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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BUSINESS STATISTICS OFFICE

Report on the Census of Production 1970

C39 Explosives, fireworks and matches

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C39 Explosives, fireworks and matches

Presented by the Department of Trade and Industry
to Parliament in pursuance of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947
(10 & 11 Geo. 6 Cha. 39 sec 7)

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C39 Explosives, fireworks and matches

C39.1

This report on the Explosives, Fireworks and Matches Industry relates to establishments engaged wholly or mainly in manufacturing explosives, detonators, fuses (not shell fuses), percussion caps, flares, signal rockets, etc., fireworks, matches and live ammunition, and filling bombs, cartridges, shells, etc. Establishments making live military ammunition that also make the cases for it are excluded.

The industry corresponds to minimum list heading 279 (3) in the Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1968) which was used for the first time as a basis of classification in the 1968 census, when it was reported as part 39. The definition of the industry is the same for the 1968 and 1970 censuses. The figures given for 1963 have been reclassified as far as possible according to the Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1968).

METHOD OF CLASSIFICATION

In classifying returns to this industry, the standard procedure as outlined in the notes on page (iii) was adapted to exclude any firms whose sales of live military ammunition was the major portion of their output if they also made the metal cases. Such returns were classified to the Ordnance and Small Arms Industry. References to returns are to those in the 1968 census of production where detailed product sales were available.

In interpreting the data in the tables it is essential to bear in mind the notes and definitions which commence on page (iii).

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TABLE 1

Net output, 1963, 1968 and 1970

All United Kingdom establishments classified to the industry (a)

	Unit	1963	1968	1970
Enterprises	Number	32	30	33
Establishments (b)	"	56	47	45
Sales of goods produced and work done	£'000	55,255	61,460	67,488
Services rendered to other organisations (c)	"			
Goods merchanted or factored	"	3,661	3,502	1,946
Canteen takings	"			
Total sales and work done	"	58,916	64,962	70,617
Change during the year, goods on hand for sale	"	- 421	- 501	+ 957
Change during the year, work in progress	"	- 129	+ 764	+ 170
Gross output	"	58,366	65,225	71,744
Cost of purchases	"	23,980	26,786	30,657
Change during the year, stocks of materials, stores and fuel	"	- 683	+ 251	+ 836
Payments to other organisations				
for work done on materials given out	"	184	326	321
for transport by road	"	646	268	409
for transport by rail, water, air and Post Office parcel services (d)	"		357	315
Total costs	"		25,493	27,486
Net output	"	32,872	37,739	40,877
Total employment (including working proprietors) (e)	Thousands	22.7	19.4	18.2
Net output per head	£	1,448	1,948	2,245

(a) Including estimates for establishments not making satisfactory returns and for establishments employing less than 25 persons.

(b) See definition of establishments in notes on page (iii).

(c) Amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery or other goods, for providing transport, or for any technical or other services rendered.

(d) For 1963 and 1968, payments for postal services are excluded.

(e) Average number of persons employed during the year.

TABLE 2

C39.4

Capital expenditure and stocks, 1963, 1968 and 1970

All United Kingdom establishments classified to the industry (a)

	1963	1968	1970 (b)
Capital expenditure	£'000	£'000	£'000
New building work	947	825	660
Land and existing buildings			
Acquisitions	71	7	} 202 (c)
Disposals	67	116	
Plant and machinery			
Acquisitions	1,891	2,953	3,521
Disposals	205	74	85
Vehicles			
Acquisitions	180	215	377
Disposals	52	46	82
Total net capital expenditure (c)	2,766	3,764	4,593
Stocks and work in progress at end of year			
Materials, stores and fuel	4,375	4,661	5,935
Work in progress	2,588	4,128	4,478
Goods on hand for sale	4,532	3,930	4,951
Total stocks	11,496	12,720	15,364

(a) Including estimates for establishments not making satisfactory returns and for establishments employing less than 25 persons.

(b) Capital expenditure in respect of manufacturing establishments where production had not commenced before the end of the year, is included for 1970.

(c) Acquisitions less disposals.

TABLE 3

Analysis of establishment by size, 1970

All United Kingdom establishments classified to the industry (a)

Size group (b)	Enterprises (c)	Estab-lishments (d)	Total employment (b)	Employees		Wages and salaries		Wages and salaries per head		Total sales and work done (f)	Gross output	Net output	Net output per head	Capital expenditure (net) (g)	Total stocks and work in progress at end of year
				Operatives	Others (e)	Operatives	Others (e)	Operatives	Others (e)						
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	£'000	£'000	£	£	£'000	£'000	£'000	£	£'000	£'000
1-10	7	7	44	}	621	391	246	630	1,589	2,455	2,544	1,852	2,381	37	480
11-24	8	8	118												
25-99	9	9	616												
100-299	6	9	1,724	1,247	476	1,249	738	1,001	1,548	9,095	9,057	3,777	2,191	150	1,799
300-499	4	4	1,632	1,434	198	1,280	341	893	1,721	7,018	6,758	3,656	2,240	171	1,457
500 and over	4	8	14,073	10,526	3,541	12,663	6,875	1,203	1,942	52,049	53,385	31,592	2,245	4,235	11,628
Total	33	45	18,207	13,828	4,370	15,583	8,200	1,127	1,877	70,617	71,744	40,877	2,245	4,593	15,364

(a) Including estimates for establishments not making satisfactory returns and for establishments employing less than 25 persons.

(b) Average number employed during the year (including working proprietors) by the establishment.

(c) The sum of the figures for the size groups exceeds the total for the industry to the extent that enterprises made returns for establishments in more than one size group.

(d) See definition of establishments in notes on page (iii).

(e) Administrative, technical and clerical employees.

(f) Including sales of goods merchanted or factored and canteen takings. Also includes services rendered to other organisations (amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery or other goods, for providing transport, or for any technical or other services rendered).

(g) Acquisitions less disposals.

TABLE 4

Percentage analysis of employees, by age and sex, 1970 (a)

C39.6

All United Kingdom establishments classified to the industry

Ages	Males	Females	All employees
	per cent	per cent	per cent
Under 18	1	3	4
18 and over	62	34	96
All ages	63	37	100.0

Source: Department of Employment

(a) The percentages relate to the numbers employed (excluding working proprietors) in the 'other chemical' industries, minimum list heading 279 at mid-June 1970. In the 1970 census the employment of the 'Explosives, fireworks and matches' industry represented 19 per cent of the employment of minimum list heading 279 as a whole.

TABLE 5

C39.7

Regional distribution of employment, net capital expenditure and net output, 1970
All United Kingdom establishments classified to the industry

Area	Average number employed (a)		Net capital expenditure (b)		Net output and employment in the region of establishments with more than 80 per cent of their employment in the region (c)		
	Thousands	per cent of United Kingdom	£'000	per cent of United Kingdom	Estimated net output (£'000)	Average number employed as a percentage of total average number employed in the region	Net output as percentage of total of the industry in the United Kingdom
Standard Regions of England							
North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yorkshire and Humberside	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
East Midlands	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
East Anglia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South East	2.1	11.8	233	5.1	*	*	*
South West	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
West Midlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North West	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
England	8.3	45.4	1,116	24.3	13,715	85.8	33.6
Wales	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Scotland	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Great Britain	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Northern Ireland	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Unallocated (d)	-	-	-	-	3,131	-	7.7
United Kingdom	18.2	100.0	4,593	100.0	40,877		100.0

(a) Including working proprietors.

(b) New building work plus acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, plant and machinery and vehicles: including capital expenditure at establishments not yet in production.

(c) Where a census return covered addresses in two or more regions an estimate was made of the net output attributable to the region only where more than 80 per cent of the establishment's employees were located in the region. The estimate was made by assuming that net output at each address covered by a return was proportionate to employment at the address. The establishment's residual net output was included in unallocated net output.

(d) Includes estimates of net output for establishments not making satisfactory returns and establishments employing less than 25 employees, and unallocated net output of establishments covering addresses in two or more regions.

TABLE 6

C39.8

Analysis of net output of returns received from United Kingdom establishments employing 25 or more persons, 1963, 1968 and 1970

	Unit	1963	1968	1970
Enterprises	Number	23	19	13
Establishments (a)	"	46	35	23
Sales of goods produced and work done	£'000	55,036	60,736	63,669
Services rendered to other organisations (b)	"			835
Goods merchanted or factored	"	3,647	3,461	1,888
Canteen takings	"			303
Total sales and work done	"	58,683	64,197	66,696
Change during the year, goods on hand for sale	"	- 419	- 495	+ 937
Change during the year, work in progress	"	- 129	+ 755	+ 146
Gross output	"	58,135	64,457	67,779
Cost of purchases	"	23,886	26,471	28,835
Change during the year, stocks of materials, stores and fuel	"	- 681	+ 248	+ 815
Payments to other organisations				
for work done on materials given out	"	183	322	314
for transport by road	"	644	265	394
for transport by rail, water, air and Post Office parcel services (c)	"		353	308
Total costs	"		25,394	27,163
Net output	"	32,741	37,295	38,743
Total employment (including working proprietors) (d)	Thousands	22.6	19.1	17.2
Net output per head	£	1,448	1,948	2,243

(a) See definition of establishments in notes on page (iii).

(b) Amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery or other goods, for providing transport, or for any technical or other services rendered.

(c) For 1963 and 1968, payments for postal services are excluded.

(d) Average number of persons employed during the year.

TABLE 7

C39.9

Percentage analysis of twelve-month periods covered by returns received from United Kingdom establishments employing 25 or more persons, 1970

Accounting year ended	Percentage of total returns received	Percentage of total numbers employed
	per cent	per cent
1970 April (a)	0.0	0.0
May	0.0	0.0
June	4.4	2.2
July	0.0	0.0
August	0.0	0.0
September	4.4	1.6
October	0.0	0.0
November	13.0	1.2
December	30.4	40.6
1971 January	0.0	0.0
February	0.0	0.0
March (b)	47.8	54.4
	100.0	100.0

(a) From 6th April.

(b) Including returns made for twelve-month period ending 1st to 5th April 1971.

Notes

These notes give the main information needed for interpreting the figures in the industry reports, (more detailed information about the census is given in a separate booklet—"Introductory Notes", Part C1 of the Report on the Census of Production for 1970).

GENERAL INFORMATION

Changes compared with 1968

The questions asked in the 1970 census were similar to those in the 1968 census with certain exceptions. In particular the 1970 census returns did not ask for details of:—

- (i) purchases or sales by commodities
- (ii) payments of rates
- (iii) payments for repairs and maintenance
- (iv) costs of operating road goods vehicles.

The amounts payable to other organisations for transport of goods however, did include the cost of the Post Office parcel services.

Other changes concern the treatment of firms employing less than 25 persons and the rules used for classifying establishments to industry. Any such changes are explained in the following paragraphs, or in the introductions to the industry reports, or by footnotes to the tables.

Industrial classification

Establishments were classified to industries on the basis of major activity in conformity with the third edition of the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1968). Normally an establishment was classified to an industry if its sales of the principal products of that industry accounted for a greater proportion of its total sales than in its sales of the principal products of any other industry. Classification of an establishment in this census was based on the establishment's return to the Census of Production, 1968.

Establishments added to the register subsequent to the 1968 census were classified on the basis of the description of the business given by the respondent.

Coverage

Detailed census returns were generally sought only from establishments employing on average 25 or more persons, but in industries where firms employing less than 25 persons account for a relatively high proportion of total employment and output the exemption limit was lowered to 11. Census returns were also sent to establishments whose employment was not known to the Business Statistics Office at the time of despatch; if their employment was below the exemption limit for their industry establishments were asked to supply figures only of total employment and total sales.

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS REPORT

Average number employed

Establishments were required to state the number of persons on the payroll (i.e. whose national insurance cards were held by them) on the average during the year of return, whether full time or part time employees. Separate figures were required for (a) administrative, technical and clerical employees and (b) all other employees (operatives). Averages could be calculated from figures relating to the last week of each calendar month. Establishments were also required to state the number of working proprietors where appropriate and these are included in total employment figures. Outworkers (i.e. persons employed by establishments who worked in their own homes etc. on materials supplied by the establishments) are excluded.

The figures include persons engaged on merchanting or factoring and canteen workers where particulars in respect of these activities could not be excluded from the return.

Working Proprietors

These include all persons regarded as "self employed" for national insurance purposes and members of their families who worked in the business without receiving a fixed wage or salary; but such persons who worked less than half the normal number of working hours are excluded. Directors working in the business but not in receipt of a definite wage, salary or commission are included under this heading: directors paid by fee only are not included.

Employees

Administrative, technical and clerical employees include managing and other directors in receipt of a definite wage, salary or commission, managers, superintendents and works foremen; research, experimental development, technical and design employees (other than operatives); draughtsmen and

tracers; editorial staff, staff reporters, canvassers, competition and advertising staff; travellers; and office (including works office) employees.

Operatives include all other classes of employees, that is, broadly speaking, all manual wage earners. They include those employed in and about the factory or works; operatives employed in power houses, transport work (including roundsmen), stores, warehouses, shops and canteens; inspectors, viewers and similar workers; maintenance workers, and cleaners. Operators engaged in outside work of erecting, fitting etc. are also included, but outworkers are excluded.

Capital expenditure

(a) New building work

This represents the cost incurred during the year of new building and other constructional work (including office buildings, canteens and the like used in connection with the business covered by the return, but not dwelling houses for employees). The value is that charged to capital account during the year of return; it includes expenditure on new buildings or on the extension or reconstruction of old buildings, the value of works of a capital nature carried out by the establishment's own staff and the cost of any newly constructed buildings purchased. Figures shown include any legal charges, stamp duties, agents' commissions, etc.

(b) Land and existing buildings

The items shown are the capital cost of freeholds purchased and the capital cost of premium payable for leaseholds acquired (excluding the value of any assets acquired in taking over an existing business), and the amounts receivable for any freeholds or leaseholds disposed of. The value is that charged to capital account during the year of return.

(c) Plant, machinery and vehicles

The items shown are the value of plant and machinery and of vehicles acquired, both new and second-hand, and the amount received for items disposed of during year. The value of plant and machinery acquired includes plant, etc., which firms produced for their own use in connection with the business covered by the return. The value of plant, etc., acquired is the expenditure charged to capital account during the year of return less any discounts received, but including the cost of transport and installation. No deduction is made for depreciation, amortization or obsolescence. The proceeds of items disposed of during the year exclude amounts written off for items scrapped.

Capital expenditure during the year in respect of manufacturing establishments where production had not started before the end of the year is excluded from the figures for both 1963 and 1968 but is included in the figures for 1970.

Enterprise

The term enterprise is used in this report to mean one or more establishments under common ownership or control. An enterprise normally consists of a single establishment, more than one establishment owned by the same firm, or a number of establishments owned by a parent company and its subsidiary companies. Information about the relationship between constituent companies of enterprises was obtained mainly from published sources such as the Stock Exchange Year Book supplemented by information from company reports and information supplied by establishments. The information available is not complete but covers the largest and most important groups of industrial establishments and is believed sufficient to provide a worthwhile basis for analysis.

Establishment

The definition of the establishment differed between the Censuses for 1963, 1968 and 1970. The definitions used were as follows:—

1963: the establishment was normally the premises under the same ownership or management at a particular address.

1968: the establishment was defined, in accordance with Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1968), as being the smallest unit which could provide the information normally required for an economic census, for example, employment, expenses, turnover and capital formation. Sometimes activities which are conducted as a single business are carried on at a number of addresses. In 1968 where the activities of such a business were closely integrated and the addresses, termed local units, were in close proximity the establishment was defined to cover the combined activities and a single return was accepted. When the activities were closely integrated but the addresses were not in close proximity a combined return was accepted but the individual addresses were treated—in the count of establishments in an industry, for instance—as separate establishments.

1970: the practice of treating as multi-unit establishments those businesses with closely integrated activities at a number of addresses in close proximity was extended to all those businesses where the local units were at more than one geographical location and detailed census information was not available for each unit. Separate figures were obtained, however, of employment and capital expenditure at each unit. The effect of this change is to reduce somewhat the number of establishments as compared with 1968.

Gross output

Gross output measures the total value of production (including work done) by establishments during the year. It is calculated as follows:—

Value of sales and work done
Plus/Less: Increase/decrease in value of stocks of goods on hand for sale
Plus/Less: Increase/decrease in value of work in progress
= Gross output.

Net output

Net output represents the value added to materials by the process of production (including the margin on selling any merchanted or factored goods). It is calculated as follows:—

Gross output
Less: Purchases adjusted for change in value of stocks of fuel and raw materials
Less: Payments for work given to other establishments
Less: Payments for transport
Less: Net amount of any duties, subsidies, allowances and levies payable
= Net output.

Net output per person employed

The figures of net output per person employed are derived by dividing the net output by the average number of persons employed (full time and part time) on all activities covered by the returns, including operatives, administrative, technical and clerical employees and working proprietors, but excluding outworkers.

Purchases

Purchases include the cost of materials and components bought for use in production; of fuel and electricity for all purposes; of packaging materials including the cost of returnable cases and containers when first purchased; of workshop materials, office materials and materials for repairs to establishment's own buildings, plants and vehicles when carried out by their own work people included in the returns; of consumable tools; and of parts for machinery purchased during the year as replacements. Water charges are also included. In general, purchases of goods for merchenting or factoring and canteen supplies are included. Materials supplied by customers for processing are excluded, as are all purchases charged to capital account.

The values shown include any duty paid (less rebate, etc.) but exclude trade discounts allowed. The cost of transport is included only if included in the cost of materials as invoiced; amounts paid to transport organisations, including an establishment's own separate transport organisations for delivery of materials and fuel are, therefore, excluded. Materials purchased overseas are included at the c.i.f. cost plus any duty payable if the cost of transport from the docks was not included in the invoiced price, but at their full delivery cost if invoiced "carriage paid home". Materials and fuel transferred from another department of the establishment not covered by the same return are included at the estimated selling value recorded by the other department.

Sales

Sales are in respect of goods made by the business covered by the return, goods made for it by outworkers or by other establishments from materials given out to them (sometimes described as goods made on commission) and waste products. Any machinery or other capital items produced for use in the business covered by the return are included, the value being that adopted in the establishment's asset accounts. Goods sold without being subjected to any manufacturing process (i.e. merchanted or factored) and canteen takings are included.

The value shown for sales is the net selling value, defined as the amount charged to customers whether on an ex-works or delivered basis excluding any trade discounts, agents' commissions, allowances for returnable cases, purchase tax, etc.; the net amount charged for packaging materials is included. Goods charged on a delivered basis to customers overseas are included at the f.o.b. value.

Goods produced in one establishment and transferred to another establishment of the same firm not covered by the return were treated as sales by the producing establishment and valued as far as possible as if they had been sold to an independent purchaser. Goods transferred to wholesale or retail selling organisations for which separate accounts were kept were valued on the same basis.

To the extent that sales of finished products of one establishment constitute the materials purchased by another, total figures of the value of sales (and of materials and fuel purchased) include an element of duplication. In some industries, e.g. motor vehicle manufacturing, and woollen and worsted, this duplication is substantial; and aggregates of the figures for a number of industries contain significantly greater amounts of duplication. For work done on commission, sub-contract work, etc., the value shown is the total amount charged for the work, including the value of any materials bought and used in such work.

Services rendered

This represents the amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery and other goods, providing transport, or for any technical or other services rendered to other organisations. It includes amounts credited for similar services rendered to other establishments of the same enterprise not covered by the return.

Standard Industrial Classification

Industry classification is based on the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1968). It is published by H M Stationery Office together with a separate index in the form of an alphabetical list of industries.

Stocks and work in progress

Values are given of stocks of goods on hand for sale, and of materials and fuel, at the end of the year of return, including any stocks of goods held for merchenting or factoring. Values of the change during the year are also shown. The values include duty in the case of dutiable goods held out of bond.

The value of work in progress at the end of, and the change during, the year are also usually shown. This excludes any progress payments made to sub-contractors, and no deduction is made on account of progress payments received.

Transport payments

These represent the total amount paid or credited during the year for both outwards transport of finished goods sold and inwards transport of materials and fuel purchased. They include payment to other establishments, and to any separate transport organisation of the same establishment not covered by the return, but exclude the value of transport services provided by the business covered by the return. The items included are payments for hired cartage and for inwards and outwards carriage by all forms of inland transport, i.e. railways, road haulage, canals, coastwise shipping, air, etc. Payments made for sea and air freight on goods sold to customers overseas and on materials and fuel purchased from overseas suppliers are excluded.

Wages and salaries

These are amounts paid during the year to operatives and to administrative, technical and clerical employees. Payments to working proprietors, whether called salaries or not, are excluded. The values shown include all overtime payments, bonuses and commissions, whether paid regularly or not, and no deduction is made for income tax, insurances, contributory pensions, etc. The value of any payments in kind, travelling expenses, lodging allowances, etc. and employers' contributions to national insurances and pension schemes is excluded.

Work given out

The figures shown represent the total amount paid for work done by other establishments (whether part of the same enterprise or not) on materials supplied to them. They do not include payments to individual outworkers or payments for business and other services.

SYMBOLS USED

The following symbols are used throughout the report:

- .. not available,
- nil or negligible (less than half the last significant figure)
- * figures cannot be shown owing to risk of disclosing information about individual enterprises.

ROUNDING OF FIGURES

Figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded to the nearest final digit; there may, therefore, be apparent slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.

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