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BOARD OF TRADE



THE REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF PRODUCTION FOR 1958

Part 31
EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS

*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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NOTES

These notes give only the main information which is needed for interpreting the census figures. Fuller explanations are given in a separate booklet of Introductory Notes (Part 1 of the Report on the Census of Production for 1958).

CHANGES IN THE 1958 CENSUS

Some changes were introduced in the 1958 census, which affect the comparability between 1954 and 1958 figures.

Returns in full detail were required only from firms employing 25 or more persons, instead of, as previously, from firms employing 11 or more persons.

The coverage of firms' returns for 1958 was in many cases rather wider than for 1954. In both years the census was based on the establishment, comprising in most cases the whole of the premises under the same ownership or management at a particular address (e.g. a factory or mine); but offices, warehouses, laboratories, etc. at addresses separate from the works were treated as part of the establishment. For 1958, but not for 1954, firms were asked to include also, in all sections of their returns, particulars relating to merchanting or factoring, canteens operated by them, and other ancillary activities, such as bottling, packing, and the manufacture of containers for packing their own products, whether or not these activities were carried on at the same address as the works, unless

they were conducted by a separate company, or by a separate department with a separate set of accounts; building and engineering maintenance departments were treated similarly. Selling and transport departments were treated in this way both for 1954 and 1958. While the effect of including these further ancillary activities was generally to produce higher figures for employment etc., the reporting of separate figures for merchant goods led to the exclusion of some firms who proved to be merchants with only minor productive activities.

Changes made for 1958 in the instructions governing the making of returns for two or more establishments operated by the same firm permitted combined returns to be made more freely than in previous censuses. Combined returns were accepted covering establishments in the same census industry, and situated in the same country (i.e. England, Scotland or Wales).

The 1954 figures have been re-tabulated to correspond as closely as possible to those for 1958, but because of the changes described above the correspondence is not always exact.

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS REPORTS

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The expenditure on new building work shown excludes the cost of land and existing buildings purchased; for plant, machinery and vehicles both new and second-hand items are included. The value is that charged to capital account during the year, including any transport and installation cost involved. Capital expenditure in respect of establishments in Great Britain where production had not started before the end of the year is included in Table 1.

CHARACTERISTIC PRODUCTS (See the description of the method of classification before List of Tables)

EMPLOYMENT

(i) 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 fixed wages or salaries; but persons working less than half the normal hours are excluded.

(ii) Employees

Employees are classified under the two main headings of (a) administrative, technical and clerical employees and (b) operatives. The figures relate to persons on the pay-roll (i.e. whose National Insurance cards were held by employers), whether full-time or part-time employees. The figures for 1958 include, but those for 1954 exclude, persons engaged in merchanting or factoring, and canteen workers.

Administrative, technical and clerical employees include 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, 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, stores, warehouses and, for 1958, canteens; inspectors, viewers and similar workers; maintenance workers; and cleaners. Operatives engaged in outside work of erection, fitting etc. are also included, but outworkers (i.e. persons employed by the firm who worked on materials

supplied by the firm in their own homes, etc.) are excluded.

(iii) Total employment

This is the sum of the average number of employees and the number of working proprietors; outworkers are excluded.

ENTERPRISE

The term enterprise is used in this report to mean one or more firms under common ownership or control as defined in the Companies Act, 1948. An enterprise normally consists either of a single firm, or of a holding company together with its subsidiary companies.

ENTRIES

The number of entries shown in Tables 4, 5 and 7 is the number of returns on which figures against a particular output or production heading were recorded. The number of entries is less than the corresponding number of establishments to the extent that combined returns were made covering more than one of the establishments concerned.

ESTABLISHMENT

In most cases an establishment comprises the whole of the premises under the same ownership or management at a particular address (e.g. a factory or mine). Offices, warehouses, laboratories and other ancillary places of business at a separate address from the works were treated as part of the establishment.

INTERMEDIATE PRODUCTS

For some industries figures are given showing the total quantities made during the year of important intermediate products, i.e. products which may be further processed in the establishments in which they are produced, whether or not they are also sometimes sold. They include also goods produced from materials supplied by other firms.

MATERIALS AND FUEL

The totals shown include the cost of all purchases of materials and components for use in production, and of fuel (including oil, gas and electricity) for all purposes including heating, lighting and transport (where carried out by firms' own staff included in the return); all packing

materials, including the full cost of returnable cases and containers when first purchased; workshop materials; office materials; water charges; materials for repairs to firms' own buildings, plant and vehicles when carried out by their own work-people included in the return; consumable tools; and parts for machinery purchased during the year as replacements. Purchases of goods for merchandising or factoring, and canteen supplies, are included for 1958 but not for 1954. Materials supplied by customers for processing are excluded for both years.

The values shown include any duty paid (less rebate, etc.) but exclude trade discounts allowed. The cost of transport was included only if included in the cost of materials as invoiced; amounts paid to transport organisations, including firms' own separate transport organisations, for delivery of materials and fuel are therefore excluded. Materials purchased overseas were entered at their c.i.f. cost plus any duty if the cost of transport from the docks was not included in the invoiced price, and at their full delivered cost if invoiced 'carriage paid home'.

NET OUTPUT

The net output of an industry represents the value added to materials by the process of production and includes for 1958 the gross margin on any merchanted or factored goods sold; it 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. There is no appreciable duplication in net output.

Net output was normally obtained by taking the total value of sales and work done (including, for 1958, the value of merchanted goods sold and canteen takings); adding the value of stocks at the end of the year and deducting their value at the beginning of the year; and deducting also the cost of materials and fuel purchased (including, for 1958, the value of goods purchased for merchandising and canteen supplies), payments for work given out to other firms, and payments for transport. The net amount of duty paid was deducted, and the net amount of subsidy received added.

NET OUTPUT PER PERSON EMPLOYED

The figures for net output per person employed are derived by dividing net output by total employment (see above).

PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS (See the description of the method of classification before List of Tables)

SALES

Sales include goods made by the business covered by the return, those made for it by out-workers or by other firms from materials given out to them (sometimes described as goods made on commission), and waste products sold. Any machinery or other capital items produced for use in the business covered by the return are also included, the value being that adopted in the firm's capital account for income tax purposes. Goods sold without being subjected to any manufacturing process (merchanted or factored) and canteen takings are included for 1958 but not for 1954; where the total sales of merchanted or factored goods were less than £5,000, firms were permitted to include them with the figures for sales of goods of their own production.

The value shown for sales is the net selling

SYMBOLS USED

The following symbols are used throughout the reports:

- .. for not available
- for nil or negligible (less than half the final digit shown)

value, defined as the amount charged to customers whether on an ex-works or delivered basis, net of any trade discounts, agents' commissions, allowances for returnable cases, purchase tax, etc.; the net amount charged for packing materials is included. Goods charged on a delivered basis to customers overseas, are included at the f.o.b. value. For work done on commission or for the trade, the value shown is the net amount charged. With a few exceptions, receipts for business and other services are not included.

To the extent that the 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.

STOCKS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

The values shown are the income tax values of stocks of products on hand for sale, and of materials and fuel, at the beginning and end of the year of return. For 1958, but not for 1954, they include any stocks of goods held for merchandising or factoring. The value of work in progress at the two dates is 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 payments to other firms, and to any separate transport organisation of the same firm, 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, that is railways, road haulage, canals, coast-wise shipping, air, etc. Payments made for sea freight on goods sold to customers overseas and on materials and fuel purchased from overseas suppliers are excluded.

WAGES AND SALARIES

These are the 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. is excluded.

Figures are also shown for average salaries etc. paid per head for the week ended 25th October, 1958. For staff paid monthly, the figures are based on payments made in October, 1958. Where payments related to periods other than a week or month, an appropriate proportion was returned. Only those bonuses and commissions actually paid in the period are included.

WORK GIVEN OUT

The figures shown represent the total amount paid for work done by other firms on materials supplied to them, and also by firms' own establishments for which separate returns were made. They do not include payments to individual outworkers or payments for business and other services.

ROUNDING OF FIGURES

The 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.

The Report on the Census of Production for 1958

Part 31. EXPLOSIVES AND FIREWORKS

This report on the Explosives and Fireworks Industry relates to establishments engaged in the manufacture of explosives, fireworks, detonators, fuses (not shell fuses), percussion caps, flares, signal rockets, small arms ammunition, etc., and in filling bombs, cartridges, shells, etc.

The industry corresponds to minimum list heading 273 of the second (1958) edition of the Standard Industrial Classification, which has been used for the first time in the 1958 Census. The definition of this industry is unchanged from the last detailed Census of Production, for 1954, in which it was reported on as Industry 2H.

For 1958, returns in full detail were required only from firms employing twenty-five or more persons and most of the tables in this report relate only to these larger firms. This is an important change from previous censuses when returns in full detail were required from firms employing eleven or more persons on productive work. Estimates for the industry as a whole are given in Table 1.

The figures given for 1954 correspond as closely as possible to those collected for 1958 but the correspondence is not exact, especially in respect of the small firms who gave only limited information. Some other changes introduced in the 1958 Census also affect the comparability between 1954 and 1958 figures; these are explained in the notes prefacing this report.

Twenty-one Government Establishments are included for 1954 and twenty for 1958.

There were no establishments in this industry in Northern Ireland in 1954 or in 1958.

METHOD OF CLASSIFICATION

This industry is defined in terms of its 'principal products' which are those shown in Table 4. A census return was classified to this industry if the sales of the principal products of this industry accounted for a greater proportion of its output than the principal products of any other industry. Where, however, the application of this rule would have resulted in a change of classification between 1954 (on the revised basis) and 1958, the return was classified to the same industry as for 1954 unless the output of principal products in the new industry was one third more than in the old; this modification of the general rule was designed to avoid discontinuities as the result of marginal changes of output between the two censuses. Sales of merchanted products and of non-specific items such as waste products, work done and canteen takings were not taken into account in classifying returns.

A similar procedure was followed in classifying to the sub-divisions of the industry shown in Table 2, the sub-divisions being defined in terms of their 'characteristic products'. The numbers shown in the left hand column of Table 4 identify the sub-division of which the item is a characteristic product. The total value of sales of characteristic products shown in Table 2 includes, besides the products which define the sub-divisions, other items of output assumed to be closely related to them, e.g. waste products and non-specific work done, but such items were not generally taken into account in determining the classification to sub-divisions.

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Industry summary: United Kingdom

TABLE 1 Estimates for all firms (a)

	Unit	1954	1958	
Number of enterprises	No.	..	30	
Number of establishments	"	..	63	
Sales	{ goods produced and work done	£'000	57,456	51,408
	{ merchanted goods and canteen takings	"	..	333
Purchases of materials and fuel (b)	"	24,646	18,518	
Products on hand for sale (b)	{ change during year	"	+ 23	- 114
	{ at end of year	"	3,536	2,796
Work in progress	{ change during year	"	- 240	- 313
	{ at end of year	"	3,950	3,609
Stocks of materials and fuel (b)	{ change during year	"	+ 154	- 775
	{ at end of year	"	8,315	4,955
Payments for work done on materials given out	"	559	49	
Payments for transport	"	951	1,029	
Net output	"	31,237	30,943	
Average number employed (c)	{ operatives	Th.	38.0	25.2
	{ other employees	"	6.2	5.4
	{ total	"	44.1	30.6
Wages and salaries	{ of operatives	£'000	15,791	13,405
	{ of other employees	"	4,414	5,086
Capital expenditure (d)				
New building work	"	1,334	1,303	
Plant and machinery	{ acquisitions	"	2,422	3,727
	{ disposals	"	184	212
Vehicles	{ acquisitions	"	218	124
	{ disposals	"	35	43

(a) For 1958, estimates in respect of returns from small firms accounted for about 0.1 per cent. of the total figures in which they were incorporated. A summary of the detailed returns received is given in Table 2.

(b) Goods for merchenting and canteen supplies are included for 1958 but excluded for 1954.

(c) Persons engaged in merchenting or factoring and canteen workers are included for 1958 but excluded for 1954.

(d) Including for 1954 expenditure in Great Britain for establishments not yet in production. No such expenditure was reported for 1958.

Analysis by sub-divisions of the industry

TABLE 2 Firms employing 25 or more persons: United Kingdom (a)

	Unit	Sub-divisions of the industry (b)				Total	
		Fireworks 01		Other 02		1954	1958
		1954	1958	1954	1958		
Number of enterprises	No.	17	15	9	9	26	24
Number of establishments	"	21	20	42	37	63	57
Sales	£'000	2,712	3,346	54,664	47,990	57,376	51,335
{ goods produced and work done	"	..	41	..	292	..	333
{ merchanted goods and canteen takings	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sales of characteristic products	"	2,639	3,265	47,335	38,177		
Purchases of materials and fuel (c)	"	946	1,351	23,665	17,141	24,611	18,492
Products on hand for sale (c)	"	+ 60	+ 3	- 37	- 117	+ 23	- 114
{ change during year	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ at end of year	"	281	401	3,250	2,391	3,531	2,792
Work in progress	"	+ 4	+ 6	- 244	- 318	- 240	- 313
{ change during year	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ at end of year	"	48	59	3,897	3,545	3,944	3,604
Stocks of materials and fuel (c)	"	+ 7	+ 13	+ 146	- 787	+ 154	- 774
{ change during year	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ at end of year	"	227	282	8,077	4,666	8,303	4,948
Payments for work done on materials given out	"	15	34	543	16	558	49
Payments for transport	"	38	55	911	973	950	1,028
Net output	"	1,783	1,970	29,410	28,929	31,193	30,899
Average number employed (d)	No.	2,272	2,410	35,647	22,757	37,919	25,167
{ operatives	"	248	276	5,895	5,159	6,143	5,435
{ other employees	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ total	"	2,520	2,686	41,542	27,916	44,062	30,602
Net output per person employed	£	707	733	708	1,036	708	1,010
Wages and salaries	£'000	766	958	15,003	12,428	15,770	13,387
{ of operatives	"	189	216	4,219	4,863	4,408	5,079
{ of other employees	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wages and salaries per head	£	337	398	421	546	416	532
{ operatives	"	761	783	716	943	718	935
{ other employees	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
Capital expenditure (e)	£'000	32	32	1,177	1,269	1,209	1,301
New building work	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plant and machinery	"	22	30	1,989	3,691	2,011	3,722
{ acquisitions	"	1	1	183	210	184	212
{ disposals	"	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vehicles	"	13	30	199	94	212	124
{ acquisitions	"	4	7	31	35	35	43
{ disposals	"	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) The following information relates to small firms (employing fewer than 25 persons) in this industry:

	1958
Number of returns	6
Average number of persons employed including any working proprietors	
Males	14
Females	29

(b) The method of classifying returns to sub-divisions of the industry is explained at the beginning of this report; the characteristic products of each sub-division are identified in Table 4.

(c) Goods for merchandising and canteen supplies are included for 1958 but excluded for 1954.

(d) Persons engaged in merchandising or factoring and canteen workers are included for 1958 but excluded for 1954.

(e) Excluding expenditure at establishments not yet in production.

Analysis by size of enterprise within the industry, 1958

TABLE 3 Firms employing 25 or more persons: United Kingdom

Average number employed by the enterprise in this industry	Enterprises	Establishments	Total sales (a)	Net output	Employees		Wages and salaries		Capital expenditure (b)	Net output per person employed
					Operatives	Others	Operatives	Others		
					Number	Number	£'000	£'000		
25 - 49	3	3	145	97	100	18	36	17	16	821
50 - 99	5	5	612	297	311	34	120	29	36	860
100 - 199	8	9	1,581	773	1,019	98	416	78	30	692
200 - 299	3	4	1,434	764	615	106	294	78	29	1,060
300 and over	5	36	47,896	28,968	23,122	5,179	12,520	4,878	5,036	1,024
Total	24	57	51,668	30,899	25,167	5,435	13,387	5,079	5,147	1,010

(a) Value of sales of goods (including merchanted goods), work done, and canteen takings.

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

Sales of principal products of the industry by larger firms, including sales by establishments classified to other industries

TABLE 4 Firms employing 25 or more persons: United Kingdom

Industry sub-division (a)	1954		1958		Enter-prises	Entries
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value		
		£'000		£'000	Number	Number
02 Live ammunition not exceeding 30 mm. calibre	..	9,545	..	6,361	5	7
02 Live ammunition exceeding 30 mm. calibre	..	4,749	..	1,556	..	..
02 Fuses and blasting accessories	Mn. ft.		Mn. ft.			
Safety fuse	1,275	2,525	1,028	2,359	..	..
Electric detonators	..	5,822	Th. 143,034	3,612	..	7
All other fuses, tubes, primers and detonators	..	..	..	1,382	..	6
Other accessories, including cables and parts of fuses and of blasting accessories	Th. cwt. 13.5	413	Th. cwt. ..	1,670	..	..
	..	1,192	..	..	..	..
02 Propellant powders of all types	205	5,846	39.5	1,603	..	5
	..	..	..	1,976	..	..
02 High explosives						
Blasting powder	117	1,030	85.5	793	..	..
Other sorts of high explosives	1,107	9,563	1,205	10,687	..	7
	..	2,040	..	..	..	..
01 Fireworks						
For amusement and display purposes	..	1,793	..	2,586	14	14
Other, including signal rockets, line carrying rockets, etc.	..	1,424	..	923	12	12
02 Explosives, not elsewhere specified	..	2,640	..	2,474	..	7
Other products	..	888	..	1,406	5	19
Waste products	..	733	..	530	..	15
Repair and maintenance work on ammunition	..	3,999	..	3,268	..	..
Work done on commission, sub-contract work, etc.	..	4,424	..	7,267	..	12
Total	..	58,625	..	50,455	..	..
Sales in other industries (see Table 5)	..	6,447	..	4,095	..	..
Principal products of this industry sold by establishments in the industry	..	52,178	..	46,360	..	42 (b)

- (a) The number given is that of the sub-division of which the item is a characteristic product. The sales shown are total sales by larger firms, not merely sales by establishments classified to the sub-division.
- (b) This figure represents the total number of returns made by larger firms in this industry, which is less than the total number of establishments shown in Table 2 on account of combined returns covering more than one establishment.

TABLE 5 - Sales of principal products of the industry by establishments classified to other industries

Firms employing 25 or more persons: United Kingdom

The total value of the sales of principal products of the industry by establishments classified to other industries was £6,447,000 in 1954 and £4,095,000 in 1958. Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, details cannot be given.

TABLE 6 - Sales of other than principal products by larger firms in the industry

Firms employing 25 or more persons: United Kingdom

The total value of sales of goods other than principal products by larger firms in the industry was £5,197,000 in 1954 and £4,974,000 in 1958. Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, details cannot be given.

The total value of goods sold without being subjected to any manufacturing process (merchanted or factored) by larger firms in the industry in 1958 was £17,103. The total value of canteen takings by such firms in 1958 was £315,633. These particulars were not recorded in 1954.

TABLE 7 - Total make of intermediate products, 1958

This table is not applicable to the industry.

Employment and salaries, etc. for the week ended October 25, 1958

TABLE 8 Firms employing 25 or more persons: United Kingdom

	Males	Females	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Working proprietors	-	-	-
Operatives	17,693	7,510	25,203
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	4,076	1,330	5,406
Total employees	21,769	8,840	30,609
Average salaries, etc. paid per head for the week to administrative, technical and clerical employees	£ 20.6	£ 7.2	£ 17.4

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CENSUS OF PRODUCTION REPORTS FOR OTHER RECENT YEARS

The census reports for earlier years include some items which are not included in the Report on the Census of Production for 1958. The most recent reports are listed below, with an indication of any important items they contain which do not appear in the 1958 Reports. The data in all these earlier reports is analysed in accordance with the original (1948) edition of the Standard Industrial Classification.

Census of Production for 1951: Summary Tables, Part I (H.M.S.O., 1956. Price 6s. net).

No important items which do not appear in the 1958 Reports.

Census of Production for 1951: Summary Tables, Part II (H.M.S.O., 1956. Price 6s. net).

Channels of sales, 1948
Payments for services, 1948
Shift working, 1951
Power equipment, 1951
Prime movers, 1951
Analysis of periods covered by census returns, 1948 and 1951.

The Report on the Censuses of Production for 1952 and 1953. Introductory Notes and 5 volumes. (These volumes are now out of print.)

No important items which do not appear in the 1958 Reports.

The Report on the Census of Production for 1954. Introductory Notes, Index of Products, and 154 booklets relating to individual industries (H.M.S.O., 1956-59. Prices vary, usually from 1s. 6d. to 2s. net for each booklet).

Detailed information about materials and fuel purchased.

Census of Production for 1954: Summary Tables, Part I (H.M.S.O., 1958. Price 9s. net).

Fuel purchased
Gas produced in certain industries
Electricity generated, purchased and sold
Materials purchased: iron and steel; non-ferrous metals; paint; plastics materials; cotton and rayon, nylon, etc. textiles; timber; packing materials; replacement parts for plant etc. (Information about purchases of other materials is given in The Report on the Census of Production for 1954.)

Census of Production for 1954: Summary Tables, Part II (H.M.S.O., 1959. Price 7s. net).

Regional analyses of gross output, net output and capital expenditure.

Census of Production for 1954: Summary Tables, Part III (H.M.S.O., 1959. Price 8s. net).

Sales of particular products by certain industries in Scotland and Wales.

The Report on the Censuses of Production for 1955, 1956 and 1957. Introductory Notes and 5 volumes (H.M.S.O., 1959. Prices 1s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. net according to size of volume).

No important items which do not appear in the 1958 Reports.

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