

## THE COIR FIBRE, HORSE-HAIR AND FEATHER TRADES

### INTRODUCTORY

The trades included in this report are (a) the manufacture of coir mats and matting, (b) the cleaning and dressing of horse-hair and the manufacture of horse-hair fabric, (c) the cleaning and dressing of fibres and bristles and (d) the cleaning and dressing of feathers or down. These trades are carried on, as a rule, independently of each other, but in view of their small extent they were grouped together in the Census classification; separate aggregate figures for each trade for the years 1935 and 1930 are, however, given in Table IV.

Philanthropic institutions were not required to make returns in respect of the work done by their inmates and patients. It is understood that a considerable output of goods, particularly of coir mats and matting, thereby escaped record.

The figures for 1933 and 1934 are deficient in relation to those of other years by reason of the omission of certain firms, particulars of whose output in 1935 are given in a footnote to Table V A. The value of the gross output of these firms in 1935 was £267,000, the net output £78,000 and the number of persons employed 413.

Table I A.—General summary

Particulars	1935	1934	1933	1930*	1924*
Value of products (Gross output)...	£'000 1,980	£'000 1,592†	£'000 1,478	£'000 1,995	£'000 2,225
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used ... ..	1,249	909	812	1,270	1,351
Amount paid for work given out ...	2	1	1	1	—
Net output ... ..	729	682†	665	724	874
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) ...	4,058	3,540	3,456	3,825	4,531
	£	£	£	£	£
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) ... ..	180	193†	192	189	193
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Number of returns ... ..	64	†	†	61	70
Number of establishments ... ..	67	†	†	65	†

\* The figures relate to Great Britain only, particulars of the small production in Northern Ireland not being available.

† Corrected figure.

‡ Not available.

Table I B.—Firms employing not more than ten persons on the average

Particulars	1935	1930*	1924*
Number of returns received ... ..	No. 65	No. 77	No. 37
Average number of persons employed:—			
Males ... ..	256	273	145
Females ... ..	89	135	50
Total ... ..	345	408	195
Number of firms not making returns ... ..	—	14	20

\* Great Britain only.

In 1924 the value of the gross output of the small firms making returns (including the few firms in Northern Ireland, for which separate particulars cannot be given) was 4.4 per cent. of the total.

Table II.—Size of establishments in 1935

Size of establishment (average number employed)	Number of establishments	Gross output	Net output	Number of persons employed (excluding out-workers)	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
11-24 ... ..	18	204	64	325	195
25-49 ... ..	19	255	102	666	154
50-99 ... ..	16	736	229	1,128	203
100 and over ... ..	14	785	334	1,939	172
TOTAL ... ..	67	1,980	729	4,058	180

Table III.—Particulars of output, etc., in each of the principal areas of the United Kingdom

Area*	Number of establishments†	Gross output	Net output	Average number of persons employed (excluding out-workers)	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
1 ... ..	18	776	240	1,052	228
2 ... ..	16	576	172	854	202
3 ... ..	13	338	119	830	144
4 ... ..	11	288	114	654	174
5 ... ..	5	238	105	532	197
6 ... ..	6	265	104	546	190
7 ... ..	9	74	41	284	143
8 ... ..	3	73	35	215	163
9 ... ..	4	134	44	256	173
10 ... ..	9	200	73	556	131
Other areas ... ..	6	147	72	333	217
Total ... ..	31	628	265	1,644	161
	28	866	334	1,771	189
TOTAL ... ..	67	1,980	729	4,058	180
	61	1,995	724	3,825	189

\* For particulars see page xviii.

† Number of returns for 1930.

‡ Excluding Northern Ireland.

Table IV.—Sub-divisions of the industry

Group	Number of establishments*	Gross output	Value of characteristic products	Net output	Average number of persons employed (excluding out-workers)	Net output per person employed	
Coir fibre manufactures	1935	No.	£'000	£'000	£'000	No.	£
	1930†	13	233	223	128	958	133
Horse-hair, cow-hair, etc., manufactures	1935	15	310	309	138	1,052	131
	1930†	34	912	786	359	2,148	167
Fibres and bristles for brushmaking	1935	27	890	809	344	1,877	183
	1935	12	237	229	77	476	162
Feathers or down	1935	8	598	555	165	476	346
	1935	20	835	792	242	952	254
Total	1930†	19	795	748	242	896	270
	1935	67	1,980	...	729	4,058	180
TOTAL	1930†	61	1,995	...	724	3,825	189

\* Number of returns for 1930.

† Great Britain only.

## PRODUCTION

Table V A.—Output of principal products

Kind of output	1935			1934	
	Quantity	Value	Entries	Quantity	Value
Coir matting ...	Th.sq.yds. 1,587	£'000 165	No. 12	Th.sq.yds. 1,628	£'000 169
Coir mats ...	Doz. 30,128	71	13	Doz. 31,078	70
TOTAL—Goods of coir fibre	...	236	...	...	239
Hair cleaned or dressed, for sale as such ...	Cwts. 9,110	87	10	Cwts. 9,004*	72*
Hair curled ...	96,391	413	16	87,641	360
Cloth of horse-hair, fibre or spun horse-hair (mixed or not with wool, cotton, silk or artificial silk) ...	{ 70,825	267	13	} 70,524	275
Other manufactures of hair, including horse-hair seating ...	{ ...	31	2		
TOTAL—Goods of horse-hair, cow-hair, etc. ...	{ 180,736	780	...	{ 167,169*	707*
Fibres dressed for brushmaking† ...	55,154	153	10	24,414	78
Bristles dressed for brushmaking† ...	489	65	6	} 17,073	50
Other fibres and bristles dressed† ...	20,279	43	14		
TOTAL—Fibres and bristles, for brushmaking† ...	75,922	261	...	41,487	128
Feathers or down, for beds, cushions, etc., purified or dressed† ...	117,376	610	18	87,315	466
Work done for the trade or on commission... §	...	48§	14	...	35§
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ...	...	1,966	...	...	1,575*

\* Corrected figure.

† The particulars shown for 1935 include the output of some firms that were not required to make returns for 1934; the amounts so included are:—

Fibres dressed for brushmaking ...	Cwts.	£'000
Bristles dressed for brushmaking ...	30,619	82
Other fibres and bristles dressed ...	403	57
Feathers or down, for beds, cushions, etc., purified or dressed ...	3,459	7
...	26,002	121
Total ...	...	267

‡ Including kapok and vegetable down, so far as recorded separately.

§ Amount received.

The figures shown in the preceding table include the following output recorded by firms whose returns were made on schedules for other trades and are not, therefore, included in Table I A.

Kind of output	1935			1934	
	Quantity	Value	Entries	Quantity	Value
Coir matting ... ..	Th.sq.yds. 37	£'000 3	No. 1	Cwts. —	£'000 —
Hair cleaned or dressed, for sale as such ... ..	Cwts. 90	*	1	—	—
Hair curled ... ..	3,802	16	1	—	—
Cloth of horse-hair, fibre or spun horse-hair (mixed or not with wool, cotton, silk or artificial silk)	{ 5,269	27	3	} 4,224	20
Other manufactures of hair ... ..	...	5	1		
Fibres dressed for brushmaking ... ..	4,000	6	1	—	—
Bristles dressed for brushmaking ... ..	794	2	2	1,085	3
Other fibres and bristles dressed ... ..	41	6	2	34	6
Feathers or down, for beds, cushions, etc., purified or dressed ... ..	3,430	5	3	—	—
Work done for the trade ... ..	5,514	29	5	—	—
	...	1†	2	—	—
Total ... ..	...	100	...	...	29

\* Less than £500.

† Amount received.

Table V B.—Output of certain principal products, 1924-1935

Kind of goods	1924*	1930*	1933	1934	1935	
Coir matting ... {	Th. sq. yds. £'000	1,899 230	1,509 165	1,628 169	1,587 165	
Coir mats ... {						Th. sq. yds. £'000
Hair cleaned or dressed for sale as such ... {	Doz. £'000	11,740 181	3,175 52	9,004 72	9,110 87	
Hair curled ... {						Cwts. £'000
All other principal products and work done†	£'000	901	1,101	842	904	
TOTAL — PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ...	£'000	2,267	2,036	1,453	1,575	1,966

\* Great Britain only.

† See footnote (†) to Table V A.

Table VI.—Average values of goods produced, exported and imported

Kind of goods	Production (at factory)			Exports (f.o.b.)		Imports (c.i.f.)	
	Average value		1935 as a percentage of 1934	Average value		Average value	
	1935	1934		1935	1934	1935	1934
	£	£	Per cent.	£	£	£	£
	per th. sq. yds.	per th. sq. yds.		per th. sq. yds.	per th. sq. yds.	per th. sq. yds.	per th. sq. yds.
Coir matting ... ..	104.26	103.54	100.7	} 122.58	} 114.03	} 65.23	} 66.74
Coir mats ... ..	per doz. 2.36	per doz. 2.25	104.9				
Hair cleaned or dressed	per cwt. 9.52	per cwt. 7.99	119.2	} *	} *	} *	} *
Hair curled ... ..	4.29	4.11	104.3				
Fibres dressed for brushmaking† ... ..	2.78	3.18	...				
Other fibres and bristles dressed† ... ..	5.17	2.92	...				
Feathers or down, for beds, cushions, etc., purified or dressed†	5.20	5.34	97.4				

\* Not recorded separately.

† Omitting the output in 1935 of the firms not required to make returns in 1934 (see footnote (†) to Table V A) the comparable average values are 2.90, 2.14, and 5.36 respectively.

Table VII.—Volume of Production, 1924-1935

Kind of output	Total production			Production index (1935=100)			
	1935 as returned	1934		1924	1930	1933	1934
		As returned	At 1935 average values				
Coir mats and matting...	£'000 236	£'000 239	£'000 243	Per cent. 153	Per cent. 120	Per cent. 97	Per cent. 103
Hair cleaned, dressed or curled ... ..	500	432	462	98	93	74	92
Horse-hair seating and cloth, etc. ... ..	311	275	271	67	69	73	87
Fibres and bristles dressed	261	128	113	125	125	98*	98*
Feathers or down, purified or dressed ... ..	610	466	468	30	59	94*	96*
Work done for the trade	48	35	35	4	41	66	73
TOTAL ... ..	1,966	1,575	1,592	80	85	84*	94*

\* Owing to the exclusion in 1934 and 1933 of the returns of certain firms engaged in the dressing of fibres and bristles and the purifying or dressing of feathers or down for beds, cushions, etc., the 1935 base figure has been adjusted in calculating this index (see footnote (†) to Table V A).

Table VIII.—Exports and Imports

Owing to the exclusion from the Census of firms employing not more than ten persons and of philanthropic institutions, and also to differences of classification, no comparison of the recorded production figures with exports and imports is practicable. The exports and retained imports of coir mats and matting in 1935 and 1934 were as follows:—

		Quantity Th. sq. yds.	Value £'000
Exports	1935	89	11
	1934	92	11
Retained imports	1935	8,334	540
	1934	7,844	520

Table IX.—Other output of the Coir Fibre, Horse-hair and Feather Trades

The value of the gross output of the firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Coir Fibre, Horse-hair and Feather Trades was £1,980,000 in 1935 and £1,592,000 in 1934 of which £1,866,000 in 1935 and £1,546,000 in 1934 consisted of products included in Table V A. Particulars of the remaining items are shown below.

Kind of output	1935	1934
	£'000	£'000
Bedding, cushions, carpets, roofing felts, etc.	110	44
Waste products sold	4	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>46</b>

## MATERIALS AND FUEL

Table X A.—Materials, fuel and electricity purchased and used

Kind of materials, etc.	1935		1934	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
	Th. cwts.	£'000	Th. cwts.	£'000
Coir yarn	72.5	80	63.1	78
Horse-hair	30.3	166		
Hog hair :—				
Dyed	38.2	74		
Undyed	29.8	65		
Other hair	30.2	119		
Feathers (including down)	128.6	375		
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes :—				
Coal	20.6	20		831
Coke	1.1	1		
Heavy fuel oil	27	1		
Purchased electricity	4,209	19		
All other purchased materials and fuel	...	329		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,249</b>		<b>909</b>

Table X B.—Consumption of coal, coke and electricity in 1935 and 1930

Kind of fuel		1935	1930*
Coal	...	Th. tons 20.6	Th. tons 16.1
Coke	...	1.1	0.9
Electricity :—		Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Generated in same works		817	631
Purchased		4,209	3,114
Total electricity consumed		5,026	3,745

\* Great Britain only.

## EMPLOYMENT

Table XI A.—Average numbers employed in 1935 and 1934

Persons employed	Males		Females		Total	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
Operatives (average for the year)	{ 1935 244 1934 166	{ 1,819 1,453	{ 483 443	{ 1,752 1,634	{ 727 609	{ 3,571 3,087
Administrative, technical and clerical staff*	{ 1935 18 1934 17	{ 331 315	{ 20 22	{ 156 138	{ 38 39	{ 487 453
<b>TOTAL</b>	{ 1935 262 1934 183	{ 2,150 1,768	{ 503 465	{ 1,908 1,772	{ 765 648	{ 4,058† 3,540
Average number of out-workers...	{ 1935 8 1934 10		{ 17 2		{ 25 12	

\* As at 12th October, 1935, and 13th October, 1934.

† The total comparable with that for 1934 is 3,645.

**Table XI B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1934 and 1935 by firms furnishing returns in respect of the twelve months ended December**

Mid week of*	Operatives employed		Monthly index†		
	1934	1935	1933	1934	1935
January ... ..	1,987	2,272	84.3	83.9	95.1
February ... ..	2,029	2,329	83.8	85.7	97.5
March ... ..	2,044	2,366	83.5	86.4	99.1
April ... ..	2,034	2,375	85.5	85.9	99.5
May ... ..	2,085	2,382	84.5	88.1	99.7
June ... ..	2,078	2,439	83.5	87.8	102.1
July ... ..	1,995	2,419	84.5	84.3	101.3
August ... ..	1,949	2,388	85.0	82.3	100.0
September ... ..	2,055	2,386	83.6	86.8	99.9
October ... ..	2,093	2,424	86.7	88.4	101.5
November ... ..	2,092	2,458	88.4	88.4	102.9
December ... ..	2,113	2,423	88.8	89.3	101.5
Average for the twelve months	2,046	2,388	85.2	86.4	100.0
Proportion of total operatives represented ... ..	66.28	66.87	...	...	...

\* For the ending date of each week see page xiv.

† Based on the estimated average for the year 1935.

**Table XI C.—Average numbers employed, 1924-1935**

Year	Operatives	Administrative, technical and clerical staff	Total (excluding outworkers)
1924* ... ..	4,142	389	4,531
1930* ... ..	3,428	397	3,825
1933 ... ..	3,041	415	3,456
1934 ... ..	3,087	453	3,540
1935 ... ..	3,571	487	4,058

\* Great Britain only.

### WAGES

**Table XII.—Wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages in 1935 and 1930**

The aggregate amount of wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages was £176,000 in 1935 representing 44.8 per cent. of the net output of these firms, the corresponding figures for 1930 being £164,000 and 37.7 per cent. The figures for these firms given below indicate the size of the sample and the extent to which it is representative.

Firms furnishing returns of wages	1935		1930	
	Aggregate	Proportion of trade	Aggregate	Proportion of trade
Gross output... ..	£'000	Per cent.	£'000	Per cent.
Net output ... ..	977	49.6	1,050	52.6
	393	54.2	435	60.0
Operative staff employed :—	No.		No.	
During mid-week of October :—				
Males ... ..	893	48.4	*	*
Females... ..	1,241	70.1	*	*
Total ... ..	2,134	59.0	1,875	53.9
Average for the year ... ..	2,111	59.5	1,903	55.5
Administrative, technical and clerical staff ... ..	289	60.0	*	*
Number of establishments ... ..	34	50.7	...	...

\* Not recorded separately.

## COUNTRY TABLES (1935)

Note.—The figures given in the following tables relate only to firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Coir Fibre, Horse-hair and Feather Trades.

Owing to the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars for Northern Ireland cannot be given.

Table I.—General summary

Particulars	Unit	England and Wales and Northern Ireland	Scotland	United Kingdom
Value of products (Gross output) ...	£'000	1,742	238	1,980
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used ...	"	1,116	133	1,249
Amount paid for work given out ...	"	2	—	2
Net output ...	"	624	105	729
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) ...	No.	3,526	532	4,058
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) ...	£	177	197	180
Number of returns ...	No.	60	4	64
Number of establishments ...	"	62	5	67

Table II.—Output

Kind of output	United Kingdom*	
	Quantity	Value
Coir matting ...	Th. sq. yds. 1,550	£'000 162
Coir mats ...	Doz. 30,128	71
Total—Goods of coir fibre ...	...	233
Hair cleaned or dressed, for sale as such ...	Cwts. 9,110	87
Hair curled ...	92,589	397
Cloth of horse-hair, fibre or spun horse-hair (mixed or not with wool, cotton, silk or artificial silk) ...	{ 65,556	240
Other manufactures of hair, including horse-hair seating	{ ...	26
	{ 410	7
Total—Goods made of horse-hair, cow-hair, etc.	{ 147,575	731
	{ ...	26
Fibres dressed for brush-making ...	54,360	151
Bristles dressed for brush-making ...	448	59
Other fibres and bristles dressed ...	16,849	38
Total—Fibres and bristles for brush-making ...	71,657	248
Feathers or down, for beds, cushions, etc., purified or dressed ...	111,862	581
Other goods made, including bedding, cushions, carpets, etc. ...	...	110
Waste sold ...	...	4
Work done on commission ...	...	47†
TOTAL ...	...	1,980

\* The output of hair curled in Scotland was 53,131 cwt., valued at £216,000. Particulars of the output of other goods made in Scotland cannot be given owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms.

† Amount received.

Table III A.—Materials, fuel and electricity purchased and used

Kind of materials, etc.	Unit	England and Wales and Northern Ireland	Scotland	United Kingdom
Coir yarn ...	Th. cwts. £'000	72.5 80	—	72.5 80
Horsehair ...	Th. cwts. £'000	24.4 138	5.9 28	30.3 166
Hog hair :—				
Dyed ...	Th. cwts. £'000	17.4 34	20.8 40	38.2 74
Undyed ...	Th. cwts. £'000	9.4 37	20.4 28	29.8 65
Other hair ...	Th. cwts. £'000	*	*	30.2
Feathers (including down) ...	Th. cwts. £'000	*	*	119
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes :—				128.6
Coal ...	Th. tons £'000	15.9 17	4.7 3	20.6 20
Coke ...	Th. tons £'000	1.1 1	—	1.1 1
Heavy fuel oil... ..	Th. galls. £'000	27 1	—	27 1
Purchased electricity... ..	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) £'000	3,963 18	246 1	4,209 19
All other purchased materials and fuel ...	£'000	303	26	329
TOTAL ...	£'000	1,116	133	1,249

\* Owing to the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars cannot be given.

Table III B.—Consumption of electricity

Electricity consumed	England and Wales and Northern Ireland	Scotland	United Kingdom
Generated in same works ...	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) 638	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) 179	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) 817
Purchased ...	3,963	246	4,209
TOTAL ...	4,601	425	5,026

Table IV A.—Numbers employed in week ended 12th October, 1935

Persons employed	Males		Females		Total	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
England and Wales and Northern Ireland :—						
Operatives ... ..	249	1,795	349	1,362	598	3,157
Administrative, etc.* ...	18	299	20	136	38	435
Total ... ..	267	2,094	369	1,498	636	3,592
Scotland :—						
Operatives ... ..	—	58	143	421	143	479
Administrative, etc.* ...	—	32	—	20	—	52
Total ... ..	—	90	143	441	143	531
United Kingdom :—						
Operatives ... ..	249	1,853	492	1,783	741	3,636
Administrative, etc.* ...	18	331	20	156	38	487
TOTAL ... ..	267	2,184	512	1,939	779	4,123

\* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

Table IV B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1935

Week ended	Males and females		
	England and Wales and Northern Ireland	Scotland	United Kingdom
January 19 ... ..	2,992	460	3,452
February 16 ... ..	3,032	462	3,494
March 16 ... ..	3,055	455	3,510
April 13 ... ..	3,088	469	3,557
May 18 ... ..	3,117	482	3,599
June 15 ... ..	3,121	506	3,627
July 13 ... ..	3,088	495	3,583
August 17 ... ..	3,067	498	3,565
September 14 ... ..	3,080	487	3,567
October 12... ..	3,157	479	3,636
November 16 ... ..	3,160	474	3,634
December 14 ... ..	3,135	496	3,631
Average for the twelve months ... ..	3,091	480	3,571

Table IV C.—Numbers of outworkers at two specified periods in 1935

Country	January			July		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
England and Wales* ...	9	15	24	7	18	25

\* No outworkers were recorded for Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Table V.—Firms employing not more than ten persons on the average

Particulars	England and Wales and Northern Ireland	Scotland	United Kingdom
Number of returns ... ..	No. 63	No. 2	No. 65
Average number of persons employed :—			
Males ... ..	252	4	256
Females ... ..	86	3	89
Total ... ..	338	7	345