

THE COIR FIBRE, HORSE-HAIR AND FEATHER TRADES.

Note.—For information regarding the scope of the Census, instructions given to firms for making returns, and definitions of the terms used in this report, reference should be made to the Introductory Notes on pages v to xviii.

Introductory.

The trades included in this report are (a) the manufacture of coir mats and matting, (b) the cleaning and dressing of horse-hair and the manufacture of horse-hair fabric and (c) the cleaning and dressing of feathers, fibres and bristles. These trades are carried on, as a rule, independently of each other, but in view of their small extent they were grouped together in the Census classification. Separate aggregate figures for each trade are given for the year 1930 in a later table.

The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1930 and 1924 in respect of firms in Great Britain that employed an average of more than 10 persons :—

Particulars.	Unit.	1930.	1924.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000.	1,995	2,225
Cost of materials used and amount paid for work given out to other firms	„	1,271	1,351
Net output	„	724	874
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	3,825	4,531
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)... ..	£	189	193
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	2,123	2,368
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	„	4,371	1,626
Number of returns	No.	61	70
Number of establishments	„	65	*

* Not available.

Deficiencies in 1930 aggregates.—Philanthropic institutions were not required to make returns at either Census in respect of the work done by their inmates and patients. It is understood that a considerable output of goods, and particularly of coir mats and matting, thereby escaped record.

The aggregate number of persons employed in 1930 by firms that stated that they employed not more than 10 persons on the average was 408, the corresponding figure for 1924 being 195. The value of the gross output of the small firms in 1924 (including the few firms in Northern Ireland, for which separate particulars cannot be given) was £103,000 and particulars of the principal classes of goods included in this figure are given below :—

	£'000
Coir mats and matting	15
Hair, cleaned or dressed	39
Hair curled	15
Horse-hair seating and cloth	10
Fibres for brushmaking	7
Other fibres and bristles	10
Other products, including waste	7
TOTAL	103

In addition, 14 firms to which schedules were sent at the 1930 Census and 20 at that of 1924, furnished no information; these firms either had small businesses or had ceased productive operations before the end of the censal year.

Size of firms.—In the following table, the main particulars recorded at the Census of 1930 are grouped according to the average numbers of persons shown in the returns.

Size of firm (average numbers employed).	No. of returns.	Gross output.	Net output.	Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers).	Net output per person employed.
		£'000.	£'000.		£
11-24 ...	17	171	53	315	168
25-49 ...	16	248	110	571	193
50-99 ...	15	715	264	1,110	238
100 and over ...	13	861	297	1,829	162
TOTAL ...	61	1,995	724	3,825	189

Regional distribution.—In the following table the results of the Censuses of 1930 and 1924 are grouped according to the principal areas* of Great Britain in which firms in these trades are situated :—

* For particulars see page xviii.

Area.	No. of returns.	Gross output.	Net output.	Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers).	Net output per person employed.	
		£'000.	£'000.		£	
1	1930	16	576	172	854	202
	1924	17	433	133	677	196
2	1930	11	288	114	654	174
	1924	12	284	127	733	173
3 and 5	1930	7	141	72	363	200
	1924	14	347	140	880	159
6	1930	21	725	262	1,408	186
	1924	21	807	310	1,680	185
9	1930	6	265	104	546	190
	1924	6	354	164	561	292
TOTAL ...	1930	61	1,995	724	3,825	189
	1924	70	2,225	874	4,531	193

Northern Ireland.—According to the Report on the Census of Production of Northern Ireland only one firm was engaged in 1930 in the Coir Fibre, Horse-hair and Feather Trades, and separate particulars were, accordingly, not published. For a similar reason figures are not available for 1924.

Aggregates for separate trades.—The following table shows the chief particulars recorded for 1930 in respect of the three main divisions of these trades :—

Particulars.	Unit.	1930.			
		Coir mats and matting.	Horse- hair goods.	Feathers, fibres and bristles.	Total.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000.	310	890	795	1,995
Cost of materials used and amount paid for work given out to other firms	"	172	546	553	1,271
Net output	"	138	344	242	724
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	1,052	1,877	896	3,825
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	131	183	270	189
Number of returns	No.	15	27	19	61

Production.

Principal products.—The following table shows the value and, where available, the quantity of coir mats and matting made and of hair, fibre, etc., cleaned and dressed in 1930 and 1924.

Kind of goods.	1930.						1924.	
	Returned on schedules for						Total.	
	The Coir Fibre, Horse-Hair and Feather Trades.			All trades.				
	Quantity.	Value.	Ent-ries.	Quantity.	Value.	Ent-ries.	Quantity.	Value.
	Th. sq. yds.	£'000.	No.	Th. sq. yds.	£'000.	No.	Th. sq. yds.	£'000.
Coir matting ...	1,834	227	14	1,899	230	16	2,668	464
Coir mats ...	Dozen.	93	13	36,400	94	14		
Other coir manufactures (except cordage) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	Cwts. 12,000	17
Hair cleaned or dressed, for sale as such	Cwts.			Cwts.				
	9,080	140	10	9,080	140	10	...	361
	*	31	3	*	41	6		
Hair curled ...	82,910	430	15	82,910	430	15	...	541
Horse-hair seating and cloth of horse-hair, fibre or spun horse-hair (mixed or not with wool, cotton, silk or artificial silk) ...	...	208	10	...	238	15	...	277
Fibres dressed for brush-making	11,580	56	5	11,580	56	5	...	115
	*	15	1	*	15	1	*	
Other fibres and bristles, dressed†	14,600	63	6	28,340	92	9	...	168
	*	83	5	*	87	6	*	
Feathers or down, purified or dressed	...	518	8	...	572	10	...	322
Yarns of coir fibre and hair, not separately distinguished ...	—	—	—	3,040	18	1	—	—
TOTAL VALUE	...	1,864	...	...	2,013	...	...	2,265

* Quantity not stated.

† Including kapok and vegetable down.

In connection with the apparent increase in the output of "Feathers or down, purified or dressed", it should be noted that, at the 1924 Census, certain firms that made returns on the schedule for the Furniture Trade included their output of these goods under the more general description of "Bedding, down, quilts, etc." For 1930, these firms made their returns on the schedule for the Coir Fibre, Horse-hair and Feather Trades, the value of their output of "Feathers or down, purified or dressed" being about half the recorded output.

As regards coir mats, there is a very wide range of prices according to quality. The average value ascertained at the 1930 Census (51s. 8d. per dozen) appears to have been approximately equal to

the price at which medium quality mats of a size of 30 ins. by 18 ins. were sold in 1930. If this be taken as a basis, the square yardage of the mats made in 1930 would amount to about 182,000 square yards. Adding this amount to the square yardage of matting, the total quantity of coir mats and matting made in 1930 may be estimated as approximately 2,081,000 square yards, or a decline of about 22 per cent. compared with 1924.

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—The following table compares the volume of production of coir matting and mats, horse-hair goods, feathers, etc., in 1930 and 1924:—

Kind of goods.	Total production.			1930 as a percentage of 1924.
	1930.	1924.		
	As returned.	As returned.	At 1930 average values.	
	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	Per cent.
Coir mats and matting ...	324	464	415	78
Other coir manufactures except cordage ...	—	17	15	—
Hair cleaned and curled ...	611	902	634*	95
Horse-hair seating and cloth ...	238	277	230*	103
Fibres for brushmaking ...	71	115	112†	63
Other fibres and bristles, dressed	179	168	163‡	110
Feathers or down, purified or dressed ...	572	322	287‡	199
TOTAL ...	2,013§	2,265	1,856	108

* Based on average value of "hair" exported, coupled, in the case of horse-hair seating and cloth, with an allowance for wages.

† Based on average value of imported "fibres for brushmaking."

‡ Based on average value of "feathers in and for beds" exported.

§ Including yarns of coir fibre and hair, not separately distinguished (£18,000).

Exports and retained imports.—Owing to the deficiencies in the output aggregates referred to above, no comparison is practicable between exports or retained imports of coir mats and matting and the ascertained particulars of production while, for the other products of these trades, differences of classification preclude such comparisons. The exports and retained imports of coir mats and matting in 1930 and 1924 were as follows:—

	Quantity.	Value.
	Th. sq. yds.	£'000.
Exports		
1930 ...	134	21
1924 ...	167	27
Retained imports		
1930 ...	5,910	578
1924 ...	3,741	389

Work done for the trade or on commission.—Firms that made their returns on schedules for the Coir Fibre, Horse-hair and Feather Trades stated that they received the sum of £23,000 for work done in 1930 for other firms; the corresponding figure for 1924 was £2,000.

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 286, the following goods were produced in 1930 and 1924 by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Coir Fibre, Horse-hair and Feather Trades. These goods are dealt with in the reports on those trades in which the principal output was recorded.

Kind of goods.	1930.	1924.
	Value.	Value.
	£'000.	£'000.
Bedding, bed coverings, cushions, hatters' fur, roofing felts, etc.	102	50

Waste products sold.—The value of waste products sold by firms making returns on schedules for these trades was £6,000 in 1930 and £6,000 in 1924.

Employment and Wages.

Employment.—The following table shows the average numbers of persons employed in 1930 and 1924:—

Persons employed.	Males.		Females.		Total.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
	1930.					
Operatives (average for the year)	225	1,593	436	1,835	661	3,428
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	18	274	15	123	33	397
TOTAL	243	1,867	451	1,958	694	3,825
1924.						
Operatives (average for the year)	260	1,874	538	2,268	798	4,142
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	38	259	36	130	74	389
TOTAL	298	2,133	574	2,398	872	4,531
Average number of outworkers:—						
1930	13		29		42	
1924	8		44		52	

Wages.—The available information as to the amount of wages paid in 1930 and 1924 is given on pages 18 and 19.

Power.

The following table shows the capacity of prime movers, electric generators and electric motors ordinarily in use and in reserve or idle in 1930 and 1924:—

Power equipment.	1930.			1924.		
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
PRIME MOVERS.						
Reciprocating steam engines	543	105	648	1,070	99	1,169
Steam turbines	385	—	385	—	—	—
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	637	238	875	845	92	937
Petrol, kerosene or other light oils	—	5	5	16	6	22
Heavy oils	180	—	180	210	—	210
Water engines	30	—	30	30	—	30
TOTAL	1,775	348	2,123	2,171	197	2,368
ELECTRIC GENERATORS.						
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	78	—	78	129	—	129
Steam turbines	280	—	280	—	—	—
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	191	38	229	418	32	450
Heavy oils	16	—	16	66	—	66
TOTAL	565	38	603	613	32	645
ELECTRIC MOTORS.						
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works	583	12	595	605	68	673
Purchased electricity	4,187	184	4,371	1,564	62	1,626
TOTAL	4,770	196	4,966	2,169	130	2,299

Consumption of fuel.

The following table shows the quantities of coal, coke and electricity recorded as used in 1930 :—

Kind of fuel used.	For power (driving engines).	For other purposes (so far as recorded).
	Tons.	Tons.
Coal	4,781	10,744*
Coke	62	743*
		B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000.
Electricity used for all purposes :—		
Generated in same works		631
Purchased		3,114
TOTAL—Electricity ...		3,745

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 94.8 per cent. of the net output of the whole trade.

TABLES.

I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000.	1,730	265	1,995
Cost of materials used and amount paid for work given out to other firms ...	„	1,110	161	1,271
Net output	„	620	104	724
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	3,279	546	3,825
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	189	190	189
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	1,966	157	2,123
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	„	3,604	767	4,371

II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	Great Britain.		
	Unit.	Quantity.	Value.
			£'000.
Coir matting	Th. sq. yds.	1,834	227
Coir mats	Dozen.	36,290	93
Hair cleaned or dressed, for sale as such ...	Cwts. {	9,080	140
Hair curled	„	* 31	31
Horse-hair seating and cloth of horse-hair, fibre or spun horse-hair (mixed or not with wool, cotton, silk or artificial silk) ...	„	82,910†	430
Fibres dressed for brushmaking	Cwts. {	11,580	56
Other fibres and bristles dressed	„	* 15	15
Feathers or down, purified or dressed	„	14,600	63
Other goods made, including bedding, bed coverings, cushions, hatters' fur, etc. ...	„	* 83	83
Waste sold	—	...	518
Work done on commission	—	...	102
	—	...	6
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)	—	...	23
			1,995

* Quantity not stated.

† The output for Scotland, of hair curled, was 46,850 cwts., valued at £238,000. Particulars of the output of other goods made in Scotland cannot be given without the possible risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms.

III.—Employment.

A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1930
(EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

Persons employed (excluding outworkers).	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<i>England and Wales :—</i>						
Operatives	228	1,571	344	1,367	572	2,938
Administrative, etc.* ...	17	245	14	109	31	354
TOTAL	245	1,816	358	1,476	603	3,292
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives	—	45	98	494	98	539
Administrative, etc.* ...	1	29	1	14	2	43
TOTAL	1	74	99	508	100	582
<i>Great Britain :—</i>						
Operatives	228	1,616	442	1,861	670	3,477
Administrative, etc.* ...	18	274	15	123	33	397
TOTAL	246	1,890	457	1,984	703	3,874

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

B.—OPERATIVES (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS) EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK
IN EACH MONTH OF 1930.

Week ended	Males and females.			Week ended	Males and females.		
	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.		England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Jan. 18th	2,976	551	3,527	July 19th	2,797	478	3,275
Feb. 15th	3,013	544	3,557	Aug. 16th	2,758	441	3,199
Mar. 15th	3,016	451	3,467	Sept. 13th	2,887	448	3,335
April 12th	2,959	536	3,495	Oct. 18th	2,938	539	3,477
May 17th	2,969	471	3,440	Nov. 15th	2,922	544	3,466
June 21st	2,919	474	3,393	Dec. 13th	2,943	555	3,498
AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ...					2,925	503	3,428

C.—NUMBERS OF OUTWORKERS AT TWO SPECIFIED PERIODS IN 1930.

Country.	January.			July.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>England and Wales* ...</i>	13	31	44	13	26	39

* No outworkers were recorded for Scotland.

IV.—Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Great Britain.	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
PRIME MOVERS.						
Reciprocating steam engines	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Steam turbines	386	105	157	—	543	105
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	637	238	—	—	637	238
Petrol, kerosene or other light oils	—	5	—	—	—	5
Heavy oils	180	—	—	—	180	—
Water engines	30	—	—	—	30	—
TOTAL	1,618	348	157	—	1,775	348
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED ...	1,966		157		2,123	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS						
Driven by	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Reciprocating steam engines ...	78	—	—	—	78	—
Steam turbines	280	—	—	—	280	—
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	191	38	—	—	191	38
Heavy oils	16	—	—	—	16	—
TOTAL	565	38	—	—	565	38
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	603		—		603	
ELECTRIC MOTORS.						
Driven by	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in same works	583	12	—	—	583	12
Purchased electricity	3,437	167	750	17	4,187	184
TOTAL	4,020	179	750	17	4,770	196
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC MOTORS INSTALLED ...	4,199		767		4,966	

V. Consumption of fuel.

Kind of fuel used.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Coal used for power ...	3,762	1,019	4,781
Coke used for power ...	62	—	62
	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000.	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000.	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000.
Electricity used for all pur- poses :—			
Generated in same works	631	—	631
Purchased	2,752	362	3,114
TOTAL—Electricity ...	3,383	362	3,745