

THE FLOCK AND RAG TRADE

INTRODUCTORY

This trade comprises firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of flocks for bedding and upholstery purposes, and the sorting, cleaning, etc., of textile wastes and rags.

Table I A.—General summary

Particulars	1935	1930	1924
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Value of products (Gross output)	4,859	3,989	6,476
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used	3,695	3,121	5,087
Amount paid for work given out	19	6	*
Net output	1,145	862	1,389
	No.	No.	No.
Average number of persons employed	5,586	5,799	6,705
	£	£	£
Net output per person employed	205	149	207
	No.	No.	No.
Number of returns	156	166	221
Number of establishments	166	182	*

* 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	181	347	211
Average number of persons employed :—			
Males	476	1,084	523
Females	424	929	592
Total	900	2,013	1,115
Number of firms not making returns	3	37	120

In 1924 the value of the gross output of the small firms making returns in Great Britain was 15·6 per cent. of the total, the principal classes of goods affected being:—

Kind of goods	Quantity	Value	Proportion of total
	Th. tons	£'000	Per cent.
Rags, sorted, cleaned, etc. :—			
Woollen rags, not pulled	14·1	608	22·1
Linen and cotton rags	1·7	28	3·0
Cotton waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	3·5	135	7·2
Wool waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	4·1	221	21·7
Rags and waste, unclassified ... ..	...	27	...
Wool flocks	4·2	91	18·2
Other waste products, mainly for paper making ... ..	...	12	11·2
Other products ... ..	...	48	...
TOTAL ... ..	...	1,170	15·6

Table II.—Size of establishments in 1935

Size of establishment (average number employed)	Number of establishments	Gross output	Net output	Number of persons employed	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
11-24	94	1,421	328	1,629	201
25-49	51	1,739	382	1,653	231
50-99	11	568	151	801	189
100 and over	10	1,131	284	1,503	189
TOTAL	166	4,859	1,145	5,586	205

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	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
1 { 1935	14	543	177	696	254
... .. { 1930	12	394	138	798	173
2 { 1935	41	1,062	282	1,367	206
... .. { 1930	51	1,247	237	1,925	123
3 { 1935	68	2,478	440	2,257	195
... .. { 1930	57	1,641	330	1,890	175
6 1935	11	297	71	282	252
4, 5, 7, 9 and 12 1935	16	243	96	526	181
4 to 12 ... { 1935	27	540	167	808	207
... .. { 1930	30	455	106	784	134
14 1935	4	67	25	120	208
15 and 16 ... 1935	5	77	29	231	126
14, 15 and 16 ... { 1935	9	144	54	351	154
... .. { 1930	7	195	36	266	134
18 { 1935	7	92	25	107	234
... .. { 1930	9	57	15	136	110
TOTAL ... { 1935	166	4,859	1,145	5,586	205
... .. { 1930	166	3,989	862	5,799	149

* For particulars see page xviii.

† Number of returns for 1930.

Table IV.—Sub-divisions of the industry

Group	Number of establishments*	Gross output	Value of characteristic output	Net output	Average number of persons employed	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	£'000	No.	£
Woollen and worsted rags, sorted, cleaned, carbonised, etc. 1935	45	1,606	1,396	319	1,660	192
Wool waste, sorted, cleaned, etc. 1935	23	1,196	1,033	176	695	253
Total ... { 1935	68	2,802	2,429	495	2,355	210
... .. { 1930	53	1,754	1,527	322	2,054	157
Linen and cotton rags and other paper-making materials, sorted, cleaned, etc. { 1935	22	681	532	226	1,058	214
... .. { 1930	22	434	283	92	846	109
Flock manufactured from rags 1935	36	435	386	162	816	199
Flock manufactured from other materials ... 1935	5	100	90	45	237	192
Total ... { 1935	41	535	476	207	1,053	197
... .. { 1930	36	536	510	240	1,066	225
Cotton waste, sorted, etc. ... { 1935	30	725	565	184	956	192
... .. { 1930	47	1,045	933	159	1,601	99
Other output ... { 1935	5	116	...	33	164	201
... .. { 1930	8	220	...	49	232	211
TOTAL ... { 1935	166	4,859	...	1,145	5,586	205
... .. { 1930	166	3,989	...	862	5,799	149

* Number of returns for 1930.

PRODUCTION

Table V.—Output of principal products

Kind of output	1935			1930	
	Quantity	Value	Entries	Quantity	Value
	Th. tons	£'000	No.	Th. tons	£'000
Rags, sorted, cleaned, carbonised, etc. (excluding roofing rags and rags for making flocks) :—					
Woollen and worsted	43.1	1,593	54	24.9	885
Linen and cotton	18.0	354	36	23.3	373
... ..				...	29
Roofing rags and rags for making flocks	{ 9.8	54	28	{ 10.6	45
... ..	...	8	2	...	...
Rags, unclassified	—	—	—	0.3	4
Cotton waste, sorted, cleaned, etc. ...	25.8	614	38	41.1	958
Wool waste, sorted, cleaned, etc. ...	10.8	993	25	7.4	610
Cotton and wool waste, unclassified, sorted, cleaned, etc.	1.2	54	2	1.3	50
Flock* :—					
Manufactured from rags	24.8	431	38	20.7	428
Manufactured from material other than rags	7.6	122	26	3.8	96
Jute, coir and other fibres, sacking and bagging, sorted, cleaned, etc.† ...	{ 11.6	92	8	{ 12.3	173
... ..	...	19	2	...	...
Ropes, cordage and twine, etc., sorted, cleaned, etc.	3.1	32	15	...	75
Paper-making materials, not elsewhere specified (including waste paper, flock dust, etc.), sorted, cleaned, etc.	160.0	379	39	18.4†	95†
... ..	...	...	...	...	23†
Other goods treated	1.7	10	6	1.0	18
Work done for the trade or on commission ... ..	...	20‡	9	...	13‡
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ... ..	...	4,775	...	...	3,930

* Described as *wool flocks* for 1930.

† So far as recorded separately.

‡ 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			1930	
	Quantity	Value	Entries	Quantity	Value
	Th. tons	£'000	No.	Th. tons	£'000
Rags, sorted, cleaned, carbonised, etc. (excluding roofing rags and rags for making flocks) :—					
Woollen and worsted	0.1	4	1	—	—
Linen and cotton	0.5	10	1	—	—
Roofing rags and rags for making flocks	0.2	1	1	—	—
Cotton and wool waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	—	—	—	0.4	6
Flock manufactured from material other than rags	—	—	—	0.1	3
Total ... ..	...	15	3	...	9

Table VI.—Average values of goods produced

Kind of goods	Average value		1935 as a percentage of 1930
	1935	1930	
	£ per ton	£ per ton	Per cent.
Rags, sorted, cleaned, carbonised, etc. (excluding roofing rags and rags for making flocks) :—			
Woollen and worsted	36.9	35.5	104.0
Linen and cotton	19.6	16.0	122.7
Roofing rags and rags for making flocks	5.5	4.2	131.0
Cotton waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	23.7	23.3	101.9
Wool waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	91.7	82.0	111.8
Flock :—			
Manufactured from rags	17.4	20.7*	83.7
Manufactured from material other than rags ...	16.1	24.9*	64.7

* See footnote (*) to Table V.

Table VII.—Volume of Production, 1924-1935

Kind of output	Total production			Production index (1935=100)	
	1935 as returned	1930		1924	1930
		As returned	At 1935 average values		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	Per cent.	Per cent.
Rags, sorted, cleaned, etc. (excluding roofing rags and rags for making flocks) :—					
Woollen and worsted	1,593	940	978	107	62
Linen and cotton	354	402	493	279	139
Cotton waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	614	958	976	162	159
Wool waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	993	610	682	83	69
Flock	553	524	420	55	76
Other principal products	648	483	342	31	53
Work done for the trade or on commission	20	13	13	...	65
TOTAL	4,775	3,930	3,904	105	82

Table VIII.—Exports and Imports

Owing to differences in classification and to the deficiencies in production due to the exclusion of small firms, the output particulars recorded for 1935 and 1930 cannot be compared with those of oversea trade. Exports and imports of woollen rags, not pulled, and of linen and cotton materials for paper making in the two years were as follows:—

Kind of goods	Exports		Retained imports	
	1935	1930	1935	1930
Woollen rags, not pulled	Th. tons 18.7	Th. tons 7.0	Th. tons 10.5	Th. tons 20.5
Linen and cotton materials for paper-making	9.7	15.5*	15.9	15.8*

* Described as *linen and cotton rags*.

Table IX.—Other output of the Flock and Rag Trade

The value of the gross output of the firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Flock and Rag Trade was £4,859,000 in 1935 and £3,989,000 in 1930 of which £4,760,000 in 1935 and £3,921,000 in 1930 consisted of products included in Table V. Particulars of the remaining items are shown below.

Kind of output	1935	1930
Recovered wool (shoddy or mungo)	£'000 32	£'000 48
Other goods made	67	20
TOTAL	99	68

MATERIALS AND FUEL**Table X A.—Materials, fuel and electricity purchased and used**

Kind of materials, etc.	1935		1930
	Quantity	Cost	Cost
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes:—	Th. tons	£'000	£'000
Coal	23.4	21	} 3,121
Coke	5.5	7	
Heavy fuel oil	Th. galls. 102	2	
	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)		
Purchased electricity	7,010	27	
All purchased materials and other fuel		3,638	
TOTAL		3,695	3,121

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

Kind of fuel		1935	1930
Coal	Th. tons	23.4	25.6
Coke	Th. tons	5.5	2.0
Electricity:—	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)		Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Generated in same works	512	1,088	
Purchased	7,010	4,566	
Total electricity consumed	7,522	5,654	

EMPLOYMENT**Table XI A.—Average numbers employed**

Persons employed	Males		Females		Total	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
Operatives (average for the year)	124	1,929	556	3,039	680	4,968
Administrative, technical and clerical staff*	125	2,134	472	2,954	597	5,088
	16	429	27	189	43	618
	30	535	41	176	71	711
TOTAL	140	2,358	583	3,228	723	5,586
	155	2,669	513	3,130	668	5,799

* As at 12th October, 1935, and 18th October, 1930.

Table XI B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1935 and 1930 by firms furnishing returns in respect of the twelve months ended December

Mid-week of*	Operatives employed		Monthly index†	
	1930	1935	1930	1935
January	3,466	3,465	109.2	97.0
February	3,439	3,554	108.4	99.5
March	3,397	3,521	107.0	98.5
April	3,396	3,518	107.0	98.5
May	3,328	3,563	104.9	99.7
June	3,277	3,518	103.3	98.5
July	3,203	3,616	100.9	101.2
August	3,126	3,601	98.5	100.8
September	3,144	3,624	99.1	101.4
October	3,113	3,609	98.1	101.0
November	3,073	3,637	96.8	101.8
December	3,040	3,645	95.8	102.0
Average for the twelve months	3,250	3,573	102.4	100.0
Proportion of total operatives represented	63.88	71.92		

* 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
1924	5,964	741	6,705
1930	5,088	711	5,799
1935	4,968	618	5,586

WAGES

Table XII.—Wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages

The aggregate amount of wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages was £135,000 in 1935 representing 34.0 per cent. of the net output of these firms, the corresponding figures for 1930 which relate only to Great Britain being £167,000 and 41.0 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, etc.	1935		1930*	
	Aggregate	Proportion of trade	Aggregate	Proportion of trade
	£'000	Per cent.	£'000	Per cent.
Gross output	1,733	35.7	1,418	36.1
Net output	448	39.1	407	48.0
Operative staff employed :—	No.		No.	
During mid-week of October :—				
Males	828	42.7	†	†
Females	1,098	36.0		
Total	1,926	38.6	1,847	37.8
Average for the year	1,905	38.3	1,820	36.6
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	204	33.0	†	†
Number of establishments	49	29.5	...	...

* 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 Flock and Rag Trade.

Table I.—General summary

Particulars	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Value of products (Gross output)	£'000	4,623	144	4,767	92
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used	"	3,538	90	3,628	67
Amount paid for work given out	"	19	—	19	—
Net output	"	1,066	54	1,120	25
Average number of persons employed	No.	5,128	351	5,479	107
Net output per person employed	£	208	154	204	234
Number of returns	No.	141	9	150	6
Number of establishments	"	150	9	159	7

Table II.—Output

Kind of output	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Rags, sorted, cleaned, carbonised, etc. (excluding roofing rags and rags for making flocks) :—					
Woollen and worsted ...	Th. tons	*	*	42.9	} 0.6
	£'000	*	*	1,587	
Linen and cotton ...	Th. tons	14.3	2.7	17.0	} 24
	£'000	286	36	322	
Roofing rags and rags for making flocks	Th. tons	8.2	1.4	9.6	} †
	£'000	45	8	53	
Cotton waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	Th. tons	8	—	8	} †
	£'000	25.8	—	25.8	
Wool waste, sorted, cleaned, etc.	Th. tons	614	—	614	} —
	£'000	*	*	10.8	
Cotton and wool waste, unclassified, sorted, cleaned, etc.	Th. tons	*	*	993	} —
	£'000	1.2	—	1.2	
Flock :—	£'000	54	—	54	—
Manufactured from rags ...	Th. tons	23.1	1.7	24.8	} †
	£'000	401	30	431	
Manufactured from material other than rags	Th. tons	7.6	—	7.6	} —
	£'000	122	—	122	
Jute, coir and other fibres, sacking and bagging, sorted, cleaned, etc. ...	Th. tons	*	*	11.6	} —
	£'000	*	*	92	
Ropes, cordage and twine, etc., sorted, cleaned, etc. ...	Th. tons	2.3	0.8	3.1	} †
	£'000	28	4	32	
Paper making materials, not elsewhere specified (including waste paper, flock dust, etc.), sorted, cleaned, etc. ...	Th. tons	148.5	8.7	157.2	} 2.8
	£'000	293	28	321	
					58

Kind of output	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Other principal products treated ...	<i>Th. tons</i>	1.7	—	1.7	} †
Recovered wool (shoddy or mungo) ...	<i>£'000</i>	10	—	10	
Other goods made ...	<i>£'000</i>	27	5	32	—
Work done for the trade or on commission ...	<i>£'000</i>	66	1	67	—
TOTAL—GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE ...	<i>£'000</i>	*	*	20‡	—
TOTAL—GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE ...	<i>£'000</i>	4,623	144	4,767	92

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

† In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms in Northern Ireland, the small output in Northern Ireland has been included with that for England and Wales.

‡ Amount received.

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

Kind of materials, etc.	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes:—					
Coal ...	<i>Th. tons</i>	22.5	0.7	23.2	0.2
	<i>£'000</i>	20	1	21	*
Coke ...	<i>Th. tons</i>	5.1	0.3	5.4	0.1
	<i>£'000</i>	7	*	7	*
Heavy fuel oil ...	<i>Th. galls.</i>	96	—	96	6
	<i>£'000</i>	2	—	2	*
Purchased electricity	<i>Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)</i>	6,424	580	7,004	6
	<i>£'000</i>	25	2	27	*
All purchased materials and other fuel ...	<i>£'000</i>	3,484	87	3,571	66
TOTAL ...	<i>£'000</i>	3,538	90	3,628	67

* Less than £500.

Table III B.—Consumption of electricity

Electricity consumed	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
	<i>Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)</i>	<i>Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)</i>	<i>Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)</i>	<i>Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)</i>
Generated in same works ...	512	—	512	—
Purchased ...	6,424	580	7,004	6
Total ...	6,936	580	7,516	6

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:—						
Operatives ...	110	1,816	513	2,787	623	4,603
Administrative, etc.* ...	16	392	23	169	39	561
Total ...	126	2,208	536	2,956	662	5,164
Scotland:—						
Operatives ...	14	94	41	209	55	303
Administrative, etc.* ...	—	26	4	18	4	44
Total ...	14	120	45	227	59	347
Great Britain:—						
Operatives ...	124	1,910	554	2,996	678	4,906
Administrative, etc.* ...	16	418	27	187	43	605
TOTAL ...	140	2,328	581	3,183	721	5,511
Northern Ireland:—						
Operatives ...	1	27	5	54	6	81
Administrative, etc.* ...	—	11	—	2	—	13
Total ...	1	38	5	56	6	94

* 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	Scotland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
January 19 ...	4,478	295	4,773	97
February 16 ...	4,542	296	4,838	103
March 16 ...	4,473	314	4,787	102
April 13 ...	4,472	314	4,786	98
May 18 ...	4,577	305	4,882	97
June 15 ...	4,492	318	4,810	94
July 13 ...	4,566	314	4,880	98
August 17 ...	4,603	308	4,911	97
September 14 ...	4,653	302	4,955	89
October 12 ...	4,603	303	4,906	81
November 16 ...	4,675	304	4,979	81
December 14 ...	4,675	307	4,982	86
Average for the twelve months	4,567	307	4,874	94

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

Particulars	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Number of returns received ...	156	8	164	17
Average number of persons employed :—				
Males	406	27	433	43
Females	365	11	376	48
Total	771	38	809	91

Table IV B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1932

Month	Week ended			
	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
January 10	4,244	288	4,532	193
February 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
March 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
April 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
May 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
June 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
July 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
August 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
September 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
October 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
November 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
December 10	4,473	314	4,787	198
Average for the twelve months	4,397	307	4,704	197