

## THE GLOVE TRADE.

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## Introductory.\*

The Tables on pages 308-310 are based on Returns received from firms in Great Britain (predominantly in England and Wales) whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the manufacture of leather gloves and fabric gloves.† The number of such separate Returns was 123. Seventeen firms to which schedules were sent did not furnish Returns, but these firms for the most part had very small establishments. On the basis of the information available it is estimated that they did not employ more than 60 persons and that their net output was probably under £10,000.

*Summary of results.*—The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1924, 1912 and 1907, comparisons between the figures for the three years being subject to the qualifications mentioned in the next paragraph.

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

† As regards woollen gloves, see the Report on the Hosiery Trades in the separate volume dealing with the Textile Trades.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1912.	1907.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output) .. .. .	£'000	2,313	1,019	1,046
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	1,261	620	606
Paid for work given out to other firms ..	"	6	—	—
Net output .. .. .	"	1,046	399	440
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	No.	5,757	4,715	4,828
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	£	182	85	91
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	2,027	837	509
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	474	90	(not recorded)

*Qualifications affecting comparisons.*—In considering the above table and the other tables in this Report which show figures for the 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.

(2) The Censuses of 1907 and 1912 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, since, in the Reports on the Census of Production taken by the Government of the Irish Free State in respect of the year 1926, there is no separate record of any production of leather or fabric gloves.

(3) The Censuses of 1907 and 1924 extended to all firms, however small, but in 1912 firms employing not more than five persons (excluding the proprietors) were merely required to state 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 39, or less than 1 per cent. of the number employed by the remaining firms, as shown in the above table.

*Value of output and cost of materials.*—The figures in the above table representing the value of goods made and work done and the cost of materials used, are the aggregates of the figures recorded by the firms making Returns, and, for the reasons explained in paragraphs (i) and (ii) on page xii, they may overstate the value of the output of, and the cost of the materials used by, the Glove-making Trade considered as a whole. The matter is discussed on page 303, where it is estimated that in 1924 the value, free from duplication, of the output of that trade lay between £2,237,000 and £2,313,000, and the cost of materials purchased from sources outside the trade and worked up into its products lay between £1,191,000 and £1,261,000.

### Production.

Detailed information as to the output of the Glove-making Trade in 1924 will be found in Table II on page 308.

In addition to the output dealt with in this Report, gloves valued, on a cost basis, at £1,000 were produced in 1924 in H.M. Prisons.\*

*Gloves.*—The following statement shows, for the three censal years, the value and (where recorded) the quantity of the different kinds of gloves manufactured, the figures for 1924 being divided so as to show separately the output of the firms which made their Returns on schedules for the Glove-making Trade.

Output sold or added to stock.	1924.				1912.	1907.
	Returned on schedules for—					
	The Glove-making Trade.		All trades.*			
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	Th. doz.	£'000.	Th. doz.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Gloves of leather .. .. .	548	1,913	580	1,985	847 (611,000 doz. prs.)	848 (596,000 doz. prs.)
Fabric gloves :—						
Of cotton .. .. .	103	123	138	146	} 89	} 171
Of silk, artificial silk, etc.	26	52	66	88		
Gloves of wool or of which the chief value is wool ..	70	37	761	560		
TOTAL—GLOVES .. .. .	747	2,125	1,545	2,779	936	1,019

\* Including the Hosiery Trades, the Report on which forms part of the separate volume dealing with the Textile Trades.

In the above table, goods made of mixed textiles are classed by their trade description, generally under that component which contributed the greater part of the value.

The number of gloves recorded as made for sale is exclusive of any gloves made by firms working on materials supplied by merchant firms, and as merchant firms did not make Returns to the Census of Production it is not possible to determine whether the figures shown in the above statement represent completely the output of the different kinds of gloves. For example, the Returns made on schedules for the Glove-making Trade in respect of 1924 showed that firms in that trade stitched or made up 32,000 dozen pairs of fabric gloves from materials supplied by other firms. Neither the value of these gloves, nor the material of which they were made, nor its value, was stated in the Returns ; but the amount received for the work of

\* Such production falls within the scope of the Report on Public Utility Services, which forms part of a separate volume.

stitching or making up was £16,000. As the total amount paid for such work by firms in the Glove-making Trade that produced fabric gloves was less than £1,000, it follows that a small part only of the 32,000 dozen pairs of gloves in question can be included in the 129,000 dozen pairs shown in the above statement as having been made for sale by firms in the Glove-making Trade. Some part of them may have been made up or stitched for firms in the Hosiery Trade that recorded an output of fabric gloves, and may, therefore, be included in the 60,000 dozen pairs of fabric gloves shown in the Returns for that trade. On the other hand, some part or the whole of the 32,000 dozen pairs referred to may represent the product of work done on materials supplied by merchant firms that made no Returns to the Census, and may, therefore, constitute an addition to the number of 204,000 dozen pairs of fabric gloves shown in the above statement for 1924.

As, in 1907 and 1912, manufacturers were not required to state the quantities or to distinguish the kinds of textile gloves made by them, it is not possible to compare the output of fabric gloves or other textile gloves at the three Censuses. In the case of leather gloves, the statement given above shows that the output in 1912 (611,000 dozen pairs) was greater than that in 1907 (596,000 dozen pairs) by about 2.5 per cent., but the output in 1924 (580,000 dozen pairs) was below that in either of the two pre-war years.

It will be seen from the statement that in 1924 leather gloves and cotton fabric gloves were produced mainly by firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Glove-making Trade, and that fabric gloves of silk, artificial silk, etc., and woollen gloves, were produced mainly by firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Hosiery Trades. It is not possible, however, to analyse the Returns so as to obtain, in addition to the particulars of production already given, separate particulars relating to the number of persons employed and the amount of power equipment used in 1924 in the production of leather gloves, fabric gloves and woollen gloves, respectively. For example, the information received shows that twenty-four firms that made Returns to the Census were engaged in 1924 in the manufacture of fabric gloves; but, of the fifteen that made their Returns on schedules for the Glove-making Trade, several were also engaged in the manufacture of leather gloves, while fabric gloves formed a minor part of the output (chiefly woollen gloves, stockings and knitted underwear, outer garments, etc.) of the remaining nine firms.

*Other products.*—Firms which made their Returns on schedules for the Glove-making Trade recorded the production of the following goods which are mainly manufactured by other trades and are dealt with in the reports relating to those trades.

Kind of goods.	1924.	1912.	1907.
	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Skins, dressed and undressed .. .. .	70	48	14
Leather sports goods (batting, boxing, etc., gloves) ..	10	} 2	} 11
Other leather manufactures .. .. .	23		
Wool and hair .. .. .	20	7	
Other goods made .. .. .	12	5	
TOTAL .. .. .	135	62	25

*Work done on commission or for the trade.*—The amount recorded on schedules for the Glove-making Trade in respect of work done on commission or for the trade was £53,000 in 1924 (of which £16,000 was for stitching and making-up fabric gloves), £24,000 in 1912 and £11,000 in 1907.

*Value of output free from duplication.*—The aggregate value of the gross output of the firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Glove-making Trade in 1924 was £2,313,000. This total may include duplication up to a possible maximum of £76,000, since (1) part or the whole of the *skins, dressed and undressed*, valued at £70,000, which were recorded as having been made for sale may have been sold to other firms in the trade for use in the production of gloves or other manufactures of leather included in their Returns to the Census, and (2) part or the whole of the work valued at £6,000 which was given out by firms in the Glove-making Trade to other firms may have been given out to firms in the same trade, thus forming part of the total of £53,000 recorded under the heading of *work done for the trade*. The output value of the Glove-making Trade in 1924, free from duplication, may, therefore, be estimated as lying between £2,237,000 and £2,313,000. Estimated on the same basis, the value of the output, free from duplication, in 1907 was between £1,032,000 and £1,046,000.

*Cost of materials and work given out.*—The cost of the materials used by firms making their Returns on schedules for the Glove-making Trade was returned as £1,261,000 in 1924, a sum which, by the exclusion of dressed and undressed skins valued at not more than £70,000 which may have been purchased from other firms in the trade, may be reduced to not less than £1,191,000. The corresponding net figure for 1907 was not less than £592,000.

The amount paid to other firms for work given out to them was returned as £6,000 in 1924; no record of payments of this kind was made in 1912 and 1907.

*Net output.*—The net output in 1924 of the firms making their Returns on schedules for the Glove-making Trade (whose gross output was valued at £2,313,000) was £1,046,000, that sum representing, without duplication, the total amount by which the value, as delivered, of the aggregate output exceeded the cost, as purchased, of the materials used and the amount paid to other firms for work given out to them.

The net output per head of persons employed (excluding outworkers) in the censal year 1924 was £182 as compared with £85 in 1912, and £91 in 1907.

*Exports and imports.*—In the case of leather gloves, particulars are available for the purpose of comparing production with exports and imports in respect of all three censal years. In the case of other descriptions, a similar comparison is possible only in respect of 1924. The figures are given in the following statement:—

Kind of goods.	Pro-duction.		Percentage of British-made goods exported.	Net imports.		Share of home market held by British-made goods.
	Quantity.	Quantity.		Quantity.	Quantity.	
	Th. doz. prs.	Th. doz. prs.	Per cent.	Th. doz. prs.	Th. doz. prs.	Per cent.
Leather gloves—1924 ..	580	41*	4·8	851	1,390	38·8
„ „ 1912 ..	611	240	39·3	1,193	1,564	23·7
„ „ 1907 ..	596	222	37·2	899	1,273	29·4
Fabric gloves:—						
Of cotton .. ..	138†	59	42·8	817	896	8·8
Of silk, artificialsilk, etc.	66†	29	43·9	25	62	59·7
Knitted gloves of wool and other textiles .. ..	761	249	32·7	283	795	64·4
<b>TOTAL—1924 ..</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>23·6</b>	<b>1,976</b>	<b>3,143</b>	<b>37·1</b>

\* Including 13,500 dozen pairs exported to the Irish Free State.

† Cf. pp. 301-2 with reference to further output.

The total number of pairs of gloves shown in the table as available for use in the United Kingdom in 1924 was somewhat less than 38,000,000, a figure which falls short of the total estimated population of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the same year by about 7,000,000.

While exports of leather gloves in 1924 were almost negligible compared with those in the pre-war years, a corresponding decline was not shown in the quantity produced in this country, the figures thus indicating an expansion in the manufacture of leather gloves for the home market. Retained imports were considerably less in 1924 than in 1912, and the quantity of leather gloves shown in the table as available for consumption was about one-tenth less in 1924 than in 1912.

#### 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 Glove-making Trade 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, 3,987 operatives or 72 per cent. of the total of 5,543 operatives for the trade as a whole, and their net output totalled £713,000 or 68 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £1,046,000 for the trade as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £367,000, representing between 51 and 52 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

#### Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on page 309. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those relating to the two previous censal years. For the purpose of this comparison, the average numbers of operatives of each sex returned for 1924 have been divided between the two age-groups in the proportion shown by the data relating to the week ended 18th October.

Average number (excluding outworkers).	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<b>1924.</b>						
Operatives .. ..	210	2,151	894	3,225	1,104	5,376
Administrative, etc. .. ..	12	269	23	112	35	381
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>2,420</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>3,337</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>5,757</b>
<b>1912.</b>						
Wage earners .. ..	307	2,245	697	2,214	1,004	4,459
Salaried .. ..	5	201	9	55	14	256
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>2,446</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>4,715</b>
<b>1907.</b>						
Wage earners .. ..	320	2,180	683	2,352	1,003	4,532
Salaried .. ..	18	193	20	103	38	296
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>2,373</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>4,828</b>
Average number of outworkers—						
1924 .. ..	18		5,337		5,355	
1912 .. ..	30		5,559		5,589	
1907 .. ..	62		7,820		7,882	

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 183 above the average, in July, to 388 below the average, in January (see Table III B, page 309).

#### Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 310. The following table sets out the particulars for the three censal years relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers* and the capacity of *electric generators* installed.

Power equipment.	1924.			1912.	1907.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.	Total.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
<b>PRIME MOVERS :—</b>					
Reciprocating steam engines ..	294	213	507	425	308
Steam turbines .. .. .	—	6	6	—	—
Gas engines .. .. .	1,148	196	1,344	368	} 185
Petrol and light oil engines ..	124	18	142	} 32	
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	10	—	10		
Water power .. .. .	16	2	18	12	
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>509</b>
<b>ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—</b>	<b>Kw.</b>	<b>Kw.</b>	<b>Kw.</b>	<b>Kw.</b>	<b>Kw.</b>
Driven by—					
Reciprocating steam engines	60	35	95	7	8
Gas engines .. .. .	235	27	262	} 2	} 2
Petrol and light oil engines	3	—	3		
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	5	—	5		
Water power .. .. .	—	—	—		
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

The capacity of *electric motors* recorded in 1924 and in 1912 was as shown below :—

Electric motors.	1924.			1912.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by :—				
Electricity generated in own works	171	30	201	6
Purchased electricity .. .. .	423	51	474	90

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 8,000.

### Machinery Equipment.

In response to a request for voluntary information as to the kinds and numbers of sewing machines at factories, particulars were furnished by firms that produced the following output :—

Products.	Output of firms furnishing particulars of machines.	
	Quantity.	Proportion of total output of the trade.
	Th. doz. prs.	Per cent.
Gloves of leather .. .. .	475	86·7
Fabric gloves—		
Of cotton .. .. .	69	67·0
Of other textile materials .. .. .	7	26·9
Other products .. .. .	£102,000	59·3

The value of the gross output of the firms that produced the above goods was £1,914,000 or 82·7 per cent. of the gross output of the trade.

The kinds and numbers of sewing machines at the factories of these firms at the end of 1924 were as follows :—

Kind of machines.	In use.	Idle.	Total.	Proportion idle.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Per cent.
Sewing machines—Power .. .. .	805	912	1,717	53·1
Treadle or hand .. .. .	1,064	665	1,729	38·5
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>1,577</b>	<b>3,446</b>	<b>45·8</b>
Stitching machines—Power .. .. .	404	106	510	20·8
Treadle or hand .. .. .	174	82	256	32·0
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>24·5</b>
Pointing machines—Power .. .. .	188	70	258	27·1
Treadle or hand .. .. .	77	32	109	29·4
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>27·8</b>

## TABLES.

Note.—No production was recorded in Northern Ireland.

## I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	Great Britain.*
Value of goods made and work done .. .. .	£'000	2,313
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	1,261
Paid for work given out to other firms .. .. .	"	6
Net output .. .. .	"	1,046
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	5,757
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) ..	£	182
Mechanical power available—		
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	2,027
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	474

\* In order to avoid the disclosure of particulars relating to a firm in Scotland, figures can only be given for Great Britain as a whole.

## II.—Production.

Goods made for sale or for stock and work done.	Great Britain.*	
	Quantity.	Selling value.
Gloves of leather .. .. .	Th. doz. prs.	£'000.
Fabric gloves—	548	1,913
Of cotton or of which the chief value is cotton .. .. .	103	123
Of other textile materials .. .. .	26	52
Gloves of wool or of which the chief value is wool .. .. .	70	37
<b>TOTAL—GLOVES .. .. .</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>2,125</b>
Skins, dressed and undressed .. .. .	..	70
Leather sports goods (batting, boxing, etc., gloves) .. .. .	3	10
Other manufactures of leather .. .. .	..	23
Wool and hair .. .. .	..	20
Other goods made .. .. .	..	12
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2,260</b>
Work done on commission or for the trade :—		Amount received.
Stitching and making up of fabric gloves .. .. .	..	£'000.
Other work .. .. .	..	37
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF WORK DONE .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT) .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2,313</b>

\* See footnote to Table I.

## III.—Employment.

## A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1924 (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

Kind of staff.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<i>Great Britain* :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	216	2,216	925	3,327	1,141	5,543
Administrative, technical and clerical staff .. .. .	12	269	23	112	35	381
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2,485</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>3,439</b>	<b>1,176</b>	<b>5,924</b>

\* See footnote to Table I.

## B.—OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1924 (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

*Great Britain\* (Annual average : Males, 2,151 ; Females, 3,225 ; Total, 5,376.)*

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	2,002	2,986	4,988	July 19th ..	2,194	3,365	5,559
Feb. 16th ..	2,079	2,923	5,002	Aug. 16th ..	2,144	3,276	5,420
March 15th ..	2,092	3,016	5,108	Sept. 13th ..	2,176	3,302	5,478
April 12th ..	2,135	3,188	5,323	Oct. 18th ..	2,216	3,327	5,543
May 17th ..	2,170	3,334	5,504	Nov. 15th ..	2,218	3,337	5,555
June 21st ..	2,172	3,369	5,541	Dec. 13th ..	2,209	3,278	5,487

\* See footnote to Table I.

## C.—NUMBER OF OUTWORKERS AT TWO SPECIFIED PERIODS IN 1924.

Country	January.			July.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>Great Britain* .. .. .</i>	16	5,099	5,115	21	5,574	5,595

\* See footnote to Table I.

## IV.—Mechanical Power.

## PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	Great Britain.*	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
	H.P.	H.P.
<b>PRIME MOVERS :—</b>		
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	294	213
Steam turbines .. .. .	—	6
Gas engines .. .. .	1,148	196
Petrol and light oil engines .. .. .	124	18
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	10	—
Water power .. .. .	16	2
TOTAL .. .. .	1,592	435
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED .. .. .	2,027	
	Kw.	Kw.
<b>ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—</b>		
Driven by—		
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	60	35
Gas engines .. .. .	235	27
Petrol and light oil engines .. .. .	3	—
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	5	—
TOTAL .. .. .	303	62
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED .. .. .	365	
	H.P.	H.P.
<b>ELECTRIC MOTORS :—</b>		
Driven by—		
Electricity generated in own works .. .. .	171	30
Purchased electricity .. .. .	423	51

\* See footnote to Table I.