

THE CANE AND WICKER FURNITURE AND BASKETWARE 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 private firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of cane and wicker furniture and baskets. Philanthropic institutions of which the inmates were employed in making basketware were not required to make returns.

As separate particulars for England and Wales and for Scotland cannot be published for the year 1930 owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, the summary table (I) and the tables showing details of power equipment (IV) and coal, coke and electricity used (V) are not appended to this report. The whole of this information is available in the report itself.

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 goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	806	583
Cost of materials used	„	348	225
Paid for work given out to other firms	„	1	—
Net output	„	457	358
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	2,800	2,324
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	163	154
Power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	685	153
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	„	907	68
Number of returns	No.	59	68
Number of establishments	„	70	*

* Not available.

Deficiencies in 1930 aggregates.—The aggregate number of persons employed in 1930 by firms that stated that they employed not more than ten persons on the average was 900, or 24 per cent. of the total recorded by all firms that furnished particulars. Returns were not received from 13 small firms to which schedules were sent.

At the 1924 Census, an aggregate of 1,167 persons, or 33 per cent. of the total number employed by all firms that made returns, was recorded by establishments* employing not more than ten persons on the average. In addition, 180 small firms to which schedules were sent furnished no information.

* Including establishments in Northern Ireland, for which separate information is not available for publication.

The value of the gross output in 1924 of the small firms and of firms in Northern Ireland was £253,000, and particulars of the items included in this figure are given below:—

	£'000
Wicker furniture	37
Baskets of all kinds	177
Cane parts for baskets, etc.	2
Other goods made	3
Repair work and work done for the trade	34
TOTAL	253

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 (excluding outworkers)	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
11-24 ...	25	100	60	437	137
25-49 ...	20	141	84	687	122
50-99 ...	8	156	87	573	152
100-499 ...	6	409	226	1,103	205
TOTAL ...	59	806	457	2,800	163

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 (excluding outworkers)	Net output per person employed	
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£	
1	1930	13	340	191	810	236
	1924	14	124	84	394	213
2	1930	7	66	38	298	127
	1924	14	92	55	358	154
6	1930	33	320	188	1,350	139
	1924	29	264	160	1,107	145
Other areas ...	1930	6	80	40	342	119
	1924	11	103	59	465	127
TOTAL	1930	59	806	457	2,800	163
	1924	68	583	358	2,324	154

* For particulars see page xviii.

Northern Ireland.—In the report on the Census of Production of Northern Ireland for 1930, particulars for the Cane and Wicker Furniture and Basketware Trade were included in the report on the Furniture and Upholstery Trade. The combined particulars for both 1930 and 1924 are shown on page 47.

Production

Principal products.—The following table shows the value of cane and wicker furniture and basketware made in 1930 and 1924:—

Kind of goods	1930				1924
	Returned on schedules for				Total
	The Cane and Wicker Furniture and Basketware Trade		All trades		
Value	Entries	Value	Entries	Value	
	£'000	No.	£'000	No.	£'000
Bamboo and wicker furniture ...	431	33	438	39	279
Baskets and hampers (including cost of fittings), skips, sieves, punnets, etc.	260	36	308	51	359
Basket and wicker-work, not separ- ately distinguished, and cane parts for basket and wicker-work, including prepared willows ...	48	5	48	5	14*
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS	739	...	794	...	652

* Cane parts and prepared willows only.

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—It is estimated that the total value of basketware and cane and wicker furniture made in 1924 (£652,000) would represent, at 1930 prices, a sum of about £580,000, the output value recorded for 1930 (£794,000) being in excess of this estimate by about 37 per cent. In view of the absence of price factors, however, this estimate must be regarded as only a rough approximation.

Exports and imports.—The following table shows the value of baskets and basketware exported from the United Kingdom in 1930 and 1924, together with the value of similar goods imported and retained. The recorded production figures are not sufficiently complete to warrant their use for purposes of comparison.

Kind of goods	Exports		Retained imports	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Baskets and basketware:—				
Furniture				
			1930	15
			1924	21
			1930	400
			1924	342

Work done for the trade.—The total amount recorded as received for repair work and work done for the trade in 1930 was £11,000, of which £4,000 was recorded on schedules for other trades; the corresponding total for 1924 was £31,000.

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 59, the following goods were produced in 1930 and 1924 by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Cane and Wicker Furniture, etc. Trade. These goods are dealt with in the reports on those trades in which the principal output was recorded.

Kind of goods	1930	1924
	£'000	£'000
Furniture and cabinetware of wood	54	} 19
Travelling bags, trunks, etc., of leather or other material ...	5	
Other goods	1	
TOTAL	60	19

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	1,497	401	1,016	626	2,513
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	8	192	11	95	19	287
TOTAL	233	1,689	412	1,111	645	2,800
1924						
Operatives (average for the year)	119	1,225	267	866	386	2,091
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	3	168	14	65	17	233
TOTAL	122	1,393	281	931	403	2,324
Average number of outworkers:—						
1930	18		23		41	
1924	8		—		8	

Wages.—The available information as to the amount of wages paid in 1930 and 1924 is given on pages 14 and 15.

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	264	40	304	—	—	—
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	190	60	250	55	22	77
Petrol, kerosene, or other light oils ...	7	20	27	20	11	31
Heavy oils	104	—	104	45	—	45
TOTAL	565	120	685	120	33	153
	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
ELECTRIC GENERATORS						
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	10	—	10	—	—	—
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	7	5	12	8	—	8
Petrol, kerosene, or other light oils	—	—	—	2	—	2
Heavy oils	3	—	3	—	—	—
TOTAL	20	5	25	10	—	10
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
ELECTRIC MOTORS						
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works ...	—	—	—	3	—	3
Purchased electricity	877	30	907	68	—	68
TOTAL	877	30	907	71	—	71

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	885	296*
Coke	—	184*
Electricity used for all purposes:—		B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Generated in same works		10
Purchased		405
TOTAL—Electricity		415

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 94·4 per cent. of the net output of the whole trade.

TABLES

Note.—Owing to the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars for England and Wales and for Scotland cannot be given.

I. Summary of results (see page 57)

II. Production

Kind of goods made and work done	Value
	£'000
Bamboo and wicker furniture	431
Baskets and hampers (including cost of fittings), skips, sieves, punnets, etc.	260
Basket and wicker-work, not separately distinguished, and cane parts for basket and wicker-work, including prepared willows	48
Furniture and cabinetware of wood	54
Travelling bags, trunks, etc., of leather or other material	5
Other goods made	1
Repair work and work done for the trade	7*
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)...	806

* Amount received for work done.

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
Operatives	221	1,468	393	997	614	2,465
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	8	192	11	95	19	287
TOTAL	229	1,660	404	1,092	633	2,752

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

Week ended	Males and females	Week ended	Males and females
January 18	2,348	July 19	2,611
February 15	2,431	August 16	2,491
March 15	2,461	September 13	2,500
April 12	2,544	October 18	2,465
May 17	2,633	November 15	2,499
June 21	2,625	December 13	2,551
AVERAGE FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS			2,513

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

January			July		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
24	29	53	12	16	28

Note.—The figures in the above table relate to England and Wales, no outworkers being recorded for Scotland.

IV. Power (see page 61)

V. Consumption of fuel (see page 62)