

BOARD OF TRADE

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*The Report on the  
Census of Production  
for 1954*

Volume 6: Industry M

NARROW FABRICS



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Statistics of Trade Act, 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6 Ch. 39, Sec. 7)*

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# The Report on the Census of Production for 1954

VOLUME 6. INDUSTRY M

## NARROW FABRICS

THIS REPORT on the Narrow Fabrics Industry relates to establishments engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of braids, webs, ribbons, trimmings and tapes (including those containing elastic), and in the manufacture of woven machinery belting.

This industry corresponds to minimum list heading 121 in the Standard Industrial Classification.

There were no larger establishments in Northern Ireland in the register for this industry.

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IMPORTANT NOTES and definitions appear on the next page. In interpreting the data in the tables, it is essential to bear these in mind.

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The following notes describe terms in general use in the tables of the report. More detailed explanations of the terms used and a description of the scope and method of taking the census are given in the separate booklet entitled 'The Report on the Census of Production for 1954 - Introductory Notes' (price 1s. 6d. net).

**Industrial Classification:** Establishments are classified to industries according to the nature of their output and, as far as possible, in conformity with the Standard Industrial Classification. Certain products are identified as the principal products of individual industries, the principal products for a given industry being of a similar nature or commonly associated in production. The principle of classification normally followed is that an establishment is classified to an industry if its output of the principal products of that industry accounted for a greater proportion of the value of its output than did its output of the principal products of any other industry.

**Specialist producers** normally comprise those establishments 50 per cent. or more of whose total output by value is accounted for by the characteristic products of the specialist group.

**Intermediate products:** For some industries figures are given showing the total quantities made during the year of intermediate products, i.e., products which may be further processed in the establishments in which they are produced.

**Larger establishments:** The information given in the report relates mainly to 'larger establishments', i.e., establishments of firms employing on the average more than 10 persons. In most cases an establishment comprises the whole of the premises under the same ownership or management at a particular address (e.g., a mine or factory). Offices, warehouses, laboratories and other ancillary places of business situated apart from the producing works are not regarded as separate establishments and are included in the return for the works.

**Small firms** are those employing on the average 10 or fewer persons.

The estimates for the industry as a whole given in Table 1 are normally obtained by increasing the other items shown in the same proportion as total employment.

**Gross output (production)** is the total value of goods made and other work done during the year: it is obtained by adjusting the value of sales and work done during the year for changes in the value of stocks of products on hand for sale and work in progress.

**Net output** is the amount left after deducting from the value of gross output the aggregate of the cost of materials and fuel used, the amount paid for work given out, and, for 1951 and 1954, any transport payments made. This represents the value added to materials by the process of production, and 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.

**Sales** means sales during the year of goods made in the establishment covered by the return or made on commission for it, whether produced in the year or not. The value of sales is the net selling value, i.e., the amount charged to customers, whether on an ex-works or delivered basis, and net of any trade discounts, agents' commissions, allowances for returnable cases, purchase tax, etc. For goods charged on a delivered basis to customers overseas, firms were required to give the f.o.b. value.

**Materials and fuel:** The total cost of materials and fuel purchased includes all purchases during the year of materials for use in production, and of fuel (includ-

ing oil, gas and electricity) for all purposes: packing materials, including the full cost of returnable cases when first purchased; workshop and office materials; water charges; materials for repairs to buildings, plant and vehicles when carried out by firms' own work-people included in their returns; consumable tools; and parts for machinery purchased as replacements. Purchases of goods for merchanting are excluded. The cost of materials and fuel used, given in Table 2, is obtained by adjusting purchases for changes during the year in the value of stocks.

**Stocks:** Firms were required to give stocks of materials and fuel, products on hand for sale, and work in progress, at income tax values.

**Customs and Excise Duty** paid on materials purchased is normally included in the cost of materials. Finished goods are similarly valued as they were sold, duty-paid or duty-free. The net amount of any duty paid is deducted in arriving at net output.

**Employment:** Total employment includes working proprietors, administrative, technical and clerical employees, and operatives, but excludes outworkers, canteen employees and persons engaged in merchanting or any other activity not covered by a firm's return, who are shown separately as excluded employees. Employees are persons on the pay-roll (i.e., persons whose National Insurance cards were held by employers), whether employed full-time or part-time.

**Working proprietors** are proprietors of businesses other than limited companies, together with members of their families who worked in the business without receiving fixed wages or salaries. Any persons working less than half the normal hours are excluded. For Northern Ireland directors of limited companies (other than those paid by fee only) are also included.

**Administrative, technical and clerical employees** include directors, other than those paid by fee only (except in Northern Ireland); 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, i.e., broadly speaking, all manual workers.

**Outworkers** are persons employed by the firm who work on materials supplied by the firm in their own homes.

**Wages and salaries** include all overtime payments, bonuses and commissions without any deductions for income tax, insurances, contributory pensions etc. They exclude payments to working proprietors.

**Capital expenditure** includes expenditure on new building work, and on plant, machinery and vehicles, charged to capital account during the year, including any transport and installation costs involved. It includes expenditure in respect of establishments in Great Britain which had not begun production before the end of the year (which has not previously been included in the Census of Production reports for individual industries).

**Symbols used:**

.. for not available

- for nil or negligible (less than half the final digit shown).

Where figures are rounded, e.g., given to the nearest £ thousand, there may be apparent slight discrepancies between the sums of constituent items and the totals shown. In some cases, figures have been combined with others of a similar nature where publication of separate details might disclose information relating to an individual undertaking.

## Industry summary

Estimates for the industry as a whole

TABLE 1

	United Kingdom			Scotland 1954	Wales 1954
	1948	1951	1954		
Gross output (production)	£ million 18.4	£ million 29.8	£ million 28.4	£ million 1.18	£ million 0.55
Net output	8.5	11.5	11.7	0.39	0.21
Total stocks and work in progress	.	.	.	.	.
At beginning of year	2.9	5.1	5.3	0.34	0.08
Change during year	+ 0.9	+ 1.9	+ 0.5	+ 0.02	+ 0.03
Capital expenditure less disposals (a)	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.02	0.01
Wages and salaries	4.1	5.4	6.4	0.21	0.13
Total employment (including working proprietors)	Thousands 18.5	Thousands 20.1	Thousands 19.8	Thousands 0.63	Thousands 0.41

(a) Capital expenditure on new building work, plant, machinery and vehicles (including (except in 1948) that incurred in Great Britain for establishments not yet in production), less amounts received for plant, machinery and vehicles disposed of.

## Summary of returns received

TABLE 2

	Unit	Great Britain 1948	United Kingdom	
			1951	1954
<b>FIRMS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE MORE THAN 10 PERSONS</b>				
Number of establishments	No.	209	208	201
Total value of sales and work done	£'000	17,642	28,459	27,127
Products on hand for sale	"	1,058	2,060	2,256
and work in progress	"	471	795	425
Gross output (production) (a)	"	18,042	29,254	27,552
Purchases of materials and fuel	"	9,533	18,108	15,257
Stocks of materials and fuel	"	1,810	2,991	2,855
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	425	1,025	85
Payment for work done on materials given out	"	9,108	17,083	15,172
Payment for transport (b)	"	581	738	860
Net output	"	71	158	196
Average number of employees	No.	8,354	11,275	11,323
Total employment (d)	"	15,971	17,294	16,632
Net output per person employed (d)	"	2,145 (c)	2,419	2,539
Wages and salaries	£'000	18,153	19,741	19,192
Capital expenditure	"	460	571	590
New building work (e)	"	3,031	3,986	4,671
Plant and machinery	"	1,036	1,359	1,520
Vehicles	"	212	132	155
	"	471	585	632
	"	5	22	19
	"	52	126	106
	"	10	26	29
<b>FIRMS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE 10 OR FEWER PERSONS</b>				
Number of returns	No.	49	59 (f)	74
Total employment, including working proprietors	"	325	360 (f)	502

(a) For the year 1948 gross output excludes payments for transport services outwards on finished goods sold. For subsequent years gross output includes payments to other firms and undertakings and to firms' own separate transport organisations for transport services.

(b) Payments to other firms and undertakings and to firms' own separate transport organisations. For the year 1948 payments cover only transport outwards of finished goods sold. For subsequent years they cover payments for transport of both finished goods sold and materials and fuel purchased.

(c) Number in week ended September 25, 1948.

(d) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.

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

(f) Excluding Northern Ireland. No information about small firms was collected in Northern Ireland for 1951.

## NARROW FABRICS

TABLE 3 Analysis by size, 1954: Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

Average number employed (a)	Estab-lish-ments	Gross output	Net output	Employees		Wages and salaries		Capital expenditure (b)	Net output per person employed (a)
				Operatives	Others	Operatives	Others		
	Number	£'000	£'000	Number	Number	£'000	£'000	£'000	£
11 - 24 (c)	44	1,013	396	598	100	162	60	19	562
25 - 49	48	3,280	1,191	1,597	237	412	145	139	649
50 - 99	45	4,254	1,691	2,750	368	716	226	77	541
100 - 199	40	7,478	3,097	4,758	641	1,378	376	143	573
200 - 299	10	3,611	1,343	2,007	293	544	189	138	584
300 - 399	7	2,719	1,237	2,110	279	572	163	112	518
400 - 749	7	5,196	2,368	2,812	621	886	360	266	690
Total	201	27,552	11,323	16,632	2,539	4,671	1,520	894	590

- (a) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.  
 (b) Capital expenditure on new building work and on acquisition of plant, machinery and vehicles.  
 Excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.  
 (c) Including a small number of establishments with fewer than 11 persons employed, particulars of which were included with those for larger establishments on a single return.

Analysis according to specialisation within the industry, 1954  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 4

	Unit	Specialist producers of								Remain-der of the in-dustry	Total
		Elastic goods	Solid woven machin-ery bel-ting	Tapes and webs	Ribbon, pet-ershams, galloons and bindings except bias bindings	Bias bind-ings	Woven labels	Non-elastic braids	Trim-mings and frin-ges		
Number of establishments	No.	37	9	41	27	13	6	14	17	37	201
Total value of sales and work done	£'000	8,490	1,035	5,800	3,244	1,246	761	921	1,202	4,428	27,127
Sales of characteristic products	"	7,320	894	5,542	2,394	1,172	563	775	1,137		
Products on hand for sale and work in progress	{ at beginning of year { change dur- { ing year	706	192	529	283	63	66	72	33	312	2,256
Gross output (production)	"	+ 141	- 8	+ 76	+ 53	+ 40	+ 19	+ 14	+ 7	+ 84	+ 425
	"	8,630	1,027	5,876	3,297	1,286	780	936	1,209	4,511	27,552
Purchases of materials and fuel	"	4,968	612	3,516	1,651	951	195	536	599	2,229	15,257
Stocks of materials and fuel	{ at beginning of year { change dur- { ing year	851	131	627	306	163	87	95	140	455	2,855
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	+ 36	- 1	- 2	+ 17	+ 21	-	+ 8	- 7	+ 13	+ 85
Payment for work done on materials given out	"	4,933	613	3,518	1,634	930	194	528	606	2,216	15,172
Payment for transport	"	215	3	158	214	17	51	18	17	166	860
	"	42	9	50	34	9	2	7	10	32	196
Net output	"	3,440	401	2,150	1,415	330	531	383	576	2,097	11,323
Average number of employees	{ operatives { others	No. 4,694	569	3,563	2,243	391	780	609	893	2,890	16,632
Total employment (a)	"	644	128	417	295	68	200	106	105	576	2,539
	"	5,338	697	3,991	2,538	459	980	719	998	3,472	19,192
Net output per person employed (a)	£	644	576 <sup>(b)</sup>	539	558	718	542	532	577	604	590
Wages and salaries	{ of operatives { of others	£'000 1,367	181	945	640	101	217	158	236	826	4,671
	"	381	69	272	176	44	87	69	63	359	1,520
Capital expenditure	"	39	11	4	21	(c)	(c)	-	10	27	155
New building work (b)	"	212	17	60	117	5	55	27	20	119	632
Plant and machinery	{ acquisitions (b) { disposals	7	1	2	-	-	2	1	-	5	19
Vehicles	{ acquisitions (b) { disposals	31	5	18	11	2	5	3	2	30	106
	"	7	2	5	4	1	1	1	1	8	29

- (a) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.  
 (b) Capital expenditure for establishments not yet in production is excluded.  
 (c) Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars cannot be given.

## NARROW FABRICS

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

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 5

	1951		1954		Entries
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
Elastic goods	Th.lb.	£'000	Th.lb.	£'000	Number
Covered rubber thread	2,690	2,437(a)	2,800	2,563	12
	Th.gross lin.yds.		Th.gross lin.yds.		
Braid elastics (flat or round)	2,127	1,469	1,758	1,323	19
Woven elastic webs					
Up to 2in. wide	550	2,431	631	2,675	21
Over 2in. wide (b)	58	1,443	69	1,428	16
Knitted elastic webs (b)	12	352	10	252	11
	..	65	..	..	..
	Th.doz.		..		
Roll-on blanks and other elastic goods except surgical hosiery and clothing (c)	161	525	..	721	9
	..	465	..	..	..
Elastic cords, braids, webs, and fabrics, unclassified	..	121	..	24	..
Non-elastic goods	Th.cwt.		Th.cwt.		
Solid woven machinery belting (including conveyor and elevator bands and spindle tapes)					
Of cotton	22.9	1,421	41.1	1,858	18
Of hair, or of hair mixed with cotton	19.8	1,391	8.2	435	8
Of other materials (d)	1.6	167	6.0	328	8
Tapes and light webs (up to 5lb. per gross yards in 1 inch width)	Th.gross lin.yds.		Th.gross lin.yds.		
Of cotton	7,072(e)	4,465	6,977	4,248	49
	..	525	..	..	..
Of other materials except asbestos (f)	556(e)	576	540	624	30
Heavy webs (over 5lb. per gross yards in 1 inch width)	Th.cwt.		Th.cwt.		
Of cotton	24.5	1,353	19.8	966	21
	..	..	..	214	..
Of other materials except asbestos (f)	10.2	350	8.9	393	15
	Th.gross lin.yds.		Th.gross lin.yds.		
Ribbons (excluding petershams) of silk or of silk mixed with other materials	138	184	157	165	17
Other ribbons, petershams, galloons and bindings, except bias bindings					
Of man-made fibres (rayon, nylon, etc.)	1,363	1,302	1,310	1,163	28
Of man-made fibres (rayon, nylon etc.) mixed with other materials except silk	766	887	1,072	1,202	35
Of cotton	219	193	380	238	27
	..	..	..	383	..
Of other materials	57	54	79	61	6
Bias bindings	2,828	1,696	3,385	1,317	20
Woven labels	118	599	146	817	15
Non-elastic braids	Th.gross of single laces		Th.gross of single laces		
Boot, shoe, corset and similar laces, finished or not	1,488	904	1,212	647	27
	..	..	..	81	..
Other non-elastic braids except wicks, trimmings and fringes	..	1,059	..	923	30

TABLE 5 (contd.)

	1951		1954		
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Entries
	Th.cwt.	£'000	Th.cwt.	£'000	Number
Non-elastic goods (contd.)					
Wicks	6.9	313	6.0	291	6
Trimnings and fringes (g)	..	1,046	..	1,450	28
Other textile smallwares	..	2,539	..	2,356	68
Waste products	..	33	..	40	100
Work done for the trade or on commission (h)		217		179	31
Total		30,583		29,364	..
Sales in other industries (see Table 6)		3,430		3,845	..
Principal products of this industry sold by establishments in the industry		27,153		25,519	176

- (a) So far as recorded separately, and including some goods returned under other headings but believed to be covered rubber thread.  
 (b) On a 6 inch width basis.  
 (c) For surgical hosiery see the Scientific, Surgical and Photographic Instruments, etc. Industry (Volume 5, Industry H) and for clothing, the Tailoring, Dressmaking, etc. Industry (Volume 7, Industry H).  
 (d) For rubber and balata machinery belting see Rubber Industry (Volume 11, Industry A) and for leather, see Leather (Tanning and Dressing) Industry (Volume 7, Industry D).  
 (e) Amended figure.  
 (f) For asbestos webbing, listing and braiding see the Asbestos Industry (Volume 7, Industry A).  
 (g) Excluding upholstery trimmings made from purchased fabric by establishments classified to the Soft Furnishings Industry (Volume 10, Industry C).  
 (h) Amount charged.

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

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 6

	1954			Principal industries in which produced (a)
	Quantity	Value	Entries	
		£'000	Number	
Elastic goods, except surgical hosiery and clothing	..	1,093	9	6E, 6J, 7H, 11A
Non-elastic goods				
Solid woven machinery belting (including conveyor and elevator bands and spindle tapes)	Th.cwt.		..	7A
Of hair or of hair mixed with cotton	3	177	..	7A
Of cotton or of other materials	32	1,457	5	7A, 11A
Heavy and light webs and tapes of cotton and other materials, except asbestos	..	318	7	6G, 7A, 11A
Ribbons, petershams, galloons and bindings (including bias bindings) and woven labels	..	31	..	6B, 6J, 7H
Non-elastic braids				
Boot, shoe, corset and similar laces finished or not	2	2	6	6J
Other non-elastic braids	..	155	..	6J
Other textile smallwares, including wicks, and trimmings and fringes	..	604	29	
Work done for the trade or on commission (b)		8	..	
Total		3,845	..	

- (a) The volume number and industry references given are to the industries shown in the list at the back of this report.  
 (b) Amount charged.

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Sales in the industry of other than principal products

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 7

	1954	
	Quantity	Value
		£'000
Braces, suspenders, belts, etc., (other than corset belts)	..	199
Manufactures of cotton, other than narrow fabrics	..	189
Manufactures of rayon, nylon, etc., and silk, other than narrow fabrics	..	262
Other goods	..	957
Total		1,607

Total make of intermediate products  
 Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 8

	Returned in this industry			Returned in all industries		
	1951	1954		1951	1954	
	Quantity	Quantity	Entries	Quantity	Quantity	Entries
	Th.lb.	Th.lb.	Number	Th.lb.	Th.lb.	Number
Elastic goods						
Covered rubber thread	(a)	2,276	..	(a)	2,326	15
Woven elastic webs	Th.gross lin.yds.	Th.gross lin.yds.		Th.gross lin.yds.	Th.gross lin.yds.	
Up to 2in. wide	645	655	21	645	655	21
Over 2in. wide (b)	77	72	17	77	72	17

- (a) Total make of covered rubber thread was not recorded in 1951.  
 (b) On a 6 inch width basis.

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## NARROW FABRICS

Purchases of materials and fuel, 1954  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 9

	Quantity	Cost
	Th.lb.	£'000
<b>Materials</b>		
Rubber thread		
Not covered	2,153	769
Covered	1,754	1,533
Cotton yarn	19,808	5,689
Man-made fibre (rayon, nylon, etc.) yarn		
Continuous filament		
Synthetic (nylon, etc. including plastic)	586	392
Other (rayon, etc.)	7,118	1,781
Wholly or partly of staple fibre	701	166
Silk yarn	702	234
Woollen and worsted yarn	525	287
Hair yarn	246	102
	..	28
	Th.sq.yds.	
Woven piece goods wholly or mainly of		
Cotton	9,678	936
Man-made fibres (rayon, nylon, etc.)	..	622
Packing materials	2,497	420
All other purchased materials	..	263
	Th.tons	1,686
<b>Fuel and electricity</b>		
Coal	35.6	122
Coke	3.0	14
Liquid fuels (including creosote/pitch mixtures)		
For use in internal combustion engines	Th.gal.	
Motor spirit (petrol) for use in road vehicles and derv. fuel	154	32
Other	62	2
For burning in furnaces, boilers, kilns, etc.	466	20
Gas purchased	Th.therms	
From Gas Boards	271	15
From other sources, including other departments of the same firms	..	2
-	-	-
Electricity purchased (a)	Th.kWh.	
From Electricity Boards	17,792	115
From other sources, including other departments of the same firms	..	21
-	-	-
-	-	-
All other purchased fuel		4
<b>Total cost</b>		15,257

(a) The total quantity of electricity generated in firms' own establishments in this industry in 1954 was 1,871 Th.kWh.

## NARROW FABRICS

Average number of employees and wages, salaries and superannuation payments (a)

TABLE 10

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
<b>Average number of employees</b>		
Operatives	17,294	16,632
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	2,419	2,539
<b>Total</b>	19,713	19,171
<b>Wages and salaries paid to</b>	£'000	£'000
Operatives	3,986	4,671
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	1,359	1,520
<b>Total</b>	5,345	6,191
<b>Wages and salaries per head</b>	£	£
Operatives	230	281
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	562	599
<b>Superannuation and other pension funds for employees and dependents</b>		£'000
Employers' contributions	..	72
<b>Employees covered</b>	..	Number 1,855
<b>Pension, etc., payments to former employees and dependents</b>	..	£'000 12

(a) The following persons, not included above, were also employed by larger establishments in this industry ("other workers" includes, for example, employees engaged in merchandising):

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
<b>Canteen workers</b>		
Male	5	1
Female	205	185
<b>Total</b>	210	186
<b>Other workers</b>		
Male	63	63
Female	33	56
<b>Total</b>	96	119
<b>Total excluded employees</b>	306	305
<b>Outworkers</b>		
Male	2	3
Female	774	791
<b>Total</b>	776	794
<b>Payments to outworkers</b>	£'000 61	£'000 61

Employment in a specified week (a)

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 11

Number

	1951			1954		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Working proprietors	27	1	28	20	1	21
Operatives	4,777	12,826	17,603	4,309	12,683	16,992
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	1,409	1,037	2,446	1,441	1,097	2,538
<b>Total employees</b>	6,186	13,863	20,049	5,750	13,780	19,530

(a) Week ended September 22, 1951, or October 30, 1954.

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