

THE LEATHER TRADE.

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Introductory.*

The tables on pages 211 to 218 are based on returns received from firms in Great Britain and Northern Ireland whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the tanning and dressing of leather and in the manufacture of machinery belting. The number of such separate returns was 737. About 80 firms to which schedules were sent did not furnish returns, but these firms for the most part had very small establishments and they included some which had ceased operations before the end of the censal year. On the basis of the information available it is estimated that they did not employ more than 250 persons in all and that their total net output probably did not exceed £70,000.

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 :—

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1912.	1907.
Value of products and work done (Gross output)	£'000	33,099	21,707	18,289
Cost of materials used	"	24,209	17,548	14,843
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	160	106	61
Net output	"	8,730	4,053	3,385
Average number of persons employed	No.	31,696	30,082	28,910
Net output per person employed ..	£	275	135	117
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	35,816	23,788	22,609
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	33,716	3,599	(not recorded).

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

(2) The Censuses of 1907 and 1912 covered Great Britain and the whole of 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 1907, only 239 persons, with a gross output of £87,000, were returned for the whole of Ireland as engaged in the Leather Trade.

(3) The Censuses of 1907 and 1924 extended to all firms, however small, but in 1912 firms employing not more than five

* See also the Notes on pages vii to xv.

persons (excluding the proprietors) were required to state only the average number of persons employed by them in the year. According to the information so furnished, the average number of persons employed in the establishments thus excluded was 974, or 3.3 per cent. of the number employed by the remaining firms, as shown in the above table.

(4) Certain tanning firms that maintained fellmongery departments furnished separate returns in respect of those departments (*see* report on the Fellmongery Trade, pages 186 to 194) in the Census of 1924, whereas the majority of firms of this kind made, in 1907 and 1912, composite returns on schedules for the Leather Trade. The effect of this difference in method on the comparability of the figures for the three years is probably small.

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 that made returns, and, for the reasons explained in paragraphs (i) and (ii) on page xiii, they probably overstate the value of the output of, and the cost of materials used by, the Leather Trade considered as a whole. The matter is discussed on page 205, where it is estimated that the value, free from duplication, of the output of the Leather Trade in 1924 was about £30,000,000, and the cost of the materials purchased from sources outside the trade and worked up into its products was about £21,100,000.

Divisions of the industry.—The following statement furnishes certain data for 1924 in respect of the main divisions of the trade :—

Particulars.	Unit.	Firms mainly engaged in—				
		Tanning only.	Tanning and dressing.	Dressing only.	Belting manufacture.	Other work.
Value of products and work done (Gross output)	£'000	13,311	11,546	5,784	1,193	1,265
Cost of materials used	"	10,465	8,074	4,131	749	790
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	5	61	94	—	—
Net output	"	2,841	3,411	1,559	444	475
Average number of persons employed	No.	8,881	13,191	5,862	1,565	2,197
Net output per person employed	£	320	259	266	283	216
Mechanical power available :—						
Prime movers	H.P.	11,935	15,396	6,323	711	1,451
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	12,878	12,441	4,887	1,498	2,012

Production.*Total make of undressed leather.*

Tanners, including firms that carried on also the dressing of leather, were required to state the total quantity of undressed leather made by them in 1924, whether subsequently sold in that state or dressed in their own works. Wherever possible, the quantity was to be stated in tons, but a statement of output in square feet was accepted in the case of those kinds where quantities were usually calculated by that measure; some firms returned their output by dozens of hides or skins only. The following table summarises the information furnished, distinguishing the output returned by firms engaged in tanning only.

Kind of undressed leather.	Returned by firms tanning only.			Returned by all firms.		
	Tons.	Th. sq. ft.	Dozens.	Tons.	Th. sq. ft.	Dozens.
Hides for sole leather ..	71,675	—	—	77,795	—	—
Other hides :—						
Ox and cow (except kips)	12,006	—	—	17,666	1,202	290
Kips	29	—	11	985	6,426	32
Calf	116	—	—	605	4,431	81
Other sorts	903	184	1,659	2,788	725	1,660
Not separately distinguished	—	—	—	2,188	25,828	—
Total—Hide leather	84,729	184	1,670	102,027	38,612	2,063
Skins :—						
Goat	—	—	1,953	124	7,880	29,887
Sheep, whole or split ..	524	—	55,081	954	24,483	644,174
Other sorts	89	—	7,800	404	1,126	39,113
Not separately distinguished	—	—	—	349	22,156	17,508
Total—Skin leather	613	—	64,834	1,831	55,645	730,682
TOTAL—HIDE AND SKIN LEATHER ..	85,342	184	66,504	103,858	94,257	732,745

Firms that tanned leather but did not dress it were, it appears from the table, responsible for 82 per cent. of the weight of all leather returned in terms of weight, but for only a small proportion (about 9 per cent.) of the hides and skins returned in dozens, and for a negligible proportion of the leather returned in terms of square feet.

The total value of the output of undressed leather by firms that were tanners only was £12,763,000, of which £12,628,000, or nearly 99 per cent., represented leather returned by weight and £128,000 represented leather returned by dozens of skins.

In the case of firms that dressed leather as well as tanned it, the following summary statement shows the proportion of their total make of undressed leather which was sold as such, or added to stock.

Class of undressed leather.	Unit of quantity returned.	Total make.		Value.
		Quantity.	Quantity.	
Hides :—				£'000
For sole leather	Tons	6,120	6,120	969
Other sorts returned by—				
Weight	Tons	11,178	3,057	457
Area	Th. sq. ft.	38,428	3	*
Number	Dozens	393	72	2
Skins :—				
Returned by—				
Weight	Tons	1,218	420	90
Area	Th. sq. ft.	55,645	5,614	104
Number	Dozens	665,848	317,755	635
TOTAL VALUE				2,257

* Less than £500.

It would appear that the great bulk of the hides (other than those for sole leather) and more than half the skins tanned by these firms were used by them for further treatment or manufacture in their own works. The value of the undressed leather made for sale by these firms was £2,257,000.

Total make of dressed leather.

Firms in the leather trade were also required to state the total quantity of dressed leather made by them, whether subsequently sold as such or used in their own works in making more finished goods. The following table shows the total make of dressed leather so returned, distinguishing the output of firms that tanned leather in addition to dressing it.

Kind of dressed leather.	Returned by firms that both tanned and dressed leather.			Returned by all firms.		
	Tons.	Th. sq. ft.	Dozens.	Tons.	Th. sq. ft.	Dozens.
Upper leather, other than patent, varnished, japanned or enamelled :—						
Box and willow calf ..	501	15,500	111	1,760	18,868	111
Glacé kid	—	13,399	49,518	62	20,376	49,518
Other sorts	4,205	29,731	45,927	6,861	47,826	99,427
Other than upper leather :						
Hide, calf and kip ..	2,280	4,353	479	4,509	9,707	674
Sheep, goat and kid ..	236	37,056	348,253	1,292	50,035	436,990
Patent, varnished, japanned and enamelled	392	1,682	430	967	2,080	430
Other sorts	2,135	4,059	65,185	4,257	11,428	104,147
TOTAL	9,749	105,780	509,903	19,708	160,320	691,297

It will be seen that the major part of the output of dressed leather was made by firms that tanned leather in addition to dressing it.

As will be seen from the following summary table, the great bulk of the dressed leather made was sold as such and the quantities available for further manufacture by the dressing firms were small :—

Dressed leather returned by—	Total make.	Made for sale or stock.	
	Quantity.	Quantity.	Value.
Tons	19,708	18,615	£'000. 5,324
Thousand square feet	160,320	159,913	5,986
Dozens	691,297	665,955	1,594
TOTAL VALUE	12,904

Output for sale or stock.

Detailed information as to the output of the Leather Trade in 1924 will be found in Table II on pages 212 to 216.

Principal products.—The following statement shows, for the years 1924, 1912, and 1907, the value of the principal products of the Leather Trade made for sale, the figures for each year being inclusive of the output of similar products recorded on schedules for other trades.

Kind of products.	1924.	1912.	1907.
Leather, undressed	£'000. 15,033	£'000. 10,902	£'000. 8,688
Leather, dressed (other than varnished, etc.) ..	12,166	6,380	6,023
Leather, varnished, japanned and enamelled ..	899	409	299
Hides and skins, pickled, etc.	494	325	230
Hat leather	585	211	89
Parchment and vellum	73	70	46
Machinery belting of leather	1,599	1,312	1,194
Machinery accessories of leather	454	278	114
Machinery accessories of hide	108	171	91
Waste products	287	325	318
TOTAL : PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ..	31,698	20,383	17,092

The output of firms in other trades included in the figure of £31,698,000 for 1924 was only £274,000, including, in addition to the items shown in the footnote to the following table, *Hides and skins, pickled*, £34,000; *Parchment and vellum*, £10,000; and *Machinery accessories of leather*, £3,000.

On account of the variations in the methods of returning the quantities of undressed and dressed leather, viz., by weight, by area and by number, comparisons of the output of those classes at the three Censuses cannot be made with any approach to precision. There was a heavy reduction in the output of machinery belting of leather, from 5,450 tons in 1907 and 5,580 tons in 1912, to 2,730 tons in 1924; this reduction was, doubtless, due to the competition of other forms of belting and of cotton driving ropes and to the extended use of electrically-driven machinery.

More detailed particulars of the main classes of output in 1924 are given in the following table, together with the comparative particulars of exports and retained imports :—

Kind of products.	Production for sale or stock.			Exports.		Retained imports.	
	Quantity.		Factory value.	Quantity.	Value f.o.b.	Quantity.	Value c.i.f.
	Unit.	Amount.					
<i>Leather, undressed :—</i>			£'000.	Tons.	£'000.	Tons.	£'000.
Hides for sole leather	Tons	77,795	10,969	6,020	1,095	8,549	996
Other hides :							
Ox and cow ..	Tons	14,166	2,568	2,582	423	10,834	1,906
Calf	Tons	255	96	62	12	353	88
Kips	Tons	200	31	72	12	717	137
Other sorts ..	Tons	1,613	244	1,250	248	5,011	328
TOTAL—Hides ..	Tons	94,029	13,908	9,986	1,790	25,464	3,455
Goat skins	Tons Th. sq. ft.	116 6	31 *	84	30	1,607	509
†Sheep and lamb skins, whole or split ..	Th. dozs. Tons Th. sq. ft. Th. dozs.	5 596 5,305 363	23 181 101 711				
Other skins	Tons Th. sq. ft. Th. dozs.	323 303 20	44 3 31	760	295	2,637	710
TOTAL — LEATHER, UNDRESSED	Tons Th. sq. ft. Th. dozs.	95,064 5,614 388	14,164 104 765	10,863	2,127	29,724	4,684
<i>Leather, dressed :—</i>							
Upper leather, other than patent, varnished, japanned or enamelled :							
Box and willow calf ..	Tons Th. sq. ft. Dozs.	1,760 18,868 111	491 966 1	437	216	2,209	1,849
Glacé kid	Tons Th. sq. ft. Th. dozs.	62 20,376 48	55 806 103				
†Other sorts	Tons Th. sq. ft. Th. dozs.	6,906 47,645 99	1,485 1,635 256	2,380	983	2,068	1,086
TOTAL—Upperleather (other than patent, &c.).	Tons Th. sq. ft. Th. dozs.	8,728 86,889 148	2,031 3,407 360	3,020	1,412	5,751	4,751
Hide, calf and kip, other than upper leather ..	Tons Th. sq. ft. Dozs.	3,969 9,638 674	1,161 527 12	358	178	97	46
†Sheep, goat and kid other than upper leather ..	Tons Th. sq. ft. Th. dozs.	1,632 49,917 413	634 1,552 879				

* † For Notes see page 202.

Kind of products.	Production for sale or stock.			Exports.		Retained imports.	
	Quantity.		Factory value.	Quantity.	Value f.o.b.	Quantity.	Value c.i.f.
	Unit.	Amount.					
<i>Leather, dressed—contd.</i>							
Patent, varnished, japanned and enamelled	Tons	967	768	303	261	1,309	1,403
	Th. sq. ft.	2,057	110				
	Dozs.	430	21				
†Other sorts	Tons	3,779	891	1,124	556	1,234	481
	Th. sq. ft.	11,412	390				
	Th. dozs.	104	322				
TOTAL—LEATHER, DRESSED	Tons	19,075	5,485	5,491	3,204	8,940	7,080
	Th. sq. ft.	159,913	5,986				
	Th. dozs.	666	1,594				
†Machinery belting of leather	Tons	2,830	1,599	1,033	564	205	90

* Under £500.

† The figures of production include the following amounts returned on schedules for other trades:—

(i) Sheep and lamb skins, whole or split ..	5,000 dozen valued at	£10,000.
	2 tons	£1,000.
(ii) Other sorts of upper leather	70 tons	£16,000.
(iii) Sheep, goat and kid, other than upper leather	340	£132,000.
(iv) Other sorts of dressed leather	50	£13,000.
(v) Machinery belting of leather	100	£55,000.

The net imports of undressed leather include, mainly under the description *Ox and cow*, the rough tanned East Indian kips which are a material for the tanner rather than a rival for his products. The value of the "Hides, other than for sole leather," consigned from India in 1924 under the descriptions *Ox and cow* and *Kips* was £1,919,000.

Technical classification of output.—In addition to the classification of dressed and undressed leather set out in the above table, which is that adopted for the purpose of recording the import and export statistics and is, consequently, the only classification in which tanners and leather-dressers were under a statutory obligation to state the quantities of their output, the United Tanners' Federation were desirous of obtaining a more technical grouping. Such a grouping was drawn up with their help, and firms were asked to furnish an additional classification of their output in the detail thus determined. The result was not satisfactory, for the new information thus furnished covered only a little more than one-half of the undressed leather, about one-half of the upper leather, and about one-fourth of the other dressed leather produced in 1924. In view of the incompleteness of the particulars, the relative importance of the different uses of leather distinguished in the technical classification cannot be determined from the information furnished. The output of the firms that furnished particulars is set out in the following tables according to both the official and the technical classifications.

A.—Undressed leather.

Kind of undressed leather.	Tons.	Sq. feet.	Dozens.
(i) Official classification.			
Hides for sole leather	44,229	—	—
Hides, other than for sole leather:—			
Ox and cow (except kips)	9,690	680,788	—
Calf	100	2,827,494	—
Kips	235	960,901	—
Other sorts	690	7,500	—
Not separately distinguished	278	20,435,572	—
Skins:—			
Goat	—	3,905,335	—
Sheep, whole or split	—	10,197,269	4,648
Other sorts	—	—	—
Not separately distinguished	349	14,104,950	5,356
TOTAL	55,571	53,119,809	10,004

(ii) Technical classification.			
Sole leather:—			
Bends, sides and backs	24,176	—	—
Bellies and shoulders	20,053	—	—
Belting leather:—			
Strap butts	1,712	—	—
Strap shoulders	380	—	—
Rough dressing leather:—			
Split hides	1,728	—	—
Dressing hides—backs	753	—	—
Rough bellies and shoulders	1,574	—	—
Rough-tanned calf and kip	432	1,340,454	—
Other rough-tanned leather	4,763	51,779,355	10,004
TOTAL	55,571	53,119,809	10,004

B.—Dressed leather.

Kind of dressed leather.	Tons.	Sq. feet.	Dozens.
(i) Official classification.			
Upper leather, other than patent, varnished, japanned or enamelled:—			
Glacé kid	—	17,381,768	—
Box and willow calf	—	7,046,635	—
Other sorts	2,228	19,754,388	—
Hide, calf and kip, other than upper leather ..	191	3,461,627	—
Sheep, goat and kid, other than upper leather ..	—	19,550,238	—
Patent, varnished, japanned and enamelled ..	—	1,197,050	6,800
Other sorts	503	3,099,517	5,356
TOTAL	2,922	71,491,223	12,156

(ii) Technical classification.			
Upper leather:—			
Glacé kid	—	17,381,768	—
Chrome calf	—	3,274,417	—
Chrome hide and kip sides	1,576	3,101,415	—
Vegetable tanned, sold by weight	652	—	—
Vegetable tanned, sold by area	—	7,813,739	—
Lining leathers	—	5,538,589	—

B.—Dressed leather—continued.

Kind of dressed leather.	Tons.	Sq. feet.	Dozens.
(ii) <i>Technical classification</i> —continued.			
Dressed hide leather :—			
For motor upholstery	—	1,154,400	—
For motor hoods	—	73,450	—
For footballs	—	1,368	—
For bags and cases	—	2,034,359	—
Dressed calf leather, not elsewhere specified ..	—	481,981	—
Dressed sheep, goat and lamb leather, not elsewhere specified :—			
Roller leather	—	379,445	5,356
E.I. sheep	—	3,408,977	—
E.I. goat	—	2,069,609	—
Skivers	—	14,424,775	4,492
Other sheep leather	—	2,234,963	129
Chamois	—	51,357	2,179
Other dressed leather	694	8,066,611	—
TOTAL	2,922	71,491,223	12,156

It will be seen that the firms that furnished these particulars were responsible for nearly 80 per cent. of the undressed hide leather shown in the official classification as "not separately distinguished" and for about 64 per cent. of the skin leather similarly recorded in the returns, and that both tanners and dressers who returned their output in dozens practically abstained from presenting the alternative classification of their output.

Other products.—In addition to the principal products dealt with in the preceding paragraphs, firms that made their returns on schedules for the Leather Trade recorded for each of the censal years the following output. These goods, being of kinds mainly produced in other trades, are dealt with in the reports on those trades :—

Kind of goods.	1924.	1912.	1907.
	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
Wool	£'000. 560 (2,016)	£'000. 678 (5,528)	£'000. 681 (6,160)
Hair	186 (Tons) (18,434)	62 (10,849)	73 (12,470)
Leather gloves	62	3	} 118
Other articles of leather	105	185	
Belting of cotton and balata	232	} 204	184
Other goods made	65		
TOTAL VALUE	1,210	1,132	1,056

The apparent decline in the output of wool is due to the fact that a larger number of tanners and leather dressers made separate returns in respect of their fellmongery departments on schedules for the Fellmongery Trade* in 1924 than in 1912 or 1907.

* See pages 186 to 194.

Work done for the trade.

The amount recorded on schedules for the Leather Trade as received in respect of work done for the trade was £465,000 in 1924, £248,000 in 1912, and £204,000 in 1907.

Value of output free from duplication.

The gross value of the output of firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Leather Trade in 1924 was £33,099,000, including £32,634,000, the value of goods made and £465,000 received by firms working for the trade. This gross figure contains a considerable amount of duplication. In the case of hides for sole leather, which are mainly sold by tanning establishments direct to boot and shoe manufacturers or repairers, no substantial amount of duplication is believed to be involved. The value of other undressed hides and skins sold or added to stock by tanners in 1924 amounted to £4,053,000 and this leather may have been (a) exported; (b) added to tanners' stocks; (c) sold to carriers and other firms engaged in dressing and dyeing leather whose returns were made on schedules for the Leather Trade; or (d) sold to firms (e.g., manufacturers of trunks, suit cases, gloves, etc.), whose returns were made on schedules for other trades. The value of undressed leather, other than sole leather, exported in 1924 was recorded as £1,032,000 f.o.b., the factory value of which may be taken to have been at least £900,000. Deducting this latter sum from the recorded value of the output of the undressed leather in question, it appears that the value of such undressed leather sold to firms in the Leather Trade or to other firms was about £3,150,000. It is believed that the great bulk of this undressed leather, not exported, was sold to carriers by whom it was dressed for re-sale, or to makers of products such as machinery belting, hat leather, etc., who made returns on schedules for the Leather Trade, and that the amount sold to manufacturers of finished leather goods (trunks, bags, cases, etc.) who carried out the finishing processes themselves was comparatively small. Firms carrying out work for the trade stated that they received £465,000 for their work in 1924 and the total amount recorded as paid by tanners, dressers and other firms that made their returns on schedules for the Leather Trade for work given out by them was £160,000. The difference of £305,000 between these two sums represents the value of dressing, dyeing and other work done for firms whose returns were made on schedules for other trades or for merchants, and this sum constitutes an addition to the output value of the trade. Thus, £160,000 is the upper limit of the duplication in respect of work done for the trade since that sum may not have been paid exclusively to tanners or dressers of leather.

It appears from the above calculations that the total value of the output of the Leather Trade, free from duplication, in the year 1924, was not less than £30,000,000, and may have been somewhat greater.

Cost of materials and work given out.

The cost of materials used by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Leather Trade was returned as £24,209,000 in 1924, a sum which, by the exclusion of purchases of the products of other firms in the trade, may be reduced to £21,100,000; the corresponding net figure for 1907 lay between £12,000,000 and £14,750,000.

The amount paid to other firms for work given out to them was returned as £160,000 in 1924, £106,000 in 1912, and £61,000 in 1907.

Net output.

The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their returns on schedules for the Leather Trade (whose gross output was valued at £33,099,000) was £8,730,000, 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 in the censal year 1924 was £275, as compared with £135 in 1912, and £117 in 1907.

Exports and imports.

Detailed particulars of exports and retained imports in 1924 have been given in the table on pages 201 and 202. Summary figures of the weight of exports and imports in 1924, 1912 and 1907, are as follows:—

Classes of goods.	Exports.			Retained imports.		
	1924.	1912.	1907.	1924.	1912.	1907.
			In thousand tons.			
Leather, undressed ..	10.9	6.1	11.1	29.7	51.5	31.9
Leather, dressed ..	5.5	5.3		8.9	13.0	14.3
Leather belting ..	1.0	2.2		0.2	0.2	0.2
TOTAL	17.4	13.6	13.3	38.8	64.7	46.4

Kinds of materials used.

Hides and skins.—In response to a request for information as to the quantities and kinds of hides and skins used in tanning establishments in 1924, particulars were furnished by firms whose output of undressed leather was valued at £7,078,000, or about 47 per cent. of the value of all undressed leather produced for sale in the year. The particulars furnished by these firms are given below:—

Kind of hides.	British and Irish.		Imported.			
			Wet hides.		Dry hides.	
	Thous.	Tons.	Thous.	Tons.	Thous.	Tons.
Cattle hides:—						
Ox and cow	1,135	29,820	927	22,810	835	9,000
Calf and kip	451	1,710	141	960	633	2,490
Bull and buffalo ..	30	1,270	5	210	8	100

Kind of skins.	British and Irish.	Australian.	New Zealand.	Other.	From all sources.
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
Sheep	2,503	334	461	1,186	4,484
Lamb	767	41	12	136	956
Sheep and lamb, not separately distinguished	517	—	20	120	657
TOTAL—SHEEP AND LAMB ..	3,787	375	493	1,442	6,097
Goat	Not separately distinguished.				1,760

In the following statement the quantities of undressed leather tanned by the firms using the above hides and skins are shown in relation to the total quantities produced by all firms:—

Undressed leather.	Unit.	Tanned by all firms.	Tanned by firms that furnished particulars of the kinds of hides and skins used.	
		Quantity.	Quantity.	Proportion of total.
Hides:—				Per cent.
Hides for sole leather	Tons	77,795	38,727	49.8
Hides, other than for sole leather:				
Ox and cow	Tons	17,666	8,766	49.6
	Th. sq. ft.	1,202	1,172	97.5
	Dozens	290	9	3.1
Calf and kips	Tons	1,590	540	34.0
	Th. sq. ft.	10,857	7,295	67.2
	Dozens	113	102	90.3
Other sorts	Tons	2,788	1,234	44.1
	Th. sq. ft.	725	7	1.0
	Dozens	1,660	—	—
Not separately distinguished	Tons	2,188	523	23.8
	Th. sq. ft.	25,828	6,873	26.6
Skins:—				
Goat	Tons	124	—	—
	Th. sq. ft.	7,880	6,721	85.3
	Dozens	29,887	27,934	93.1
Sheep, whole or split ..	Tons	954	387	41.1
	Th. sq. ft.	24,483	13,497	55.1
	Dozens	644,174	365,305	56.7
	Tons	404	37	9.2
Other sorts	Th. sq. ft.	1,126	451	40.0
	Dozens	39,113	30,469	77.9
	Tons	349	349	100.0
Not separately distinguished	Th. sq. ft.	22,156	14,130	63.8
	Dozens	17,508	12,152	69.4
TOTAL—UNDRESSED LEATHER	Tons	103,858	50,563	48.7
	Th. sq. ft.	94,257	50,146	53.2
	Dozens	732,745	435,971	59.5

Tanning materials.—The following particulars of the kinds and quantities of tanning materials used were furnished by firms that produced £8,416,000 of undressed leather, or 56 per cent. of the total value of undressed leather produced for sale in the year.

Kind of tanning materials.	Quantities.	Kind of tanning materials.	Quantities.
	Tons.		Tons.
<i>Used as bark :—</i>		<i>Used as extracts :—</i>	
Oak bark, British	4,430	Chestnut	16,015
Oak bark, imported	252	Hemlock	216
Wattle bark	6,469	Myrobalans	5,676
Total—Used as bark	11,151	Oak	700
<i>Used in crude form :—</i>		Quebracho	7,168
Gambier	883	Valonia	384
Myrobalans	7,616	Wattle	6,873
Sumach	3,261	Blended	15,267
Valonia	4,116	Total—Used as extracts	52,299
Total—Used in crude form	15,876	Synthetic tanning materials	770
<i>Chrome tanning :—</i>		Other tanning materials	3,644
Chrome salts	146		
Chrome liquor	1,335		
Total—Chrome tanning materials	1,481	TOTAL—ALL TANNING MATERIALS	85,221

The quantities of the tanned hides and skins returned by these firms are given below in relation to the total make of undressed leather in the year :—

Kind of hides and skins.	Unit.	Tanned by all firms.	Tanned by firms that furnished particulars of tanning materials used.	
		Quantity.	Quantity.	Proportion of total.
				Per cent.
Hides for sole leather	Tons	77,795	45,921	59.0
	Tons	24,232	13,277	54.9
Hides, other than for sole leather	Th. sq. ft.	38,612	30,984	80.2
	Dozens	2,063	112	5.4
	Tons	1,831	901	49.2
Skins	Th. sq. ft.	55,645	37,014	66.5
	Dozens	730,682	432,233	59.1

Other materials.—The following particulars of other kinds of materials used were furnished by firms whose output represented about 56 per cent. of the total weight of the undressed hides and skins and about 37 per cent. of the total value of all dressed leather recorded.

Kind of materials.	Quantities.	Kind of materials.	Quantities.
	Tons.		Tons.
Lime	9,562	Tallow, all kinds	266
Sulphide of sodium	1,971	Stearine, all kinds	430
Tanners' oils	3,596	Wax, all kinds	370

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 Leather Trade that 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, 20,455 operatives, or 72 per cent. of the total of 28,585 operatives for the trade as a whole, and their net output totalled £6,376,000, or 73 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £8,730,000 for the trade as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £2,729,000, representing about 43 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on page 217. 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 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	2,287	24,785	795	3,463	3,082	28,248
Administrative, etc.	137	2,754	84	694	221	3,448
TOTAL	2,424	27,539	879	4,157	3,303	31,696
1912.						
Wage earners	2,502	26,264	446	1,563	2,948	27,827
Salaried	126	2,107	21	148	147	2,255
TOTAL	2,628	28,371	467	1,711	3,095	30,082
1907.						
Wage earners	2,118	25,237	452	1,431	2,570	26,668
Salaried	156	2,095	19	147	175	2,242
TOTAL	2,274	27,332	471	1,578	2,745	28,910

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 731 below the average, in January, to 681 above the average, in December (*see* Table IIIB, page 217). The numbers

increased from month to month during the first half of the year and, after some decrease in July and August, again increased till the end of the year. The December figures were in excess of those for January by 7 per cent. for females, by somewhat less than 5 per cent. for males and by 5.1 per cent. for the two sexes together.

Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 218. 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.
PRIME MOVERS :—					
Reciprocating steam engines ..	17,145	3,424	20,569	15,143	16,981
Steam turbines	340	—	340	60	31
Gas engines	11,704	2,057	13,761	7,924	} 4,899
Petrol and light oil engines ..	185	35	220	} 157	
Heavy oil engines	360	140	500		
Water power	421	5	426	504	681
Other	—	—	—	—	17
TOTAL	30,155	5,661	35,816	23,788	22,609
	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—					
Driven by—					
Reciprocating steam engines	4,423	970	5,393	1,678	1,394
Steam turbines	165	—	165	5	4
Gas engines	2,943	488	3,431	} 494	} 170
Petrol and light oil engines ..	41	10	51		
Heavy oil engines	18	90	108		
Water power	77	—	77	—	—
Other prime movers	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	7,667	1,558	9,225	2,177	1,568

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	10,636	1,562	12,198	1,536
Purchased electricity	29,875	3,841	33,716	3,599

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 731,000.

TABLES.

I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales and Northern Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Value of products and work done (Gross output)	£'000	31,189	1,910	33,099
Cost of materials used	"	22,801	1,408	24,209
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	157	3	160
Net output	"	8,231	499	8,730
Average number of persons employed	No.	29,917	1,779	31,696
Net output per person employed ..	£	275	280	275
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	33,847	1,969	35,816
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	31,892	1,824	33,716

* In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, the figures for Northern Ireland have been combined with those for England and Wales.

II.—Production.

A.—TOTAL MAKE OF UNDRESSED LEATHER IN THE YEAR, AS RETURNED ON SCHEDULES FOR THE LEATHER TRADE.

Kind of undressed leather.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Hides for sole leather	Tons	74,718	3,077	77,795
Other hides :—				
Ox and cow, except kips	Tons	16,406	1,260	17,666
	Th. sq. ft.	1,189	13	1,202
	Dozens	290	—	290
Kips	Tons	†	†	985
	Th. sq. ft.	†	†	6,426
	Dozens	†	†	32
Calf	Tons	†	†	605
	Th. sq. ft.	†	†	4,431
	Dozens	†	—	81
Other sorts	Tons	2,435	353	2,788
	Th. sq. ft.	541	184	725
	Dozens	6	1,654	1,660
Not separately distinguished	Tons	1,738	450	2,188
	Th. sq. ft.	25,828	—	25,828
TOTAL—HIDE LEATHER	Tons	†	†	102,027
	Th. sq. ft.	†	†	38,612
	Dozens	†	†	2,063
Skins :—				
Goat	Tons	†	†	124
	Th. sq. ft.	†	†	7,880
	Dozens	†	†	29,887
Sheep, whole or split ..	Tons	815	139	954
	Th. sq. ft.	24,483	—	24,483
	Dozens	616,322	27,852	644,174
Other sorts	Tons	320	84	404
	Th. sq. ft.	1,104	22	1,126
	Dozens	38,269	844	39,113
Not separately distinguished	Tons	349	—	349
	Th. sq. ft.	22,156	—	22,156
	Dozens	17,508	—	17,508
TOTAL—SKIN LEATHER	Tons	†	†	1,831
	Th. sq. ft.	†	†	55,645
	Dozens	†	†	730,682
TOTAL—UNDRESSED LEATHER	Tons	†	†	103,858
	Th. sq. ft.	†	†	94,257
	Dozens	†	†	732,745

* See footnote to Table I.

† In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, figures are given only for the United Kingdom as a whole.

B.—TOTAL MAKE OF DRESSED LEATHER IN THE YEAR, AS RETURNED ON SCHEDULES FOR THE LEATHER TRADE.

Kind of dressed leather.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Upper leather, other than patent, varnished, japanned or enamelled :—				
Box and willow calf	Tons	1,752	8	1,760
	Th. sq. ft.	18,850	18	18,868
	Dozens	111	—	111
Glacé kid	Tons	62	—	62
	Th. sq. ft.	20,376	—	20,376
	Dozens	49,518	—	49,518
Other sorts	Tons	6,737	124	6,861
	Th. sq. ft.	45,327	2,499	47,826
	Dozens	99,427	—	99,427
TOTAL—UPPER LEATHER	Tons	8,551	132	8,683
	Th. sq. ft.	84,553	2,517	87,070
	Dozens	149,056	—	149,056
Other than upper leather :—				
Hide, calf and kip	Tons	4,134	375	4,509
	Th. sq. ft.	9,653	54	9,707
	Dozens	674	—	674
Sheep, goat and kid	Tons	1,266	26	1,292
	Th. sq. ft.	49,822	213	50,035
	Dozens	409,168	27,822	436,990
Patent, varnished, japanned and enamelled	Tons	†	†	967
	Th. sq. ft.	2,080	—	2,080
	Dozens	430	—	430
Other sorts	Tons	3,696	561	4,257
	Th. sq. ft.	11,412	16	11,428
	Dozens	104,147	—	104,147
TOTAL—DRESSED LEATHER	Tons	†	†	19,708
	Th. sq. ft.	157,520	2,800	160,320
	Dozens	663,475	27,822	691,297

* See footnote to Table I.

† In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, figures are given only for the United Kingdom as a whole.

C.—OUTPUT FOR SALE OR FOR STOCK.

Output sold or added to stock.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Leather, undressed :—				
Hides for sole leather ..	Tons	74,718	3,077	77,795
	£'000	10,478	491	10,969
Hides, other than for sole leather :				
Ox and cow (except kips)	Tons	13,008	1,158	14,166
	£'000	2,345	223	2,568
Calf	Tons	†	†	255
	£'000	†	†	96
Kips	Tons	†	†	200
	£'000	†	†	31
Other sorts	Tons	1,186	427	1,613
	£'000	154	90	244
TOTAL—Hides ..				
	Tons	†	†	94,029
	£'000	†	†	13,908
Skins :—				
Goat				
	Tons	†	†	116
	£'000	†	†	31
	Th. sq. ft.	†	†	6
	£'000	†	†	§
	Th. doz.	†	†	5
	£'000	†	†	23
Sheep, whole or split ..				
	Tons	463	131	594
	£'000	132	48	180
	Th. sq. ft.	5,305	—	5,305
	£'000	101	—	101
	Th. doz.	358	—	358
	£'000	701	—	701
Other sorts				
	Tons	271	52	323
	£'000	29	15	44
	Th. sq. ft.	298	5	303
	£'000	3	§	3
	Th. doz.	19	1	20
	£'000	27	4	31
TOTAL—LEATHER UNDRESSED				
	Tons	†	†	95,062
	£'000	†	†	14,163
	Th. sq. ft.	†	†	5,614
	£'000	†	†	104
	Th. doz.	†	†	383
	£'000	†	†	755
Leather, dressed :—				
Upper leather, other than patent, varnished japanned or enamelled :				
	Tons	1,752	8	1,760
	£'000	489	2	491
Box and willow calf ..	Th. sq. ft.	18,850	18	18,868
	£'000	965	1	966
	Dozens	111	—	111
	£'000	1	—	1
	Tons	62	—	62
	£'000	55	—	55
Glacé kid	Th. sq. ft.	20,376	—	20,376
	£'000	806	—	806
	Dozens	48,480	—	48,480
	£'000	103	—	103

*†§ For notes see page 216.

C.—OUTPUT FOR SALE OR FOR STOCK—continued.

Output sold or added to stock.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Leather, dressed :—continued.				
Upper leather, other than patent, varnished japanned or enamelled :—continued.				
	Tons	6,712	124	6,836
	£'000	1,439	30	1,469
Other sorts	Th. sq. ft.	45,146	2,499	47,645
	£'000	1,532	103	1,635
	Dozens	99,427	—	99,427
	£'000	256	—	256
TOTAL—Upper leather				
	Tons	8,526	132	8,658
	£'000	1,983	32	2,015
	Th. sq. ft.	84,372	2,517	86,889
	£'000	3,303	104	3,407
	Th. doz.	148	—	148
	£'000	360	—	360
Hide, calf and kip, other than upper leather				
	Tons	3,594	375	3,969
	£'000	1,041	120	1,161
	Th. sq. ft.	9,584	54	9,638
	£'000	524	3	527
	Dozens	674	—	674
	£'000	12	—	12
Sheep, goat and kid, other than upper leather				
	Tons	1,266	26	1,292
	£'000	487	15	502
	Th. sq. ft.	49,704	213	49,917
	£'000	1,545	7	1,552
	Th. doz.	385	28	413
	£'000	839	40	879
	Tons	3,445	284	3,729
	£'000	797	81	878
Other sorts	Th. sq. ft.	11,396	16	11,412
	£'000	389	1	390
	Th. doz.	104	—	104
	£'000	322	—	322
	Tons	†	†	967
	£'000	†	†	768
Patent, varnished, japanned and enamelled	Th. sq. ft.	2,057	—	2,057
	£'000	110	—	110
	Dozens	430	—	430
	£'000	21	—	21
TOTAL—LEATHER, DRESSED				
	Tons	†	†	18,615
	£'000	†	†	5,324
	Th. sq. ft.	157,060	2,853	159,913
	£'000	5,869	117	5,986
	Th. doz.	638	28	666
	£'000	1,554	40	1,594
Hides and skins, pickled, etc.				
	Tons	†	†	2,239
	£'000	†	†	213
	Th. sq. ft.	3,031	—	3,031
	£'000	32	—	32
	Th. doz.	153	—	153
	£'000	215	—	215

*† For notes see page 216.

C.—OUTPUT FOR SALE OR FOR STOCK—*continued.*

Output sold or added to stock.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Hat leather	£'000	585	—	585
Parchment and vellum	"	63	—	63
Machinery belting	Tons	2,395	331	2,726
Machinery accessories of leather	£'000	1,296	248	1,544
Machinery accessories of hide	£'000	439	12	451
Wool	Tons	†	†	108
Hair	£'000	†	†	2,016
Belting of cotton and balata	Tons	17,528	905	18,434
Leather gloves	£'000	181	5	186
Other articles of leather	"	†	†	232
Waste products	"	104	1	62
Other goods made	"	271	16	287
	"	65	—	65
Work done for the trade	£'000	461‡	4‡	465‡
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)	£'000	31,189	1,910	33,099

* See footnote to Table I.

† In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, figures are given only for the United Kingdom as a whole.

‡ Amount received for work done.

§ Under £500.

III.—Employment.

A.—NUMBER 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>England and Wales and Northern Ireland* :—</i>						
Operatives	2,203	23,779	755	3,256	2,958	27,035
Administrative, etc.†	128	2,581	77	625	205	3,206
TOTAL	2,331	26,360	832	3,881	3,163	30,241
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives	118	1,364	36	186	154	1,550
Administrative, etc.†	9	173	7	69	16	242
TOTAL	127	1,537	43	255	170	1,792
<i>United Kingdom :—</i>						
Operatives	2,321	25,143	791	3,442	3,112	28,585
Administrative, etc.†	137	2,754	84	694	221	3,448
TOTAL	2,458	27,897	875	4,136	3,333	32,033

* See footnote to Table I.

† Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

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

England and Wales and Northern Ireland. (Annual average : Males, 23,437 ; Females, 3,276 ; Total, 26,713.)*

Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	22,940	3,157	26,097	July 19th ..	23,462	3,291	26,753
Feb. 16th ..	23,152	3,220	26,372	Aug. 16th ..	23,130	3,174	26,304
Mar. 15th ..	23,206	3,279	26,485	Sept. 13th ..	23,464	3,207	26,671
April 12th ..	23,332	3,334	26,666	Oct. 18th ..	23,779	3,256	27,035
May 17th ..	23,456	3,334	26,790	Nov. 15th ..	23,923	3,339	27,262
June 21st ..	23,460	3,331	26,791	Dec. 13th ..	23,943	3,391	27,334

Scotland. (Annual average : Males, 1,348 ; Females, 187 ; Total, 1,535.)

Jan. 12th ..	1,237	183	1,420	July 19th ..	1,361	187	1,548
Feb. 16th ..	1,326	190	1,516	Aug. 16th ..	1,335	184	1,519
Mar. 15th ..	1,340	185	1,525	Sept. 13th ..	1,335	183	1,518
April 12th ..	1,356	189	1,545	Oct. 18th ..	1,364	186	1,550
May 17th ..	1,353	191	1,544	Nov. 15th ..	1,391	187	1,578
June 21st ..	1,368	188	1,556	Dec. 13th ..	1,407	188	1,595

United Kingdom. (Annual average : Males, 24,785 ; Females, 3,463 ; Total, 28,248.)

Jan. 12th ..	24,177	3,340	27,517	July 19th ..	24,823	3,478	28,301
Feb. 16th ..	24,478	3,410	27,888	Aug. 16th ..	24,465	3,358	27,823
Mar. 15th ..	24,546	3,464	28,010	Sept. 13th ..	24,799	3,390	28,189
April 12th ..	24,688	3,523	28,211	Oct. 18th ..	25,143	3,442	28,585
May 17th ..	24,809	3,525	28,334	Nov. 15th ..	25,314	3,526	28,840
June 21st ..	24,828	3,519	28,347	Dec. 13th ..	25,350	3,579	28,929

* See footnote to Table I.

IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*		Scotland.		United Kingdom.	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
PRIME MOVERS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines	16,197	3,361	948	63	17,145	3,424
Steam turbines	340	—	—	—	340	—
Gas engines	11,264	1,918	440	139	11,704	2,057
Petrol and light oil engines	176	35	9	—	185	35
Heavy oil engines	360	—	—	140	360	140
Water power	191	5	230	—	421	5
TOTAL	28,528	5,319	1,627	342	30,155	5,661
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	33,847		1,969		35,816	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—						
Reciprocating steam engines	4,309	970	114	—	4,423	970
Steam turbines	165	—	—	—	165	—
Gas engines	2,883	465	60	23	2,943	488
Petrol and light oil engines	41	10	—	—	41	10
Heavy oil engines	18	—	—	90	18	90
Water power	43	—	34	—	77	—
TOTAL	7,459	1,445	208	113	7,667	1,558
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	8,904		321		9,225	
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—						
Electricity generated in own works	10,527	1,562	109	—	10,636	1,562
Purchased electricity	28,148	3,744	1,727	97	29,875	3,841

* See footnote to Table I.