

THE FISH CURING TRADE

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

This trade comprises firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the curing, smoking and salting of fish. 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 ten persons :—

Particulars	Unit	1930	1924
Value of products and of work done (Gross output)	£'000	5,913	6,943
Cost of materials used	„	4,657	5,452
Net output	„	1,256	1,491
Average number of persons employed	No.	7,443	7,870
Net output per person employed	£	169	189
Power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	604	528
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	„	1,026	880
Number of returns	No.	276	290
Number of establishments	„	490	*

* Not available.

Deficiencies in 1930 aggregates.—The aggregate number of persons recorded for 1930 by firms that stated that they employed not more than ten persons on the average was 2,485, the number of such firms being 424. No information was received from 100 firms that were known to be engaged in business in 1930, though probably on a small scale. It is probable, therefore, that the defect of the 1930 results in terms of employment amounted to at least 3,000 persons, or about 30 per cent. of the aggregate. In addition, a large number of establishments were unoccupied at the date of issue of the Census schedules, and though these consisted of quite small curing stations open for production only during the short period of the fishing season, their omission also affects the completeness of the results obtained.

At the 1924 Census, 355 returns were furnished by firms employing not more than ten persons on the average, the number of their employees being 1,892*, and 330 firms gave no information. If the latter firms were of the same average importance as the small firms that furnished returns, the total number of persons employed by the small firms in 1924 may be estimated as about 3,600, or 31 per cent. of the aggregate, without taking into account the number of small establishments occupied only occasionally in the year. The value of the gross output of the small firms that furnished returns for 1924

* This figure includes particulars in respect of the few firms in Northern Ireland regarding which separate information is not available for publication.

was £1,307,000*, the items included in this figure being as follows:—

Fish cured, etc. :—	Th. cwts.	£'000
Herrings	1,136	973
Cod	24	42
Haddocks	79	160
Other and unclassified fish	103	121
Other products	11
TOTAL	1,307*

* These figures include particulars in respect of the few firms in Northern Ireland regarding which separate information is not available for publication.

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)	Number of returns	Gross output	Net output	Average number of persons employed	Net output per person employed
11-24	No. 183	£'000 2,482	£'000 524	No. 3,061	£ 171
25-49	69	1,934	402	2,258	178
50-99	18	959	210	1,214	173
100-399	6	538	120	910	132
TOTAL	276	5,913	1,256	7,443	169

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

Area	Number of returns	Gross output	Net output	Average number of persons employed	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
1	1930 6	157	31	116	266
	1924 8	121	28	159	176
2	1930 12	162	38	214	178
	1924 7	86	17	123	138
3, 4, 7 and 8	1930 10	107	24	182	132
	1924 18	314	54	393	137
6	1930 105	2,776	557	3,083	181
	1924 119	3,058	631	3,007	210
9	1930 4	39	9	68	135
	1924 8	368	56	357	157
10	1930 139	2,672	597	3,780	158
	1924 130	2,996	705	3,831	184
TOTAL { 1930	276	5,913	1,256	7,443	169
{ 1924	290	6,943	1,491	7,870	189

*For particulars see page xviii.

Owing to the absence of detailed records, many firms were unable to furnish separate area returns in respect of their fish-curing stations. In these cases the returns covered several establishments situated in different parts of Great Britain and, in the absence of other means of regional classification, each return was allocated to the particular area which contained the establishment at which the largest number of workpeople was employed in the week ended 18th October, 1930. The regional distribution of the trade shown in the above table, particularly in respect of Areas 6 and 10, and in the tables on pages 145-8 should, therefore, be regarded as approximate only. The aggregate number of persons employed in 1930, as recorded on these returns, was about 1,670.

Northern Ireland.—The output of the Fish Curing Trade in Northern Ireland, both in 1930 and in 1924, was very small and separate particulars have not been published for either year.

Production

Principal products.—The following table shows the value and, where available, the quantity of fish cured, smoked or salted in 1930 and 1924:—

Kind of fish cured, smoked or salted	1930			1924	
	Quantity	Value	Entries	Quantity	Value
	Th. cwts.	£'000	No.	Th. cwts.	£'000
Herrings	3,846*	3,263*	217*	4,927†	4,070†
Cod (including codlings)	700	1,016	72	510	892
Haddocks	412	1,030	82	433	1,148
Other and unclassified fish... ..	338	436	57	424	768
	...	51	2		
TOTAL	5,796	...	6,294	6,878

* Including 4,000 cwts. valued at £3,000 returned on a schedule for another trade.
† Including 6,000 cwts. valued at £6,000 returned on schedules for other trades.

Prices.—The average selling values of fish cured, etc., in 1930 and 1924, as calculated from the Census returns, are shown in the following table. With regard to the unclassified fish it should be borne in mind that the comparison does not take account of any differences between the two years in the varieties of fish included.

Kind of fish cured, smoked or salted	Average value		1930 as a percentage of 1924
	1930	1924	
	£ per cwt.	£ per cwt.	Per cent.
Herrings	0.85	0.83	102
Cod (including codlings)	1.45	1.75	83
Haddocks	2.50	2.65	94
Other and unclassified fish	1.34	1.81	74

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—The following table compares the volume of production of cured, smoked or salted fish in 1930 and 1924 :—

Kind of fish	Total production			1930 as a percentage of 1924
	1930	1924		
	As returned	As returned	At 1930 average values	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	Per cent.
Herrings	3,263	4,070	4,151	79
Cod (including codlings)	1,016	892	740	137
Haddocks	1,030	1,148	1,079	95
Other and unclassified fish	487	768	568	86
TOTAL	5,796	6,878	6,538	89

Production, exports and imports.—In view of the deficiencies in the output aggregates for 1930, referred to on page 139 of this report, no comparison is practicable between exports or retained imports of cured fish and the recorded particulars of production. Exports and retained imports of cured, etc., fish in 1930 and 1924 are shown below :—

Fish, cured, smoked or salted (not canned)	Exports		Retained imports
	Th. cwts.	Th. cwts.	
Herrings	1930	5,031	16
	1924	6,390	66
Cod (including codlings)	1930	347	*
	1924	404	144
Haddocks	1930	21	*
	1924	27	1
Other and unclassified fish	1930	237	162
	1924	208	127

* Re-exports in excess of imports (cod, 19,000 cwts. : haddocks, 21,000 cwts.).

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 141, the following goods were produced in 1930 and 1924 by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Fish Curing Trade. 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
Canned fish, feeding stuffs and preserved meats, etc. ...	44	41
Barrels, boxes, etc., made and repaired	76	30
TOTAL	120	71

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)	194	2,362	348	4,464	542	6,826
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	16	443	21	174	37	617
TOTAL	210	2,805	369	4,638	579	7,443
1924						
Operatives (average for the year)	244	3,113	199	4,016	443	7,129
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	33	564	18	177	51	741
TOTAL	277	3,677	217	4,193	494	7,870

The seasonal movement in employment in the Fish Curing Trade is reflected in Table III B on page 146 of this report, which indicates the periods of the year in which herring curing establishments in England and Wales and in Scotland were in active operation. It will be seen that the period of maximum employment in England and Wales was the month of October, when the number of operatives at work was nearly 88 per cent. above the average for the year, and in Scotland the month of July when employment was more than double the yearly average.

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
PRIME MOVERS	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines	109	15	124	139	8	147
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	245	12	257	342	8	350
Petrol, kerosene, or other light oils ...	34	—	34	5	—	5
Heavy oils	189	—	189	26	—	26
TOTAL	577	27	604	512	16	528
ELECTRIC GENERATORS	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	6	5	11	2	—	2
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	3	—	3	—	—	—
Heavy oils	81	—	81	—	—	—
TOTAL	90	5	95	2	—	2
ELECTRIC MOTORS	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works ...	10	—	10	22	—	22
Purchased electricity	984	42	1,026	776	104	880
TOTAL	994	42	1,036	798	104	902

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	334	2,691*
Coke	—	4,382*
		B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Electricity used for all purposes :—		
Generated in same works		30†
Purchased		1,105
TOTAL		1,135

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 99.5 per cent. of the net output of the whole trade.
† Estimated.

TABLES

I. Summary of results

Particulars	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Value of products and of work done (Gross output)	£'000	3,202	2,711	5,913
Cost of materials used	"	2,552	2,105	4,657
Net output	"	650	606	1,256
Average number of persons employed	No.	3,595	3,848	7,443
Net output per person employed ...	£	181	157	169
Power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	245	359	604
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	542	484	1,026

II. Production

Kind of products and work done	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Fish, cured, smoked or salted :—				
Herrings	<i>Th. cwt.</i>	1,650	2,192	3,842
	£'000	1,540	1,720	3,260
Cod (including codlings)	<i>Th. cwt.</i>	452	248	700
	£'000	655	361	1,016
Haddocks	<i>Th. cwt.</i>	296	116	412
	£'000	730	300	1,030
Other and unclassified fish { <i>Quantity stated ...</i>	<i>Th. cwt.</i>	165	173	338
{ <i>Quantity not stated</i>	£'000	197	239	436
	£'000	51	—	51
TOTAL—Fish cured, smoked or salted	£'000	3,173	2,620	5,793
Canned fish, feeding stuffs and preserved meats, etc.	£'000	16	28	44
Barrels, boxes, etc., made and repaired	£'000	13	63	76
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTS AND OF WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT) ...	£'000	3,202	2,711	5,913

III. Employment

A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1930

Persons employed	Males		Females		Males and females	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
<i>England and Wales :—</i>						
Operatives	198	2,260	341	3,791	539	6,051
Administrative, etc.* ...	14	281	10	87	24	368
TOTAL	212	2,541	351	3,878	563	6,419
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives	66	954	133	2,283	199	3,237
Administrative, etc.* ...	2	162	11	87	13	249
TOTAL	68	1,116	144	2,370	212	3,486
<i>Great Britain :—</i>						
Operatives	264	3,214	474	6,074	738	9,288
Administrative, etc.* ...	16	443	21	174	37	617
TOTAL	280	3,657	495	6,248	775	9,905

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

B.—OPERATIVES 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. 18 ...	2,652	2,188	4,840	July 19 ...	2,500	7,366	9,866
Feb. 15 ...	2,697	2,183	4,880	Aug. 16 ...	2,827	6,164	8,991
Mar. 15 ...	2,837	2,135	4,972	Sept. 13...	2,801	2,995	5,796
April 12 ...	2,676	2,321	4,997	Oct. 18 ...	6,051	3,237	9,288
May 17 ...	2,583	2,639	5,222	Nov. 15 ...	5,935	3,326	9,261
June 21 ...	2,425	6,695	9,120	Dec. 13 ...	2,745	1,933	4,678
AVERAGE FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ...					3,227	3,599	6,826

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.
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	76	15	33	—	109	15
Petrol, kerosene, or other light oils ...	33	12	212	—	245	12
Heavy oils	—	—	34	—	34	—
TOTAL	109	—	80	—	189	—
TOTAL	218	27	359	—	577	27
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	245		359		604	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS						
Driven by	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Reciprocating steam engines	6	5	—	—	6	5
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	—	—	3	—	3	—
Heavy oils	6	—	75	—	81	—
TOTAL	12	5	78	—	90	5
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	17		78		95	
ELECTRIC MOTORS						
Driven by	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in same works ...	10	—	—	—	10	—
Purchased electricity	503	39	481	3	984	42
TOTAL	513	39	481	3	994	42
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC MOTORS INSTALLED	552		484		1,036	

V. Consumption of fuel

Kind of fuel used	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Coal used for power	Tons 75	Tons 259	Tons 334
Electricity used for all purposes :—	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Generated in same works	4*	26*	30*
Purchased	762	343	1,105
TOTAL—Electricity	766	369	1,135

* Estimated.