

THE SMALL ARMS TRADE (PRIVATE FIRMS)

INTRODUCTORY

This trade comprises private firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of small arms and parts thereof. Particulars of the output of similar goods at Government Ordnance Factories are included in Part IV of the Report.

The figures for 1934 have been amended throughout this report, but the figures for that year and also for 1933 are still somewhat defective compared with those for 1935.

Table I A.—General summary

Particulars	1935	1934	1933	1930	1924
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Value of products (Gross output)	422	323	340	485	624
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used	131	92	76	165	240
Amount paid for work given out	4	3	2	10	10
Net output	287	228	262	310	374
Average number of persons employed (excluding out-workers)	No. 1,399	No. 1,040	No. 975	No. 1,366	No. 2,100
Net output per person employed (excluding out-workers)	£ 205	£ 219	£ 268	£ 227	£ 178
Number of returns	26	}	*	}	27
Number of establishments	31				33

* 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	104	144	89
Average number of persons employed :—			
Males... ..	395	425	319
Females	53	58	21
TOTAL	448	483	340
Number of firms not making returns	—	16	45

In 1924 the value of the gross output of the small firms making returns was 16.6 per cent. of the total, the principal classes of goods affected being:—

Kind of output	Value	Proportion of total
	£'000	Per cent.
Sporting guns	30	10.6
Parts and accessories of small arms	11	14.1
Other goods made	52	21.8
Repair work and work done for the trade	31*	50.8
TOTAL	124	16.6

* Amount received.

Table II.—Size of establishments in 1935

Size of establishment (average number employed)	Number of establishments	Gross output	Net output	Number of persons employed (excluding out-workers)	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
11-24	14	81	47	209	224
25-49	11	137	89	372	240
50 and over	6	204	151	818	185
TOTAL	31	422	287	1,399	205

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 (excluding out-workers)	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
5... ..	18	262	187	938	200
1 and 15	20	347	221	1,007	219
	13	160	100	461	216
	7	138	89	359	249
TOTAL	31	422	287	1,399	205
	27	485	310	1,366	227

* For particulars see page xviii.

† Number of returns for 1930.

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

Table VIII.—Exports and Imports

Kind of goods	Exports		Retained imports	
	Quantity	Value (f.o.b.)	Quantity	Value (c.i.f.)
	Number	£'000	Number	£'000
Sporting guns	1935 5,742	54	14,698	14
	1934 4,795	45	3,291	3
Sporting carbines and rifles	1935 1,510	17	1,888	3
	1934 1,570	17	553	*
Military rifles and carbines... ..	1935 2,473	13	†	†
	1934 3,484	15	18	*
Revolvers and pistols (except air pistols) and parts thereof	1935 4,391	11	2,177	1
	1934 1,861	7	1,715	1
Other guns, rifles and carbines and air pistols	1935 2,977	7	99,159	23
	1934 3,152	7	44,111	10
Swords, cutlasses, bayonets, and arms of other sorts, not firearms	1935 4,164	9	880	*
	1934 2,822	5	562	1
Parts of guns, rifles, carbines and air pistols	1935 659	37	567	6
	1934 924	30	915	8
TOTAL	1935 ...	148	...	47
	1934 ...	126	...	23

* Less than £500.

† Re-exports in excess of imports.

Particulars of production can be given only in the detail shown in Table V A. The export figures for sporting guns and sporting carbines and rifles probably include some second-hand guns sold after re-conditioning and those for military rifles and carbines may include guns manufactured at Government factories and sold to Dominion and Colonial Governments.

Table IX.—Other output of the Small Arms Trade

The value of the gross output of the firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Small Arms Trade was £422,000 in 1935 and £323,000 in 1934, of which £280,000 in 1935 and £207,000 in 1934 consisted of products included in Table V A. Particulars of the remaining items are shown below.

Kind of output	1935		1934	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Thous.	£'000	Thous.	£'000
Small arms ammunition (loaded cartridges)	11,881	87	9,385	66
Other goods made ... ..	...	55	...	50
TOTAL ... ..	...	142	...	116

MATERIALS AND FUEL

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

Kind of materials, etc.	1935		1934	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes :—	Th. tons	£'000	...	£'000
Coal	0.7	1	}	92
Coke	0.4	1		
Heavy fuel oil	Th. galls. 37	1	}	92
	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) 1,197	4		
Purchased electricity	1,197	4	}	92
All purchased materials and other fuel ... ..	...	124		
TOTAL ... ..	...	131	...	92

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

Kind of fuel	1935	1930
Coal	Th. tons 0.7	Th. tons 0.8
Coke	0.4	0.3
Electricity :—	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Generated in same works... ..	95	62
Purchased	1,197	1,091
Total electricity consumed	1,292	1,153

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)	1935 156	1,038	42	143	198	1,181
	1934 110	755	24	104	134	859
Administrative, technical and clerical staff*	1935 9	140	14	78	23	218
	1934 13	121	18	60	31	181
TOTAL	1935 165	1,178	56	221	221	1,399
	1934 123	876	42	164	165	1,040
Average number of out-workers... ..	1935 200		7		207	
	1934 91		1		92	

* 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	571	804	72.2	67.4	94.1
February	595	819	70.7	70.3	95.9
March	590	799	67.6	69.7	93.6
April	578	793	63.7	68.2	92.9
May	592	793	63.7	69.9	92.9
June	614	785	66.5	72.5	91.9
July	613	812	68.9	72.4	95.1
August	633	858	69.0	74.7	100.5
September	656	888	72.1	77.5	104.0
October... ..	652	948	70.4	77.0	111.0
November	655	958	70.7	77.3	112.2
December	639	987	70.3	75.5	115.6
Average for the twelve months ...	616	854	68.8	72.7	100.0
Proportion of total operatives represented	71.71	72.31	...	...	...

* 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 (excluding outworkers)
1924	1,848	252	2,100
1930	1,176	190	1,366
1933	812	163	975
1934	859	181	1,040
1935	1,181	218	1,399

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 £88,000 in 1935 representing 57.0 per cent. of the net output of these firms, the corresponding figures for 1930 being £127,000 and 57.2 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... ..	£'000 243	Per cent. 57.6	£'000 350	Per cent. 72.2
Net output	155	54.0	222	71.6
Operative staff employed :—	No.		No.	
During mid-week of October :—				
Males	712	68.6	}	*
Females... ..	89	62.2		
Total	801	67.8	909	77.0
Average for the year	734	62.2	889	75.6
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	132	60.6	*	*
Number of establishments	19	61.3	...	...

* 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 Small Arms Trade.

Owing to the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars cannot be given for England and Wales and for Scotland. No production of small arms was recorded for Northern Ireland.

Table I.—General summary (*see* page 202)

Table II.—Output

Kind of output	Quantity	Value
	No.	£'000
Sporting guns	12,889	126
Sporting carbines and rifles	1,350	13
Other small arms, complete ... ..	...	49
Parts and accessories of small arms... ..	...	...
Swords, cutlasses, bayonets, and arms of other sorts, not firearms ... ..	...	59
	Thous.	
Small arms ammunition (loaded cartridges)	11,881	87
Other goods made ... ..	...	55
Repair work and work done for the trade ... ..	...	33*
TOTAL ... ..	...	422

* Amount received.

Table III A.—Materials, fuel and electricity purchased and used (*see* page 207)Table III B.—Consumption of electricity (*see* page 207)

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
Great Britain :—						
Operatives	166	1,105	45	152	211	1,257
Administrative, technical and clerical staff... ..	9	140	14	78	23	218
TOTAL	175	1,245	59	230	234	1,475

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

Week ended	Males and females	Week ended	Males and females
	Great Britain		Great Britain
January 19	1,134	July 13	1,150
February 16	1,147	August 17	1,165
March 16	1,131	September 14	1,193
April 13	1,131	October 12	1,257
May 18	1,135	November 16	1,284
June 15	1,127	December 14	1,315
Average for the twelve months			1,181

Table IV C.—Numbers of outworkers at two specified periods in 1935

Country	January			July		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Great Britain	197	6	203	203	9	212

Table V.—Firms employing not more than ten persons on the average (*see* page 202)