

THE LEATHER GOODS TRADE

INTRODUCTORY

This trade comprises firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of travelling bags, trunks, saddlery, harness and other leather goods.

The figures for 1934 and 1933 are deficient in relation to those for other years by reason of the omission of certain firms, particulars of whose output in 1935 are given in a footnote to Table V. The value of the gross output of those firms in 1935 was £144,000, the net output £69,000 and the number of persons employed 529.

In the absence of information regarding quantities of goods produced in 1934 and of goods exported and imported in 1935 and 1934, Table VI is omitted.

Table I A.—General summary

Particulars	1935	1934	1933	1930*	1924*
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Value of products (Gross output)...	5,676	4,951	4,629	5,002	5,112
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used	3,067	2,687	2,501	2,700	2,793
Amount paid for work given out...	14	9	13	8	17
Net output	2,595	2,255	2,115	2,294	2,302
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) ...	17,816	15,733	14,861	15,137	15,493
	£	£	£	£	£
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	146	143	142	152	149
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Number of returns	319	} †	†	287	307
Number of establishments... ..	323	} †	†	306	†

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

† Not available.

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

Particulars	1935	1930*	1924*
	No.	No.	No.
Number of returns received	1,548	1,402	1,861
Average number of persons employed :—			
Males... ..	3,534	3,036	3,711
Females	1,074	896	555
Total	4,608	3,932	4,266
Number of firms not making returns	4	292	500

* Great Britain only.

In 1924 the value of the gross output of the small firms making returns was 18.3 per cent. of the total, made up as follows:—

Output	Value	Proportion of total
	£'000	Per cent.
Saddlery and harness	200	39.1
Trunks, travelling bags, cases, etc. :—		
Light leather work	80*	7.2
Heavy leather work	26	10.6
Of materials other than leather	40*	4.8
Leather straps, belts, etc.	93	18.4
Fancy goods of leather	79	3.4
Other goods made	60	...
Repair and other work done	571†	85.6
Total	1,149	18.3

* These two items include the small output in Northern Ireland.

† Amount received.

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	110	607	295	1,960	150
25-49	109	1,215	573	3,754	153
50-99	61	1,340	621	4,249	146
100-199... ..	32	1,467	664	4,274	155
200-299... ..	7	493	223	1,671	133
300 and over	4	554	219	1,908	115
TOTAL	323	5,676	2,595	17,816	146

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	1935 162	3,326	1,523	9,178	166
	1930 147	3,091	1,470	8,370	176
2	1935 23	434	180	1,692	106
	1930 19	279	113	933	121
3 and 4	1935 13	183	76	616	122
	1930 9	70	26	215	120
5	1935 85	1,343	616	4,766	129
	1930 82	1,285	561	4,624	121
6	1935 8	73	33	201	166
8	1935 4	43	21	154	139
9	1935 4	52	26	163	160
10	1935 9	76	39	397	98
7, 11, 12 and 18 1935	7	40	21	206	101
6 to 12 and 18 { 1935 32	284	140	1,121	125	
	1930 19	62	514	121	
14 and 15 ... { 1935 8	106	60	443	135	
	1930 11	62	481	128	
TOTAL ... { 1935 323	5,676	2,595	17,816	146	
	287	5,002	2,294	15,137	152

* For particulars see page xviii.

† Number of returns for 1930.

‡ Excluding Northern Ireland.

Table IV.—No sub-divisions of this trade have been distinguished

PRODUCTION

Table V.—Output of principal products

Kind of output	1935 ¶			1934
	Quantity	Value	Entries	Value
	Gross	£'000	No.	£'000
Trunks, bags and other leather goods* :—				
Light leather work (suit cases, attaché cases, etc.)	8,976	459	76	404
Heavy leather work (trunks, sample cases, etc.)	210	42	17	
Travelling bags, trunks and cases of materials other than leather* :—				
Light (suit cases, attaché cases, etc.)	27,114	540	48	986
Heavy (trunks, etc.)	1,162	165	24	
TOTAL—Trunks, travelling bags and cases ... ..	...	1,662	...	1,455
Leather straps, belts, braces, dog collars, etc. ... ..	...	481	98	419
Fancy goods (hand-bags, purses, pocket books, etc.) :—				
Of leather :—				
Ladies' hand-bags	35,111	1,506	102	2,323†
Other descriptions	63,724	625	93	
Of material resembling leather :—				
Ladies' hand-bags	27,791	328	26	370†
Other descriptions	9,099	55	27	
Saddlery and harness ... ..	...	181	40	166
Horse clothing ... ..	...	34	19	28
Whips ... ..	...	19	11	15
Leather-covered buckles‡ ... ..	...	22	6	15
Other leather goods§ ... ..	...	142	29	105
Repair work and work done for the trade ... ..	...	40||	61	33||
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ... ..	...	5,589	...	4,929

¶ Including the following output returned by firms omitted from the 1934 Inquiry :—

	£'000
Trunks, bags and other leather goods	13
Travelling bags, etc., of materials other than leather	6
Leather straps, belts, etc....	27
Fancy goods :—	
Of leather	64
Of material resembling leather	12
Saddlery and harness	8
Leather-covered buckles	2
Other leather goods	6
Work done	3||
Goods, other than of leather	3
Total	144

* Exclusive of the value of toilet articles and other goods purchased and fitted.

† Corrected figure.

‡ So far as recorded separately.

§ Except apparel, machinery belting and sports goods.

|| 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	Value
	Gross	£'000	No.	£'000
Trunks, bags and other leather goods :—				
Light leather work (suit cases, attaché cases, etc.)	71	2	2	22
Heavy leather work (trunks, sample cases, etc.) ... ..	...	14	2	
Travelling bags, trunks and cases of materials other than leather ... ..	...	6	3	5
Leather straps, belts, braces, dog collars, etc. ... ..	...	62	4	66
Fancy goods (hand-bags, purses, pocket books, etc.) :—				
Of leather	649	3	1	107
Of material resembling leather	2,134	123	22	
Horse clothing ... ..	...	5	1	47
Other leather goods ... ..	...	44	6	5
Horse clothing ... ..	...	3	2	61
Other leather goods ... ..	...	83	14	...
TOTAL ... ..	...	379	...	350

Table VII.—Volume of Production, 1924-1935

Principal products	All firms		Firms covered by the Import Duties Act Inquiries, 1933 and 1934				All firms
	1924	1930	1930	1933	1934	1935	1935
Value of output as returned	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Estimated value at 1935 prices*	5,488	5,094	4,843	4,568	4,929	5,445	5,589
Volume of production as a percentage of 1935	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	91	84	83	84	92	100	100

* In the absence of particulars of quantities, these estimates are based on prices of materials and other manufacturing costs.

Table VIII.—Production, Exports and Imports

Kind of goods	Production	Exports	Retained imports
	Value (at factory)	Value (f.o.b.)	Value (c.i.f.)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trunks, bags, wallets, pouches and other receptacles, whether fitted or not :—			
Of leather... ..	{ 1935 * 1934 *	193	306
Of material resembling leather... ..	{ 1935 * 1934 *	68	53
Fancy leather goods, not elsewhere specified :—			
Of leather	{ 1935 * 1934 *	92	1
Of material resembling leather	{ 1935 * 1934 *	7	0
TOTAL—Trunks, etc., and fancy leather goods	{ 1935 4,670† 1934 4,148†	360	360
		307	288

* Owing to differences of classification it is not practicable to compare the production of these goods with exports and imports.

† See footnote (*) to Table V. The production figures for trunks, etc., include goods of material not resembling leather.

Table IX.—Other output of the Leather Goods Trade

The value of the gross output of the firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Leather Goods Trade was £5,676,000 in 1935 and £4,951,000 in 1934 of which £5,210,000 in 1935 and £4,579,000 in 1934 consisted of products included in Table V. Particulars of the remaining items are shown below.

Kind of output	1935	1934
	£'000	£'000
Leather or canvas sports goods	186	220
Other leather goods (clothing, gloves, boots and shoes, machinery belting and accessories, etc.)	72	49
Ladies' hand-bags, other than of leather or of material resembling leather	98	103
Other goods made and work done	110	
TOTAL	466	372

MATERIALS AND FUEL

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

Kind of materials, etc.	1935		1934	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
	Th. lbs.	£'000	Th. lbs.	£'000
Heavy leather	1,598	123	1,626	115
	...	41	...	31
Light leather	25,854	917	23,396	791
	...	122	...	129
Fibre board (compressed and vulcanised)	12,062	134		
	Th. sq. ft.			
Leather cloth	19,998	133		
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes :—	Th. tons			
Coal	1.9	2		
Coke	2.8	4		
Heavy fuel oil	32	1		
	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)			1,621
Purchased electricity*... ..	2,593	20		
All other purchased materials and fuel... ..		1,570		
TOTAL		3,067		2,687

* Including electricity generated in other works under the same ownership.

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

Kind of fuel	1935	1930*
	Th. tons	Th. tons
Coal	1.9	1.8
Coke	2.8	1.2
Electricity :—	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Generated in same works	119	64
Generated in other works under same ownership	23	9
Purchased	2,570	2,266
Total electricity consumed	2,712	2,339

* 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) ...	1,243	5,369	3,387	10,387	4,630	15,756
Administrative, technical clerical staff* ...	986	4,658	2,727	9,179	3,713	13,837
	58	1,173	177	887	235	2,060
	53	1,085	155	811	208	1,896
TOTAL ...	1,301	6,542	3,564	11,274	4,865	17,816†
	1,039	5,743	2,882	9,990	3,921	15,733
Average number of out-workers...	40		193		233	
	28		128		156	

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

† The total comparable with that for 1934 is 17,287.

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*	Firms covered by the Import Duties Act Inquiries, 1933 and 1934					All firms	
	Operatives employed		Monthly index†			Operatives employed	Monthly index†
	1934	1935	1933	1934	1935		
January ...	8,709	9,415	77.2	83.1	92.0	9,698	91.7
February ...	8,971	9,725	79.7	85.6	95.0	10,022	94.8
March ...	9,078	9,774	80.4	86.6	95.5	10,084	95.3
April ...	9,336	9,841	82.1	89.1	96.1	10,160	96.0
May ...	9,348	10,093	83.1	89.1	98.6	10,401	98.3
June ...	9,453	10,104	83.7	90.1	98.7	10,426	98.6
July ...	9,466	10,224	85.6	90.3	99.9	10,567	99.9
August ...	9,524	10,397	87.0	90.8	101.6	10,746	101.6
September ...	9,739	10,612	89.2	92.9	103.7	10,976	103.8
October ...	9,958	10,938	91.9	95.0	106.8	11,333	107.1
November ...	10,276	10,995	93.7	98.0	107.4	11,389	107.7
December ...	9,907	10,722	90.2	94.5	104.7	11,131	105.2
Average for the twelve months ...	9,480	10,237	85.3	90.4	100.0	10,578	100.0
Proportion of total operatives represented ...	68.51	66.90	...	...	...	67.14	...

* 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* ...	13,685	1,808	15,493
1930* ...	13,423	1,714	15,137
1933 ...	13,056	1,805	14,861†
1934 ...	13,837	1,896	15,733†
1935 ...	15,756	2,060	17,816

* Great Britain only.

† See introductory paragraph, page 375.

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 £695,000 in 1935 representing 50.0 per cent. of the net output of these firms, the corresponding figures for 1930 being £578,000 and 51.1 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
	£'000	Per cent.	£'000	Per cent.
Gross output...	3,154	55.6	2,477	49.5
Net output ...	1,390	53.6	1,131	49.3
Operative staff employed:—	No.		No.	
During mid-week of October:—				
Males ...	2,969	52.4	†	†
Females ...	6,296	57.4		
Total ...	9,265	55.7	6,587	48.6
Average for the year ...	8,744	55.5	6,448	48.0
Administrative, technical and clerical staff ...	1,088	52.8	†	†
Number of establishments ...	156	48.3	...	...

* Great Britain only

† 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 Leather Goods Trade.

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	5,570	106	5,676
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used	"	3,021	46	3,067
Amount paid for work given out ...	"	14	—	14
Net output ...	"	2,535	60	2,595
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) ...	No.	17,373	443	17,816
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) ...	£	146	135	146
Number of returns ...	No.	311	8	319
Number of establishments ...	"	315	8	323

Table II.—Output

Kind of output	Unit	England and Wales and Northern Ireland	Scotland	United Kingdom
Trunks, bags and other leather goods* :—				
Light leather work (suit cases, attaché cases, etc.) :—				
Quantity stated ...	Gross £'000	8,476	429	8,905
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	446	11	457
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	41	10	51
Heavy leather work (trunks, sample cases, etc.) :—				
Quantity stated ...	Gross £'000	†	†	210
Quantity not stated ...	£'000			42
Quantity not stated ...	£'000			17
Travelling bags, trunks and cases of materials other than leather* :—				
Light (suit cases, attaché cases, etc.) :—				
Quantity stated ...	Gross £'000	26,741	366	27,107
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	533	6	539
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	251	15	266
Heavy (trunks, etc.) :—				
Quantity stated ...	Gross £'000	†	†	1,162
Quantity not stated ...	£'000			165
Quantity not stated ...	£'000			41
TOTAL—Trunks, travelling bags and cases :—				
Quantity stated ...	Gross £'000	36,532	852	37,384
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	1,180	23	1,203
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	347	28	375

Kind of output	Unit	England and Wales and Northern Ireland	Scotland	United Kingdom
Leather straps, belts, braces, dog collars, etc. ...	£'000	447	—	447
Fancy goods (hand-bags, purses, pocket books, etc.) :—				
Of leather :—				
Ladies' hand-bags :—				
Quantity stated ...	Gross £'000	35,111	—	35,111
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	1,506	—	1,506
Other descriptions :—				
Quantity stated ...	Gross £'000	†	†	63,075
Quantity not stated ...	£'000			622
Quantity not stated ...	£'000			129
Of material resembling leather :—				
Ladies' hand-bags ...	Gross £'000	27,791	—	27,791
Other descriptions :—				
Quantity stated ...	Gross £'000	328	—	328
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	†	†	6,965
Quantity not stated ...	£'000			50
Quantity not stated ...	£'000			19
Quantity not stated ...	£'000	†	†	181
Saddlery and harness ...	£'000	31	—	31
Horse clothing ...	£'000	19	—	19
Whips ...	£'000	22	—	22
Leather-covered buckles† ...	£'000	59	—	59
Other leather goods§ ...	£'000	146	40	186
Leather or canvas sports goods ...	£'000	72	—	72
Other leather goods (clothing, gloves, boots and shoes, machinery belting and accessories, etc.) ...	£'000	98	—	98
Ladies' hand-bags, other than of leather or of material resembling leather ...	£'000	110	—	110
Other goods made ...	£'000	40¶	—	40¶
Repair work and work done for the trade ...	£'000			
TOTAL ...	£'000	5,570	106	5,676

* See footnote (*) to Table V (page 378).

† Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars cannot be given.

‡ So far as recorded separately.

§ Except apparel, machinery belting and sports goods.

¶ 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
Heavy leather :—				
Quantity stated	Th. lbs.	1,578	20	1,598
Quantity not stated	£'000	121	2	123
	£'000	41	...	41
Light leather :—				
Quantity stated	Th. sq. ft.	25,379	475	25,854
Quantity not stated	£'000	901	16	917
	£'000	122	...	122
Fibre board (compressed and vulcanised)	Th. lbs.	11,682	380	12,062
	£'000	130	4	134
Leather cloth	Th. sq. ft.	19,590	408	19,998
	£'000	131	2	133
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes :—				
Coal	Th. tons	1.7	0.2	1.9
	£'000	2	*	2
Coke	Th. tons	2.8	—	2.8
	£'000	4	—	4
Heavy fuel oil	Th. galls.	30	2	32
	£'000	1	*	1
Purchased electricity†... ..	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	2,515	78	2,593
	£'000	19	1	20
All other purchased materials and fuel	£'000	1,549	21	1,570
TOTAL	£'000	3,021	46	3,067

* Less than £500.

† Including electricity generated in other works under the same ownership.

Table III B.—Consumption of electricity

Electricity consumed	England and Wales and Northern Ireland	Scotland	United Kingdom
	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Generated in same works	119	—	119
Generated in other works under same ownership	23	—	23
Purchased	2,492	78	2,570
Total	2,634	78	2,712

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	1,272	5,481	3,454	10,733	4,726	16,214
Administrative, etc.*... ..	57	1,154	175	868	232	2,022
Total	1,329	6,635	3,629	11,601	4,958	18,236
Scotland :—						
Operatives	41	186	120	227	161	413
Administrative, etc.*... ..	1	19	2	19	3	38
Total	42	205	122	246	164	451
United Kingdom :—						
Operatives	1,313	5,667	3,574	10,960	4,887	16,627
Administrative, etc.*... ..	58	1,173	177	887	235	2,060
TOTAL	1,371	6,840	3,751	11,847	5,122	18,687

* 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	14,208	386	14,594
February 16... ..	14,605	409	15,014
March 16	14,787	414	15,201
April 13	14,926	404	15,330
May 18	15,242	403	15,645
June 15	15,189	397	15,586
July 13	15,571	400	15,971
August 17	15,309	407	15,716
September 14	15,868	410	16,278
October 12	16,214	413	16,627
November 16	16,349	419	16,768
December 14	15,945	402	16,347
Average for the twelve months	15,351	405	15,756

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

Country	January			July		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
England and Wales	32	154	186	47	233	280

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
	No.	No.	No.
Number of returns received	1,365	183	1,548
Average number of persons employed :—			
Males... ..	3,133	401	3,534
Females	963	111	1,074
Total	4,096	512	4,608