

168 Directory of Businesses: Leather,
Leather Goods and Fur; Clothing and
Footwear

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BUSINESS STATISTICS OFFICE

Report on the Census of Production 1968

168 Directory of Businesses: Leather, Leather Goods and Fur; Clothing and Footwear

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The Government Statistical Service has for a considerable time been aware of the public demand for lists of businesses classified on a uniform basis by industrial activity. The Business Statistics Office maintains registers of businesses in the production sector for the purpose of conducting statistical inquiries, particularly censuses of production. Since much of the information contained on those registers has been collected in statutory inquiries carried out under the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947, particulars of individual businesses on these registers cannot generally be disclosed without contravening the provisions of the Act, unless written permission has been given. In the Census of Production for 1968 an attempt was made to overcome this problem and provide as comprehensive a list of businesses as possible for industries covered by the census (ie mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction, gas, electricity and water) by seeking the agreement of respondents to the following proposal.

"There has been an increasing amount of market research by industry, carried out either directly or by employing specialist agencies, to facilitate forward planning of business activity. This work, however, is made difficult because there is no comprehensive list of businesses rigorously classified by industrial activity on a uniform basis which is available to the general public. The Board of Trade believe that industry as a whole would benefit from the publication of such a list. The Census of Production for 1968 presents an opportunity to go some way towards providing this information. It is proposed to prepare for each industry which is the subject of a census report, a list of larger contributors to the sales of the major products of the industry. There would be no disclosure of any details of the activities of the undertaking concerned. The lists would only include the name and address of the businesses covered by the return.

Your agreement to this proposal would be greatly welcomed. Before any information of this sort can be published, it is necessary for the Board of Trade to have your consent in writing. Would you therefore indicate in Section R whether or not you are willing to allow your firm's name to appear in the lists which the Board proposes to publish, by accepting or deleting paragraph R(ii)."

A large majority of businesses agreed to the proposal, and it is therefore possible to publish a Directory giving names and addresses and the industries to which they have been classified in the Census, of establishments which agreed to publication. The postal code of the establishment is also given in a limited number of instances. Full postal code information cannot be given since it was not in general use when the register was compiled. The Directory will go some way towards meeting the demand for lists of this kind and will also be of assistance in interpreting the results of the Census, although its usefulness is limited by the refusal of some respondents to the Census to agree to their inclusion in the Directory.

The Directory covers all the industries identified in the Census of Production for 1968 and relates to the whole of the United Kingdom. It is divided into thirteen volumes, as listed in the Appendix, each volume covering one or more Orders of the Standard Industrial Classification, 1968. Within each volume information is given on an industry basis. Changes to names and addresses which have occurred subsequent to census returns being made are not reflected in the Directory.

For each industry the list is divided into two parts. The first part (Part A) relates to establishments classified to the particular industry; the name and address of each establishment is given as well as a list of other industries whose principal products also featured among its sales. The second part (Part B) relates to establishments which, although classified to another industry, sell the products of the industry in question. The name and address of each such establishment is given, together with the industry to which it is classified. (The statistics of sales are to be found in Table 5 - "Sales of principal products of the industry by larger establishments, including sales by establishments classified to other industries, 1963 and 1968", and in Table 6 - "Sales of principal products of the industry by larger establishments classified to other industries, 1963 and 1968", of each industry report.)

Generally the information given relates only to establishments employing 25 or more persons, except where details of small establishments (ie establishments employing fewer than 25 persons) have been included in returns for larger establishments. In certain industries (listed in the Appendix), small establishments were known to contribute significantly to the output of the industry, and were asked to complete a modified version of the census questionnaire which included the section relating to the