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Business Statistics Office

Business Monitor

Report on the
Census of Production

Petroleum and natural gas



A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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Report on the Census of Production 1976

Petroleum and natural gas

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

Department of Industry
Business Statistics Office

London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office

Special Note for Purchasers

Commencing with the 1971 Census, the Census of Production reports are being numbered in a uniform series embracing all industrial inquiries in the Business Monitor series. These Business Monitors have a code P (for production) followed first by A (indicating that it is an annual series) or Q (quarterly) or M (monthly): and then by a number indicating the minimum list heading, or sub-division of a minimum list heading, of the Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1968).

The Census of Production (PA) reports are available on standing order (details on application to Her Majesty's Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Telephone 01-928 6977), although they are not included in the global subscription arrangements for the Business Monitor series.

Government Statistical Service

A service of statistical information and advice is provided to the Government by specialist staffs employed in the statistics division of individual Departments. Statistics are made generally available through their publications and further information and advice on them can be obtained from the Departments concerned.

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PA104 PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

The information in this report relates to the Petroleum and natural gas industry, minimum list heading 104 in the Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1968). The activities of the industry include:—

Exploration for and extraction of petroleum on land and offshore; 'petroleum' in this context includes mineral oil, natural gas and natural gas condensates. The heading includes the activities of holders of petroleum exploration and production licences. Also included are the activities of licencees' contractors and agents providing services unique to this industry and not allocable to any other heading in the classification, e.g. well drilling, seismic surveying specifically for petroleum deposits and offshore pipelaying. (The provision of other services, e.g. manufacturing, repairing, catering, transport, procurement or hiring should be included in the appropriate headings elsewhere in the classification.)

Mining and retorting of oil shale are included under this heading: Also included is the operation of land terminals for stabilisation, separation and storage, and of offshore or land pipelines between well-head and terminal. Other land pipelines are classified to heading 262 if feeding a refinery, heading 601 if part of the distribution of gas or heading 811 if part of the distribution of fuel.

This report relates to Great Britain and the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. The tables include information provided by the Departments of Energy and Employment and the Central Statistical Office.

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

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Output and costs 1973-1976

	Unit	1973	1974	1975	1976
Sales of petroleum and goods produced	£'000	903,110
Exploration and other work done, and services rendered (a)	"	..	..	..	98,943
Goods merchanted or factored	"	..	..	..	669
Total sales and work done	"	..	..	..	1,002,722
Increase during year, work in progress and goods on hand for sale	"	..	..	7,066	14,400
Gross output	"	153,459	199,457	296,951	1,017,122
Purchases of materials, goods and services for exploration and operating activities (b)	"	29,149	182,744	300,605	447,902
Royalties etc.: due or payable	"	11,753	18,925	23,539	75,000
Gross value added	"	112,557	-2,212	-27,193	494,220
Total employment (c)	Thousands	2.2	4.6	5.4	7.2
Wages and salaries (d)	£'000	6,428	14,000	21,000	38,588

(a) Excludes receipts for exploration work undertaken outside United Kingdom mainland and Continental Shelf.

(b) Prior to 1974 costs associated with exploration were not included.

(c) Average number employed (full and part-time; see table 3).

(d) The cost of employers' contributions to national insurance, graduated pensions, other pensions, and welfare schemes and the running costs of canteens, is estimated for the industry at £5,000 thousand.

TABLE 2

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Capital expenditure 1973-1976 (a)(b)

	£ thousand			
	1973	1974	1975	1976
Land and buildings				
New building work (c)	161,000	585,400	1,135,100	1,370,295
Land and existing buildings				
Acquisitions	26	-	-	1,230
Disposals	3	-	-	346
Plant and machinery (d)				
Acquisitions	49,034	131,000	304,000	626,865
Disposals	34	-	-	84
Vehicles, ships, mobile drilling rigs and specialised floating equipment				
Acquisitions	26	-	28,000	119,959
Disposals	2	-	-	16
Total net capital expenditure	210,047	716,400	1,467,100	2,117,903

(a) The figures in this table differ from those published elsewhere for Gross Domestic Fixed Capital Formation of the industry. Imported items are included in capital formation when they arrive in this country. In most cases this happens during the same period as payment is made. However, for items with a lengthy construction period, e.g. offshore platforms, expenditure may be spread over several years, causing the two series to diverge.

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

(c) Including offshore production platforms, production and appraisal wells, tanker offshore loading systems, pipelines and terminals. The cost of installing these items is also included.

(d) Including platforms modules and equipment and their installation.

TABLE 3

Percentage analysis of employees by full and part-time employment and sex, 1976(a)

Sex	Full-time	Part-time	All employees
	per cent	per cent	per cent
Male	85	-	85
Female	14	1	15

Source: Department of Employment

(a) The percentages relate to the numbers employed (excluding working proprietors) in Great Britain at end June, 1976.

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Notes

These notes give the main information needed for interpreting the figures in the Industry Business Monitors: more detailed information about the census is given in a separate Business Monitor - PA1001 (Introductory Notes) of the Report on the Census of Production, 1976.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Changes made for 1976

The Census for 1976 is in line with similar inquiries being conducted in other member countries of the European Economic Communities. There was a small number of changes in the scope of the Industry reports compared with 1975. These include separate headings for:

Sales of goods produced
Receipts for work done and industrial services rendered
Amounts paid for hire of plant and machinery
Amounts paid for rent of industrial and commercial buildings

Specific changes are explained in the introductions to the industry reports or by footnotes to the tables.

Suppression of information relating to individual undertakings

Section 9(5)(b) of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 states - "The following provisions shall have effect with respect to any report, summary or other communication to the public of information obtained under the foregoing provisions of this Act - in compiling any such report, summary or communication the competent authority shall so arrange it as to prevent any particulars published therein from being identified as being particulars relating to any individual person or undertaking except with the previous consent in writing of that person or the person carrying on that undertaking, as the case may be; but this provision shall not prevent the disclosure of the total quantity or value of any articles produced, sold or delivered; so, however, that before disclosing any such total the competent authority shall have regard to any representations made to them by any person who alleges that the disclosure thereof would enable particulars relating to him or to an undertaking carried on by him to be deduced from the total disclosed."

If a figure involved disclosure the contributor concerned was sometimes asked to give permission for its publication. In the majority of cases permission was given. When it was refused and where contributors were not approached the figure has been suppressed, either by combining it with other figures, or as in the regional tables, by omitting the figure altogether.

Symbols used

The following symbols are used throughout the PA series of Business Monitors:

- .. not available
- nil or less than half the final digit shown
- * figures cannot be shown owing to the risk of disclosing information about individual enterprises
- R revised

Rounding of figures

Figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded to the nearest final digit. Where figures have been so rounded, the sum of the constituent items may not always agree exactly with the total shown.

Industrial classification

The United Kingdom Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) was first issued in 1948 and was subsequently revised in 1958 and 1968. It exists to promote uniformity and comparability in the official statistics of the United Kingdom. The general principles followed are those of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities of the United Nations Statistical Office but the United Kingdom SIC reflects the organisation and structure of industry and trade as it exists in the United Kingdom. The SIC is a classification by activity and is not a commodity classification. However, an index of all commodity headings for which sales data are provided in the Quarterly Business Monitors, is published in Business Monitor PQ1000.

Statistical units

The statistical unit for the purpose of the Census is the establishment which is defined in the SIC as the smallest unit which can provide the information normally required for an economic census, for example, employment, expenses, turnover, capital formation. Usually the principal activities carried on in an establishment fall within a single heading of the classification (e.g. steel making or sugar refining). Typically the establishment embraces all the activities carried on at a single address e.g. a farm, a mine or a factory, including those which are ancillary to the principal activities. Frequently distinct activities characteristic of different industries are carried on at one address, but normally these are not classified separately and the whole establishment is classified according to the main activity. If, however, the required range of data can be provided for each activity, each is taken to constitute a separate establishment. Sometimes activities which are conducted as a single business are carried on at a number of addresses. Where this is so, businesses are asked to provide the full range of separate information in respect of each address, whether or not the activities are different. Their activities may, however, be integrated to such an extent that they constitute a single establishment. In the latter case the establishment is defined to cover the combined activities at these addresses (termed local units). Separate figures are obtained of employment and net capital expenditure at each unit in order to compile regional tables. Efforts are made by the Business Statistics Office to ensure, by negotiating with respondents, that the return from an establishment does not cover local units or addresses in more than one of the countries of the United Kingdom.

Further information about the statistical unit appeared in an article "The statistical unit in business inquiries" in Statistical News No.13 May 1971. Establishments are asked to exclude from their returns particulars relating to any department not engaged in production e.g. merchanting, transport, warehousing, for which they keep a separate set of accounts. Transfers of goods produced to such departments are treated as sales and respondents are asked to value them as far as possible as if sold to an independent purchaser. Where separate accounts are not kept they are asked to include details of all these activities in their return. Particulars relating to head offices mainly engaged in the administration of the production units within the scope of the census were included. Where more than one return was made the information in respect of the head office was apportioned among them.

For certain purposes in the annual censuses of production (especially the enterprise analyses of Business Monitor PA1002) related establishments

are combined. For these purposes an enterprise group may be defined as a business consisting of either a single establishment or two or more establishments under common ownership or control. Bringing together establishments into enterprise groups is also necessary for the purpose of ensuring that there will be no disclosure of the activities of any one enterprise group. Information about the relationship of establishments, the changing structure of groups of companies and about common ownership links is obtained from many sources, including the Stock Exchange Year Book, company reports, press reports and information supplied by individual establishments.

THE REGISTER

The register permits a questionnaire to be sent direct to the reporting establishment on which the latter can include information relating to all the manufacturing (or local) units which it comprises. The inquiries provide a major source of information for keeping the register continuously up-to-date and act as a check on its detail and structure. For the establishments on the register making returns to the quarterly inquiries, the industrial classification is derived from an analysis of their sales of commodities and is reviewed annually. Employment data are entered on the register from returns to the annual census of production. In cases where an establishment does not make a return to these inquiries the employment data are based on information provided by the Department of Employment from the annual censuses of employment. Establishments with 20 or more employees are included in the censuses each year and the information they supply to the census is supplemented by the returns that those with 25 or more employees provide to the quarterly inquiries. Information about establishments with fewer than 20 employees in most industries is less securely based, but increasing use has been made of data on these small establishments supplied by the Department of Employment. One benefit of using this information is an improvement in the estimates of the number of smaller establishments and enterprises, but there is little effect on other aggregates (e.g. employment, output, net capital expenditure).

Coverage

A return was required in the 1976 Census from each establishment with 20 or more employees. Each establishment is classified to an industry, as defined in the SIC, whose principal products form the major part of the establishment's sales.

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS REPORT

Average number employed

Establishments were required to state the number of persons on the payroll on average during the year of return, whether full-time or part-time employees. Separate figures were required for:

- (a) administrative, technical and clerical employees
- (b) all other employees (operatives)

Averages could be calculated from the figures relating to the last week of each calendar month. 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.

Employees

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

staff, advertising staff, travellers and all office employees.

Operatives include all other classes of employees, that is, broadly speaking, all manual wage earners. They include operatives employed in power stations, transport (including roundsmen), warehouses, stores, shops and canteens, inspectors, maintenance workers and cleaners. Operatives engaged in outside work of erecting, fitting etc. are also included.

Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure during the year in respect of manufacturing units where production had not started before the end of the year is included. Establishments were asked not to deduct from the value of capital expenditure amounts received or expected to be received in grants or allowances from the Government or any statutory body or local authority. Establishments with 100 or more employees were asked to include a total net capital expenditure figure for each calendar year.

(a) New building work

This represents the cost incurred during the year of new building and other construction work to be used in connection with the business covered by the return. The value is that charged to capital account during the year of return; it includes expenditure on new buildings and 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 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 or premium payable for leaseholds acquired (excluding the value of assets acquired in taking over an existing business), and the amounts receivable for freeholds or leaseholds disposed of. The value is that charged to capital account during the year of return.

(c) Plant, machinery and vehicles etc.

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 the 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. Deductible value added tax is excluded but non-deductible value added tax on motor cars acquired is included. 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.

Cost of industrial services

This includes amounts payable to other firms for work done on materials supplied by the establishment, payments for repairs and maintenance (including those in respect of rented buildings) and amounts paid to other firms for contracts which have been sublet.

Cost of non-industrial services

This includes rent of industrial and commercial buildings, hire of plant and machinery, commercial insurance premiums, bank charges and amounts paid for professional services, post office services, transport, advertising etc. Amounts payable on

royalties for the right to use patents, trademarks, copyrights etc., manufacturing, mining and quarrying rights and technical "know-how" are also included.

Gross output

In the calculation of gross output the value of total sales and work done is increased by the rise (or reduced by the fall) during the year in the value of work in progress and goods on hand for sale.

Net output

Net output, a customary census measure, is calculated by deducting from gross output the cost of purchases (reduced by the rise, or increased by the fall, during the year of stocks of materials etc.) and the cost of industrial services received, and where applicable, duties etc.

Net output per head

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

Gross value added at factor cost

Gross value added at factor cost is calculated by deducting from net output the cost of non-industrial services (e.g. rent of buildings, hire of plant and machinery, commercial insurance premiums, bank charges and amounts paid for professional services, post office services, transport and advertising), rates (excluding water rates) and the cost of licensing motor vehicles. This estimate of gross value added approaches more closely than census net output to the definition of net output or value added in national accounts statistics.

Gross value added at factor cost per head

The figures of gross value added at factor cost per head are derived by dividing the gross value added by the average number of persons employed (full and part-time) on all activities covered by the returns, including operatives, administrative, technical and clerical employees.

Purchases

Purchases include the cost of raw materials, components, semi-manufactured goods and workshop materials; of replacement parts and consumable tools not charged to capital account; of packaging materials of all types; of stationery and printed matter; of fuel, electricity and water; of materials to be used by the establishment or given out to other establishments for the production of machinery or other capital items for the establishment's own use; of materials for use by the establishment when working on goods supplied by customers; and of food, etc. for any canteen covered by the establishment's return. Transfers of goods to the establishment from another department of the same firm not covered by the establishment's return are included at a cost corresponding to the estimated selling value recorded by the other department. Amounts payable to transport firms or credited to the firm's own transport department for delivery of materials are excluded, as are all purchases of machinery and plant charged to capital account. Purchases of goods for merchanting or factoring have been collected separately since 1973. The values shown exclude VAT. They include, in addition to the actual purchase price, the value of packaging material charged to the establishment. The value of returned goods or packaging material returned to suppliers and any trade discounts are excluded.

Materials purchased duty-paid are included at their duty-paid value, less any drawback, rebate, etc. The cost of transport is included only if it is included with the purchase price in the firm's accounts. Imported goods are included at their full delivered cost. If in the firm's accounts the transport from docks or airport is not included in the cost of goods purchased, the cost is entered at c.i.f. plus duty (if applicable). Leasing, renting and hire purchase charges are excluded.

Sales of goods produced etc.

Sales for the purposes of the annual censuses means deliveries on sale of minerals raised and/or goods made by establishments in Great Britain and the United Kingdom Continental Shelf covered by the return. Sales of goods made for these establishments by other establishments from materials given out to them and sales of waste products are included. New building work and machinery or other capital items produced by establishments for hiring out or leasing are regarded as sales, the value included in the return being that adopted in the establishments' capital asset accounts. Forward sales and canteen takings are excluded. All sales in the period of the inquiry are included irrespective of when the goods were manufactured. Goods produced in one establishment and transferred either to ancillary departments not engaged in production for which there are separate accounts, or to another establishment of the same firm not covered by the return, are 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 are kept are valued on the same basis.

The value shown for sales is the "net selling value" defined as the amount (excluding value added tax) charged to customers whether on an ex-works or delivered basis, after any trade discounts and agents' commissions have been deducted. The cost of packing materials less allowance for returnable cases is included.

Work done and industrial services rendered

Figures for work done represent the amount charged for work carried out on materials supplied by a customer and include the value of any materials bought and used in such work. Activities within this heading include repair and jobbing work, erection and installation of plant and machinery, exploration work, and research and development. Industrial services rendered include repairs and maintenance, installation work, and technical research and studies for other organisations.

Capital goods produced for establishments' own use

This includes all work of a capital nature carried out during the year by the establishments' own staff for their own use.

Non-industrial services rendered

This includes rents received for commercial and industrial buildings, amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery and other goods and amounts charged to other organisations for the provision of transport. It also includes amounts received for the right to use patents, trademarks, copyrights etc., manufacturing, mining and quarrying rights and technical "know-how" and revenue from such staff facilities as canteens.

Goods merchanted or factored

Merchant goods are those (excluding canteen sales) sold without having been subjected to any manufacturing process by the seller.

Stocks and work in progress

Values are given of stocks of goods on hand for sale at the end of the year of return and of the change during the year, including any stocks of goods held for merchanting or factoring. Work in progress is defined as materials which have been partially processed by the establishment but which are not usually sold or transferred to another establishment without further processing. The values include the cost of materials consumed and labour used, together with a margin of overhead costs and profits. Progress payments made to sub-contractors are excluded and progress payments received from other organisations are not deducted.

Wages and salaries

These are amounts paid during the year to operatives and to administrative, technical and clerical employees. 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 redundancy payments less any amounts reimbursed from Government sources is included. The value of any payments in kind, travelling expenses etc. is excluded.

Employers' insurance and welfare contributions

This item includes employers' contributions to national insurance and graduated pensions (and/or earnings related basic contributions under the Social Security Act, 1973) as well as commercial insurance premiums to provide pensions, superannuation or other retirement benefits, sickness benefits, personal accident benefits, disability or death benefits for employees or former employees or their dependants. Contributions to the running costs of canteens, social centres, children's and holiday homes, etc. for employees, former employees and their dependants are also included.

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