Business Statistics Office

Business Monitor

1978

Report on the Census of Production

Gas

HMSO

A publication of the Government Statistical Service

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PA601 Business Monitor

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Report on the Census of Production 1978

Gas

Presented by the Secretary of State for Industry
to Parliament in pursuance of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947
(10 & 11 Geo.6 Cha.39 sec 7)

Department of Industry
Business Statistics Office

London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office

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The information in this report relates to undertakings classified to the Gas industry, minimum list heading 601 in the Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1968). The activities of the industry include:—

The production and distribution of gas for public supply. Construction work carried out by employees of gas undertakings is included. Gas showrooms are not included. Undertakings (other than transport undertakings) producing gas primarily for their own use are excluded and are included in the industries covering the major output of the parent works.

This report covers all undertakings of the British Gas Corporation and the gas undertakings in Northern Ireland.

The figures for each census year relate to a business year ending on 31 March in the following year e.g. figures for 1978 relate to the year ended March 1979.

In interpreting the data in the tables it is essential to bear in mind the notes and definitions which commence on page (iii).

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Output and costs, 1974–1978
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the industry

	Unit	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Gas etc. sold (a)	£ thousand	1,128,848	1,468,697	1,714,125	2,236,172	2,566,238
Receipts for work done and industrial services rendered	"	(b)	(b)	647	694	742
Capital goods produced for establishments' own use	"	33,893	16,281	9,968	8,525	10,115
Non-industrial services rendered	"	14,827	16,172	20,086	10,128	7,129
Goods merchanted or factored (c)	"	84,242	106,199	340	365	380
Total sales and work done (d)	"	**1,261,810**	**1,607,349**	**1,745,166**	**2,255,884**	**2,584,604**
Increase during the year, work in progress and goods on hand for sale (e)	"	2,880	5,698	–13	–14	–13
Gross output	..	**1,264,690**	**1,613,047**	**1,745,153**	**2,255,870**	**2,584,591**
Purchases of materials for use in production, and packaging and fuel	"	350,306	436,108	462,525	677,877	962,846
Purchases of goods for merchanting or factoring	"	58,160	72,092	133	143	160
Increase during the year, stocks of materials, stores and fuel	"	10,044	15,873	9,776	–14,377	–14,824
Cost of industrial services received	"	98,447	138,123	133,958	183,883	250,295
Net output	"	**767,821**	**982,597**	**1,158,313**	**1,379,590**	**1,356,466**
Net output per head	£	**7,395**	**9,426**	**11,789**	**14,256**	**14,118**
Payments for non-industrial services						
Hire of vehicles, plant and machinery	£ thousand	6,964	9,892	12,043	17,927	25,965
Rents of industrial and commercial buildings	"	(f)	(f)	4,977	6,495	6,609
Commercial insurance premiums	"	1,994	1,622	3,447	2,245	1,567
Bank charges	"	937	1,419	1,512	2,168	2,478
Other non-industrial services	"	77,120	45,227	54,257	68,054	80,410
Licensing of motor vehicles	"	1,083	1,417	1,390	1,793	2,111
Rates, excluding water rates	"	23,025	31,192	52,296	59,520	64,791
Gross value added at factor cost	"	**656,699**	**891,828**	**1,028,391**	**1,221,388**	**1,172,535**
Gross value added at factor cost per head	£	**6,324**	**8,555**	**10,467**	**12,621**	**12,204**
Total employment (g)(h)	Number	103,836	104,245	98,254	96,774	96,078
Operatives	"	42,806	42,150	41,093	40,950	41,672
Others (j)	"	61,030	62,095	57,161	55,824	54,406
Wages and salaries (k)						
Operatives	£ thousand	102,421	133,514	139,795	152,971	180,325
Others	"	157,441	195,150	207,055	232,778	261,860
Wages and salaries per head						
Operatives	£	2,393	3,168	3,402	3,736	4,327
Others	"	2,580	3,143	3,622	4,170	4,813

(a) Including sales of gas and other products, charges for work done, meter rents received and work of new construction.

(b) Included in gas etc. sold.

(c) 1976–1978 figures do not include goods handled through showrooms. Consequently, this has affected the gross output, net output, net output per head, gross value added at factor cost and gross value added at factor cost per head values for those years.

(d) Details of undertakings sales of principal products are published regularly in Business Monitor PQ601.

(e) Including stocks of appliances for England, Scotland and Wales. For 1976–1978 the values of work in progress and stocks of appliances were not recorded.

(f) For 1974 and 1975 rents of industrial and commercial buildings were not recorded separately, but included in hire of vehicles, plant and machinery.

(g) Average number employed, including full and part-time employees (see table 7).

(h) 1976–1978 figures exclude showroom employees.

(j) Administrative, technical and clerical employees.

(k) Another component of labour costs, employers' national insurance contributions, graduated pensions, contributions to other pensions and welfare schemes and the running cost of canteens, is estimated for the industry at £122,760 thousand.

TABLE 2 PA601

Capital expenditure, 1974–1978(a)
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the industry

£ thousand

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
Land and buildings					
New building work	8,959	3,005	10,406	6,172	12,624
Land and existing buildings					
Acquisitions	1,123	11,047	–	1,568	18,800
Disposals	2,086	3,475	3,771	3,400	6,053
Vehicles					
Acquisitions	4,804	6,030	1,462	4,605	19,263
Disposals	442	506	941	2,009	984
Plant and machinery					
Acquisitions (b)	126,693	124,875	92,241	64,539	75,531
Disposals	3,512	922	1,246	1,379	853
Mains and services					
Acquisitions	152,062	230,131	138,017	120,989	197,379
Disposals	44	190	63	501	129
Total net capital expenditure	**287,557**	**369,995**	**236,105**	**190,584**	**315,581**

(a) Capital expenditure in respect of manufacturing undertakings where production had not commenced before the end of the year is included.

(b) Including appliances for hire of meters.

TABLE 3

Stocks and work in progress, 1974–1978
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the industry

£ thousand

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	
			Increase			Value at end of year
Materials, stores and fuel	10,044	15,873	9,776	–14,377	–14,824	62,237
Work in progress	–109	4,274	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Goods on hand for sale (b)	2,989	1,424	–13	–14	–13	105
Total	**12,924**	**21,571**	**9,763**	**–14,391**	**–14,837**	**62,352**

(a) The value of work in progress was not recorded for 1976–1978.

(b) 1974 and 1975 figures include stocks of appliances for England, Scotland and Wales.

TABLE 5 PA601

Distribution of employment, net capital expenditure, net output and gross value added at factor cost, by country, 1978
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the industry.

Country	Average number employed		Net capital expenditure (a)		Net output		Gross value added at factor cost	
	Number	per cent of United Kingdom	£ thousand	per cent of United Kingdom	£ thousand	per cent of United Kingdom	£ thousand	per cent of United Kingdom
England	84,128	87.6	253,612	80.4	1,275,669	94.1	1,110,638	94.7
Wales	4,342	4.5	23,867	7.6	37,648	2.8	30,049	2.6
Scotland	6,459	6.7	35,976	11.4	36,018	2.7	25,310	2.2
Great Britain	94,929	98.8	313,455	99.3	1,349,335	99.5	1,165,997	99.4
Northern Ireland	1,149	1.2	2,126	0.7	7,131	0.5	6,538	0.6
United Kingdom	96,078	100.0	315,581	100.0	1,356,466	100.0	1,172,535	100.0

(a) New building work plus acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, plant and machinery, vehicles and mains and services.

TABLE 7

Percentage analysis of employees, by full and part-time employment and sex, 1977(a)

Sex	Full-time	Part-time	All employees
	per cent	per cent	per cent
Male	75	–	75
Female	19	6	25

Source: Department of Employment

(a) The percentages relate to the numbers employed (excluding working proprietors) in the United Kingdom at mid-June, 1977.

TABLE 8 **PA601**

Operating ratios, 1977—1978
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the industry

	Unit	1977	1978
Gross output per head	£	23,311	26,901
Net output per head	£	14,256	14,118
Gross value added per head	£	12,621	12,204
Gross value added as a percentage of gross output	%	54	45
Ratio of gross output to stocks		29.2	41.5
Wages and salaries as a percentage of gross value added	%	32	38
Ratio of operatives to administrative, technical and clerical employees		0.7	0.8
Wages and salaries per administrative, technical and clerical employee	£	4,170	4,813
Wages and salaries per operative	£	3,736	4,327
Net capital expenditure per head	£	1,969	3,285
Net capital expenditure as a percentage of gross value added	%	16	27

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Notes

These notes give the main information needed for interpreting the figures in the industry Business Monitors: more detailed information about the census is given in a separate Business Monitor - PA1001 (Introductory Notes) of the Report on the Census of Production, 1978.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Changes made for 1978
The Census for 1978 is in line with similar inquiries being conducted in other member countries of the European Economic Communities.
The census differed from earlier censuses in three respects. Sampling was introduced for establishments employing 20 to 49 and a sample of smaller units was selected. A new question on the leasing of capital assets was included for 1978 only. This will provide register information for use in related inquiries into leasing.

Suppression of information relating to individual undertakings
Section 9(5)(b) of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 states - "The following provisions shall have effect with respect to any report, summary or other communication to the public of information obtained under the foregoing provisions of this Act - in compiling any such report, summary or communication the competent authority shall so arrange it as to prevent any particulars published therein from being identified as being particulars relating to any individual person or undertaking except with the previous consent in writing of that person or the person carrying on that undertaking, as the case may be; but this provision shall not prevent the disclosure of the total quantity or value of any articles produced, sold or delivered; so, however, that before disclosing any such total the competent authority shall have regard to any representations made to them by any person who alleges that the disclosure thereof would enable particulars relating to him or to an undertaking carried on by him to be deduced from the total disclosed."
If a figure involved disclosure the contributor concerned was sometimes asked to give permission for its publication. In the majority of cases permission was given. When it was refused and where contributors were not approached the figure has been suppressed, either by combining it with other figures, or as in the regional tables, by omitting the figure altogether.

Symbols used
The following symbols are used throughout the PA series of Business Monitors:

.. not available
- nil or less than half the final digit shown
* figures cannot be shown owing to the risk of disclosing information about individual undertakings
R revised

Rounding of figures
Figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded to the nearest final digit. Where figures have been so rounded, the sum of the constituent items may not always agree exactly with the total shown.

Industrial classification
The United Kingdom Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) was first issued in 1948 and was subsequently revised in 1958 and 1968. It exists to promote uniformity and comparability in the official statistics of the United Kingdom. The general principles followed are those of the International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities of the United Nations Statistical Office but the United Kingdom SIC reflects the organisation and structure of industry and trade as it exists in the United Kingdom. The SIC is a classification by activity and is not a commodity classification. However, an index of all commodity headings for which sales data are provided in the Quarterly Business Monitors, is published in Business Monitor PQ1000.

THE REGISTER
The register permits a questionnaire to be sent direct to the reporting establishment/undertaking on which the latter can include information relating to all the manufacturing (or local) units which it comprises.
The inquiries provide a major source of information for keeping the register continuously up-to-date and act as a check on its detail and structure. For the establishments/undertakings on the register making returns to the quarterly inquiries, the industrial classification is derived from an analysis of their sales of commodities and is reviewed annually. Employment data are entered on the register from returns to the annual census of production. In cases where an establishment/undertaking does not make a return to these inquiries the employment data are based on information provided by the Department of Employment from the annual censuses of employment. New additions to the register are obtained from various sources including the Department of Employment and HM Customs and Excise. The 1973 Finance Act allows the latter to pass lists of businesses registered for VAT to the Business Statistics Office (BSO). Where necessary details are sought directly from new businesses. Units which cease to trade are removed from the live register.

Coverage
In recent censuses returns have been required from all establishments/undertakings employing 20 or more. For the 1978 Census in 68 selected manufacturing industries coverage of establishments in the 20 to 49 employment size band has been reduced to a 1 in 2 sample. This change has relieved some 5,800 firms of the need to complete a census return. The census has included for the first time a small sample (around 10 per cent) of units employing 11 to 19 to meet an EEC requirement to collect a limited range of data from smaller units every 5 years.

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS REPORT
Average number employed
Undertakings were required to state the average number of persons on the payroll during the year of return. Separate figures were required for:

(a) administrative, technical and clerical employees
(b) all other employees (operatives)

Averages could be calculated from the figures relating to the last week of each calendar month. The figures include persons engaged on merchanting or factoring and canteen workers where particulars in respect of these activities could not be excluded from the return.

Employees
Administrative, technical and clerical employees include directors in receipt of a definite wage, salary or commission, managers and works foremen; research and design employees (other than operatives); draughtsmen, editorial staff, advertising staff, travellers and all office employees.
Operatives include all other classes of employees, that is, broadly speaking, all manual wage earners. They include operatives employed in power stations, transport (including roundsmen), warehouses, stores, shops and canteens, inspectors, maintenance workers and cleaners. Operatives engaged in outside work of erecting, fitting etc are also included.

Capital expenditure
Capital expenditure during the year in respect of manufacturing units where production had not started before the end of the year is included. Undertakings were asked not to deduct from the value of capital expenditure amounts received or expected to be received in grants or allowances from the Government or any statutory body or local authority. Undertakings with 100 or more employees were asked to include a total net capital expenditure figure for each calendar year and to state whether any of the investment shown in cost of new building work, vehicles or plant and machinery included goods for letting out on hire or leasing.

(a) New building work
This represents the cost incurred during the year of new building and other constructional work to be used in connection with the business covered by the return. The value is that charged to capital account during the year of return; it includes expenditure on new buildings and on the extension or reconstruction of old buildings, the value of works of a capital nature carried out by the undertaking's own staff and the cost of any newly constructed buildings purchased. Figures shown include legal charges, stamp duties, agents' commissions, etc.

(b) Land and existing buildings
The items shown are the capital cost of freeholds purchased and the capital cost or premium payable for leaseholds acquired (excluding the value of assets acquired in taking over an existing business), and the amounts receivable for freeholds or leaseholds disposed of. The value is that charged to capital account during the year of return.

(c) Plant, machinery and vehicles
The items shown are the value of plant and machinery and of vehicles acquired, both new and second-hand, and the amount received for items disposed of during the year. The value of plant and machinery acquired includes plant, etc which firms produced for their own use in connection with the business covered by the return. The value of plant, etc acquired is the expenditure charged to capital account during the year of return less any discounts received, but including the cost of transport and installation. Deductible value added tax is excluded but non-deductible value added tax on motor cars acquired is included. No deduction is made for depreciation, amortization or obsolescence. The proceeds of items disposed of during the year exclude amounts written-off for items scrapped.

Cost of industrial services
This includes amounts payable to other firms for work done on materials supplied by the undertaking, payments for repairs and maintenance (including those in respect of rented buildings) and amounts paid to other firms for contracts which have been sublet.

Cost of non-industrial services
This includes rents of industrial and commercial buildings, hire of plant, machinery and vehicles (excluding vehicles hired with drivers), commercial insurance premiums, bank charges and amounts paid for professional services, post office services, transport (within the United Kingdom), advertising etc. Amounts payable on royalties for the right to use patents, trademarks, copyrights etc, manufacturing and quarrying rights and technical "know-how" are also included.

Gross output
In the calculation of gross output the value of total sales and work done is increased by the rise (or reduced by the fall) during the year in the value of work in progress and goods on hand for sale.

Net output
Net output, a customary census measure, is calculated by deducting from gross output the cost of purchases (reduced by the rise, or increased by the fall, during the year of stocks of materials etc) and the cost of industrial services received, and where applicable, duties etc.

Net output per head
The figures of net output per head are derived by dividing the net output by the average number of persons employed (full and part-time) on all activities covered by the returns, including operatives, administrative, technical and clerical employees.

Gross value added at factor cost
Gross value added at factor cost is calculated by deducting from net output the cost of non-industrial services eg rent of buildings, hire of plant, machinery and vehicles (excluding vehicles hired with drivers), commercial insurance premiums, bank charges and amounts paid for professional services, post office services, transport (within the United Kingdom) and advertising, rates (excluding water rates) and the cost of licensing motor vehicles. This estimate of gross value added approaches more closely than census net output to the definition of net output or value added in national accounts statistics.

Gross value added at factor cost per head
The figures of gross value added at factor cost per head are derived by dividing the gross value added by the average number of persons employed (full and part-time) on all activities covered by the returns, including operatives, administrative, technical and clerical employees.

Purchases
Purchases include the cost of raw materials, components, semi-manufactured goods and workshop materials; of replacement parts and consumable tools not charged to capital account; of packaging materials of all types; of stationery and printed matter; of fuel, electricity and water; of materials to be used by the undertaking or given out to other establishments/undertakings for the production of machinery or other capital items for the undertaking's own use; of materials for use by the undertaking when working on goods supplied by customers; and of food, etc for any canteen covered by the undertaking's return. Transfers of goods to the undertaking from another department of the same firm not covered by the undertaking's return are included at a cost corresponding to the estimated selling value recorded by the other department. Amounts payable to transport firms or credited to the firm's own transport department for delivery of materials are excluded, as are all purchases of machinery and plant charged to capital account. Purchases of goods for merchanting or factoring have been collected separately since 1973. The values shown exclude VAT. They include, in addition to the actual purchase price, the value of packaging material charged to the undertaking. The value of returned goods or packaging material returned to suppliers and any trade discounts are excluded. Materials purchased duty-paid are included at their duty-paid value, less any drawback, rebate, etc. The cost of transport is included only if it is included with the purchase price in the firm's accounts. Imported goods are included at their full delivered cost. If in the firm's accounts the transport from docks or airport is not included in the cost of goods purchased, the cost is entered at cif plus duty (if applicable). Leasing, renting and hire purchase charges are excluded.

Sales of goods produced
Sales for the purposes of the annual censuses means deliveries on sale of goods made by undertakings in the United Kingdom covered by the

inquiry. Sales of goods made for these undertakings by other undertakings from materials given out to them and sales of waste products are included. New building work and machinery or other capital items produced by undertakings for hiring out or leasing are regarded as sales, the value included in the return being that adopted in the undertakings' capital asset accounts. Forward sales and canteen takings are excluded. All sales in the period of the inquiry are included irrespective of when the goods were manufactured. Goods produced in one undertaking and transferred either to ancillary departments not engaged in production for which there are separate accounts, or to another undertaking of the same firm not covered by the return, are treated as sales by the producing undertaking and valued as far as possible as if they had been sold to an independent purchaser. Goods transferred to wholesale or retail selling organisations, for which separate accounts are kept are valued on the same basis.
The value shown for sales is the "net selling value" defined as the amount (excluding VAT) charged to customers whether on an ex-works or delivered basis, after any trade discounts and agents' commissions have been deducted. The cost of packing materials less allowance for returnable cases is included.

Receipts for work done and industrial services rendered
Figures for work done represent the amount charged for work carried out on materials supplied by a customer and include repair and jobbing work, erection and installation of plant and machinery, exploration work and research and development. Industrial services rendered include repairs and maintenance, installation work, and technical research and studies for other organisations.

Capital goods produced for undertakings' own use
This includes all work of a capital nature carried out during the year by the undertakings' own staff for their own use.

Non-industrial services rendered
This includes rents received for commercial and industrial buildings, amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery and vehicles and other goods and amounts charged to other organisations for the provision of transport. It also includes amounts received for the right to use patents, trademarks, copyrights etc, manufacturing and quarrying rights and technical "know-how" and revenue from such staff facilities as canteens.

Goods merchanted or factored
Merchanted goods are those (excluding canteen sales) sold without having been subjected to any manufacturing process by the seller.

Stocks and work in progress
Values are given of stocks of goods on hand for sale and of materials, stores and fuel, at the end of the year of return and of the change during the year, including any stocks of goods held for merchanting or factoring. Work in progress is defined as materials which have been partially processed by the undertaking but which are not usually sold or transferred to another undertaking without further processing. The values include the cost of materials consumed and labour used. Progress payments made to sub-contractors are excluded and progress payments received from other organisations are not deducted.

Wages and salaries
These are amounts paid during the year to operatives and to administrative, technical and clerical employees. The values shown include all overtime payments, bonuses and commissions, whether paid regulary or not, and no deduction is made for income tax, insurances, contributory pensions etc. The value of redundancy payments less any amounts reimbursed from Government sources is included. The value of any payments in kind, travelling expenses etc is excluded.

Employers' insurance and welfare contributions
This item includes employers' contributions to national insurance under the Social Security Pensions Act, 1975 as well as commercial insurance premiums to provide pensions, superannuation or other retirement benefits, sickness benefits, personal accident benefits, disability or death benefits for employees or former employees or their dependants. Contributions to the running costs of canteens, social centres, children's and holiday homes, etc for employees, former employees and their dependants are also included.

Operating ratios
The operating ratios shown were obtained by dividing the estimate of the industry total for the quantity shown in the numerator by the corresponding estimate for the quantity shown in the denominator. These estimates cover all undertakings classified to each industry, including not selected undertakings and non-respondents. Within an industry, it is possible to compare ratios for an individual firm with the ratios shown for the relevant industry. However, it is important to bear in mind that various factors may affect the results - for example, differences in definitions, treatment of depreciation (which is not identified in the census data) and varying practice with regard to stock valuation, may affect comparability in some respects.

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