

## THE UMBRELLA AND WALKING STICK TRADES.

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**Introductory.\***

The Tables on pages 318 to 320 are based on Returns received from firms in Great Britain and Northern Ireland whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the manufacture of umbrellas and walking sticks. The number of such separate Returns was 277. About 115 firms to which schedules were sent did not furnish Returns, but these firms for the most part had very small establishments and they included a number which ceased operations in the course of the censal year. On the basis of the information available it is estimated that they did not employ more than 250 persons and that their net output probably lay between £25,000 and £50,000.

*Summary of results.*—The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1924 and 1907, comparisons between the figures for the two years being subject to the qualifications mentioned in the next paragraph. The information obtained in connection with the Census of 1912 was not sufficiently complete to warrant its use for purposes of comparison on account of the important proportion of the persons occupied in the trade who were employed by the small firms exempted in that year.

\* See also the Notes on pp. vii–xiv.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1907.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	2,793	1,722
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	1,720	1,112
Paid for work given out to other firms .. .. .	"	10	—
Net output .. .. .	"	1,063	610
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	No.	5,578	7,563
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	£	191	81
Mechanical power available:—			
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	981	958
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	1,342	(not recorded)

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

(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 Census of 1907 covered the whole of Great Britain and 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, according to the Census of Production taken by the Government of the Irish Free State in respect of the year 1926, the total value of the goods made and work done in connection with the manufacture of umbrellas in that year was returned as £13,000.

*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 making Returns, and for the reasons explained in paragraphs (i) and (ii) on page xii they may over-state the value of the output of, and the cost of the materials used by, the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades considered as a whole. The matter is discussed on page 314, where it is estimated that in 1924 the value, free from duplication, of the output of those trades was not less than £2,191,000 and the cost of the materials purchased from sources outside the trades and worked up into their products was not less than £1,128,000.

*Sectional results.*—The Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades fall into two distinct sections, viz. (a) that dealing with the manufacture of complete umbrellas, covers and metal fittings, and (b) the timber working section, producing walking sticks and umbrella sticks. Separate figures for the two sections are not available for 1907, but in 1924 the total net output of firms in section (a) was £823,000 and the net output per person employed was £197; these firms employed an average number of 3,440 operatives, of whom 1,235 were males and 2,205 were females. In section (b) the total net output was £240,000 and the net output per person employed was £172; the

operatives numbered 1,183, of whom 1,021 were males and 162 were females. It will be seen that the two sections differed markedly as regards the sex-distribution of the operatives, the proportion of males employed in section (b) being about 86 per cent. as against about 36 per cent. in section (a). In spite of the higher proportion of males in the stick section, the average net output per person employed was markedly lower in that section than in the trade as a whole.

### Production.

The detailed information relating to production in 1924 is summarised in Table II on page 318.

*Umbrellas and walking sticks.*—The following statement shows, for the censal years 1924 and 1907, the value and (where recorded) the quantity of the umbrellas and walking sticks produced, including not only those manufactured by firms which made their Returns on schedules for the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades, but also those made by firms whose Returns were furnished on schedules for other trades.

Output sold or added to stock.	1924.	1907.
	Selling value.	Selling value.
	£'000.	£'000.
Umbrellas, complete .. .. .	1,588	1,370
Umbrella sticks .. .. .	226	
Other parts of umbrellas .. .. .	444*	
Walking sticks and canes .. .. .	119	188
	(129) †	
Umbrellas, walking sticks and parts, not separately distinguished .. .. .	33‡	172
TOTAL .. .. .	2,472	1,730

\* Including £24,000 returned on schedules for other trades.

† Including £5,000 returned on schedules for other trades.

The numbers of umbrellas and walking sticks made were not required to be stated in 1907, and in 1924 the output recorded was not completely returned in terms of quantity. In order to ascertain the numbers made in that year corresponding to the values recorded in the Returns, it would be necessary to add to the numbers shown in the above table (4,320,000 umbrellas and 1,548,000 walking sticks) the numbers included under the last two entries in the table, but the necessary information for this purpose is not available.

*Other products.*—In addition to the products enumerated above, there were returned in 1924 other goods to the value of £129,000 (of which £23,000 was for wood turnery). These goods are mainly produced by other trades, and are dealt with in the Reports relating to those trades. In 1907, the value of the other products recorded was £13,000.

*Repairs and work done for the trade.*—In addition to the manufactured goods recorded in the preceding paragraphs, firms that made their Returns on schedules for the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades included in 1924 the sum of £149,000 in respect of repair work and the sum of £72,000 in respect of work done for the trade, as compared with £28,000 and £29,000 respectively in 1907. Such firms stated that in 1924 they paid £10,000 for work given out by them to other firms, and the difference of £62,000 between this sum and the sum of £72,000 received for work done for the trade represents the minimum value of the work done by firms in the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades for merchants or other firms that did not make Returns on the schedules for those trades. No information is available as to the nature or value of the goods concerned in either the work given out or the work done for the trade.

*Value of output free from duplication.*—The gross output value of the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades in 1924 (£2,793,000) involves duplication in so far as the umbrella sticks and other parts of umbrellas which were returned as sold or added to stock were sold to other firms in those trades and utilised either in the production of the finished goods, or in the repair work, recorded in the Returns received from those firms. The value of the umbrella sticks and other parts recorded as such in the Returns for those trades amounted to £646,000, apart from the value of those included in the undifferentiated output valued at £62,000. Allowing for exports of umbrella covers, parts and fittings valued at £157,000 f.o.b., or about £140,000 at factory, in 1924 (which may have included all or some of the umbrella parts valued at £24,000 returned on schedules for other trades), the value of the umbrella sticks and parts which may have been duplicated in the gross output value of the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades is reduced to £592,000 as an outside figure. The gross output value of these trades also includes duplication in respect of such part of the work done for the trade (valued at £72,000) as was done for firms in the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades, the upper limit of this duplication being £10,000, the amount recorded by firms in these trades as having been paid for work given out to other firms. The value of the output of the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades in 1924, free from duplication, may consequently be estimated at a figure not less than £2,191,000.

*Cost of materials and work given out.*—The cost of the materials used by firms making their Returns on schedules for the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades was returned as £1,720,000, a sum which, by the exclusion of purchases of the products of firms in these trades, may be reduced to £1,128,000.

The amount paid to other firms for work given out to them was returned as £10,000 in 1924, but no work given out was recorded in 1907.

*Net output.*—The net output in 1924 of the firms making their Returns on schedules for the Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades (whose gross output was valued at £2,793,000) was £1,063,000, 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 (excluding out-workers) in the censal year 1924 was £191, as compared with £81 in 1907.

*Exports and imports.*—Exports of complete umbrellas in 1924 were 86,000 dozens, valued, f.o.b., at £246,000, and retained imports were 8,000 dozens, valued, c.i.f., at £27,000; for walking sticks, exports were 33,000 dozens, valued at £43,000; and retained imports were 19,000 dozens, valued at £10,000. As explained above, the number of umbrellas and walking sticks made in the United Kingdom in 1924 cannot be completely ascertained from the Census Returns, but as it was in excess of 360,000 dozen umbrellas and 129,000 dozen walking sticks, it is clear that the home market was mainly supplied by the British manufacturer. Exports of parts and fittings for umbrellas (including covers) were valued at £157,000, f.o.b., and net imports at £97,000, c.i.f.

#### 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 connection 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 Umbrella and Walking Stick Trades which made Returns both to the Ministry of Labour and to the Census of Production office. According to the Census records this group of firms employed, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, 2,276 operatives or 46 per cent. of the total of 4,982 operatives for the trades as a whole, and their net output totalled £532,000 or 50 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £1,063,000 for the trades as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £230,000, 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 pages 319 to 320. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those relating to 1907. 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 proportion shown by the data relating to the week ended 18th October.

Average number (excluding outworkers).	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
	<b>1924.</b>					
Operatives .. .. .	525	2,256	603	2,367	1,128	4,623
Administrative, etc. .. .. .	56	689	48	266	104	955
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>2,945</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>5,578</b>
<b>1907.</b>						
Wage earners .. .. .	649	3,419	714	3,173	1,363	6,592
Salaried .. .. .	79	770	37	201	116	971
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>4,189</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>1,479</b>	<b>7,563</b>
Average number of outworkers—						
1924 .. .. .	40		348		388	
1907 .. .. .	54		501		555	

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 477 above the average, in December, to 330 below the average, in May (see Table III B, page 319).

### Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 320. The following table sets out the particulars for the censal years 1924 and 1907 relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers* and the capacity of *electric generators* installed.

Power equipment.	1924.			1907.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
<b>PRIME MOVERS :—</b>	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines ..	750	40	790	398
Gas engines .. .. .	122	4	126	
Petrol and light oil engines .. ..	20	—	20	
Heavy oil engines .. .. .	—	—	—	
Water power .. .. .	45	—	45	137
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>958</b>
<b>ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—</b>	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines ..	375	10	385	3
Gas engines .. .. .	7	—	7	12*
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>15</b>

\* Driven by prime movers other than reciprocating steam engines.

The capacity of *electric motors* recorded in 1924 was as shown below :—

Electric motors.	1924.		
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by :—			
Electricity generated in own works .. .. .	450	127	577
Purchased electricity .. .. .	1,327	15	1,342

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 243,000.

## TABLES.

## I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output) .. .. .	£'000	2,495	298	2,793
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	1,512	208	1,720
Paid for work given out to other firms .. .. .	"	10	—	10
Net output .. .. .	"	973	90	1,063
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	No.	5,099	479	5,578
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	£	191	187	191
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	981	—	981
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	1,309	33	1,342

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

## II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
Umbrellas, complete .. .. .	£'000. 1,319	£'000. 269	£'000. 1,588
(Th. doz.) .. .. .	(302)	(58)	(360)
Umbrella sticks .. .. .	226	—	226
Other parts of umbrellas .. .. .	401	19	420
Walking sticks and canes			
Number stated .. .. .	119	—	119
(Th. doz.) .. .. .	(129)	—	(129)
Number not stated .. .. .	28	†	28
Umbrellas, walking sticks and parts, not separately distinguished .. .. .	62	—	62
Wood turnery .. .. .	23	—	23
Other manufactures .. .. .	106	—	106
Repair work .. .. .	140	9	149
Work done for the trade .. .. .	71	1	72
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT) .. .. .</b>	<b>2,495</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>2,793</b>

\* See footnote to Table I.

† Less than £500.

## III.—Employment.

## A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1924 (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

Kind of Staff.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	All 18.	All ages.
<i>England and Wales and Northern Ireland :—†</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	523	2,268	602	2,332	1,125	4,600
Administrative, etc.* .. .. .	48	615	29	205	77	820
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>2,883</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>5,420</b>
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	32	120	59	262	91	382
Administrative, etc.* .. .. .	8	74	19	61	27	135
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>517</b>
<i>United Kingdom :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	555	2,388	661	2,594	1,216	4,982
Administrative, etc.* .. .. .	56	689	48	266	104	955
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>3,077</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>2,860</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>5,937</b>

\* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

† See footnote to Table I.

## B.—OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1924 (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

*England and Wales and Northern Ireland.\* (Annual average : Males, 2,145 ; Females, 2,134 ; Total, 4,279.)*

Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	2,126	1,998	4,124	July 19th ..	2,114	2,047	4,161
Feb. 16th ..	2,096	2,069	4,165	Aug. 16th ..	2,131	2,103	4,234
March 15th ..	2,098	2,075	4,173	Sept. 13th ..	2,172	2,216	4,388
April 12th ..	2,042	2,035	4,077	Oct. 18th ..	2,268	2,332	4,600
May 17th ..	2,027	1,959	3,986	Nov. 15th ..	2,308	2,382	4,690
June 21st ..	2,059	1,979	4,038	Dec. 13th ..	2,293	2,416	4,709

*Scotland. (Annual average : Males, 111 ; Females, 233 ; Total, 344.)*

Jan. 12th ..	102	221	323	July 19th ..	115	227	342
Feb. 16th ..	102	211	313	Aug. 16th ..	117	243	360
March 15th ..	104	210	314	Sept. 13th ..	120	254	374
April 12th ..	99	205	304	Oct. 18th ..	120	262	382
May 17th ..	103	204	307	Nov. 15th ..	125	272	397
June 21st ..	109	215	324	Dec. 13th ..	123	268	391

*United Kingdom. (Annual average : Males, 2,256 ; Females, 2,367 ; Total, 4,623.)*

Jan. 12th ..	2,228	2,219	4,447	July 19th ..	2,229	2,274	4,503
Feb. 16th ..	2,198	2,280	4,478	Aug. 16th ..	2,248	2,346	4,594
March 15th ..	2,202	2,285	4,487	Sept. 13th ..	2,292	2,470	4,762
April 12th ..	2,141	2,240	4,381	Oct. 18th ..	2,388	2,594	4,982
May 17th ..	2,130	2,163	4,293	Nov. 15th ..	2,433	2,654	5,087
June 21st ..	2,168	2,194	4,362	Dec. 13th ..	2,416	2,684	5,100

\* See footnote to Table I.

## C.—NUMBER OF OUTWORKERS AT TWO SPECIFIED PERIODS IN 1924.

County.	January.			July.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>England and Wales*</i> .. .. .	45	323	368	35	352	387
<i>Scotland</i> .. .. .	—	10	10	—	10	10
<i>United Kingdom</i> .. .. .	45	333	378	35	362	397

\* No outworkers were returned for Northern Ireland.

## IV.—Mechanical Power.

## PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England and and Wales and N. Ireland.*		United Kingdom.	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
<b>PRIME MOVERS :—</b>	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	750	40	750	40
Gas engines .. .. .	122	4	122	4
Petrol and light oil engines .. .. .	20	—	20	—
Water power .. .. .	45	—	45	—
TOTAL .. .. .	937	44	937	44
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	981		981	
<b>ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—</b>	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines .. .. .	375	10	375	10
Gas engines .. .. .	7	—	7	—
TOTAL .. .. .	382	10	382	10
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS IN- STALLED .. .. .	392		392	
<b>ELECTRIC MOTORS :—</b>	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—				
Electricity generated in own works .. .. .	450	127	450	127
Purchased electricity .. .. .	1,294	15	1,327†	15

\* See footnote to Table I.

† Includes electric motors of 33 H.P. capacity returned as being ordinarily in use in Scotland.