

THE WOODEN CRATES, CASES, BOXES AND TRUNKS TRADE

INTRODUCTORY

This trade comprises firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of wooden crates, cases, boxes and trunks.

The figures shown in the following tables (except Table V) relate to Great Britain only, particulars of the small production in Northern Ireland being included in the report on the Timber Trade (see page 106).

In the absence of quantitative particulars of output, Table VI is omitted.

Table I A.—General summary

Particulars	Unit	1935	1930	1924
Value of products (Gross output) ...	£'000	4,414	4,981	5,899
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used ...	"	2,328	2,847	3,360
Amount paid for work given out ...	"	13	18	14
Net output ...	"	2,073	2,116	2,525
Average number of persons employed ...	No.	11,551	12,188	13,510
Net output per person employed ...	£	179	174	187
Number of returns ...	No.	216	226	267
Number of establishments ...	"	224	257	*

* Not available.

Table I B.—Firms employing not more than ten persons on the average

Particulars	1935	1930	1924
Number of returns received ...	No. 274	No. 266	No. 200
Average number of persons employed:—			
Males ...	1,271	1,309	933
Females ...	79	79	51
TOTAL ...	1,350	1,388	984
Number of firms not making returns ...	10	11	80

In 1924 the value of the gross output of the small firms making returns was 6.2 per cent. of the total, the bulk of the output consisting of crates, cases, etc., for packing merchandise (5.4 per cent.).

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 ...	88	618	288	1,543	187
25-49 ...	65	965	458	2,275	201
50-99 ...	47	1,204	567	3,294	172
100-199 ...	19	1,085	460	2,530	182
200 and over ...	5	542	300	1,909	157
TOTAL ...	224	4,414	2,073	11,551	179

Table III.—Particulars of output, etc., in each of the principal areas of the United Kingdom

Area*	Number of establishments†	Gross output	Net output	Number of persons employed	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
1 ...	1935 72	1,537	795	4,218	189
	1930 71	1,557	701	3,888	180
2 ...	1935 38	822	371	2,092	177
	1930 42	880	417	2,226	187
3 ...	1935 23	394	180	1,163	155
4 ...	1935 3	15	6	45	140
3 and 4 ...	1935 26	409	186	1,208	154
	1930 13	220	92	597	154
5 ...	1935 22	288	134	738	181
	1930 13	213	100	549	183
6 ...	1935 4	74	38	203	186
7 ...	1935 7	77	38	246	152
8 ...	1935 6	97	45	228	199
9 ...	1935 6	94	45	247	183
10 ...	1935 8	151	63	470	135
12 and 13 ...	1935 7	78	34	192	175
6 to 13 ...	1935 38	571	263	1,586	166
	1930 56	957	425	2,617	162
14 ...	1935 13	471	175	757	231
	1930 14	697	216	1,001	216
15 ...	1935 8	143	69	407	169
16 and 17 ...	1935 7	173	80	545	147
15 to 17 ...	1935 15	316	149	952	156
	1930 17	457	165	1,310	126
TOTAL ...	1935 224	4,414	2,073	11,551	179
	1930 226	4,981	2,116	12,188	174

* For particulars see page xviii.

† Number of returns for 1930.

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

PRODUCTION

Table V.—Output of principal products

Kind of output	1935		1930
	Value	Entries	Value
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise*	£'000 3,999	No. 496	£'000 4,486
Chests (including metal-lined tea chests) and travelling trunks, of wood ...	222	12	396 †
Other boxes, cases, etc., of wood (except cabinetware) ...	343	64	241
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ...	4,564	...	5,123

* Including cable drums, rolling boards for cloth pieces, tinplate boxes, confectionery and cigar boxes, etc.

† So far as recorded separately.

The figures shown in the preceding table include the following output recorded by firms whose returns were made on schedules for other trades and are not, therefore, included in Table I A.

Kind of output	1935		1930
	Value	Entries	Value
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise	£'000	No.	£'000
Chests (including metal-lined tea chests) and travelling trunks, of wood	767	297	603
Other boxes, cases, etc., of wood (except cabinetware)	82	46	121
TOTAL	849	...	724

Table VII.—Volume of Production, 1924-1935

Principal products	1924	1930	1935
Value of output as returned	£'000	£'000	£'000
Estimated value at 1935 prices*	6,589	5,123	4,564
	5,300	4,600	4,564
Volume of production as a percentage of 1935...	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
	116	101	100

* In the absence of particulars of quantities, these estimates are based on prices of materials, wages paid, and other manufacturing costs.

Table VIII.—Exports and Imports

Particulars of exports and imports are available only in respect of tea chests, other classes of wooden crates, boxes, etc., not being recorded separately.

Kind of goods	Exports		Retained imports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Thous.	£'000	Thous.	£'000
Tea chests, metal lined	1935 1	*	—	—
	1930 1,903	296	—	—

* Less than £500.

Table IX.—Other output of the Wooden Crates, Cases, Boxes and Trunks Trade

The value of the gross output of the firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Wooden Crates, Cases, Boxes and Trunks Trade was £4,414,000 in 1935 and £4,981,000 in 1930, of which £3,715,000 in 1935 and £4,399,000 in 1930 consisted of products included in Table V. Particulars of the remaining items are shown below.

Kind of output	1935	1930
	£'000	£'000
Sawmill products:—		
Sawn hard woods	28	26
Sawn soft woods	75	123
Planed or dressed woods	85	148
Boxboards, softwood, sawn or planed, not dovetailed, mortised or tenoned at the ends...	140	*
Other sawmill products	17	3
Casks and barrels	36	58
Builders' woodwork (window frames, doors, etc.)	106	30
Wood wool, fibre, flour, etc.	20	23
Furniture and cabinetware of wood	43	70
Other manufactures of wood	68	33
Firewood, shavings, etc., sold	33	29
Other goods	10	29
Work done for the trade:—		
Sawing and planing timber, deals, etc.	8†	13†
Other work	30†	26†
TOTAL	699	582

* Not recorded separately.
† Amount received.

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

Kind of materials, etc.	1935		1930
	Quantity	Cost	Cost
	Th. cub. ft.	£'000	£'000
Unsawn timber:—			
Home grown:—			
Hard	156.5	8	
Soft	462.6	28	
Imported:—			
Hard	301.6	30	
Soft	250.6	746	
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes:—	Th. tons		
Coal	9.1	9	2,847
Coke	1.0	1	
Heavy fuel oil	63	1	
Purchased electricity†	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	46	
All other purchased materials and fuel...		1,458	
TOTAL		2,328	2,847

* So far as recorded separately.

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

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

Kind of fuel	1935	1930
	Th. tons	Th. tons
Coal	9.1	14.1
Coke	1.0	1.1
Electricity :—	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Generated in same works	1,827	1,707
Generated in other works under same ownership	431	367
Purchased	10,664	7,089
Total electricity consumed	12,922	9,163

EMPLOYMENT

Table XI A.—Average numbers employed

Persons employed	Males		Females		Total	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
	Operatives (average for the year)	1935 2,677	9,215	455	1,347	3,132
Administrative, technical and clerical staff*	1930 2,408	9,805	398	1,335	2,806	11,140
	1935 48	769	39	220	87	989
	1930 46	830	39	218	85	1,048
Total	1935 2,725	9,984	494	1,567	3,219	11,551
	1930 2,454	10,635	437	1,553	2,891	12,188

* As at 12th October, 1935, and 18th October, 1930.

Table XI B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1930 and 1935 by firms furnishing returns in respect of the twelve months ended December

Mid week of*	Operatives employed		Monthly index†	
	1930	1935	1930	1935
	January	5,185	5,878	108.3
February	5,088	5,782	106.2	94.0
March	5,052	5,792	105.5	94.2
April	5,083	5,823	106.1	94.7
May	5,158	6,132	107.7	99.7
June	5,140	6,096	107.3	99.1
July	5,033	6,230	105.1	101.3
August	4,942	6,151	103.2	100.0
September	4,804	6,248	100.3	101.6
October	5,063	6,476	105.7	105.3
November	5,064	6,657	105.7	108.2
December	5,008	6,543	104.6	106.4
Average for the twelve months...	5,052	6,151	105.5	100.0
Proportion of total operatives represented	45.35	58.24

* 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	12,423	1,087	13,510
1930	11,140	1,048	12,188
1935	10,562	989	11,551

WAGES

Table XII.—Wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages

The aggregate amount of wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages was £572,000 in 1935 representing 55.0 per cent. of the net output of these firms, the corresponding figures for 1930 being £762,000 and 60.6 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 2,313	Per cent. 52.5	£'000 3,108	Per cent. 62.4
Net output	1,040	50.2	1,256	59.4
Operative staff employed :—	No.		No.	
During mid-week of October :—				
Males	4,768	49.4	*	*
Females	625	44.3		
Total	5,393	48.7	7,098	63.2
Average for the year	5,213	49.4	6,986	62.7
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	473	47.8	*	*
Number of establishments	111	49.6

* 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 Wooden Crates, Cases, Boxes and Trunks Trade.

No production was recorded for Northern Ireland.

Table I.—General summary

Particulars	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Value of products (Gross output) ...	£'000	3,627	787	4,414
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used ...	"	1,865	463	2,328
Amount paid for work given out ...	"	13	—	13
Net output ...	"	1,749	324	2,073
Average number of persons employed ...	No.	9,842	1,709	11,551
Net output per person employed ...	£	178	189	179
Number of returns ...	No.	189	27	216
Number of establishments ...	"	196	28	224

Table II.—Output

Kind of output	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise* ...	£'000	2,887	345	3,232
Chests (including metal lined tea chests) and travelling trunks, of wood ...	£'000	212	271	483
Other boxes, cases, etc., of wood (except cabinetware) ...	£'000	—	—	—
Sawmill products:—				
Sawn hard woods ...	£'000	28	—	28
Sawn soft woods ...	£'000	55	20	75
Planed or dressed woods ...	£'000	57	28	85
Boxboards, soft wood, sawn or planed, not dovetailed, mortised or tenoned at the ends ...	£'000	94	46	140
Other sawmill products ...	£'000	15	2	17
Casks and barrels ...	£'000	18	18	36
Builders' woodwork (window frames, doors, etc.) ...	£'000	78	28	106
Wood wool, fibre, flour, etc. ...	£'000	7	13	20
Furniture and cabinetware of wood ...	£'000	43	—	43
Other manufactures of wood ...	£'000	64	4	68
Firewood, shavings, etc., sold ...	£'000	26	7	33
Other goods ...	£'000	10	—	10
Work done for the trade:—				
Sawing and planing timber, deals, etc. ...	£'000	8‡	—	8‡
Other work ...	£'000	25‡	5‡	30‡
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE ...	£'000	3,627	787	4,414

* Including cable drums, rolling boards for cloth pieces, tinplate boxes, confectionery and cigar boxes, etc.

‡ Amount received.

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

Kind of materials, etc.	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Unsawn timber:—				
Home grown:—				
Hard ...	Th. cub. ft. / £'000	†	†	156.58
Soft ...	Th. cub. ft. / £'000			462.628
Imported:—				
Hard ...	Th. cub. ft. / £'000	†	†	301.6
Soft ...	Th. loads / £'000	194.9	55.7	250.6
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes:—				
Coal ...	Th. tons / £'000	4.8	4.3	9.1
Coke ...	Th. tons / £'000	0.8	0.2	1.0
Heavy fuel oil ...	Th. galls. / £'000	40	23	63
Purchased electricity§ ...	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) / £'000	9,009	2,086	11,095
All other purchased materials and fuel ...	£'000	40	6	46
TOTAL ...	£'000	1,159	299	1,458
TOTAL ...	£'000	1,865	463	2,328

† Owing to the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars cannot be given.

‡ Less than £500.

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

Table III B.—Consumption of electricity

Electricity consumed	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Generated in same works ...	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Generated in other works under same ownership ...	255	1,572	1,827
Purchased ...	431	—	431
TOTAL ...	8,578	2,086	10,664
Total ...	9,264*	3,658	12,922

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

Persons employed	Males		Females		Total	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
England and Wales :—						
Operatives	2,281	8,100	432	1,296	2,713	9,396
Administrative, etc.* ...	41	691	37	174	78	865
Total	2,322	8,791	469	1,470	2,791	10,261
Scotland :—						
Operatives	526	1,561	45	116	571	1,677
Administrative, etc.* ...	7	78	2	46	9	124
Total	533	1,639	47	162	580	1,801
Great Britain :—						
Operatives	2,807	9,661	477	1,412	3,284	11,073
Administrative, etc.* ...	48	769	39	220	87	989
TOTAL	2,855	10,430	516	1,632	3,371	12,062

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

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

Week ended	Males and females		
	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
January 19	8,631	1,525	10,156
February 16	8,509	1,502	10,011
March 16	8,551	1,521	10,072
April 13	8,722	1,516	10,238
May 18	8,961	1,572	10,533
June 15	8,867	1,542	10,409
July 13	9,071	1,632	10,703
August 17	8,967	1,588	10,555
September 14	8,903	1,596	10,499
October 12	9,396	1,677	11,073
November 16	9,641	1,667	11,308
December 14	9,507	1,685	11,192
Average for the twelve months	8,977	1,585	10,562

Table V.—Firms employing not more than ten persons on the average

Particulars	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Number of returns received	No. 254	No. 20	No. 274
Average number of persons employed :—			
Males	1,171	100	1,271
Females	57	22	79
Total	1,228	122	1,350