

## THE CANVAS GOODS AND SACK TRADES.

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## Introductory.\*

The tables on pages 253 to 257 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 canvas goods and sacks. The number of such separate returns was 490. About 120 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 300 persons in all and that their total net output probably did not exceed £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

\* See also the Notes on pages vii to vx.

the next paragraph. The information obtained in connexion with the Census of 1912, when details of output were not required from firms employing five persons or less, was not sufficiently complete to warrant its being used for purposes of comparison.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1907.
Value of goods made and work done (gross output)	£'000	7,818	2,026
Cost of materials used .. .. .	"	5,885	1,517
Net output .. .. .	"	1,933	509
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	No.	10,358	7,463
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) .. .. .	£	187	68
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	1,886	1,967
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity .. .. .	"	4,566	(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 Census of 1907 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, according to the Census of Production taken by the Government of the Irish Free State in respect of the year 1926, the only output of goods of the kinds covered by this report separately recorded was 32,000 dozen of new bags and sacks of cotton, valued at £9,700.

## Production.

Detailed information relating to the output of the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades in 1924 will be found in Table II on page 254.

In addition to the output dealt with in this report canvas goods and sacks, valued, on a cost basis, at £850,000 were produced in 1924 by Railway Companies and in H.M. Prisons.\* The corresponding figure for 1907 was £368,000.

*Principal products.*—The following table shows, for the years 1924 and 1907, the value of the principal products of the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades, the figures for each year being inclusive of the output of similar products recorded on schedules for other trades, but exclusive of the output of Railway Companies and H.M. Prisons.

\*Such production falls within the scope of the report on Public Utility Services which forms part of a separate volume.

Kind of goods.	1924.	1907.
	Selling value.	Selling value.
	£'000.	£'000.
Sacks and bags, new .. .. .	2,371	692
Sacks and bags, second-hand, repaired and sold .. .. .	3,220	159
Made-up canvas goods (sails, tents, awnings, tarpaulins, etc.) .. .. .	1,733	810
Cotton, canvas, and paper, waterproofed for sacking .. .. .	689	182
Brattice cloth .. .. .	224	33
<b>TOTAL VALUE—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS .. .. .</b>	<b>8,237</b>	<b>1,876</b>

In 1907 about 4,692 thousand dozen sacks and bags of all materials were returned on schedules for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades, but the output of sacks and bags made by jute-weaving firms (by which firms most of the bags made outside the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades are produced) was not stated, either by quantity or value, separately from piece-goods. Although complete particulars of the quantity of output are not available it is plain that there was a large increase in 1924 as compared with 1907.

More detailed particulars relating to the output of the principal products in 1924 are given in the following table :—

Kind of goods.	Returned on schedules for			
	The Canvas Goods and Sack Trades.		All trades.	
	Quantity.	Selling Value.	Quantity.	Selling Value.
	Th. doz.	£'000.	Th. doz.	£'000.
Sacks and bags, new :—				
Of jute .. .. .	4,249	1,363	4,803†	1,662†
Of cotton .. .. .	2,745	603	2,745	603
Of hemp .. .. .	3	12	21	20
Of other textile materials and unclassified .. .. .	*	29	*	40
	8	8	8	8
	*	37	*	38
<b>TOTAL VALUE—New sacks and bags .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2,052</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2,371</b>
Second-hand sacks and bags, repaired and sold .. .. .	..	3,185	..	3,220
Made-up canvas goods (sails, tents, awnings, flags, tarpaulins, etc.) .. .. .	..	1,276	..	1,733
Cotton, canvas and paper, waterproofed for packing .. .. .	..	641	..	689
Brattice cloth .. .. .	..	172	..	224
<b>TOTAL VALUE—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS .. .. .</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>7,326</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>8,237</b>

\* Quantity not stated.

† The figures given in the Report on the Textile Trades (page 145), in respect of the make of sacks and bags of jute in "Other trades," relate only to the sacks and bags made by firms in the other Textile Trades.

The output shown above is, it is believed, free from any significant duplication.

Firms were also required to state their output of new sacks and bags by weight as well as by number and value, but only firms making new sacks and bags to the value of £1,036,000, or about half the aggregate value returned in respect of such goods on schedules for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades, were able to do so. The particulars furnished, which covered nearly two-thirds of the number and value of jute sacks and bags made by all firms in the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades, and a much smaller proportion of cotton and other bags, were as follows :—

Sacks and bags.	Quantity.		Selling value.
	Weight.	Number.	
	Cwts.	Th. doz.	£'000.
Of jute .. .. .	305,000	2,837	858
Of cotton .. .. .	16,100	467	161
Of hemp .. .. .	700	2	9
Of other textile materials and unclassified .. .. .	5,800	8	8
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>327,600</b>	<b>3,314</b>	<b>1,036</b>

It would be unsafe to attempt to calculate the weight of the total output on the basis of this sample.

*Other products.*—In addition to the principal products dealt with in the preceding paragraphs, firms that made their returns on the schedule for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades recorded in 1924 an output of other goods, chiefly cordage, clothing and other textile manufactures, valued at £166,000. These goods, being of kinds mainly produced in other trades, are dealt with in the reports on those trades. The corresponding figure for 1907 was £61,000.

*Work done for customers.*—In addition to the manufactured goods dealt with in the preceding paragraphs the following particulars were returned in respect of work done for customers. Included in these figures for 1924 is the sum of £2,000 for similar work recorded on schedules for other trades. The corresponding amount for 1907 was £12,000.

Kind of work done.	1924.	1907.
	Amount received.	Amount received.
	£'000.	£'000.
Making-up of bags, etc., from customers' materials .. .. .	178	67
Cleaning and repairing bags, etc. .. .. .	70	62
Baling of goods in hessian and sacking .. .. .	40	28
Other work done, including dressing and finishing textile goods .. .. .	40	19
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>176</b>

The total value of the output recorded on schedules for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades (£7,818,000) is substantially free from duplication. So far as is known, the work on customers' materials, valued at £328,000, was not done for firms who made returns on schedules for these trades and this sum is, accordingly, not duplicated in the output value.

*Cost of materials.*—The cost of materials used by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades was returned as £5,885,000 in 1924; the corresponding figure for 1907 was £1,517,000.

*Net output.*—The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their returns on schedules for the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades (whose gross output was valued at £7,818,000) was £1,933,000, 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.

The net output per head of persons employed (excluding out-workers) in the censal year 1924 was £187, as compared with £68 in 1907.

*Exports and imports.*—In 1924 about 2,789,000 dozen of new jute sacks and bags were exported and 2,463,000 dozen were imported and retained; there were thus available for use in the United Kingdom 4,477,000 dozen sacks and bags of jute, of which 45 per cent. were of British make. Exports of made-up canvas goods were valued at £550,000 f.o.b. in 1924, and retained imports at less than £13,000 c.i.f. Similar figures for 1907 are not available, except that 3,400,000 dozens of bags and sacks of all materials (except paper) were exported in that year; particulars for 1924 in respect of exports and imports of other products of the Canvas Goods and Sack Trades were not recorded separately.

#### 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 Canvas Goods and Sack Trades 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, 4,945 operatives, or 54 per cent. of the total of 9,160 operatives for the trade as a whole, and their net

output totalled £1,156,000, or 60 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £1,933,000 for the trades as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £410,000, representing about 35 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

#### Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on pages 255 and 256. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those relating to the 1907 Census. For the purposes 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 (excluding out-workers).	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<b>1924.</b>						
Operatives .. ..	304	2,738	1,234	6,234	1,538	8,972
Administrative, etc. ..	66	995	51	391	117	1,386
TOTAL .. ..	370	3,733	1,285	6,625	1,655	10,358
<b>1907.</b>						
Wage earners .. ..	299	2,703	561	4,143	860	6,846
Salaried .. ..	33	552	9	65	42	617
TOTAL .. ..	332	3,255	570	4,208	902	7,463
Average number of out-workers:—						
1924 .. ..	9		69		78	
1907 .. ..	22		500		522	

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 292 below the average, in April, to 245 above the average, in December (see Table IIIB, page 256). The aggregate numbers increased in the second quarter of the year and, after falling off in the third quarter, were, during the last quarter, nearly at the level reached in the middle of the year. In the total of operatives, females preponderated in both the censal years, but more so in 1924 than in 1907, since the number of males increased only to a trifling extent while the number of females increased by about one-half.

#### Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 257. 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 ..	904	368	1,272	1,286
Steam turbines .. .. .	40	—	40	—
Gas engines .. .. .	361	55	416	} 601
Petrol and light oil engines ..	3	—	3	
Water power .. .. .	80	75	155	80
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>1,967</b>
<b>ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—</b>	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines ..	329	230	559	82
Gas engines .. .. .	10	—	10	} 10*
Water power .. .. .	27	20	47	
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>92</b>

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

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 ..	346	100	446
Purchased electricity .. .. .	4,031	535	4,566

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 115,000.

## TABLES.

## I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.	Northern Ireland.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output) ..	£'000	6,043	1,480	7,523	295
Cost of materials used ..	"	4,483	1,144	5,627	258
Net output .. .. .	"	1,560	336	1,896	37
Average number of persons employed (excluding out-workers) .. .. .	No.	7,926	2,141	10,067	291
Net output per person employed (excluding out-workers) .. .. .	£	197	157	188	127
Mechanical power available :—					
Prime movers .. .. .	H.P.	951	935	1,886	—
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity ..	"	2,917	1,548	4,465	101

## II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.†	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
<b>Sacks and bags, new :—</b>				
Of jute—				
† <i>Weight and number stated</i> ..	<i>Th. cwts.</i>	183·2	121·8	305·0
	<i>Th. doz.</i>	1,977	860	2,837
	£'000	463	395	858
<i>Number only stated</i> .. .. .	<i>Th. doz.</i>	1,178	234	1,412
	£'000	392	113	505
Of cotton—				
† <i>Weight and number stated</i> ..	<i>Th. cwts.</i>	*	*	16·1
	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	467
	£'000	*	*	161
<i>Number only stated</i> .. .. .	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	2,278
	£'000	*	*	442
Of hemp—				
<i>Weight and number stated</i> ..	<i>Th. cwt.</i>	*	*	0·7
	<i>Th. doz.</i>	*	*	2
	£'000	*	*	9
<i>Number only stated</i> .. .. .	<i>Th. doz.</i>	1	—	1
	£'000	3	—	3
<i>Value only stated</i> .. .. .	£'000	29	—	29
Of other textile materials and unclassified—				
<i>Weight and number stated</i> ..	<i>Th. cwt.</i>	5·8	—	5·8
	<i>Th. doz.</i>	8	—	8
	£'000	8	—	8
<i>Value only stated</i> .. .. .	£'000	*	*	37
<b>TOTAL VALUE—SACKS AND BAGS, NEW .. .. .</b>	£'000	*	*	2,052

\* † See notes on page 254.

## II.—Production—continued.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
†Second-hand sacks and bags, repaired and sold or added to stock .. ..	£'000	2,892	293	3,185
†Made-up canvas goods (sails, tents, marquees, awnings, tarpaulins, rick-cloths, wagon-covers, flags, etc.) ..	£'000	1,085	191	1,276
Cotton, canvas and paper, waterproofed for packing .. .. .	£'000	544	97	641
Brattice cloth .. .. .	£'000	*	*	172
Cordage, clothing and other textile manufactures .. .. .	£'000	105	10	115
Other goods made .. .. .	£'000	41	10	51
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE</b>	£'000	6,182	1,310	7,492
		Amount received.	Amount received.	Amount received.
Making of bags, etc., from customers' materials .. .. .	£'000	52	126	178
Cleaning and repairing bags, etc. ..	£'000	*	*	68
Baling of goods in hessian and sacking	£'000	15	25	40
Other work done, including dressing and finishing textile goods .. ..	£'000	*	*	40
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF WORK DONE</b>	£'000	156	170	326
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)</b> .. ..	£'000	6,338	1,480	7,818

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

† The few items of output for Northern Ireland have, for convenience, been included with those for England and Wales, the items affected being also marked thus (†). The total value of such output was £295,000, of which £214,000 was in respect of second-hand sacks and bags, repaired and sold or added to stock; the three remaining items cannot be stated separately on account of the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms.

## 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.	Under 18.	All ages.
<i>England and Wales :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	241	2,074	956	4,906	1,197	6,980
Administrative, etc.*	46	807	40	300	86	1,107
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>2,881</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>5,206</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>8,087</b>
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	61	626	301	1,288	362	1,914
Administrative, etc.*	20	163	11	84	31	247
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>2,161</b>
<i>Great Britain :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	302	2,700	1,257	6,194	1,559	8,894
Administrative, etc.* ..	66	970	51	384	117	1,354
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>3,670</b>	<b>1,308</b>	<b>6,578</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>10,248</b>
<i>Northern Ireland :—</i>						
Operatives .. .. .	1	29	16	237	17	266
Administrative, etc.*	—	25	—	7	—	32
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>298</b>
<i>United Kingdom :—</i>						
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>6,822</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>10,546</b>

\* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

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

England and Wales. (Annual average : Males, 2,088 ; Females, 4,731 ; Total, 6,819.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	2,049	4,613	6,662	July 19th ..	2,150	4,830	6,980
Feb. 16th ..	2,061	4,642	6,703	Aug. 16th ..	2,153	4,761	6,914
March 15th ..	2,062	4,543	6,605	Sept. 13th ..	2,117	4,461	6,578
April 12th ..	2,060	4,488	6,548	Oct. 18th ..	2,074	4,906	6,980
May 17th ..	2,051	4,789	6,840	Nov. 15th ..	2,085	4,891	6,976
June 21st ..	2,116	4,909	7,025	Dec. 13th ..	2,081	4,939	7,020

Scotland. (Annual average : Males, 621 ; Females, 1,273 ; Total, 1,894.)

Jan. 12th ..	616	1,214	1,830	July 19th ..	645	1,306	1,951
Feb. 16th ..	612	1,227	1,839	Aug. 16th ..	608	1,283	1,891
March 15th ..	608	1,265	1,873	Sept. 13th ..	613	1,288	1,901
April 12th ..	601	1,267	1,868	Oct. 18th ..	626	1,288	1,914
May 17th ..	615	1,269	1,884	Nov. 15th ..	658	1,254	1,912
June 21st ..	625	1,322	1,947	Dec. 13th ..	622	1,289	1,911

Great Britain. (Annual average : Males, 2,709 ; Females, 6,004 ; Total, 8,713.)

Jan. 12th ..	2,665	5,827	8,492	July 19th ..	2,795	6,136	8,931
Feb. 16th ..	2,673	5,869	8,542	Aug. 16th ..	2,761	6,044	8,805
March 15th ..	2,670	5,808	8,478	Sept. 13th ..	2,730	5,749	8,479
April 12th ..	2,661	5,755	8,416	Oct. 18th ..	2,700	6,194	8,894
May 17th ..	2,666	6,058	8,724	Nov. 15th ..	2,743	6,145	8,888
June 21st ..	2,741	6,231	8,972	Dec. 13th ..	2,703	6,228	8,931

Northern Ireland. (Annual average : Males, 29 ; Females, 230 ; Total, 259.)

Jan. 12th ..	29	248	277	July 19th ..	29	185	214
Feb. 16th ..	29	247	276	Aug. 16th ..	29	208	237
March 15th ..	29	254	283	Sept. 13th ..	29	216	245
April 12th ..	29	235	264	Oct. 18th ..	29	237	266
May 17th ..	29	226	255	Nov. 15th ..	31	243	274
June 21st ..	28	205	233	Dec. 13th ..	32	254	286

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

Country.	January.			July.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
England and Wales* ..	9	61	70	9	77	86

\* No outworkers were returned for Scotland or Northern Ireland.

IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS  
AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Great Britain.	
	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 .. ..	537	73	367	295	904	368
Steam turbines .. ..	—	—	40	—	40	—
Gas engines .. ..	278	55	83	—	361	55
Petrol and light oil engines .. ..	3	—	—	—	3	—
Water power .. ..	5	—	75	75	80	75
TOTAL .. ..	823	128	565	370	1,388	498
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED .. ..	951		935		1,886	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—						
Reciprocating steam engines .. ..	142	50	187	180	329	230
Gas engines .. ..	10	—	—	—	10	—
Water power .. ..	2	—	25	20	27	20
TOTAL .. ..	154	50	212	200	366	250
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	204		412		616	
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—						
Electricity generated in own works ..	110	—	236	100	346	100
Purchased electricity	2,535	382	1,395	153	4,031*	535

\* Includes electric motors of 101 H.P., the only mechanical power recorded for Northern Ireland.