

THE ELASTIC WEBBING TRADE

INTRODUCTORY

This trade comprises firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of elastic cords, braids and webs.

Table I A.—General summary

| Particulars | 1935 | 1934 | 1933 | 1930 | 1924 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Value of products (Gross output) ... | 1,982 | 1,930 | 1,930 | 1,770 | 1,923 |
| Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used | 996 | 963 | 948 | 842 | 1,015 |
| Amount paid for work given out ... | 29 | 30 | 30 | 26 | 50 |
| Net output | 957 | 937 | 952 | 902 | 858 |
| | No. | No. | No. | No. | No. |
| Average number of persons employed | 6,565 | 6,503 | 6,540 | 5,799 | 5,514 |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Net output per person employed ... | 146 | 144 | 146 | 156 | 156 |
| | No. | | | No. | No. |
| Number of returns | 38 | } | * | 29 | 35 |
| Number of establishments | 44 | } | * | 34 | * |

* 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 | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| Average number of persons employed :— | | | |
| Males | 14 | 8 | 10 |
| Females | 26 | 6 | 11 |
| Total | 40 | 14 | 21 |
| Number of firms not making returns | — | — | 4 |

In 1924 the value of the gross output of the small firms making returns was 0.2 per cent. of the total.

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 ... | 2 | 7 | 3 | 33 | 97 |
| 25-49 ... | 10 | 89 | 43 | 351 | 122 |
| 50-99 ... | 10 | 209 | 115 | 652 | 177 |
| 100-199 ... | 10 | 467 | 192 | 1,387 | 138 |
| 200-299 ... | 6 | 460 | 226 | 1,471 | 154 |
| 300-399 ... | 3 | 320 | 137 | 1,096 | 125 |
| 400 and over ... | 3 | 430 | 241 | 1,575 | 153 |
| TOTAL ... | 44 | 1,982 | 957 | 6,565 | 146 |

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. | £ |
| 2 ... 1935 | 3 | 69 | 31 | 203 | 152 |
| 5 ... 1935 | 3 | 69 | 26 | 317 | 83 |
| 6 ... 1935 | 34 | 1,645 | 811 | 5,431 | 149 |
| 1, 3 and 7 ... 1935 | 4 | 199 | 89 | 614 | 144 |
| TOTAL { 1935 | 44 | 1,982 | 957 | 6,565 | 146 |
| { 1930 | 34 | 1,770 | 902 | 5,799 | 156 |

*For particulars see page xviii.

Table IV.—No sub-divisions of this trade have been distinguished.

PRODUCTION

Table V A.—Output of principal products

| Kind of output | 1935 | | | 1934 | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Quantity | Value | Entries | Quantity | Value |
| Elastic cords and braids ... | Th. lin. yards 279,386 | £'000 432* | No. 15 | Th. lin. yards 315,303 | £'000 479 |
| Elastic webs :— | | | | | |
| Up to 2 inches ... | 48,279 | 498 | 25 | 45,344 | 478 |
| Above 2 inches ... | 8,310 | 432 | 19 | 7,771 | 363 |
| Work done for the trade or on commission ... | ... | 3† | 2 | ... | 3† |
| TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ... | ... | 1,365 | ... | ... | 1,323 |

* Including £10,000 recorded on a schedule for another trade.

† Amount received.

Table V B.—Output of principal products, 1924-1935

| Kind of output | Unit | 1924 | 1930 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Elastic cords and braids | Th. lin. yds. | 151,760 | 192,731 | 293,103 | 315,303 | 279,386 |
| | £'000 | 491 | 525 | 511 | 479 | 432 |
| Elastic webs :— | Th. lin. yds. | 49,986 | 36,112 | 46,540 | 45,344 | 48,279 |
| | £'000 | 672 | 460 | 582 | 478 | 498 |
| Up to 2 inches | Th. lin. yds. | 4,450 | 5,055 | 7,171 | 7,771 | 8,310 |
| | £'000 | 247 | 225 | 299 | 363 | 432 |
| Above 2 inches | Th. lin. yds. | — | — | — | — | — |
| | £'000 | — | — | — | 3* | 3* |
| Work done for the trade or on commission ... | £'000 | — | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL — PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ... | £'000 | 1,410 | 1,210 | 1,392 | 1,323 | 1,365 |

* Amount received.

Table VI.—Average values of products*

| Kind of goods | Production (at factory) | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | Average value | | 1935 as a percentage of 1934 |
| | 1935 | 1934 | |
| | £ per th. lin. yards | £ per th. lin. yards | Per cent. |
| Elastic cords and braids ... | 1.55 | 1.52 | 101.6 |
| Elastic webs :— | | | |
| Up to 2 inches ... | 10.33 | 10.53 | 98.1 |
| Above 2 inches ... | 51.94 | 46.76 | 111.1 |

* Average values of exports and imports are not available (see Table VIII).

Table VII.—Volume of Production, 1924-1935

| Kind of output | Total production | | | Production index (1935=100) | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 1935 as returned | 1934 | | 1924 | 1930 | 1933 | 1934 |
| | | As returned | At 1935 average values | | | | |
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| Elastic cords and braids | 432 | 479 | 487 | 55 | 69 | 105 | 113 |
| Elastic webs :— | | | | | | | |
| Up to 2 inches ... | 498 | 478 | 469 | 104 | 75 | 97 | 94 |
| Above 2 inches ... | 432 | 363 | 403 | 53 | 60 | 86 | 93 |
| Work done for the trade or on commission ... | 3 | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 93 |
| TOTAL ... | 1,365 | 1,323 | 1,362 | 72 | 68 | 96 | 100 |

Table VIII.—Exports and Imports

The value of *elastic cords, webs, braids and fabrics* exported from the United Kingdom in 1935 and 1934 is shown below, together with the value of similar goods imported and retained.

| | 1935 | 1934 |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Exports ... | 195 | 206 |
| Retained imports... <i>Net export</i> | 74 | 98 |

As particulars of quantity are not recorded and separate particulars for cords and braids and for webs are not available, no comparison between production and oversea trade is practicable for either year.

Table IX.—Other output of the Elastic Webbing Trade

The value of the gross output of the firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Elastic Webbing Trade was £1,982,000 in 1935 and £1,930,000 in 1934, of which £1,355,000 in 1935 and £1,323,000 in 1934 consisted of products included in Table V A. Particulars of the remaining items are shown below.

| Kind of output | 1935 | 1934 |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 |
| Braces, suspenders, belts, etc. ... | 81 | 90 |
| Surgical hosiery ... | 106 | 114 |
| Other elastic goods ... | 221 | 200 |
| Non-elastic webbing, tapes, braids, etc. :— | | |
| Of cotton ... | 147 | 153 |
| Of other textiles ... | 40 | 27 |
| Other textile manufactures ... | 21 | 13 |
| Other goods made ... | 9 | 9 |
| Waste sold ... | 2 | 1 |
| TOTAL ... | 627 | 607 |

MATERIALS AND FUEL

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

| Kind of materials, etc. | 1935 | | 1934 | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|------------|
| | Quantity | Cost | Quantity | Cost |
| | Th. lbs. | £'000 | Th. lbs. | £'000 |
| Rubber ... | 1,688.7 | 287 | 1,566.4 | 275 |
| Cotton yarn ... | 4,922.4 | 318 | 4,597.8 | 275 |
| Silk yarn ... | 8.6 | 9 | 8.9 | 10 |
| Artificial silk yarn ... | 1,378.3 | 160 | 1,344.0 | 176 |
| Woollen and worsted yarns ... | 32.3 | 4 | 19.9 | 3 |
| Fuel and electricity used for all purposes : | Th. tons | | | |
| Coal ... | 9.8 | 8 | | |
| Coke ... | 0.3 | 1 | | |
| | Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) | | | 224 |
| Purchased electricity*... .. | 3,415 | 16 | | |
| All other purchased materials and fuel ... | | 193 | | |
| TOTAL ... | | 996 | | 963 |

* Including electricity generated in other works under the same ownership.

Table X B.—Consumption of coal, coke and electricity in 1935 and 1930

| Kind of fuel | 1935 | 1930 |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Th. tons | Th. tons |
| Coal ... | 9.8 | 9.9 |
| Coke ... | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| | Th.B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) | Th.B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) |
| Electricity :— | | |
| Generated in same works ... | 347 | 36 |
| Generated in other works under same ownership ... | 3 | * |
| Purchased ... | 3,412 | 2,039 |
| Total electricity consumed ... | 3,762 | 2,075 |

* Not recorded separately.

EMPLOYMENT

Table XI A.—Average numbers employed in 1935 and 1934

| Persons employed | Males | | Females | | Total | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Under 18 | All ages | Under 18 | All ages | Under 18 | All ages |
| Operatives (average for the year) ... | 305 | 1,800 | 1,146 | 4,306 | 1,451 | 6,106 |
| Administrative, technical and clerical staff* ... | 11 | 269 | 36 | 190 | 47 | 459 |
| TOTAL ... | 316 | 2,069 | 1,182 | 4,496 | 1,498 | 6,565 |
| | 289 | 1,807 | 1,017 | 4,195 | 1,306 | 6,002 |
| | 12 | 295 | 22 | 206 | 34 | 501 |
| | 301 | 2,102 | 1,039 | 4,401 | 1,340 | 6,503 |

* As at 12th October, 1935, and 13th October, 1934.

Table XI B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1934 and 1935 by firms furnishing returns in respect of the twelve months ended December

| Mid week of * | Operatives employed | | Monthly index† | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------|
| | 1934 | 1935 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 |
| January ... | 3,581 | 3,532 | 100.4 | 97.6 | 97.9 |
| February ... | 3,615 | 3,550 | 99.5 | 98.5 | 98.4 |
| March ... | 3,577 | 3,580 | 99.8 | 97.5 | 99.3 |
| April ... | 3,632 | 3,565 | 100.2 | 99.0 | 98.9 |
| May ... | 3,674 | 3,628 | 100.8 | 100.1 | 100.6 |
| June ... | 3,642 | 3,562 | 99.5 | 99.3 | 98.8 |
| July ... | 3,597 | 3,592 | 99.5 | 98.0 | 99.6 |
| August ... | 3,578 | 3,658 | 99.6 | 97.5 | 101.4 |
| September ... | 3,635 | 3,646 | 99.7 | 99.1 | 101.1 |
| October ... | 3,588 | 3,670 | 98.5 | 97.8 | 101.8 |
| November ... | 3,582 | 3,658 | 98.8 | 97.6 | 101.4 |
| December ... | 3,585 | 3,625 | 99.3 | 97.7 | 100.5 |
| Average for the twelve months ... | 3,607 | 3,606 | 99.6 | 98.3 | 100.0 |
| Proportion of total operatives represented ... | 60.10 | 59.06 | ... | ... | ... |

* 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 ... | 5,075 | 439 | 5,514 |
| 1930 ... | 5,379 | 420 | 5,799 |
| 1933 ... | 6,083 | 457 | 6,540 |
| 1934 ... | 6,002 | 501 | 6,503 |
| 1935 ... | 6,106 | 459 | 6,565 |

WAGES

Table XII.—Wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages in 1935 and 1930

The aggregate amount of wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages was £312,000 representing 54.1 per cent. of the net output of these firms, the corresponding figures for 1930 being £293,000 and 51.3 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 | 1935 | | 1930 | |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| | Aggregate | Proportion of trade | Aggregate | Proportion of trade |
| Gross output ... | £'000 1,227 | Per cent. 61.9 | £'000 1,109 | Per cent. 62.7 |
| Net output ... | 577 | 60.3 | 571 | 63.3 |
| Operative staff employed :— | No. | | No. | |
| During mid-week of October :— | | | | |
| Males ... | 1,210 | 66.3 | * | * |
| Females ... | 2,759 | 63.2 | | |
| Total ... | 3,969 | 64.2 | 3,571 | 66.2 |
| Average for the year ... | 3,862 | 63.2 | 3,545 | 65.9 |
| Administrative, technical and clerical staff ... | 269 | 58.6 | * | * |
| Number of establishments ... | 29 | 65.9 | ... | ... |

* 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 Elastic Webbing Trade and relate throughout to England and Wales, no production being recorded for Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Table I.—General summary (see page 287)

Table II.—Output

| Kind of output | Quantity | | Value £'000 |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------|
| | Th. lin. yds. | | |
| Elastic cords and braids | 273,157 | | 422 |
| Elastic webs :— | | | |
| Up to 2 inches | 48,279 | | 498 |
| Above 2 inches | 8,310 | | 432 |
| Braces, suspenders, belts, etc. | | | 81 |
| Surgical hosiery | | | 106 |
| Other elastic goods | | | 221 |
| Non-elastic webbing, tapes, braids, etc. :— | | | |
| Of cotton | | | 147 |
| Of other textiles | | | 40 |
| Other textile manufactures | | | 21 |
| Other goods made | | | 9 |
| Waste sold | | | 2 |
| Work done for the trade or on commission | | | 3* |
| TOTAL | | | 1,982 |

* Amount received.

Table III A.—Materials, fuel and electricity purchased and used (see page 291)

Table III B.—Consumption of electricity (see page 291)

Table IV A.—Numbers employed in the week ended 12th October, 1935

| Persons employed | Males | | Females | | Total | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Under 18 | All ages | Under 18 | All ages | Under 18 | All ages |
| | Operatives | 309 | 1,824 | 1,161 | 4,363 | 1,470 |
| Administrative, technical and clerical staff | 11 | 269 | 36 | 190 | 47 | 459 |
| Total | 320 | 2,093 | 1,197 | 4,553 | 1,517 | 6,646 |

Table IV B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1935

| Week ended | Males and females | Week ended | Males and females | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| January 19 | 5,974 | July 13 | 6,138 | |
| February 16... .. | 5,988 | August 17 | 6,127 | |
| March 16 | 6,038 | September 14 | 6,186 | |
| April 13 | 6,045 | October 12 | 6,187 | |
| May 18 | 6,135 | November 16 | 6,237 | |
| June 15 | 6,049 | December 14 | 6,167 | |
| Average for the twelve months | | | | 6,106 |

Table V.—Firms employing not more than ten persons on the average (see page 287).