

72 Insulated wires and cables

This Report on the Insulated Wires and Cables Industry relates to establishments engaged wholly or mainly in manufacturing insulated electrical instrument wire, winding wire, cables for telecommunication and for power transmission, and cable jointing materials and accessories (other than insulating materials).

This industry corresponds to minimum list heading 362 in the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1968) which has been used for the first time as a basis of classification in the 1968 Census. The definition of this industry however is unchanged from the last detailed Census of Production for 1963 in which it was reported (Part 56).

In interpreting the data in the tables it is essential to bear in mind the notes and definitions which appear on pages (i) to (iv).

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- (c) Including services rendered to other organisations (amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery or other goods, for providing transport, or for technical or other services rendered).
- (d) Administrative, technical and clerical employees.
- (e) Excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.
- (f) Acquisitions less disposals.

TABLE 1 Industry summary, 1963 and 1968
United Kingdom (a) (b)

	Unit	All establishments		
		1963	1968	
Number of enterprises	No.	68	56	
Number of establishments	"	113	106	
Gross output	£'000	227,046	366,601	
Net output	"	79,807	113,627	
Net output per head	£	1,507	2,105	
Sales and work done	goods produced and work done (c)	£'000	218,409	360,031
	merchanted goods and canteen takings	"	8,902	8,963
Purchases	materials for use in production and packaging and fuel	"	132,485	228,762
	goods for merchandising and canteen purchases	"	7,126	10,166
Payments to other organisations	for work done on materials given out for transport	"	3,645	8,206
	by road	"	3,081	2,952
	by rail and other means excluding postal services	"		
Stocks and work in progress			882	
Total stocks and work in progress	change during year	"	- 1,166	- 4,398
	at end of year	"	51,083	67,516
Goods on hand for sale	change during year	"	+ 991	+ 171
	at end of year	"	21,304	29,579
Work in progress	change during year	"	- 1,257	- 2,564
	at end of year	"	16,549	21,982
Materials, stores and fuel	change during year	"	- 900	- 2,005
	at end of year	"	13,230	15,954
Number employed on average during the year	total, including working proprietors	Th.	52.9	54.0
	operatives	"	37.3	37.3
	other employees (d)	"	15.6	16.6
Wages and salaries	of operatives	£'000	26,684	38,255
	of other employees (d)	"	14,169	20,424
Capital expenditure (e)				
Total	"		8,606	12,691
New building work	"		1,899	2,913
Land and existing buildings (f)	"		196	476
Plant and machinery (f)	"		6,157	8,857
Vehicles (f)	"		354	445

(a) For 1968, estimates for establishments not making satisfactory returns and for small establishments, from which only employment data were collected, accounted for less than one per cent. of the total figures in which they were incorporated: of this, unsatisfactory returns accounted for a negligible proportion. A similar situation existed for 1963.

(b) The following information relates to small establishments (employing fewer than 25 persons) in this industry. It includes an estimate for small establishments not making satisfactory returns.

	1963	1968
Number of establishments	26	28
Average number employed		
Working proprietors	23	22
Other persons employed	257	322

Footnotes continued on page 72/2.

TABLE 2 Analysis by size of establishment within the industry, 1968

(i) Output and employment

All establishments: United Kingdom

Number employed on average during the year by the establishment (a)	Estab-lish-ments	Enter-prises (b)	Total number employed on average during the year (a)	Gross output	Net output	Net output per head
	Number	Number	Number	£'000	£'000	£
1-10	6	6	23	..	..	..
11-24	18	17	289	..	..	..
25-49	3	3	112	452	171	1,528
50-99	14	13	1,046	4,960	1,790	1,711
100-199	14	11	2,146	15,643	4,690	2,185
200-299	7	6	1,643	7,980	2,508	1,527
300-499	5	5	1,828	10,536	3,870	2,117
500-749	13	9	8,214	54,883	19,190	2,336
750-999	6	5	5,234	43,243	12,978	2,479
1,000-1,499	6	4	7,880	59,611	18,325	2,325
1,500-1,999	4	3	6,677	29,580	12,747	1,909
2,000 and over	5	3	18,766	136,864	36,463	1,943
Unsatisfactory returns	5	5	113	..	..	..
Total	106	56	53,971	366,601(c)	113,627(c)	2,105(c)

(ii) Employees, wages and salaries

All establishments: United Kingdom

Number employed on average during the year by the establishment (a)	Employees		Wages and salaries		Wages and salaries per head	
	Opera-tives	Others (d)	Opera-tives	Others (d)	Opera-tives	Others (d)
	Number	Number	£'000	£'000	£	£
1-10	..	..	..	..	..	..
11-24	..	..	..	..	..	..
25-49	90	22	68	22	759	1,006
50-99	794	249	676	323	851	1,298
100-199	1,663	473	1,426	581	858	1,228
200-299	1,268	372	921	421	727	1,131
300-499	1,359	469	1,274	610	938	1,300
500-749	5,488	2,726	5,421	3,421	988	1,255
750-999	3,584	1,650	3,618	2,073	1,010	1,256
1,000-1,499	5,167	2,713	5,849	3,408	1,132	1,256
1,500-1,999	5,522	1,155	5,294	1,313	959	1,137
2,000 and over	12,115	6,651	13,416	8,105	1,107	1,219
Unsatisfactory returns	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	37,333(c)	16,601(c)	38,255(c)	20,424(c)	1,025(c)	1,230(c)

(a) Including working proprietors.

(b) The sum of the figures for the size groups exceeds the total for the industry to the extent that enterprises made returns for establishments in more than one size group.

(c) Including estimates for establishments employing fewer than 25 persons and for establishments not making satisfactory returns.

(d) Administrative, technical and clerical employees.

TABLE 3 Percentage analysis of employees, by age and sex, 1969 (a)

All establishments: United Kingdom

Ages	Males	Females	All employees
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Under 18	1	1	2
18 and over	68	30	98
All ages	69	31	100

Source: Department of Employment

(a) The percentages relate to the numbers employed (excluding working proprietors) at June 1969, the earliest date for which the information is available on the basis of the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1968).

Footnotes to Table 4.

- (a) Some establishments employing fewer than 25 persons were included in returns for larger establishments. This amounted to 1 establishment in 1968 and 4 in 1963.
- (b) Including services rendered to other organisations (amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery and other goods, for providing transport, or for technical or other services rendered).
- (c) Direct sales of goods (excluding canteen takings) made to, and work done for, the general public by larger establishments are included. These amounted to £47,000 in 1968. Similar information is not available for 1963.
- (d) This is the ratio of total sales of principal products by the industry to total sales of goods produced and work done.
- (e) Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms particulars of progress payments received for work in progress at the beginning and the end of 1968 cannot be given. Similar information was not collected for 1963.
- (f) Administrative, technical and clerical employees.
- (g) Excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.

TABLE 4 Analysis of larger establishments, 1963 and 1968

Establishments employing 25 or more persons: Analysis of returns received, United Kingdom (a)

	Unit	1963	1968	
Number of enterprises	No.	47	32	
Number of establishments	"	91	78	
Gross output	£'000	226,029	363,823	
Net output	"	79,450	112,766	
Net output per head	£	1,507	2,105	
Sales and work done	{ goods produced and work done (b)(c)	£'000	217,431	357,302
	{ merchanted goods and canteen takings	"	8,862	8,895
Index of specialisation (d)	Per cent.	78	74	
Purchases	{ materials for use in production and packaging, and fuel	£'000	131,892	227,029
	{ goods for merchenting and canteen purchases	"	7,094	10,089
Payments to other organisations	{ for work done on materials given out for transport	"	3,629	8,144
	{ by road	"	3,067	2,929
	{ by rail and other means excluding postal services	"			875
Stocks and work in progress				
Goods on hand for sale	{ change during year	"	+ 987	+ 170
	{ at end of year	"	21,209	29,355
Work in progress (e)	{ change during year	"	- 1,251	- 2,544
	{ at end of year	"	16,475	21,816
Materials, stores and fuel	{ change during year	"	- 896	- 1,990
	{ at end of year	"	13,171	15,834
Number employed on average during the year	{ total, including working proprietors	No.	52,712	53,563
	{ operatives	"	37,170	37,065
	{ other employees (f)	"	15,524	16,482
Wages and salaries	{ of operatives	£'000	26,570	37,980
	{ of other employees (f)	"	14,114	20,278
Wages and salaries per head	{ operatives	£	715	1,025
	{ other employees (f)	"	909	1,230
Capital expenditure (g)				
New building work	£'000	1,890	2,891	
Land and existing buildings	{ acquisitions	"	311	936
	{ disposals	"	116	464
Plant and machinery	{ acquisitions	"	6,543	9,577
	{ disposals	"	414	787
Vehicles	{ acquisitions	"	592	694
	{ disposals	"	239	252

For notes to this table - see page 72/5

TABLE 5 Sales of principal products of the industry by larger establishments, including sales by establishments classified to other industries, 1963 and 1968

Establishments employing 25 or more persons: Analysis of returns received, United Kingdom

	1963		1968			
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Enter-prises	Entries
		£'000		£'000	Number	Number
Insulated electrical instrument wire (a)	}	22,971	..	7,613	14	15
Insulated winding wire			..	36,148	8	10
Cables for telecommunication (b)	..	31,172	..	47,452	13	23
Cables for power transmission						
Insulated power cables	}	117,472	..	36,417	12	17
Medium and high voltage power cables			..	30,202	6	12
Super-tension power cables			..	10,027	5	9
Other insulated wires and cables			..	73,226	32	43
Cable jointing materials and accessories (excluding solder and tape, cloth and other insulating materials)	..	5,075	..	4,888	13	15
Overhead transmission line fittings	..	2,516	..	2,032	13	13
Other products	-	-	..	305	*	*
Waste products	Th.tons		Th.tons			
Scrap metals						
Iron and steel	5.5	21	3.0	21	9	15
Copper	30.9	5,133	30.5	13,889	19	36
Brass	1.1	156	1.5	430	8	10
Other metals	..	391	..	803	11	21
Other waste products	..	112	..	305	12	17
Work done, including installation of machinery		749		202	*	6
Total		185,769		263,961	..	..
Sales in other industries (see Table 6)		16,606		8,238	..	..
Principal products of this industry sold by establishments in the industry		169,163		255,723	32	56(c)

(a) For 1963 described as 'Winding wires, strips, etc, including bunched and stranded wires'.

(b) For 1963 described as 'Telephone and telegraph cables and wires'.

(c) This figure represents the total number of returns made for larger establishments in this industry which is less than the total number of establishments shown in Table 4 on account of combined returns covering more than one establishment.

TABLE 6 Sales of principal products of the industry by larger establishments classified to other industries, 1963 and 1968

Establishments employing 25 or more persons:
Analysis of returns received, United Kingdom

	1963		1968	
	Value	Value	Entries	Principal industries in which produced (a)
	£'000	£'000	Number	
Insulated electric wires and cables including telephone, telegraph and submarine cables	15,054	7,685	23	48,74,79,91
Cable jointing materials and accessories (excluding solder and tape, cloth and other insulating materials)	558	156	5	73,74,79,88
Overhead transmission line fittings	994	397	5	71,74,77
Total	16,606	8,238	..	

(a) The references given are to the list of industries at the front of this report.

TABLE 7 Sales of other than principal products by larger establishments in the industry, 1963 and 1968

Establishments employing 25 or more persons:
Analysis of returns received, United Kingdom

	1963		1968	
	Value	Value		
	£'000	£'000		
Synthetic resins and plastics materials and manufactures of plastic	2,005	6,123		
Manufactures of uninsulated copper wire and other non-ferrous metals products	20,949	47,826		
Machinery and plant, and parts thereof, other than electrical machinery	932	1,168		
Radiation measuring instruments; pressure switches and thermostats etc; and other industrial control instruments	-	244		
Capacitors; switchgear and switchboards; fuses and fuse gear; other electrical machinery and parts thereof	5,025	3,357		
Radio, telegraph and telephone apparatus, and electronic equipment	792			
Electrical equipment for motor vehicles and aircraft; lighting fittings; wiring accessories; joint boxes and other electrical goods and apparatus	9,443	7,551		
Building materials	173	2,293		
Insulating materials of rubber	319			
Other goods	309			
Work done				
Building and civil engineering work (a)	8,084	32,739		
Installation of electrical machinery and telegraph and telephone apparatus and equipment	-			
Research and development	42	278		
Repair and maintenance	194			
Services rendered to other organisations (b)	194			
Total value of goods sold without having been subjected to any manufacturing process (merchanted or factored)	8,308	8,204		
Canteen takings	554	691		
Total	57,130	110,474		

(a) The data shown for 1963 is not comparable with that for 1968. Because of a change in the method of collection, the data for 1968 includes goods made by firms and incorporated in their building and civil engineering work whereas the data for 1963 excludes such goods. For 1963 the value of goods made and used in building and civil engineering work amounting to £2,957,000 has been deducted from the gross figure for building and civil engineering (£11,641,000) in order to avoid duplication which arises because they have been included against the appropriate sales headings elsewhere in the Report. For 1968 duplication does not arise since goods made and used in building and civil engineering work were not shown additionally as sales elsewhere in the Report; it is estimated that these goods amounted to £14,046,000.

(b) Amounts charged for hiring out plant, machinery or other goods, for providing transport, or for technical or other services rendered to other organisations.

TABLE 8 Production of certain principal products of the industry by larger establishments, 1963 and 1968

This table is not applicable to this industry.

TABLE 9 Purchases by larger establishments of selected principal products of the industry, 1968

This table is not applicable to this industry.

TABLE 10 Purchases by larger establishments in the industry, 1963 and 1968

Establishments employing 25 or more persons:
Analysis of returns received, United Kingdom

	1963		1968	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
Materials for use in production	Th. tons	£'000	Th. tons	£'000
Iron: pig iron, including refined pig iron, and other irons for re-melting, and castings	5.5	351	4.0	282
Steel				
Bars and rods (including wire rods), angles, shapes and sections, girders, beams, joists and pillars rolled (not fabricated), including tube rounds and squares	5.1	256	15.7	1,328
	..	46(a)		
Plates, 3mm. thick and over, and sheets under 3 mm. thick (including electrical sheets)	2.3	177	..	55
Hoop and strip (including tape of all thicknesses)	22.3	1,310	15.3	980
Tinplate and blackplate, forgings (except drop forgings), and castings (b)	0.2	38	..	435
Iron and steel not elsewhere specified except finished parts, wire and scrap				
Wrought tubes and fittings for wrought tubes (including welded, seamless, conduits, etc)	..	37		
Other	0.6	44		
Steel wire and wire manufactures (including wire cables and ropes but excluding insulated wires and cables)	..	3,615	..	3,401
Springs, laminated and other types				
Light metals and non-ferrous metals in all forms except finished parts, wire and scrap				
Aluminium and aluminium alloys	17.2	3,969	31.6	8,266
Brass and other copper alloys (including nickel silver and cupro nickel, but excluding all other nickel alloys and cadmium copper) (c)	9.5	2,504	..	1,709
Copper (including cadmium copper) (d)	205	50,241	224	114,543
Lead, zinc and alloys of lead (excluding solder) and zinc	104	6,785	77.1	8,059
Tin	Th. cwt.		Th. cwt.	
Solder, soft	8.5	434	7.2	505
Uninsulated wire and cables of non-ferrous metals	..	144	..	191
Copper	..	21,392	..	37,199
Other non-ferrous metals	..	985	..	1,829
Bitumen and bitumastic compounds	..	481	..	329
Glass in all forms (including finished parts)	..	272	..	20
Insulating oils	..	1,046	..	995
Paper and paperboard including press-board and paper yarn, tubes, etc but excluding packaging materials	..	2,737	..	3,263
Porcelain and other ceramics in all forms	..	426	..	332
Manufactures wholly or mainly of rubber (including synthetic rubber), balata and gutta-percha (including sheeting) but excluding replacement parts for firms' own machinery, plant, vehicles, etc (e)	..	2,266	..	1,960

Continued on next page

TABLE 10 (continued)

	1963		1968	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
Materials for use in production (continued)		£'000	Th.gal.	£'000
Paint and varnish (including lacquers and stains)	..	399	661	765
Synthetic resins and plastics materials (excluding leathercloth and reinforced plastics)				
Polyethylene and polypropylene and copolymers	Th.cwt.		Th.cwt.	
Granules, moulding and extrusion compounds	152	1,657	638	5,755
Sheet, rod, film, profile shapes and monofilament	..	(f)	1.8	54
Polyvinyl chloride: polymers and copolymers including the net resin content of latices, solutions and dispersions, plasticised moulding and extrusion compounds, plasticised and unplasticised sheet, film, rod, tube, profile shapes and foam (g)	887	5,910	1,179	7,115
Polystyrene (including copolymers) moulding and extrusion compounds	63.2	625	..	365
Phenolics and allied products: resins (the net resin content), solutions, emulsions, dispersions, moulding and extrusion compounds	..	(f)	..	..
Laminated thermosetting sheet (including decorative), cast sheet, laminated or cast rod, tube and profile shapes	..	(f)	..	..
Thermosetting polyesters, including epoxide resins (the net resin content excluding filler) and resin glass fibre mixtures, and aminoplastics (melamine and urea formaldehyde) (h)	8.4	116	..	469
Textiles (excluding packaging materials)				
Yarn, thread, tape and cloth, not oiled or otherwise coated or impregnated with insulating materials	Th.lb.		Th.lb.	
Of cotton	1,936	415	1,149	484
Of man-made fibres (nylon, rayon, etc.)	..	606	..	49
Of jute	7,350	409	..	853
Of silk	..	445	18.6	33
Of glass fibre	..	30	617	264
Insulated wires, cables, strips and strands	..	(f)	..	..
Electrical insulating materials not elsewhere specified	..	1,629	..	655
Bolts, rivets, nuts and washers, screws, nails and tacks, etc	..	1,883	..	2,043
Electrical machinery, eg control gear, switch gear, transformers and rectifying apparatus, etc	..	(f)	..	198
Electrical components not elsewhere specified				
Capacitors	..	..	..	31
Resistors	..	..	..	19
Other electrical components	..	664	..	44
Other components for incorporation in firms' own products				
Measuring and control instruments (including ammeters, voltmeters, thermostats, etc)	..	..	..	902
Ball and roller bearings and parts thereof	..	28	..	20

TABLE 10 (continued)

	1963		1968	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
Materials for use in production (continued)		£'000		£'000
Other components not elsewhere specified				
Wholly or mainly of plastics materials	..	278	..	3,720
Other materials except of glass or rubber	..	2,117	..	..
Lubricating oils and greases (including cutting oils and emulsions)	Th.gal.		Th.gal.	
	195	42	152	45
	Th.cwt.		..	27
	1.7	7	..	..
Replacement parts for firms' own machinery, plant and vehicles, and accessories and consumable goods bought as replacement				
Tyres and other spare parts for firms' own road goods vehicles	..	1,990	..	120
Other	..	..	..	2,172
All other materials for use in production	..	5,775	..	5,534
Packaging materials				
Paper and board				
Boxes, cartons, drums and canisters (with or without metal ends) of paper and cardboard	..	683	..	568
Fibreboard packing cases	..	..	..	18
Wrapping and packing paper (including paper coated with plastics and any laminates incorporating paper but not metal)	..	..	..	118
Other packaging materials of paper and paperboard (including moulded pulp units and labels, but excluding bags and multiwall sacks and paper and board for converting into packaging materials)	..	177	..	98
Timber				
Containers wholly or mainly of wood (including plywood boxes and drums other than cable drums), baskets and wickerwork crates (i)	..	549	..	207
Timber (sawn or planed) and plywood for manufacture into packing cases, etc	..	852	590	358
Other wood products for packaging, including wood wool				
Cable drums	..	..	..	1,160
Reels	..	(f)	..	267
Other	..	..	..	123
Plastics: film (up to 0.01 inches thick) and moulded and fabricated containers including closures and inserts (with a capacity exceeding 1 gallon) (j)	..	60	..	146
All other packaging materials	..	306	..	165
Fuel and electricity (k)	Th.tons		Th.tons	
Coal	128	699	101	624
Coke (including screenings) and manufactured fuel	7.1	59	1.4	19
Derv fuel and motor spirit for use in road vehicles	Th.gal.		Th.gal.	
	1,118	232	1,248	375
Other liquid fuels (including creosote/pitch mixtures, etc and liquefied petroleum gases)	11,372	424	15,681	667

Continued on next page.

TABLE 10 (continued)

	1963		1968	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
Fuel and electricity (k) (continued)	Th.therms	£'000	Th.therms	£'000
Gas	9,323	617	7,797	533
	Th.kWh.		Th.kWh.	
Electricity	364,045	2,032	487,166	3,211
All other fuels	..	(f)	..	192
Total cost of materials and fuel		131,892		227,029
Goods purchased for merchanting		6,564		9,407
Canteen purchases		530		682
Total cost of purchases		138,987		237,118

- (a) 'Ingots, blooms, billets, slabs and sheet and tinplate bars' were specifically included for 1963.
 (b) 'Terneplate' was specifically included for 1963.
 (c) 'Cadmium copper' was not specifically excluded for 1963.
 (d) 'Blister' was specifically excluded and 'Cadmium copper' was not specifically included for 1963.
 (e) For 1963, described as 'Rubber, including hard rubber, balata, gutta-percha and synthetic rubber in all forms including finished parts'.
 (f) Not recorded separately for 1963.
 (g) 'Emulsions' were specifically included but 'plasticised and unplasticised sheet, film, rod, tube, profile shapes and foam' were not specifically included for 1963.
 (h) 'Aminoplastics (melamine and urea formaldehyde)' were not specifically included for 1963.
 (i) 'Cable drums' were not specifically excluded for 1963.
 (j) For 1963, described as 'Sheet, film, foams, etc wholly or mainly of polyethylene (including bags and lay flat tubing)'.
 (k) Owing to risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, total quantities of electricity generated in firms' own establishments in 1963 and 1968 cannot be given.

TABLE 11 Transport costs and employment of larger establishments, 1963 and 1968

Establishments employing 25 or more persons:
 Analysis of returns received, United Kingdom

	Unit	1963	1968
Average number mainly employed on transport	No.	675	992
Transport costs			
Wages and salaries	£'000	544	1,038
Derv fuel and motor spirit	"	232	375
Tyres and other spare parts for road goods vehicles	"	..	120
Payments to other organisations for transport	"	3,067	2,929
	"		
Costs of operating road goods vehicles			
Insurance	"	80	46
Vehicle licences	"	43	124
Depreciation	"	488	395
Payments to other organisations for repairs and maintenance	"	87	218
Total	"	4,541(a)	6,120

(a) Excluding tyres and other spare parts for road goods vehicles, not collected separately for 1963.

TABLE 12 Payments for certain services, etc by larger establishments, 1963 and 1968 (a)

Establishments employing 25 or more persons:
 Analysis of returns received, United Kingdom

	Amounts payable	
	1963	1968
Repairs and maintenance to	£'000	£'000
Buildings	524	590
Road goods vehicles	87	218
Plant, machinery and other capital equipment	620	1,079
Insurance, licensing and depreciation of road goods vehicles (b)	611	564
Rates, excluding water rates	1,028	1,673
Hire of plant and machinery	161	388
Postage, telephone, telegrams, cables and telex (c)	516	839
Total	3,548	5,351

(a) No deduction is made for these payments to arrive at the figures of net output given in this report.

(b) For details see Table 11.

(c) Excluding Telex for 1963.

TABLE 13 Percentage analysis of twelve-month periods covered by returns from larger establishments, 1968

Establishments employing 25 or more persons:
Analysis of returns received, United Kingdom

Year ended	Percentage of total returns received	Percentage of total number employed
1968	Per cent.	Per cent.
April (a)	0.0	0.0
May	1.8	1.3
June	1.8	0.4
July	3.6	0.2
August	0.0	0.0
September	7.1	2.0
October	1.8	0.9
November	0.0	0.0
December	53.5	65.7
1969		
January	1.8	0.5
February	0.0	0.0
March	26.8	28.8
April (b)	1.8	0.2
	100	100

(a) From 6 April.

(b) To 5 April.