

THE WOODEN CRATES, CASES, BOXES AND TRUNKS 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 wooden crates, cases, boxes and trunks. 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 ten persons:—

Particulars	Unit	1930	1924
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	4,981	5,899
Cost of materials used	"	2,847	3,360
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	18	14
Net output	"	2,116	2,525
Average number of persons employed	No.	12,188	13,510
Net output per person employed	£	174	187
Power available:—			
Prime movers	H.P.	13,169	22,916
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	19,409	14,541
Number of returns	No.	226	267
Number of establishments	"	257	*

* Not available.

Deficiencies in 1930 aggregates.—The aggregate number of persons employed in 1930 by firms that stated that they employed not more than ten persons on the average was 1,388, or about 10 per cent. of the total number recorded by all firms that furnished particulars. No information was given by 11 small firms to which schedules were sent. At the 1924 Census, an average of 984 persons was employed by the small firms that furnished returns (or nearly 7 per cent. of the aggregate recorded by all firms) while 80 small firms to which schedules were sent furnished no particulars.

The value of the gross output of the small firms in 1924 was £388,000, and particulars of the items included in this figure are given below:—

	£'000
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise (including rolling boards for cloth pieces)	352
Chests, travelling trunks and other wood boxes	18
Deals and other saw mill products	3
Firewood, etc., sold	7
Other products of wood	5
Work done for the trade	3
TOTAL	388

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)	Number of returns	Gross output	Net output	Average number of persons employed	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
11-24 ...	84	590	254	1,396	182
25-49 ...	70	960	417	2,342	178
50-99 ...	45	1,175	525	3,048	172
100-199 ...	20	1,121	505	2,768	183
200-999 ...	7	1,135	415	2,634	158
TOTAL ...	226	4,981	2,116	12,188	174

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	Number of returns	Gross output	Net output	Average number of persons employed	Net output per person employed	
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£	
1 ...	1930	71	1,557	701	3,888	180
	1924	83	1,912	904	4,835	187
2 ...	1930	42	880	417	2,226	187
	1924	41	983	434	2,108	206
3 and 4 ...	1930	13	220	92	597	154
	1924	18	322	126	765	164
5 ...	1930	13	213	100	549	183
	1924	30	244	111	622	178
9 ...	1930	14	697	216	1,001	216
	1924	18	871	316	1,136	278
10 ...	1930	17	457	165	1,310	126
	1924	20	533	195	1,461	133
Other areas	1930	56	957	425	2,617	162
	1924	57	1,034	439	2,583	170
TOTAL	1930	226	4,981	2,116	12,188	174
	1924	267	5,899	2,525	13,510	187

Northern Ireland.—A summary of the particulars recorded at the Census of Production taken by the Government of Northern Ireland for 1930, together with those furnished at the 1924 Census,

* For particulars see page xviii.

is included in the report on the Timber Trade (page 25). Particulars of the output of wooden crates, cases, chests, etc., included in the gross output values shown in that table are as follows :—

	1930 £'000	1924 £'000
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise ...	36	118
Chests, travelling trunks and other boxes, cases, etc., of wood ...	6	—
TOTAL ...	42	118

It should be noted that the 1930 figures relate to firms that employed an average of more than *five* persons, while those for 1924 relate to all firms.

Production

Principal products.—The following table shows the value of wooden crates, cases, etc., made in 1930 and 1924. Particulars of quantities were not required in either year.

Kind of goods	1930				1924
	Returned on schedules for				
	The Wooden Crates, Cases, etc., Trade		All trades		Total
	Value	Entries	Value	Entries	
	£'000	No.	£'000	No.	£'000
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise (including cable drums, rolling boards for cloth pieces, tinplate boxes, confectionery and cigar boxes, etc.) ...	4,263	218	4,836	402	6,104
Chests, travelling trunks, and other boxes, cases, etc., of wood (except cabinet ware) ...	136	18	251	81	367
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS	4,399	...	5,087	...	6,471

In general, the particulars given in the above table are confined to goods made for sale. Except for a few firms which furnished separate returns for their packing case departments, crates, cases, boxes, etc., made by manufacturing and merchanting firms and used for packing their own goods are not included. The number of such firms was rather greater in 1930 than in 1924 but the total output was not affected appreciably by this increase.

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—As the output of wooden crates, boxes, etc., was not recorded quantitatively, no comparison of average values in the two years can be made. From such particulars of manufacturing costs as are available, it is estimated that the output in 1924, valued at £6,471,000, would

be equivalent to a sum of about £5,800,000 at 1930 prices. On this basis, the output in 1930 (£5,087,000) represents a decline in volume of production of about 12 per cent.

Exports and imports.—Particulars of exports and imports are available only in respect of tea chests and chip boxes, other classes of wooden crates, boxes, etc., not being separately recorded in the trade returns :—

Kind of goods	Exports		Retained imports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Thous.	£'000		£'000
Tea chests, metal-lined ...	1930	1,903	—	—
	1924	1,528	—	—
Chip boxes ...	1930	177	2,032	4
	1924	27	3,424	6

* Less than £500.

Work done for the trade.—The total amount recorded as received for work done for the trade in 1930 was £19,000, the corresponding total for 1924 being £32,000. The principal kinds of work included in these totals were as follows :—

Kind of work done	1930	1924
	£'000	£'000
Sawing and planing timber, deals, etc. ...	13	18
Other work ...	6	14
TOTAL ...	19	32

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 67, the following goods were produced in 1930 and 1924 by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Wooden Crates, Cases, etc. Trade. These goods are dealt with in the reports on those trades in which the principal output was recorded.

Kind of goods	1930	1924
	£'000	£'000
Sawmill products :—		
Sawn hard woods ...	26	125
Sawn soft woods ...	123	
Planed or dressed woods ...	148	
Other sawmill products ...	3	
Casks and barrels ...	58	33
Builders' woodwork (window frames, doors, etc.) ...	30	220
Wood wool, fibre, flour, etc. ...	23	
Other manufactures of wood ...	70	
Firewood, shavings, etc., sold ...	33	40
Other goods made and work done ...	49	148
TOTAL ...	563	566

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)	2,408	9,805	398	1,335	2,806	11,140
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October) ...	46	830	39	218	85	1,048
TOTAL ...	2,454	10,635	437	1,553	2,891	12,188
1924						
Operatives (average for the year)	2,996	11,181	327	1,242	3,323	12,423
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October) ...	66	871	29	216	95	1,087
TOTAL ...	3,062	12,052	356	1,458	3,418	13,510

Wages.—The available information as to the amount of wages paid in 1930 and 1924 is given on pages 14 and 15.

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
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
PRIME MOVERS						
Reciprocating steam engines ...	6,038	515	6,553	16,013	814	16,827
Steam turbines ...	208	—	208	—	—	—
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas ...	4,822	359	5,181	5,347	478	5,825
Petrol, kerosene, or other light oils ...	15	—	15	49	—	49
Heavy oils ...	898	189	1,087	147	—	147
Water engines ...	125	—	125	68	—	68
TOTAL ...	12,106	1,063	13,169	21,624	1,292	22,916

Power equipment	1930			1924		
	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Total	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Total
	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
ELECTRIC GENERATORS						
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines ...	1,115	180	1,295	931	436	1,367
Steam turbines ...	5	—	5	—	—	—
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas ...	1,066	45	1,111	116	—	116
Heavy oils ...	3	189	192	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	2,189	414	2,603	1,047	436	1,483
ELECTRIC MOTORS						
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works ...	2,368	121	2,489	1,308	103	1,411
Electricity generated in other works under same ownership ...	633	290	923	—	—	—
Purchased electricity	17,406	2,003	19,409	12,616	1,925	14,541
TOTAL ...	20,407	2,414	22,821	13,924	2,028	15,952

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)	For power and other purposes, not separately distinguished
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Coal ...	9,917	3,373*	254
Coke ...	14	896*	—
			B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Electricity used for all purposes :—			
Generated in same works ...			1,707
Generated in other works under same ownership ...			367
Purchased ...			7,089
TOTAL—Electricity ...			9,163

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 84·3 per cent. of the net output of the whole trade.

TABLES

I. Summary of results

Particulars	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output) ...	£'000	3,827	1,154	4,981
Cost of materials used ...	"	2,074	773	2,847
Paid for work given out to other firms ...	"	18	—	18
Net output ...	"	1,735	381	2,116
Average number of persons employed ...	No.	9,877	2,311	12,188
Net output per person employed ...	£	176	165	174
Power available :—				
Prime movers ...	H.P.	9,955	3,214	13,169
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity ...	"	16,673	2,736	19,409

II. Production

Kind of goods made and work done	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise (including cable drums, rolling boards for cloth pieces, tinplate boxes, confectionery and cigar boxes, etc.) ...	3,308	955	4,263
Chests, travelling trunks, and other boxes, cases, etc. of wood (except cabinet ware) ...	*	*	136
Sawmill products :—			
Sawn hard woods ...	*	*	26
Sawn soft woods ...	100	23	123
Planed or dressed woods ...	92	56	148
Other sawmill products ...	*	*	3
Casks and barrels ...	6	52	58
Builders' woodwork (window frames, doors, etc.) ...	*	*	30
Wood wool, fibre, flour, etc. ...	*	*	23
Other manufactures of wood ...	62	8	70
Firewood, shavings, etc., sold ...	25	8	33
Other goods made and work done ...	40	9	49
Sawing and planing timber, deals, etc., on commission ...	13†	—	13†
Other work done on commission ...	5†	1†	6†
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT) ...	3,827	1,154	4,981

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

† Amount received for work done.

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
	<i>England and Wales :—</i>					
Operatives	1,985	8,087	305	1,098	2,290	9,185
Administrative, etc.* ...	41	701	27	157	68	858
TOTAL	2,026	8,788	332	1,255	2,358	10,043
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives	442	1,794	96	247	538	2,041
Administrative, etc.* ...	5	129	12	61	17	190
TOTAL	447	1,923	108	308	555	2,231
<i>Great Britain :—</i>						
Operatives	2,427	9,881	401	1,345	2,828	11,226
Administrative, etc.* ...	46	830	39	218	85	1,048
TOTAL	2,473	10,711	440	1,563	2,913	12,274

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

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

Week ended	Males and females			Week ended	Males and females		
	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain		England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Jan. 18 ...	9,135	2,152	11,287	July 19 ...	8,933	2,119	11,052
Feb. 15 ...	8,954	2,178	11,132	Aug. 16 ...	8,792	2,102	10,894
Mar. 15 ...	8,863	2,198	11,061	Sept. 13 ...	8,741	1,948	10,689
April 12 ...	9,079	2,171	11,250	Oct. 18 ...	9,185	2,041	11,226
May 17 ...	9,135	2,159	11,294	Nov. 15 ...	9,255	2,091	11,346
June 21 ...	8,988	2,145	11,133	Dec. 13 ...	9,169	2,148	11,317
AVERAGE FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS					9,019	2,121	11,140

IV. Power

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS

Power equipment	England and Wales		Scotland		Great Britain	
	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle
PRIME MOVERS						
Reciprocating steam engines	H.P. 4,548	H.P. 260	H.P. 1,490	H.P. 255	H.P. 6,038	H.P. 515
Steam turbines	208	—	—	—	208	—
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	3,468	334	1,354	25	4,822	359
Petrol, kerosene, or other light oils ...	15	—	—	—	15	—
Heavy oils	808	189	90	—	898	189
Water engines	125	—	—	—	125	—
TOTAL	9,172	783	2,934	280	12,106	1,063
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	9,955		3,214		13,169	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS						
Driven by	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Reciprocating steam engines	570	—	545	180	1,115	180
Steam turbines	5	—	—	—	5	—
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	196	45	870	—	1,066	45
Heavy oils	3	189	—	—	3	189
TOTAL	774	234	1,415	180	2,189	414
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	1,008		1,595		2,603	
ELECTRIC MOTORS						
Driven by	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in same works ...	1,126	50	1,242	71	2,368	121
Electricity generated in other works under same ownership	626	290	7	—	633	290
Purchased electricity	14,732	1,941	2,674	62	17,406	2,003
TOTAL	16,484	2,281	3,923	133	20,407	2,414
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC MOTORS INSTALLED	18,765		4,056		22,821	

V. Consumption of fuel

Kind of fuel used	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Coal used for power*	6,422	3,495	9,917
Coke used for power	14	—	14
	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Electricity used for all purposes :—			
Generated in same works	635	1,072	1,707
Generated in other works under same ownership	363	4	367
Purchased	5,978	1,111	7,089
TOTAL—Electricity	6,976	2,187	9,163

* In addition, 254 tons of coal (all in England and Wales) were recorded as used for power and for other purposes, not separately distinguished.