

THE SPIRIT RECTIFYING, COMPOUNDING, AND
METHYLATING TRADES.

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Introductory.*

The Tables on pages 180 to 182 are based on Returns received from firms in Great Britain whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the rectifying, compounding and methylating of spirits. The number of such separate Returns was 66.

Summary of results.—The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1924 and 1907, comparisons between the figures for the two years being subject to the qualifications mentioned in the next paragraph. Particulars relating to the Census of 1912 have been omitted for the reasons discussed in that paragraph.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1907.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	6,604	4,027
Cost of materials used	"	5,603	3,625
Net output	"	1,001	402
Average number of persons employed	No.	958	1,135
Net output per person employed	£	1,045	354
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	360	412
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	316	(not recorded).

Qualifications affecting comparisons.—In considering the above table and the other tables in this Report which show figures for different censal years, the following qualifications should be borne in mind :—

(1) The comparability of figures relating to value or cost is affected by the changes which have taken place in the general purchasing power of money and in the duties on spirits.

* See also the Notes on pp. vii-xiv.

(2) The Census of 1907 covered the whole of Great Britain and Ireland, but that of 1924 applied only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The exclusion of Southern Ireland in 1924 does not seriously affect the comparability of the figures. In 1907 there was only one firm in all Ireland engaged in this trade and in 1924 there were no rectifying or compounding firms in Northern Ireland. No separate Report on the Spirit Rectifying, Compounding and Methylating Trades was issued in connexion with the Census of Production taken by the Government of the Irish Free State in respect of the year 1926.

(3) The Census of 1907 and 1924 extended to all firms, however small, but in 1912 firms employing not more than five persons (excluding the proprietors) were required to state only the average number of persons employed by them in the year. According to the information so furnished, the number of persons employed in the establishments thus excluded was 293 or nearly 20 per cent. of the number employed by the remaining firms. The proportion of output excluded in this way is sufficiently large to invalidate comparisons, and, consequently, the relative information obtained for 1912 is not dealt with in this Report.

Production.

Detailed information relating to the output of the Spirit Rectifying, Compounding and Methylating Trades in 1924 will be found in Table II on page 180.

Principal products.—The following statement shows the quantity and value of the output for sale of spirits rectified, compounded and methylated in 1924 and 1907, including, in each year, the output of similar products returned on schedules for trades other than the Spirit Rectifying, etc., Trades.

Kind of products.	1924.				1907.	
	Returned on schedules for				Total.	
	The Spirit Rectifying, etc., Trades.		All trades.†			
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Th. proof galls.	£'000	Th. proof galls.	£'000	Th. proof galls.	£'000	
Spirits rectified or compounded* ..	2,141	5,995	2,144	6,021	5,908	3,687
Methylated spirits ..	5,468	499	7,201	624	6,821	327
TOTAL VALUE ..	..	6,494	..	6,645	..	4,014

* Including liqueurs, cordials, mixtures and other preparations containing spirits (except perfumed spirits).

† Including the Chemical Trades, the Report on which forms part of a separate volume.

The values shown above are free from duplication. Firms were instructed to state the value of dutiable spirits rectified, compounded, etc., for home consumption, inclusive of duty, but to give the value of spirits exported less drawbacks.

The quantity of methylated spirit shown above as made in the censal year represents only that made for sale by distillers and methylators and does not include the spirit methylated by firms, under Excise control, for their own manufacturing purposes. In the calendar year 1924, according to the Excise Returns, the quantity of spirit received free of duty for methylation was about 7,302,600 proof gallons (1,847,600 gallons to be mineralized, 5,270,400 gallons for industrial purposes, and 184,600 gallons for power), to which has to be added some part of 560,400 proof gallons of industrial methylated spirit and 130,200 gallons of mineralized spirit, issued during the war for use in the arts and manufactures, but not used for that purpose, and methylated in the fiscal year 1923-4.

Exports of home-made methylated spirits in 1924 were about 49,000 proof gallons; imports were not separately recorded. Exports and imports of rectified and compounded spirits are included with those of plain spirits on page 207.

Other products.—In addition to the output dealt with in the preceding paragraphs, firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Spirit Rectifying, etc., Trades recorded an output of other products in 1924 valued at £110,000, of which £60,000 was in respect of 197,000 proof gallons of British-made wine*. These goods, being of kinds mainly produced in other trades, are dealt with in the Reports on those trades.

The corresponding figure for 1907 was £72,000, of which £23,000 was in respect of 177,000 gallons of British-made wine.

Cost of materials.—The cost of materials used by firms that made their Returns on Schedules for the Spirit Rectifying, etc., Trades was returned as £5,603,000 in 1924. The corresponding figure for 1907 was £3,625,000.

Net output.—The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their Returns on Schedules for the Spirit Rectifying, etc., Trades (whose gross output was valued at £6,604,000) was £1,001,000, that sum representing, without duplication, the total amount by which the value (at works) of the aggregate output exceeded the cost (at works) of the materials used.

The net output per head of persons employed in the censal year 1924 was £1,045 as compared with £354 in 1907.

*The output of British-made wine is dealt with in the Report on the Aerated Waters, Cider, etc., Trades, page 192.

Wages in 1924.

Under the Census of Production Act, 1906, the powers of the Board of Trade to require information do not extend to particulars of the amount of wages paid, and, consequently, no information on this head was secured in connexion with the Census of 1924. As a result, however, of the voluntary enquiry undertaken by the Ministry of Labour into wages and hours in the United Kingdom in 1924, information was obtained as to the total wage-bill of a group of firms in the Spirit Rectifying, Compounding and Methylating Trades which made Returns both to the Ministry of Labour and to the Census of Production office. According to the Census records this group of firms employed in the week ended 18th October, 1924, 251 operatives, or 44 per cent. of the total of 570 operatives for the trades as a whole, and their net output totalled £539,000, or 54 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £1,001,000 for the trades as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £36,000, representing about 6.7 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on page 181. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those obtained at the 1907 Census. For the purpose of this comparison the average numbers of operatives of each sex returned for 1924 have been divided into the two age-groups in the proportions shown by the data relating to the week ended 18th October.

Average number.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
1924.						
Operatives	34	479	26	87	60	566
Administrative, etc. ..	16	362	3	30	19	392
TOTAL	50	841	29	117	79	958
1907.						
Wage earners	23	656	7	34	30	690
Salaried	23	435	4	10	27	445
TOTAL	46	1,091	11	44	57	1,135

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 29 above the average, in December, to 20 below the average, in July (see Table IIIB, page 181).

Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV, on page 182. The following table sets out

the particulars for that year and for 1907 relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers* and the capacity of *electric generators* installed.

Power equipment.	1924.			1907.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
PRIME MOVERS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines ..	331	—	331	355
Gas engines	29	—	29	} 57
Petrol and light oil engines ..	—	—	—	
Heavy oil engines	—	—	—	
TOTAL	360	—	360	412
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines	48	13	61	88
Gas engines	—	—	—	} 13
Petrol and light oil engines ..	—	—	—	
Heavy oil engines	—	—	—	
TOTAL	48	13	61	101

The capacity of *electric motors* recorded in 1924 was as shown below :—

Electric motors.	1924.		
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.
Driven by—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in own works ..	41	3	44
Purchased electricity	250	66	316

Corresponding information was not required for 1907. The total number of Board of Trade units of electricity purchased for power and lighting purposes in that year was returned as 21,000.

TABLES.

Note.—No production was recorded in Northern Ireland.

I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	6,486	118	6,604
Cost of materials used	"	5,516	87	5,603
Net output	"	970	31	1,001
Average number of persons employed	No.	893	65	958
Net output per person employed ..	£	1,086	477	1,045
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	304	56	360
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	288	28	316

II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Great Britain.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Spirits rectified or compounded, including liqueurs, cordials, mixtures and other preparations containing spirits (except perfumed spirits) ..	Th. proof galls.	£'000	Th. proof galls.	£'000	Th. proof galls.	£'000
Methylated spirits ..	2,101	5,928	40	67	2,141	5,995
Wine, British-made ..	*	*	*	*	5,468	499
Other goods made and work done .. .. .	..	43	..	7	..	50
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT) .. .. .	..	6,486	..	118	..	6,604

* In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, figures can only be given for Great Britain as a whole.

III.—Employment.

A. NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1924.

Kind of staff.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
England and Wales :—						
Operatives	35	456	25	77	60	533
Administrative, etc.*	16	336	3	27	19	363
TOTAL	51	792	28	104	79	896
Scotland :—						
Operatives	—	30	—	7	—	37
Administrative, etc.*	—	26	—	3	—	29
TOTAL	—	56	—	10	—	66
Great Britain :—						
Operatives	35	486	25	84	60	570
Administrative, etc.*	16	362	3	30	19	392
TOTAL	51	848	28	114	79	962

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

B. OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1924.

England and Wales. (Annual average : Males, 450 ; Females, 80 ; Total, 530.)

Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	453	92	545	July 19th ..	440	71	511
Feb. 16th ..	452	89	541	Aug. 16th ..	447	72	519
Mar. 15th ..	446	90	536	Sept. 13th ..	447	72	519
Apr. 12th ..	445	84	529	Oct. 18th ..	456	77	533
May 17th ..	441	81	522	Nov. 15th ..	456	77	533
June 21st ..	445	80	525	Dec. 13th ..	472	83	555

Scotland. (Annual average : Males, 29 ; Females, 7 ; Total, 36.)

Jan. 12th ..	29	6	35	July 19th ..	29	6	35
Feb. 16th ..	29	6	35	Aug. 16th ..	29	7	36
Mar. 15th ..	29	6	35	Sept. 13th ..	29	7	36
Apr. 12th ..	29	6	35	Oct. 18th ..	30	7	37
May 17th ..	29	6	35	Nov. 15th ..	31	7	38
June 21st ..	29	6	35	Dec. 13th ..	31	9	40

Great Britain. (Annual average : Males, 479 ; Females, 87 ; Total, 566.)

Jan. 12th ..	482	98	580	July 19th ..	469	77	546
Feb. 16th ..	481	95	576	Aug. 16th ..	476	79	555
Mar. 15th ..	475	96	571	Sept. 13th ..	476	79	555
Apr. 12th ..	474	90	564	Oct. 18th ..	486	84	570
May 17th ..	470	87	557	Nov. 15th ..	487	84	571
June 21st ..	474	86	560	Dec. 13th ..	503	92	595

IV.—Mechanical 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 :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines	279	—	52	—	331	—
Gas engines	25	—	4	—	29	—
TOTAL	304	—	56	—	360	—
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	304		56		360	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—						
Reciprocating steam engines	48	13	—	—	48	13
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GEN- ERATORS INSTALLED ..	61		—		61	
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—						
Electricity generated in own works	41	3	—	—	41	3
Purchased electricity	222	66	28	—	250	66