

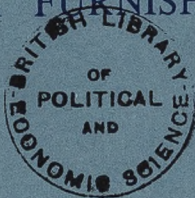
BOARD OF TRADE

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*The Report on the  
Census of Production  
for 1954*

Volume: 10 Industry C

SOFT FURNISHINGS



*Presented by the Board of Trade to Parliament in pursuance of the  
Statistics of Trade Act, 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6 Ch. 39, Sec. 7)*

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# The Report on the Census of Production for 1954

VOLUME 10 INDUSTRY C

SOFT FURNISHINGS

THIS REPORT on the Soft Furnishings Industry relates to establishments engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of curtains, loose covers, quilts, cushions, feather beds, pillows, mattresses (other than wire mattresses), divan-beds and similar goods. Rubber mattresses, pillows and cushions are excluded, they are included in the report on the Rubber Industry (Volume 11, Industry A).

This industry corresponds to minimum list heading 171 (1) in the Standard Industrial Classification.

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IMPORTANT NOTES and definitions appear on the next page. In interpreting the data in the tables, it is essential to bear these in mind.

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The following notes describe terms in general use in the tables of the report. More detailed explanations of the terms used and a description of the scope and method of taking the census are given in the separate booklet entitled 'The Report on the Census of Production for 1954 - Introductory Notes' (price 1s. 6d. net).

**Industrial Classification:** Establishments are classified to industries according to the nature of their output and, as far as possible, in conformity with the Standard Industrial Classification. Certain products are identified as the principal products of individual industries, the principal products for a given industry being of a similar nature or commonly associated in production. The principle of classification normally followed is that an establishment is classified to an industry if its output of the principal products of that industry accounted for a greater proportion of the value of its output than did its output of the principal products of any other industry.

**Specialist producers** normally comprise those establishments 50 per cent. or more of whose total output by value is accounted for by the characteristic products of the specialist group.

**Intermediate products:** For some industries figures are given showing the total quantities made during the year of intermediate products, i.e., products which may be further processed in the establishments in which they are produced.

**Larger establishments:** The information given in the report relates mainly to 'larger establishments', i.e., establishments of firms employing on the average more than 10 persons. In most cases an establishment comprises the whole of the premises under the same ownership or management at a particular address (e.g., a mine or factory). Offices, warehouses, laboratories and other ancillary places of business situated apart from the producing works are not regarded as separate establishments and are included in the return for the works.

**Small firms** are those employing on the average 10 or fewer persons.

The estimates for the industry as a whole given in Table 1 are normally obtained by increasing the other items shown in the same proportion as total employment.

**Gross output (production)** is the total value of goods made and other work done during the year; it is obtained by adjusting the value of sales and work done during the year for changes in the value of stocks of products on hand for sale and work in progress.

**Net output** is the amount left after deducting from the value of gross output the aggregate of the cost of materials and fuel used, the amount paid for work given out, and, for 1951 and 1954, any transport payments made. This represents the value added to materials by the process of production, and constitutes the fund from which wages, salaries, rents, rates and taxes, advertising and other selling expenses and all other similar charges have to be met, as well as depreciation and profits.

**Sales** means sales during the year of goods made in the establishment covered by the return or made on commission for it, whether produced in the year or not. The value of sales is the net selling value, i.e., the amount charged to customers, whether on an ex-works or delivered basis, and net of any trade discounts, agents' commissions, allowances for returnable cases, purchase tax, etc. For goods charged on a delivered basis to customers overseas, firms were required to give the f.o.b. value.

**Materials and fuel:** The total cost of materials and fuel purchased includes all purchases during the year of materials for use in production, and of fuel (includ-

ing oil, gas and electricity) for all purposes: packing materials, including the full cost of returnable cases when first purchased; workshop and office materials; water charges; materials for repairs to buildings, plant and vehicles when carried out by firms' own work-people included in their returns; consumable tools; and parts for machinery purchased as replacements. Purchases of goods for merchandising are excluded. The cost of materials and fuel used, given in Table 2, is obtained by adjusting purchases for changes during the year in the value of stocks.

**Stocks:** Firms were required to give stocks of materials and fuel, products on hand for sale, and work in progress, at income tax values.

**Customs and Excise Duty** paid on materials purchased is normally included in the cost of materials. Finished goods are similarly valued as they were sold, duty-paid or duty-free. The net amount of any duty paid is deducted in arriving at net output.

**Employment:** Total employment includes working proprietors, administrative, technical and clerical employees, and operatives, but excludes outworkers, canteen employees and persons engaged in merchandising or any other activity not covered by a firm's return, who are shown separately as excluded employees. Employees are persons on the pay-roll (i.e., persons whose National Insurance cards were held by employers), whether employed full-time or part-time.

**Working proprietors** are proprietors of businesses other than limited companies, together with members of their families who worked in the business without receiving fixed wages or salaries. Any persons working less than half the normal hours are excluded. For Northern Ireland directors of limited companies (other than those paid by fee only) are also included.

**Administrative, technical and clerical employees** include directors, other than those paid by fee only (except in Northern Ireland); managers, superintendents and works foremen; research, experimental, development, technical and design employees (other than operatives); draughtsmen and tracers; travellers; and office (including works office) employees.

**Operatives** include all other classes of employees, i.e., broadly speaking, all manual workers.

**Outworkers** are persons employed by the firm who work on materials supplied by the firm in their own homes.

**Wages and salaries** include all overtime payments, bonuses and commissions without any deductions for income tax, insurances, contributory pensions etc. They exclude payments to working proprietors.

**Capital expenditure** includes expenditure on new building work, and on plant, machinery and vehicles, charged to capital account during the year, including any transport and installation costs involved. It includes expenditure in respect of establishments in Great Britain which had not begun production before the end of the year (which has not previously been included in the Census of Production reports for individual industries).

**Symbols used:**

.. for not available

- for nil or negligible (less than half the final digit shown).

Where figures are rounded, e.g., given to the nearest £ thousand, there may be apparent slight discrepancies between the sums of constituent items and the totals shown. In some cases, figures have been combined with others of a similar nature where publication of separate details might disclose information relating to an individual undertaking.

Industry summary  
Estimates for the industry as a whole

TABLE 1

	United Kingdom			Scotland 1954	Wales 1954
	1948	1951	1954		
	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
Gross output (production)	20.5	33.9	36.3	1.97	0.88
Net output	7.7	10.0	12.9	0.66	0.30
Total stocks and work in progress					
At beginning of year	2.9	5.5	4.8	0.29	0.13
Change during year	+ 0.7	+ 2.0	+ 0.4	-	- 0.02
Capital expenditure less disposals (a)	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.02	0.01
Wages and salaries	4.1	6.1	7.4	0.51	0.18
Total employment (including working proprietors)	Thousands 15.6	Thousands 19.7	Thousands 20.6	Thousands 1.69	Thousands 0.46

(a) Capital expenditure on new building work, plant, machinery and vehicles (including (except in 1948) that incurred in Great Britain for establishments not yet in production), less amounts received for plant, machinery and vehicles disposed of.

## Summary of returns received

TABLE 2

	Unit	Great Britain 1948	United Kingdom	
			1951	1954
<b>FIRMS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE MORE THAN 10 PERSONS</b>				
Number of establishments	No.	271	314	340
Total value of sales and work done	£'000	17,738	29,541	32,203
Products on hand for sale		485	868	864
and work in progress		+ 107	+ 338	+ 67
Gross output (production) (a)		17,735	29,878	32,270
Purchases of materials and fuel		11,534	22,054	20,569
Stocks of materials and fuel		2,062	3,997	3,406
Cost of materials and fuel used		+ 535	+ 1,408	+ 248
Payment for work done on materials given out		10,999	20,646	20,321
Payment for transport (b)		84	79	62
Net output		111	315	453
Average number of employees	No.	6,653	8,838	11,434
Total employment (d)		11,721	14,807	15,712
Net output per person employed (d)		1,751(c)	2,451	2,676
Wages and salaries	£'000	13,520	17,308	18,435
Capital expenditure		492	511	620
New building work (e)				
Plant and machinery		2,727	4,063	5,112
Vehicles		792	1,293	1,517
		34	187	117
		208	232	205
		29	12	11
		96	148	204
		15	29	31
<b>FIRMS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE 10 OR FEWER PERSONS</b>				
Number of returns	No.	338	357(f)	308
Total employment, including working proprietors		1,855	2,086(f)	1,737

- (a) For the year 1948 gross output excludes payments for transport services outwards on finished goods sold. For subsequent years gross output includes payments to other firms and undertakings and to firms' own separate transport organisations for transport services.
- (b) Payments to other firms and undertakings and to firms' own separate transport organisations. For the year 1948 payments cover only transport outwards of finished goods sold. For subsequent years they cover payments for transport of both finished goods sold and materials and fuel purchased.
- (c) Number in week ended September 25, 1948.
- (d) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.
- (e) Excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.
- (f) Excluding Northern Ireland. No information about small firms was collected in Northern Ireland for 1951.

## Analysis by size, 1954

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 3

Average number employed (a)	Estab-lish-ments	Gross output	Net output	Employees		Wages and salaries		Capital expenditure (b)	Net output per person employed (a)
				Operatives	Others	Operatives	Others		
	Number	£'000	£'000	Number	Number	£'000	£'000	£'000	£
11 - 24 (c)	123	2,791	1,105	1,782	270	573	138	43	534
25 - 49	109	5,751	2,176	3,280	488	1,060	257	87	574
50 - 99	57	8,091	2,641	3,436	573	1,107	336	124	658
100 - 199	39	8,877	2,993	4,449	806	1,381	466	142	570
200 and over	12	6,760	2,519	2,765	539	991	320	131	762
Total	340	32,270	11,434	15,712	2,676	5,112	1,517	527	620

(a) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.

(b) Capital expenditure on new building work and on acquisition of plant, machinery and vehicles, excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.

(c) Including a small number of establishments with fewer than 11 persons employed, particulars of which were included with those for larger establishments in a single return.

## Analysis according to specialisation within the industry, 1954

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 4

	Unit	Specialist producers of		Remainder of the industry	Total
		Bedding	Soft furnishings		
Number of establishments	No.	247	63	30	340
Total value of sales and work done	£'000	29,842	994	1,367	32,203
Sales of characteristic products	"	25,136	739		
Products on hand for sale	"	787	32	45	864
and work in progress	"	+ 71	+ 12	- 15	+ 67
Gross output (production)	"	29,913	1,005	1,352	32,270
Purchases of materials and fuel	"	19,571	283	715	20,569
Stocks of materials and fuel	"	3,185	71	149	3,406
{at beginning of year	"				
{change during year	"	+ 245	- 6	+ 8	+ 248
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	19,326	289	707	20,321
Payment for work done on materials given out	"	47			62
Payment for transport	"	433	19	16	453
Net output	"	10,107	698	629	11,434
Average number of employees	No.	13,388	1,407	917	15,712
{operatives	"				
{others	"	2,356	143	177	2,676
Total employment (a)	"	15,779	1,558	1,098	18,435
Net output per person employed (a)	£	641	448	573	620
Wages and salaries	£'000	4,398	463	251	5,112
{of operatives	"				
{of others	"	1,350	65	102	1,517
Capital expenditure	"				
New building work (b)	"	115	1	-	117
Plant and machinery	"	192	4	9	205
{acquisitions (b)	"				
{disposals	"	11	-	-	11
Vehicles	"	184	6	14	204
{acquisitions (b)	"				
{disposals	"	24	1	6	31

(a) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.

(b) Excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.

## Sales of the principal products of the industry, including sales of these products by establishments classified to other industries

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 5

	1951		1954		
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Entries
	Th.	£'000	Th.	£'000	Number
Bedding and soft furnishings.					
Divan beds (excluding mattresses)	303	1,856	447	2,582	178
Bases for spring interior mattresses	84	556	249	1,574	161
Upholstered mattresses					
Mattresses 4 feet in width and over					
Interior spring	948	8,087	1,269	9,154	207
Other	332	1,429	264	1,042	191
Mattresses under 4 feet in width (other than cot mattresses)					
Interior spring	765	4,784	1,188	5,976	194
Other	633	1,972	440	1,187	190
Cot mattresses	268	324	317	345	175
	Th.doz.		Th.doz.		
Bolsters	18	178	22	172	163
Pillows	178	993	220	1,074	185
Quilts					
Cot and single sizes	31	1,146	76	1,706	82
Double	59	2,604	103	3,258	74
Cushions	21	170	22	133	101
	Th.		Th.		
Curtains	50	151	85	119	36
	..	88	..	141	
Carrycots	44	99	33	64	5
	..		..	69	
Blinds (other than commercial blinds and venetian blinds)	..	141	..	(a)	
Loose covers (car or domestic) (b)	..	..	..	694	9
Making up of, or alterations to, loose covers, pelmets and curtains in retailers' workshops (c)		830		885	158
Work done for the industry (c)		157		344	49
Total		25,566		30,824	..
Sales in other industries (see Table 6)		2,180		3,498	..
Principal products of this industry sold by establishments in the industry		23,386		27,327	304

(a) For 1954 all blinds are classified as principal products of the Shop and Office Fitting Industry. (Volume 10, Industry D).

(b) So far as separately recorded.

(c) Amount charged.

Sales of principal products of the industry by establishments classified to other industries

TABLE 6

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

	1954			Principal industries in which produced (a)
	Quantity	Value	Entries	
Bedding and soft furnishings	Th.	£'000	Number	
Divan beds (excluding mattresses)	45	253	37	10B
Bases for spring interior mattresses	28	177	25	10B
Upholstered mattresses				
Mattresses 4 feet in width and over				
Interior spring	159	1,013	47	10B
Other	73	264	41	10B
Mattresses under 4 feet in width (other than cot mattresses)				
Interior spring	135	643	38	10B
Other	43	118	39	10B
Cot mattresses				
Carry cots	..	57	32	10B, 3N
Bolsters	Th.doz.			
..	1	8	29	7C, 10B
..	..	29	..	..
Pillows	..	44	31	7C, 10B
..	9	28	..	..
Quilts				
Cot and single sizes				
Double	30	424	13	6P, 7B, 7H, 10B
Cushions	4	25	37	7B, 10B
Curtains	Th.			
..	26	81	25	6P, 10B, 10D
..	..	27	..	..
Loose covers (car or domestic)				
Making-up of, or alterations to, loose covers, pelmets and curtains done in retailers' workshops(b)	..	307	84	10B, 10D
Total		3,498	..	

(a) The volume number and industry references given are to the industries shown in the list at the back of this report.

(b) Amount charged.

Sales in the industry of other than principal products: Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 7

	1954	
	Quantity	Value
Furniture and cabinet ware of wood		£'000
Upholstered	..	873
Not upholstered	..	866
Furniture with metal frames, upholstered	..	94
Wire mattresses	..	356
Counterpanes and other bed coverings	..	1,050
Other soft furnishing goods (table cloths, etc.)	..	338
Wearing apparel	..	202
Other goods made	..	457
Work done (a)		
Making-up of carpets		172
Upholstery work		14
Repairs to furniture, cabinet ware, etc.		267
Other work done		186
Total		4,876

(a) Amount charged.

(92167)

TABLE 8 - Total make of intermediate products

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

This table is not applicable to the industry.

Purchases of materials and fuel, 1954  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 9

	Quantity	Cost
Materials	Th.cu.ft.	£'000
Timber (excluding timber used for making into cases, etc., or for repairing returnable cases)		
Hardwood	320	250
Softwood	328	210
	Th.sq.ft.	
Veneers and panel wood (not plywood)	2,323	70
Plywood (including plywood for panels), blockboard, laminboard and battenboard	2,112	97
Compound boards	180	11
Fabricated wood work (for example chair frames and chair legs) and joinery		
Component parts for furniture	..	326
Other descriptions	..	224
Furniture in the white, unpolished, for further processing	..	43
	Tons	
Metal frames	300	21
..	..	40
Iron and steel in all forms except finished parts and scrap	2,682	121
..	..	184
Non-ferrous metals in all forms except finished parts and scrap	9	1
..	..	6
	Cwt.	
Willows, canes and rattans and woven fibre fabrics for imitation basketware	1,217	7
Plate and sheet glass (including mirrors)	..	3
Wire and wire mesh	..	591
Springs	..	1,498
Wire mattresses, bed-irons and hardware fittings (including hinges, metal cabinet handles, etc.)	..	252
Plastic fittings and other plastic materials	..	37
Textile fabrics (including calico and hessian)	Th.lin.yds.	
Webbing	9,648	147
Other narrow fabrics (braids, bindings, tapes, etc.)	51,805	256
Piece goods	Th.sq.yds.	
Wholly or mainly of wool	486	257
Wholly or mainly of cotton	29,980	4,614
Wholly or mainly of rayon, nylon, etc.	15,301	2,556
Wholly or mainly of jute	7,424	385
Of other textile materials	1,740	274
Leathercloth (fabric backed)	243	80
Leather	9	5
..	..	2
Paint and varnish, including emulsion paints, cellulose based paints and lacquers	..	62
Stuffing and padding materials		
Hair (except rubberised hair), fibre, feathers, down, kapok, etc. pads and padding of these materials (backed or not) and hair felt (including mixture of hair with other materials)	Th.lb.	
..	39,606	2,205
..	..	1,022

(92167)

TABLE 9 (contd.)

	Quantity	Cost
	Th. lb.	£'000
Materials (contd.)		
Stuffing and padding materials (contd.)		
Wool felt and wool flocks	49,998	1,838
Cotton flocks, cotton waste (including mill-puffs) cotton linters and cotton felt	17,368	847
Rubber (including foam rubber) in all forms and rubberised hair	1,059	241
Other	2,018	83
Glue and other adhesives	..	16
Packing materials	..	9
Replacement parts for firms' own machinery, plant and vehicles	..	351
Consumable tools (for example, chisels, saws, cramps, etc.) bought as replacements	..	165
All other purchased materials	..	15
Fuel and electricity	Th. tons	705
Coal	7	30
Coke	4	25
Liquid fuels (including creosote/pitch mixtures)	Th. gal.	
For use in internal combustion engines		
Motor spirit (petrol) for use in road vehicles and derv. fuel	897	185
Other	5	1
For burning in furnaces, boilers, kilns, etc.	270	13
Gas purchased	Th. therms	
From Gas Boards	582	27
From other sources, including other departments of the same firms	3	-
Electricity purchased (a)	Th. kWh.	
From Electricity Boards	8,427	71
From other sources, including other departments of the same firms	..	16
All other purchased fuel	..	1
Total cost		3
		20,569

(a) Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, the amount of electricity generated in firms' own establishments in this industry cannot be given.

(92167)

Average number of employees and wages, salaries and superannuation payments (a)

TABLE 10

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
Average number of employees	14,807	15,712
Operatives	2,451	2,676
Administrative, technical and clerical employees		
Total	17,258	18,388
Wages and salaries paid to	£'000	£'000
Operatives	4,063	5,112
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	1,293	1,517
Total	5,356	6,629
Wages and salaries per head	£	£
Operatives	274	325
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	528	567
Superannuation and other pension funds for employees and dependents (b)		£'000
Employers' contributions	..	46
Employees covered	..	3,373
Pension, etc. payments to former employees and dependents (b)	..	£'000
		5

(a) The following persons, not included above, were also employed by larger establishments in this industry ('other workers' includes for example, employees engaged in merchanting). Payments to outworkers are also shown.

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
Canteen workers		
Male	6	4
Female	157	143
Total	163	147
Other workers		
Male	329(c)	502
Female	621(c)	1,173
Total	950(c)	1,675
Total excluded employees	1,113(c)	1,822
Outworkers	141	199
Payments to outworkers	£'000	£'000
	10	23

(b) The figures given relate to larger establishments in Great Britain only.  
(c) Revised figures.

Employment in a specified week (a)  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 11

Number

	1951			1954		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Working proprietors	46	4	50	42	5	47
Operatives	6,604	8,142	14,746	6,529	9,676	16,205
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	1,438	1,062	2,500	1,491	1,203	2,694
Total employees	8,042	9,204	17,246	8,020	10,879	18,899

(a) Week ended September 22, 1951, or October 30, 1954.

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