor coverings, paints, etc.) ... ..	...	115
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE (GROSS OUTPUT)	...	882

III. Employment.**A. NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1930.**

Persons employed.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
Operatives	70	631	3	75	73	706
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	14	207	2	67	16	274
TOTAL	84	838	5	142	89	980

B. OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1930.

Week ended	Males and females.	Week ended	Males and females.
Jan. 18th	704	July 19th	661
Feb. 15th	694	Aug. 16th	672
Mar. 15th	693	Sept. 13th	675
April 12th	693	Oct. 18th	706
May 17th	686	Nov. 15th	707
June 21st	684	Dec. 13th	701
AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS			690

IV. Power (see page 300).

V. Consumption of fuel (see page 300).