

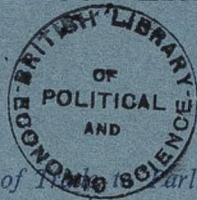
BOARD OF TRADE

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[HA 251]

*The Report on the  
Census of Production  
for 1954*

Volume 12: Industry H

WATER UNDERTAKINGS



*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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# The Report on the Census of Production for 1954

VOLUME 12 INDUSTRY H

## WATER UNDERTAKINGS

THIS REPORT on Water Undertakings relates to establishments purifying and distributing water. It does not cover private water works maintained by establishments primarily for their own use.

Gross output in this industry comprises the total sums received for water supplied and work charged for, and the value of new constructional work carried out by employees of water undertakings.

Separate information relating to companies and to local authorities in this industry in Northern Ireland is not available for 1951 and 1954 and particulars of all water undertakings in Northern Ireland have been included in the figures for local authorities.

This industry corresponds to minimum list heading 212 in the Standard Industrial Classification.

### LIST OF TABLES

Table No.	Title	Page	Table No.	Title	Page
1	Industry summary: estimates for the industry as a whole	12/H/3	6	Sales of principal products of the industry by establishments classified to other industries	Does not apply
2	Summary of returns received	12/H/3	7	Sales in the industry of other than principal products	Does not apply
3	Analysis by size, 1954	12/H/5	8	Total make of intermediate products	Does not apply
4	Analysis according to specialisation within the industry, 1954	Does not apply	9	Purchased materials and fuel used, 1954	12/H/7
			10	Average number of employees and wages, salaries and superannuation payments	12/H/8
5	Water supplied and work done by employees of Water Undertakings	12/H/5	11	Employment in a specified week	12/H/10

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

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42  
[HA 251]



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	48.9	55.1	68.6	5.78	2.66
Capital expenditure less disposals (a)	39.0	41.5	51.8	4.35	2.03
Wages and salaries	10.9	20.5	23.4	2.27	1.04
	12.6	15.4	19.2	1.47	0.84
Total employment (including working proprietors)	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	37.3	39.3	40.9	3.61	1.92

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

## Summary of returns received

TABLE 2(A) Companies (a)

	Unit	Great Britain	United Kingdom	
		1948	1951	1954
<b>UNDERTAKINGS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE MORE THAN 10 PERSONS</b>				
Number of undertakings	No.	77	74	73
Value of water supplied (b)	£'000	8,191	9,641	11,596
Amount charged for work done (b)	"	307	407	590
Value of work of new construction (b)	"	751	825	1,450
Gross output (production)	"	9,248	10,873	13,637
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	2,303	3,111	3,562
Payment for transport (c)	"			
Net output	"	6,946	7,730	10,027
Average number of employees	{ operatives others	No.	5,633	6,117
Total employment	"	1,992 (d)	2,125	2,323
Net output per person employed	"	7,625	8,242	8,679
	"	911	938	1,155
Wages and salaries	{ of operatives of others	£'000	1,732	2,196
	"	825	1,048	1,308
Capital expenditure				
New building work	"	407	1,185	1,883
Plant and machinery	{ acquisitions disposals	"	1,307	2,207
	"	21	48	15
Vehicles	{ acquisitions disposals	"	43	71
	"	4	10	13
<b>UNDERTAKINGS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE 10 OR FEWER PERSONS</b>				
Number of returns	No.	69	72	51
Total employment, including working proprietors	"	301	294	229

For footnotes see Table 2(C).



WATER UNDERTAKINGS  
Summary of returns received

TABLE 2(B) Local Authorities (a)

	Unit	Great Britain	United Kingdom	
		1948	1951	1954
<b>UNDERTAKINGS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE MORE THAN 10 PERSONS</b>				
Number of undertakings	No.	258	281	277
Value of water supplied (b)	£'000	31,156	34,822	41,716
Amount charged for work done (b)	"	781	1,072	1,282
Value of work of new construction (b)	"	3,213	4,241	6,841
Gross output (production)	"	35,151	40,135	49,839
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	6,777	9,079	11,703
Payment for transport (c)	"		369	341
Net output	"	28,374	30,687	37,795
Average number of employees	No.	21,116	22,307	22,945
operatives		5,131(d)	5,909	6,197
others	"	26,247	28,216	29,142
Total employment	"	26,247	28,216	29,142
Net output per person employed	£	1.081	1.088	1.297
Wages and salaries	£'000	6,571	8,011	9,970
of operatives		2,304	3,026	3,691
of others	"			
Capital expenditure				
New building work	"	3,225	8,107	7,402
Plant and machinery	acquisitions	4,846	7,309	9,603
disposals		32	41	27
Vehicles	acquisitions	109	158	145
disposals		8	19	15
<b>UNDERTAKINGS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE 10 OR FEWER PERSONS</b>				
Number of returns	No.	578	617(e)	612
Total employment, including working proprietors	"	2,937	2,582(e)	2,825

For footnotes see Table 2(C).

Summary of returns received

TABLE 2(C) Companies and Local Authorities (a)

	Unit	Great Britain	United Kingdom	
		1948	1951	1954
<b>UNDERTAKINGS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE MORE THAN 10 PERSONS</b>				
Number of undertakings	No.	335	355	350
Value of water supplied (b)	£'000	39,347	44,463	53,312
Amount charged for work done (b)	"	1,088	1,479	1,872
Value of work of new construction (b)	"	3,964	5,066	8,291
Gross output (production)	"	44,399	51,008	63,475
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	9,079	12,189	15,265
Payment for transport (c)	"		401	388
Net output	"	35,320	38,418	47,821
Average number of employees	No.	26,749	28,424	29,301
operatives		7,123(d)	8,034	8,520
others	"	33,872	36,458	37,821
Total employment	"	33,872	36,458	37,821
Net output per person employed	£	1.043	1.054	1.264
Wages and salaries	£'000	8,303	10,207	12,790
of operatives		3,129	4,074	4,999
of others	"			
Capital expenditure				
New building work	"	3,632	9,292	9,285
Plant and machinery	acquisitions	6,152	9,516	12,257
disposals		53	88	42
Vehicles	acquisitions	152	229	229
disposals		13	29	28
<b>UNDERTAKINGS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE 10 OR FEWER PERSONS</b>				
Number of returns	No.	647	689(e)	663
Total employment, including working proprietors	"	3,238	2,876(e)	3,054

(a) Separate information relating to companies and to local authorities in this industry in Northern Ireland is not available for 1951 and 1954 and particulars of all water undertakings in Northern Ireland have been included in the figures for local authorities.

(b) For details for 1951 and 1954 see Table 5.

(c) Inwards transport on materials and fuel purchased and transport services in connection with output. Separate details are not available for 1948.

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

(e) Excluding Northern Ireland. No information about small firms was collected in Northern Ireland for 1951.

(90009)

Analysis by size, 1954

Larger undertakings in the United Kingdom

TABLE 3

Average number employed	Estab-lish-ments	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	116	3,442	2,163	1,483	468	623	253	1,081	1,098
25 - 49	84	4,916	3,342	2,193	659	920	374	1,843	1,172
50 - 99	68	7,755	5,753	3,613	1,040	1,523	598	2,342	1,236
100 - 199	43	9,933	7,515	4,559	1,306	1,945	746	3,626	1,281
200 - 299	15	6,106	3,894	2,871	789	1,240	438	2,767	1,064
300 - 399	7	4,211	3,167	1,876	521	840	285	1,269	1,321
400 - 499	8	5,397	4,072	2,795	809	1,146	481	2,508	1,130
500 - 999	6	6,476	5,051	3,377	838	1,481	463	2,125	1,198
1,000 and over	3	15,239	12,864	6,534	2,090	3,072	1,361	4,210	1,492
Total	350	63,475	47,821	29,301	8,520	12,790	4,999	21,770	1,264

(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 undertakings in the United Kingdom

No specialisation within this industry was distinguished.

Water supplied and work done by employees of Water Undertakings

Larger undertakings in the United Kingdom (a)

TABLE 5

	1951		1954		Entries
	Quantity	Value (b)	Quantity	Value (b)	
Water supplied	Mn. gal.	£'000	Mn. gal.	£'000	Number
To other water undertakings					
By Companies	5,079	251	5,263	270	40
By Local Authorities	63,097	2,474	69,028	2,998	173
Total	68,175	2,725	74,291	3,267	..
To other consumers					
By Companies					
By meter	46,450	3,637	52,328	4,373	73
Un-metered (c)	79,015	5,753	85,713	6,954	70
By Local Authorities					
By meter	205,974	12,068	230,850	15,263	274
Un-metered (c)	355,676	20,280	363,849	23,456	270
Total	687,115	41,738	732,740	50,045	..
Total water supplied					
By Companies (c)	130,544	9,641	143,304	11,596	..
By Local Authorities (c)	624,747	34,822	663,727	41,716	..
Total (c)	755,290(d)	44,463	807,031(d)	53,312	..
	Amount charged		Amount charged		
	£'000		£'000		
Work done, for which a direct charge was made					
Laying and fixing pipes, fixing meters and fittings (exclusive of cost of meters and fittings)					
By Companies	300		444		70
By Local Authorities	752		951		247

(90009)



## WATER UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 5 (contd.)

	1951	1954	Entries
	Amount charged	Amount charged	
	£'000	£'000	Number
Work done, for which a direct charge was made (contd.)			
Other work			
By Companies	107	146	34
By Local Authorities	320	331	172
Total work done, for which a direct charge was made			
By Companies	407	590	..
By Local Authorities	1,072	1,282	..
Total	1,479	1,872	..
	Value (e)	Value (e)	
	£'000	£'000	
New construction (including enlargement of existing buildings, etc.)			
Of reservoirs, wells, aqueducts and conduits			
By Companies	45	95	20
By Local Authorities	937	1,204	79
Of buildings			
By Companies	42	72	29
By Local Authorities	195	244	73
Of trunk, distributing and service mains			
By Companies	705	1,158	65
By Local Authorities	2,964	5,191	247
Of machinery and plant			
By Companies	34	125	39
By Local Authorities	145	201	87
Total value of new construction			
By Companies	825	1,450	..
By Local Authorities	4,241	6,841	..
Total	5,066	8,291	..
Repair and maintenance			
Of buildings, reservoirs, wells, aqueducts and conduits			
By Companies	384	450	62
By Local Authorities	1,619	1,693	229
Of trunk, distributing and service mains			
By Companies	836 (f)	587	72
By Local Authorities	3,589 (f)	2,941	268
Of machinery and plant			
By Companies	(f)	476	66
By Local Authorities	(f)	1,025	213
Work done for consumers for which no direct charge was made			
By Companies	68	110	32
By Local Authorities	270	254	102
Other work done			
By Companies	8	4	..
By Local Authorities	58	243	59
Total repair and maintenance etc. work done			
By Companies	1,295	1,626	..
By Local Authorities	5,536	6,155	..
Total	6,831	7,782	..

(90009)

## WATER UNDERTAKINGS

TABLE 5 (contd.)

	1951	1954	
	Value (e)	Value (e)	Entries
	£'000	£'000	Number
Total water supplied and all work done by employees of water undertakings			
By Companies	12,169	15,263	..
By Local Authorities	45,671	55,994	..
Total	57,840	71,257	350

- (a) Separate information relating to companies and to local authorities in this industry in Northern Ireland is not available for 1951 and 1954 and particulars relating to all water undertakings in Northern Ireland have been included in the figures for local authorities.
- (b) Net amount charged, less discounts, whether the charge was levied by rate or rent, or in any other way; transfers from local rates to meet deficiencies in the income of the undertakings are excluded. Meter rents are included.
- (c) Including water supplied free.
- (d) These figures include duplication to the extent to which water was sold to other undertakings employing an average of more than ten persons and was distributed by them. The quantity so included in 1954 was 56,783 million gallons (see Table 9). Particulars of the quantity so included in 1951 are not available.
- (e) Covers wages, salaries and cost of materials used, together with an allowance for general establishment charges.
- (f) Repair and maintenance of plant and machinery are included in the figures for repair and maintenance of trunk, distributing and service mains.

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

Larger undertakings in the United Kingdom

This table is not applicable to the industry.

TABLE 7 - Sales in the industry of other than principal products

Larger undertakings in the United Kingdom

No sales other than principal products were recorded.

TABLE 8 - Total make of intermediate products

Larger undertakings in the United Kingdom

This table is not applicable to the industry.

Purchased materials and fuel used, 1954: Larger undertakings in the United Kingdom

TABLE 9

	Companies (a)		Local Authorities (a)		Total	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
Materials	Mn. gal.	£'000	Mn. gal.	£'000	Mn. gal.	£'000
Water purchased from other undertakings	6,390.9	302	50,392.1	2,155	56,783.0	2,457
Purifying or softening agents	Th. tons	172	Th. tons	442	Th. tons	614
Materials for building and constructional work (including repair and maintenance)						
Cast iron pipes and valves, including fittings	21.0	575	60.3	2,019	81.2	2,594
Iron and steel in other forms, except finished parts and scrap	..	60	0.7	34	0.7	34
			..	85	..	145

(90009)



TABLE 9 (contd.)

	Companies (a)		Local Authorities (a)		Total	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
	Th. tons	£'000	Th. tons	£'000	Th. tons	£'000
Materials (contd.)						
Materials for building and constructional work (including repair and maintenance) (contd.)						
Non-ferrous metals in all forms except finished parts and scrap	0.9	68	1.0	126	1.9	193
Replacement parts for undertakings' own machinery, plant and vehicles, consumable tools bought as replacement	..	10	..	61	..	70
All other purchased materials	..	205	..	417	..	621
	..	485	..	2,307	..	2,792
Fuel and electricity						
Coal	97.3	384	185.4	826	282.8	1,211
Coke	9.1	44	17.4	89	26.5	134
Liquid fuels (including creosote/pitch mixtures)						
For use in internal combustion engines						
Motor spirit (petrol) for use in road vehicles and derv. fuel	Th. gal.		Th. gal.		Th. gal.	
Other	596.6	116	1,593.7	281	2,190.3	397
For burning in furnaces, boilers, kilns, etc.	3,993.6	230	2,003.7	121	5,997.4	351
Gas purchased	1,801.8	90	1,650.7	90	3,452.5	180
From Gas Boards and other sources, including other departments of the same undertakings	Th. therms		Th. therms		Th. therms	
Electricity purchased (b)	161.7	12	444.5	22	606.2	34
From Electricity Boards	Th. kWh.		Th. kWh.		Th. kWh.	
From other sources, including other departments of the same undertakings	173,571	800	386,585	1,696	563,910	2,517
			3,754	20		
All other purchased fuel		9		34		44
Total cost		3,562		11,703		15,265

(a) Separate information relating to companies and to local authorities in this industry in Northern Ireland is not available and particulars of all water undertakings in Northern Ireland have been included in the figures for local authorities.

(b) The total quantity of electricity generated in 1954 was 24,700 Th.kWh.

Average number of employees and wages, salaries and superannuation payments

Larger undertakings in the United Kingdom (a)(b)

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
Average number of employees		
Operatives		
Companies	6,117	6,356
Local Authorities	22,307	22,945
Total	28,424	29,301
Administrative, technical and clerical employees		
Companies	2,125	2,323
Local Authorities	5,909	6,197
Total	8,034	8,520
Total average employment		
Companies	8,242	8,679
Local Authorities	28,216	29,142
Total	36,458	37,821

TABLE 10 (contd.)

	1951	1954
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries paid to		
Operatives		
Companies	2,196	2,821
Local Authorities	8,011	9,970
Total	10,207	12,790
Administrative, technical and clerical employees		
Companies	1,048	1,308
Local Authorities	3,026	3,691
Total	4,074	4,999
Total wages and salaries		
Companies	3,244	4,128
Local Authorities	11,037	13,660
Total	14,281	17,789
Wages and salaries per head		
Operatives	£	£
Companies	359	444
Local Authorities	360	435
Administrative, technical and clerical employees		
Companies	493	563
Local Authorities	512	596
Superannuation and other pension funds for employees and dependents (c)		
Employers' contributions		£'000
Companies	..	239
Local Authorities	..	772
Total	..	1,011
Employees covered		
Companies	..	Number
Local Authorities	..	5,456
Total	..	19,271
Pension, etc. payments to former employees and dependents (c)		
Companies	..	£'000
Local Authorities	..	121
Total	..	177

(a) Separate information relating to companies and to local authorities in this industry in Northern Ireland is not available for 1951 and 1954 and particulars of all water undertakings in Northern Ireland have been included in the figures for local authorities.

(b) The following persons, not included above, were also employed by larger undertakings in this industry:

	Companies (a)		Local Authorities (a)		Total	
	1951	1954	1951	1954	1951	1954
Canteen workers						
Males	-	-	1	2	1	2
Females	15	22	14	11	29	33
Total	15	22	15	13	30	35
Other workers						
Males	20	1	108	153	128	154
Females	2	5	9	34	11	39
Total	22	6	117	187	139	193
Total excluded workers	37	28	132	200	169	228

(c) The figures given relate to larger undertakings in Great Britain only.



## WATER UNDERTAKINGS

Employment in a specified week (a)  
Larger undertakings in the United Kingdom (b)

TABLE 11	1951			1954			Number
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Operatives							
Companies	6,049	100	6,149	6,322	113	6,435	
Local Authorities	21,989	190	22,179	22,901	200	23,101	
Total	28,038	290	28,328	29,223	313	29,536	
Administrative, technical and clerical employees							
Companies	1,611	521	2,132	1,739	593	2,332	
Local Authorities	5,113	841	5,954	5,238	969	6,207	
Total	6,724	1,362	8,086	6,977	1,562	8,539	
Total employees							
Companies	7,660	621	8,281	8,061	706	8,767	
Local Authorities	27,102	1,031	28,133	28,139	1,169	29,308	
Total	34,762	1,652	36,414	36,200	1,875	38,075	

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

(b) Separate information relating to companies and to local authorities in this industry in Northern Ireland is not available for 1951 and 1954 and particulars of all water undertakings in Northern Ireland have been included in the figures for local authorities.

## LIST OF INDUSTRY REPORTS

VOLUME 1	VOLUME 4 (contd.)	VOLUME 8 (contd.)
A. Coal Mines	H. Printing and Bookbinding Machinery	E. Preserved Meat
B. Non-Metalliferous Mines and Quarries (other than Coal, Salt and Slate)	I. Mechanical Engineering (General)	F. Milk Products
C. Salt Mines, Brine Pits and Salt Works	J. Mechanical Engineering (Repairing)	G. Ice Cream
D. Slate Quarries and Mines	K. Electrical Engineering (General)	H. Sugar and Glucose
E. Metalliferous Mines and Quarries	L. Electric Wires and Cables	I. Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery
F. Brick and Fireclay	M. Radio and Telecommunications	J. Preserved Fruit and Vegetables
G. China and Earthenware	N. Batteries and Accumulators	
H. Glass Containers	O. Electric Lighting Accessories and Fittings	
I. Glass (other than Containers)		
J. Cement		
K. Abrasives		
L. Building Materials		
M. Manufactured Fuel		
	VOLUME 5	VOLUME 9
	A. Tool and Implement	A. Margarine
	B. Cutlery	B. Fish Curing
	C. Chain, Nail, Screw and Miscellaneous Forgings	C. Cattle, Dog and Poultry Foods
	D. Wire and Wire Manufactures	D. Vinegar and Other Condiments
	E. Hardware, Hollow-ware, Metal Furniture and Sheet Metal	E. Starch
	F. Brass Manufactures	F. Ice
	G. Needles, Pins, Fish Hooks and Metal Smallwares	G. Miscellaneous Preserved Foods
	H. Scientific, Surgical and Photographic Instruments, etc.	H. Brewing and Malting
	I. Watch and Clock	I. Wholesale Bottling
	J. Jewellery and Plate	J. Spirit Distilling
	K. Precious Metals Refining	K. Spirit Rectifying and Compounding
	L. Musical Instruments	L. Soft Drinks, British Wines and Cider
		M. Tobacco
	VOLUME 6	VOLUME 10
	A. Cotton Spinning and Doubling	A. Timber
	B. Cotton Weaving	B. Furniture and Upholstery
	C. Woollen and Worsted	C. Soft Furnishings
	D. Rayon, Nylon, etc. Production	D. Shop and Office Fitting
	E. Rayon, Nylon, etc. Weaving, and Silk	E. Wooden Containers and Baskets
	F. Flax Processing	F. Paper and Board
	G. Linen and Soft Hemp	G. Wallpaper
	H. Jute	H. Cardboard Box, Carton and Fibre-board Packing Case
	I. Rope, Twine and Net	I. Manufactured Stationery, Paper Bag and Kindred Industries
	J. Hosiery and Other Knitted Goods	J. Newspaper and Periodical Printing and Publishing
	K. Lace	K. Printing and Publishing, Bookbinding, Engraving, etc.
	L. Carpets	
	M. Narrow Fabrics	
	N. Canvas Goods and Sacks	VOLUME 11
	O. Textile Converting	A. Rubber
	P. Made-up Household Textiles	B. Linoleum, Leathercloth and Allied Industries
	Q. Textile Finishing	C. Brushes and Brooms
	R. Textile Packing	D. Toys and Games
		E. Sports Requisites
		F. Miscellaneous Stationers' Goods
	VOLUME 7	G. Cinematograph Film Production
	A. Asbestos	H. Cinematograph Film Printing
	B. Flock and Rag	I. Plastic Goods and Fancy Articles
	C. Hair, Fibre and Kindred Industries	J. Incandescent Mantles
	D. Leather (Tanning and Dressing)	
	E. Fellmongery	
	F. Leather Goods	VOLUME 12
	G. Fur	A. Building and Contracting
	H. Tailoring, Dressmaking, etc.	B. Local Authorities (Building and Civil Engineering)
	I. Hats, Caps and Millinery	C. Railways (Civil Engineering)
	J. Glove	D. Tramway, Trolley Bus and Omnibus Undertakings (Civil Engineering)
	K. Umbrella and Walking Stick	E. Canal, Dock and Harbour Undertakings (Civil Engineering)
	L. Boot and Shoe	F. Gas Supply Industry
		G. Electricity Supply Industry
		H. Water Undertakings
	VOLUME 8	
	A. Grain Milling	
	B. Bread and Flour Confectionery	
	C. Biscuit	
	D. Bacon Curing and Sausage	



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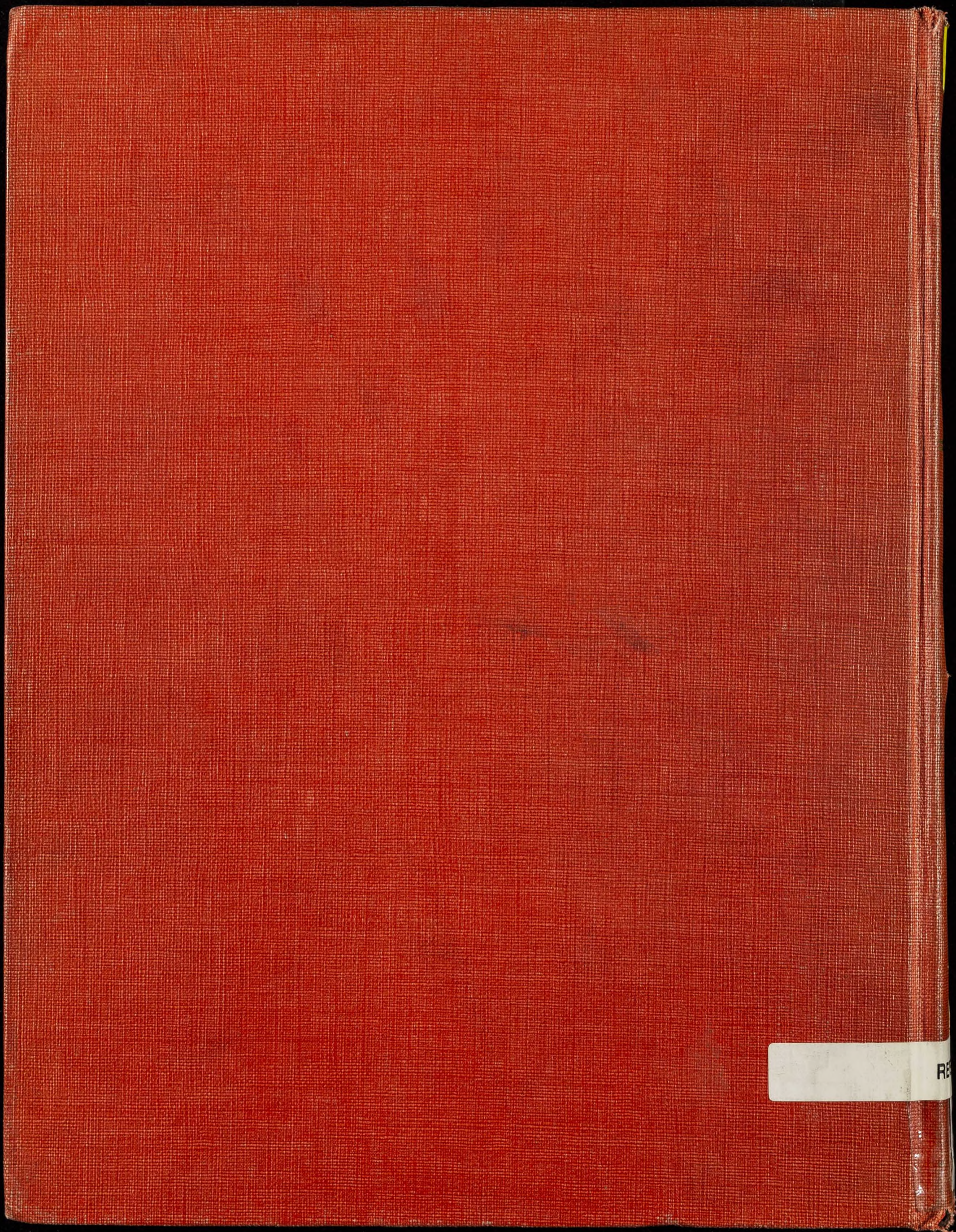
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