

THE SPIRIT DISTILLING AND TOBACCO TRADES (NORTHERN IRELAND).

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Introductory.*

The Tables on pages 227 to 228 are based on Returns received from firms in Northern Ireland whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the distilling of spirits and the manufacture of tobacco. As explained in the footnote on page 203, the grouping of these trades in general aggregates is rendered necessary by the consideration that the publication of data for each trade separately would involve the disclosure of information relating to the business of individual firms.

The number of separate Returns received from firms in these two trades was 9, of which 5 were in respect of distilleries and 4 in respect of tobacco factories. One firm in the tobacco trade to which a schedule was sent did not furnish a Return, but the output omitted for this reason is negligible.

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

* See also the Notes on pages vii to xiv.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1912.
Value of goods made (Gross output)	£'000	4,184	2,656
Cost of materials used	"	3,403	2,276
Net output	"	781	380
Average number of persons employed	No.	2,401	3,135
Net output per person employed	£	325	121
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	2,686	2,562
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	156	159

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

(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 duty on tobacco.

(2) The Census of 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 in Northern Ireland thus excluded was 17, or little more than 0.5 per cent. of the number employed by the remaining firms, as shown in the above table.

Production.

*Total make of spirits in Northern Ireland**.—Distilleries were required to state the total quantity of spirits produced by them in 1924, whether for sale as such or for use in their works for methylation or in the manufacture of liqueurs, cordials, etc. The total quantity of spirits distilled in Northern Ireland in 1924 was returned as 2,572,000 proof gallons; the corresponding figure for 1912 was 6,095,000 proof gallons.

Output for sale.—The following table shows the quantity and value of the plain spirits made for sale and the aggregate value of the output of tobacco and other products of the Spirit Distilling and Tobacco Trades of Northern Ireland in 1924 and 1912. No output of similar products was returned on schedules for other trades in either year.

Kind of goods.	1924.	1912.
	Value.	Value.
Plain spirits	£'000 243	£'000 349
<i>(Tn. proof gallons)</i>	<i>(2,554)</i>	<i>(6,095)</i>
Tobacco of all kinds and other products	3,941	2,307
TOTAL	4,184	2,656

* See page 204 for a discussion of the total make of spirits in the United Kingdom.

The value of the plain spirits shown above is exclusive of duty; firms were instructed to state the value of manufactured tobacco cleared for home consumption during the year of return as inclusive of duty, but to exclude duty from that of manufactured tobacco exported during the year or remaining in bond at the end of the year. The main duty on unmanufactured tobacco was 8s. 2d. in 1924 and 3s. 8d. in 1912.

The totals shown in the above table are free from duplication.

Cost of materials.—The aggregate cost of materials used by firms in Northern Ireland that made their Returns on schedules for the Spirit Distilling and Tobacco Trades was returned as £3,403,000 in 1924 and £2,276,000 in 1912.

Net output.—The aggregate net output of the firms in Northern Ireland that made their Returns on schedules for the Spirit Distilling and Tobacco Trades (whose gross output was valued at £4,184,000) was £781,000, that sum representing, without duplication, the total amount by which the value (at factory or distillery) of the aggregate output exceeded the cost (at factory or distillery) of the materials used.

The net output per head of persons employed in the censal year 1924 was £325, as compared with £121 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 Spirit Distilling and Tobacco Trades in Northern Ireland 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, 2,201 operatives, or 99 per cent. of the total of 2,227 operatives for the trades as a whole, and their net output totalled £765,000 or 98 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £781,000 for the trades as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £207,000, representing about 27 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in Northern Ireland in 1924 is summarised in Table III on page 227. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those relating to 1912. 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 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	138	1,039	403	1,223	541	2,262
Administrative, etc. ..	9	107	6	32	15	139
TOTAL	147	1,146	409	1,255	556	2,401
1912.						
Wage earners	146	1,526	337	1,374	483	2,900
Salaried	15	218	3	17	18	235
TOTAL	161	1,744	340	1,391	501	3,135

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 108 above the average, in January, to 63 below the average, in July (see Table IIIB, page 227).

Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in Northern Ireland in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 228. The following table sets out the particulars for that year and for 1912 relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers* and the capacity of *electric generators* installed.

Power equipment.	1924.			1912.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
PRIME MOVERS :—				
Reciprocating steam engines ..	H.P. 1,826	H.P. 500	H.P. 2,326	H.P. 2,212
Gas engines	346	—	346	326
Water power	14	—	14	24
TOTAL	2,186	500	2,686	2,562
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—				
Driven by—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Reciprocating steam engines	389	275	664	316
Gas engines	—	47	47	3
Water power	9	—	9	
TOTAL	398	322	720	319

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.
Driven by—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in own works	392	150	542	192
Purchased electricity	106	50	156	159

TABLES.

I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	Northern Ireland
Value of goods made (Gross output)	£'000	4,184
Cost of materials used	"	3,403
Net output	"	781
Average number of persons employed	No.	2,401
Net output per person employed	£	325
Mechanical power available :—		
Prime movers	H.P.	2,686
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity ..	"	156

II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock.	Northern Ireland.	
	Quantity.	Value.
Plain spirits*	Th. proof galls. 2,554	£'000 243
Tobacco of all kinds and other products	3,941
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE (GROSS OUTPUT)		4,184

* The total quantity of spirits distilled in N. Ireland in 1924 is shown in Table IIA on page 210.

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.
<i>Northern Ireland :—</i>						
Operatives	138	1,015	400	1,212	538	2,227
Administrative, technical and clerical staff ..	9	107	6	32	15	139
TOTAL	147	1,122	406	1,244	553	2,366

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

Northern Ireland. (Annual Average : Males, 1,039 ; Females, 1,223 ; Total, 2,262.)

Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	1,062	1,308	2,370	July 19th ..	1,017	1,182	2,199
Feb. 16th ..	1,067	1,275	2,342	Aug. 16th ..	1,018	1,197	2,215
Mar. 15th ..	1,061	1,261	2,322	Sept. 13th ..	1,030	1,200	2,230
Apl. 12th ..	1,049	1,224	2,273	Oct. 18th ..	1,015	1,212	2,227
May, 17th ..	1,029	1,204	2,233	Nov. 15th ..	1,039	1,213	2,252
June 21st ..	1,026	1,207	2,233	Dec. 13th ..	1,054	1,192	2,246

IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	Northern Ireland.	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
PRIME MOVERS :—	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines	1,826	500
Gas engines	346	—
Water power	14	—
TOTAL	2,186	500
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	2,686	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—		
Reciprocating steam engines	389	275
Gas engines	—	47
Water power	9	—
TOTAL	398	322
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	720	
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—		
Electricity generated in own works	392	150
Purchased electricity	106	50