

BOARD OF TRADE

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*The Report on the  
Census of Production  
for 1954*

Volume 8: Industry C



*Presented by the Board of Trade to Parliament in pursuance of the  
Statistics of Trade Act, 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6 Ch. 39, Sec. 7)*

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# The Report on the Census of Production for 1954

VOLUME 8, INDUSTRY C

## BISCUIT

THIS REPORT on the Biscuit Industry relates to establishments engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of biscuits, rusks, crispbread, cereal fillers, etc.

This industry corresponds to minimum list heading 152 in the Standard Industrial Classification.

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IMPORTANT NOTES and definitions appear on the next page. In interpreting the data in the tables, it is essential to bear these in mind.

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The following notes describe terms in general use in the tables of the report. More detailed explanations of the terms used and a description of the scope and method of taking the census are given in the separate booklet entitled 'The Report on the Census of Production for 1954 - Introductory Notes' (price 1s. 6d. net).

**Industrial Classification:** Establishments are classified to industries according to the nature of their output and, as far as possible, in conformity with the Standard Industrial Classification. Certain products are identified as the principal products of individual industries, the principal products for a given industry being of a similar nature or commonly associated in production. The principle of classification normally followed is that an establishment is classified to an industry if its output of the principal products of that industry accounted for a greater proportion of the value of its output than did its output of the principal products of any other industry.

**Specialist producers** normally comprise those establishments 50 per cent. or more of whose total output by value is accounted for by the characteristic products of the specialist group.

**Intermediate products:** For some industries figures are given showing the total quantities made during the year of intermediate products, i.e., products which may be further processed in the establishments in which they are produced.

**Larger establishments:** The information given in the report relates mainly to 'larger establishments', i.e., establishments of firms employing on the average more than 10 persons. In most cases an establishment comprises the whole of the premises under the same ownership or management at a particular address (e.g., a mine or factory). Offices, warehouses, laboratories and other ancillary places of business situated apart from the producing works are not regarded as separate establishments and are included in the return for the works.

**Small firms** are those employing on the average 10 or fewer persons.

The estimates for the industry as a whole given in Table 1 are normally obtained by increasing the other items shown in the same proportion as total employment.

**Gross output (production)** is the total value of goods made and other work done during the year; it is obtained by adjusting the value of sales and work done during the year for changes in the value of stocks of products on hand for sale and work in progress.

**Net output** is the amount left after deducting from the value of gross output the aggregate of the cost of materials and fuel used, the amount paid for work given out, and, for 1951 and 1954, any transport payments made. This represents the value added to materials by the process of production, and constitutes the fund from which wages, salaries, rents, rates and taxes, advertising and other selling expenses and all other similar charges have to be met, as well as depreciation and profits.

**Sales** means sales during the year of goods made in the establishment covered by the return or made on commission for it, whether produced in the year or not. The value of sales is the net selling value, i.e., the amount charged to customers, whether on an ex-works or delivered basis, and net of any trade discounts, agents' commissions, allowances for returnable cases, purchase tax, etc. For goods charged on a delivered basis to customers overseas, firms were required to give the f.o.b. value.

**Materials and fuel:** The total cost of materials and fuel purchased includes all purchases during the year of materials for use in production, and of fuel (includ-

ing oil, gas and electricity) for all purposes; packing materials, including the full cost of returnable cases when first purchased; workshop and office materials; water charges; materials for repairs to buildings, plant and vehicles when carried out by firms' own work-people included in their returns; consumable tools; and parts for machinery purchased as replacements. Purchases of goods for merchanting are excluded. The cost of materials and fuel used, given in Table 2, is obtained by adjusting purchases for changes during the year in the value of stocks.

**Stocks:** Firms were required to give stocks of materials and fuel, products on hand for sale, and work in progress, at income tax values.

**Customs and Excise Duty** paid on materials purchased is normally included in the cost of materials. Finished goods are similarly valued as they were sold, duty-paid or duty-free. The net amount of any duty paid is deducted in arriving at net output.

**Employment:** Total employment includes working proprietors, administrative, technical and clerical employees, and operatives, but excludes outworkers, canteen employees and persons engaged in merchanting or any other activity not covered by a firm's return, who are shown separately as excluded employees. Employees are persons on the pay-roll (i.e., persons whose National Insurance cards were held by employers), whether employed full-time or part-time.

**Working proprietors** are proprietors of businesses other than limited companies, together with members of their families who worked in the business without receiving fixed wages or salaries. Any persons working less than half the normal hours are excluded. For Northern Ireland directors of limited companies (other than those paid by fee only) are also included.

**Administrative, technical and clerical employees** include directors, other than those paid by fee only (except in Northern Ireland); managers, superintendents and works foremen; research, experimental, development, technical and design employees (other than operatives); draughtsmen and tracers; travellers; and office (including works office) employees.

**Operatives** include all other classes of employees, i.e., broadly speaking, all manual workers.

**Outworkers** are persons employed by the firm who work on materials supplied by the firm in their own homes.

**Wages and salaries** include all overtime payments, bonuses and commissions without any deductions for income tax, insurances, contributory pensions etc. They exclude payments to working proprietors.

**Capital expenditure** includes expenditure on new building work, and on plant, machinery and vehicles, charged to capital account during the year, including any transport and installation costs involved. It includes expenditure in respect of establishments in Great Britain which had not begun production before the end of the year (which has not previously been included in the Census of Production reports for individual industries).

**Symbols used:**

.. for not available

- for nil or negligible (less than half the final digit shown).

Where figures are rounded, e.g., given to the nearest £ thousand, there may be apparent slight discrepancies between the sums of constituent items and the totals shown. In some cases, figures have been combined with others of a similar nature where publication of separate details might disclose information relating to an individual undertaking.

## Industry summary

Estimates for the industry as a whole

TABLE 1

	United Kingdom			Scotland 1954	Wales 1954
	1948	1951	1954		
Gross output (production)	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
Net output	41.1	75.4	94.4	20.43	3.93
Total stocks and work in progress	16.0	24.4	35.4	6.82	1.45
At beginning of year	4.6	7.2	9.6	1.76	0.38
Change during year	+ 0.1	+ 2.9	+ 0.1	+ 0.14	+ 0.03
Capital expenditure less disposals (a)	1.3	2.8	5.1	1.14	0.16
Wages and salaries	8.0	11.6	17.8	3.07	0.87
Total employment (including working proprietors)	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
	31.1	42.3	56.1	9.98	2.82

(a) Capital expenditure on new building work, plant, machinery and vehicles (including (except in 1948) that incurred in Great Britain for establishments not yet in production), less amounts received for plant, machinery and vehicles disposed of.

## Summary of returns received

TABLE 2

	Unit	Great Britain 1948	United Kingdom	
			1951	1954
<b>FIRMS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE MORE THAN 10 PERSONS</b>				
Number of establishments	No.	114	131	120
Total value of sales and work done	£'000	40,635	74,758	93,547
Products on hand for sale	at beginning of year and work in progress change during year	985	1,495	2,645
		+ 35	+ 153	+ 86
Gross output (production) (a)	"	39,665	74,911	93,633
Amount payable by the Ministry of Food for flour used for bread	"	6	7	(b)
Purchases of materials and fuel	"	21,206	47,025	56,354
Stocks of materials and fuel	at beginning of year change during year	3,430	5,616	6,829
		+ 70	+ 2,740	+ 43
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	21,136	44,285	56,311
Payment for work done on materials given out	"	175	65	57
Amount payable to the Ministry of Food for flour used for biscuits	"	2,883	4,597	(b)
Payment for transport (c)	"	1,004	1,760	2,136
Net output	"	15,478	24,212	35,129
Average number of employees	{operatives others	No.	23,104	34,276
Total employment (e)		"	6,915(d)	7,531
Net output per person employed (e)	"	£	30,029	41,823
	"	"	515	579
Wages and salaries	{of operatives of others	£'000	4,893	8,065
		"	"	2,832
Capital expenditure				
New building work (f)	"	"	209	378
Plant and machinery	{acquisitions (f) disposals	"	880	1,827
		"	"	51
Vehicles	{acquisitions (f) disposals	"	279	467
		"	"	39



TABLE 2 (contd.)

	Unit	Great Britain 1948	United Kingdom	
			1951	1954
FIRMS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE 10 OR FEWER PERSONS				
Number of returns	No.	39	39(g)	33
Total employment, including working proprietors	"	243	237(g)	212

- (a) For the year 1948 gross output excludes payments for transport services outwards on finished goods sold. For subsequent years gross output includes payments to other firms and undertakings and to firms' own separate transport organisations for transport services.
- (b) Not applicable to 1954.
- (c) Payments to other firms and undertakings and to firms' own separate transport organisations. For the year 1948 payments cover only transport outwards of finished goods sold. For subsequent years they cover payments for transport of both finished goods sold and materials and fuel purchased.
- (d) Number in week ended September 25, 1948.
- (e) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.
- (f) Excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.
- (g) Excluding Northern Ireland. No information about small firms was collected in Northern Ireland for 1951.

## Analysis by size, 1954

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 3

Average number employed (a)	Estab-lish-ments	Gross output	Net output	Employees		Wages and salaries		Capital expenditure (b)	Net output per person employed (a)
				Operatives	Others	Operatives	Others		
	Number	£'000	£'000	Number	Number	£'000	£'000	£'000	£
11 - 24 (c)	14	492	137	191	42	52	17	6	579
25 - 49	26	1,271	489	721	170	179	89	38	547
50 - 99	10	1,192	436	662	79	166	50	49	588
100 - 199	17	5,178	1,719	1,967	542	581	305	400	684
200 - 299	9	4,665	1,851	1,939	346	511	178	404	810
300 - 399	7	4,476	1,583	2,116	362	615	162	167	638
400 - 499	7	5,331	1,748	2,684	323	675	186	394	581
500 - 749	6	5,425	1,904	2,964	736	864	405	336	515
750 - 999	8	12,342	5,234	5,602	1,114	1,528	536	584	779
1,000 - 1,999	11	28,110	9,692	11,937	2,367	3,434	1,192	1,393	678
2,000 and over	5	25,150	10,337	15,490	3,212	4,275	1,646	999	553
Total	120	93,633	35,129	46,273	9,293	12,879	4,767	4,771	632

- (a) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.
- (b) Capital expenditure on new building work and on acquisition of plant, machinery and vehicles, excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.
- (c) Including a small number of establishments with fewer than 11 persons employed, particulars of which were included with those for larger establishments on a single return.

TABLE 4 - Analysis according to specialisation within the industry, 1954

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

No specialisation within this industry was distinguished

## Sales of the principal products of the industry, including sales of these products by establishments classified to other industries

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 5

	1951		1954		Entries
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
Biscuits for human consumption	Th.cwt.	£'000	Th.cwt.	£'000	Number
Whole					
Sweetened					
Chocolate coated (fully)	1,150	17,062	1,026	16,311	56
Chocolate coated (partially)	247	2,429	384	4,739	55
Chocolate coated, unclassified	149	2,032	284	4,920	48
Other kinds	5,062	36,959	5,608	50,713	234
Unsweetened, including cabin bread (ship's biscuit)	1,054	8,620	1,294	12,505	90
Broken	96	304	152	552	42
Rusks (infants', diabetic, breakfast, etc.)	60	667	78	1,049	8
Chrispbread, matzos and matzo meal	188	1,381	232	1,958	8
Oatcakes	47	334	49	398	109
Dry wafers (including cones, cornets, etc.)	92	1,127	57	652	34
			..	246	
Cereal filler (sausage rusk)	1,078	2,311	816	2,493	42
Breadcrumbs (a)	18	30	..	98	5
Waste products	..	278	..	288	82
Total		73,535		96,922	..
Sales in other industries (see Table 6)		3,970		7,575	..
Principal products of this industry sold by establishments in the industry		69,565		89,347	114

(a) So far as recorded separately.

## Sales of principal products of the industry by establishments classified to other industries

## Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 6

	1954			Principal industries in which produced (a)
	Quantity	Value	Entries	
Biscuits for human consumption	Th.cwt.	£'000	Number	
Whole				
Sweetened				
Chocolate coated	284	4,920	48	8B, 8I
Other kinds	164	1,537	152	8B, 8J, 9G
Unsweetened	55	388	42	8B, 8J, 9C, 9G
Rusks (infant's, diabetic, breakfast, etc.)	24	206	98	2G, 8B, 9G
Oatcakes				
Dry wafers (including cones, cornets, etc.)	151	472	31	8A, 8B, 8D, 9G
Cereal filler (sausage rusk) and breadcrumbs				
Total	..	7,575	..	

(a) The volume number and industry references given are to the industries shown in the list at the back of this report.



Sales in the industry of other than principal products  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 7

	1954	
	Quantity	Value
	Th.cwt.	£'000
Flour confectionery		
Slab or size cake, sponge goods, tea-bread and scones, including crumpets, muffins, etc.	153	1,869
Other flour confectionery	23	234
Chocolate confectionery	40	700
Sugar confectionery	9	87
Seasonings, stuffings and forcemeat; and farinaceous preparations for use as food	36	431
	..	177
Other sales	75	279
	..	229
<b>Total</b>		<b>4,200</b>

TABLE 8 - Total make of intermediate products  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom  
This table is not applicable to the industry

Purchases of materials and fuel, 1954  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 9

	Quantity	Cost
	Th.cwt.	£'000
Wheat meal and flour (other than self-raising flour and semolina)		
National flour	2,552	4,425
Wholemeal, National Brown and other flours of higher extraction than National flour	753	1,255
Flours of lower extraction than National flour	3,020	5,064
Oatmeal and oat flour	30	68
Other cereal meals and flours	156	320
Butter	36	624
Margarine and compound cooking fat	418	3,054
Animal lard	230	732
Refined vegetable oils	1,029	6,763
Cocoa butter	22	635

TABLE 9 (contd.)

	Quantity	Cost
	Th.cwt.	£'000
Sugar	1,739	5,204
Syrup and treacle	178	530
Eggs not in shell	27	442
Chocolate couverture and block chocolate	474	8,782
Cocoa beans	24	476
Dried fruits including candied or dried peel	160	784
Other ingredients	..	3,351
Packing materials		
Tin containers purchased as such	106	824
Tinplate	27	1,213
Cardboard boxes and cartons and fibre-board packing cases	70	100
Transparent cellulose film in sheets, rolls or bags	..	432
Paper for wrapping or packing and paper bags	..	1,497
Timber and packing cases (wood or mainly of wood)	11	307
All other packing materials	..	556
Replacement parts for firms' own machinery, plant and vehicles and consumable tools bought as replacements	113	1,167
All other purchased materials	..	1,875
Fuel and electricity		
Coal	73	73
Coke	..	135
Liquid fuels (including creosote/pitch mixtures)	..	1,260
For use in internal combustion engines	..	..
Motor spirit (petrol) for use in road vehicles and derv. fuel	2,841	548
Other	2	-
For burning in furnaces, boilers, kilns, etc.	1,758	77
Gas purchased		
From Gas Boards	15,111	776
From other sources, including other departments of the same firms	11	1
Electricity purchased		
From Electricity Boards	79,880	446
From other sources, including other departments of the same firms	1,653	13
All other purchased fuel		13
<b>Total cost</b>		<b>56,354</b>



## BISCUIT

Average number of employees and wages, salaries and superannuation payments (a)

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 10

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
Average number of employees		
Operatives	34,276	46,273
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	7,531	9,293
Total	41,807	55,566
Wages and salaries paid to		
Operatives	8,065	12,879
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	3,486	4,767
Total	11,550	17,647
Wages and salaries per head	£	£
Operatives	235	278
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	463	513
Superannuation and other pension funds for employees and dependents (b)		£'000
Employers' contributions	..	370
Employees covered	..	Number 16,359
Pension, etc. payments to former employees and dependents (b)	..	£'000 137

(a) The following persons, not included above, were also employed by larger establishments in this industry ('other workers' includes, for example, employees engaged in merchanting):

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
Canteen workers		
Male	13	17
Female	513	555
Total	526	572
Other workers		
Male	333	257
Female	199	77
Total	532	334
Total excluded employees	1,058	906

(b) The figures given relate to larger establishments in Great Britain only.

Employment in a specified week (a)

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 11

	Number					
	1951			1954		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Working proprietors	15	1	16	11	1	12
Operatives	11,913	23,693	35,606	14,568	35,983	50,551
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	3,898	3,788	7,686	4,646	4,870	9,516
Total employees	15,811	27,481	43,292	19,214	40,853	60,067

(a) Week ended September 22, 1951, or October 30, 1954.

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