

## 2 Coverage of the Census

### Scope

The census of production for 1968 covered industrial production, i.e. mining and quarrying; manufacturing; construction; and gas, electricity and water supply industries. Classification to industry was based on the Standard Industrial Classification (Revised 1968) (see Appendix 1). The census was compiled from information supplied by private firms, nationalised undertakings, and Government establishments. The following paragraphs describe the extent to which earlier censuses, whose results appear in this volume, omitted industries covered by the 1968 inquiry.

The heat treatment of milk was included in the 1968 report on the milk and milk products industry (on transfer from the distribution to the production section) and also for the years 1948 to 1951 and 1954 but omitted for all other years. Similar treatment was given to tea blending and to coffee blending, grinding and roasting, these activities being included in the starch and miscellaneous foods industry for 1968 but omitted from all other censuses except 1948 to 1953. The same industry also included for the first time in 1968 the preparation of oven ready poultry at packing stations. Peat digging and jacquard cutting and designing were also brought into scope of the 1968 census but a more significant change concerned the inclusion of process plant engineering contractors, responsible for the design, engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning of complete plants for process industries (i.e. chemicals, petro-chemicals, oil refining and gas) in the industrial (including process) plant and steel work industry.

There may be some instances of activities out of scope of the 1968 census remaining in industries covered in earlier censuses which, because of the method of their collection and reporting, could not be entirely excluded. For the sample censuses of 1950, 1952 and 1953, and 1955 to 1957 a number of industries were not covered, and of those that were, not all were separately distinguished. The main deviations from the 1968 position have been described in the notes to Table 1.

The industries covered by the Import Duty Act Inquiries were, in the main, in line with the census industries but there were a number of differences; for instance parts of some industries were not covered.

"Business Unit" censuses for the years 1959 to 1962, 1964 to 1967 and 1969 were extended in scope to include activities ancillary to the main business which would otherwise have been excluded from firms' returns.

### Area covered

The censuses for 1907 and 1912 covered the United Kingdom, which then included the whole of Ireland. The 1924 census included Northern Ireland but from 1930 onwards the Northern Ireland Government held its own census, except for 1948 when there was no census held there. The Statistics of Trade Act (Northern Ireland), passed in 1949, contained provisions similar to those of the 1947 Act of Great Britain and this provided for an annual census to be held from 1949 onwards: the results have been incorporated in those for the United Kingdom. Information about mining and quarrying was not collected in Northern Ireland from 1951 onwards and the details for these years relate to Great Britain only.

The Isle of Man and Channel Islands were excluded from the surveys.

### Period of returns

Census results in all years are composed of a mixture of calendar and business year figures. This follows from the option allowing firms to make returns for their business year where figures for the calendar year could not be given. Prior to 1930, returns were accepted for periods most nearly coinciding with the calendar year. For 1930 returns were accepted for the year ending up to the 31 March 1931, but for subsequent censuses, firms were allowed to make returns for a business year ending on any date from 6 April in the census year to 5 April in the following year. An analysis of the periods covered by returns at various times shows that the average year covered is with some exceptions — the brewing and malting industry for instance — very close to the calendar year.

### Size of firm covered

The collection of statistics for 1907 and 1924 related to all firms regardless of size and those for 1912 mainly to firms employing six or more persons (excluding working proprietors). From 1930 to 1957 the statistics collected related mainly to firms employing eleven or more persons excepting 1954 census results, which have been reclassified to agree with 1958; for 1958 and following censuses the statistics mainly concerned firms employing twenty-five or more persons. For all censuses, estimates of the principal aggregates are given for all firms regardless of their size.