

THE FUR 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 dressing, dyeing, cutting and making-up of furs. 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	4,124	5,413
Cost of materials used	"	2,611	3,401
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	86	109
Net output	"	1,427	1,903
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	5,895	6,764
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	242	281
Mechanical power available:—			
Prime movers	H.P.	44	185
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	2,016	1,504
Number of returns	No.	170	231
Number of establishments	"	176	*

* 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 3,686, the corresponding figure for 1924* being 2,320. Though the numbers employed in 1930 by the small firms was about 38 per cent. of the total number recorded by *all* firms, the deficiency in the gross and net output is unlikely to have been so great. In 1924 the numbers employed by the small firms represented about 26 per cent. of the total, but the gross output of these firms was only about 18 per cent.

* The particulars relating to small firms in 1924 include one return made by a firm in Northern Ireland.

of the total. It should be noted, however, that 101 firms to which schedules were sent at the 1930 Census and 230 at that of 1924 furnished no information; these firms either had small businesses or had ceased productive operations before the end of the census year. Making allowance for the firms that made no returns, it is evident that there was a substantial increase between 1924 and 1930 in the total number of persons employed by firms employing not more than ten persons, and this increase may have been almost, if not quite, sufficient to offset the decrease of 869 in the numbers employed by the larger firms.

The value of the gross output of the small firms in 1924 was £1,152,000, and particulars of the principal classes of goods made and work done included in this figure are given below:—

	£'000.
Made-up fur goods	869
Mats and rugs of fur	7
Alteration and repair work	146
Cutting and making-up	114
Fur dressing, dyeing, etc., and other goods made ...	16
TOTAL	1,152

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	92	1,257	384	1,620	237
25-49	56	1,696	570	2,029	281
50-99	16	678	245	1,083	227
100 and over ...	6	493	228	1,163	196
TOTAL	170	4,124	1,427	5,895	242

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:—

* 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	135	3,713	1,249	5,007	250
	1924	191	4,968	1,720	5,890	292
2 ... {	1930	9	138	53	233	228
	1924	15	202	55	302	182
9 ... {	1930	13	146	66	303	218
	1924	11	130	70	245	286
10 ... {	1930	5	40	22	121	179
	1924	6	66	38	186	204
3, 4, 5 and 6	1930	8	87	37	231	159
3, 5 and 6	1924	8	47	20	141	142
TOTAL... {	1930	170	4,124	1,427	5,895	242
	1924	231	5,413	1,903	6,764	281

Northern Ireland.—No production was recorded for this trade in Northern Ireland in 1930. At the 1924 Census particulars were furnished by one firm only, the details being included, for reasons of disclosure, with those relating to the small firms on pages 447-8.

Production.

Principal products.—The following table shows the value of made-up fur goods, and of mats and rugs of fur produced in 1930 and 1924 for sale:—

Kind of goods.	1930.				1924.
	Returned on schedules for				Total.
	The Fur Trade.		All trades.		
	Value.	Entries.	Value.	Entries.	Value.
Made-up fur goods (including wearing apparel of fur or lined or trimmed with fur)	£'000.	No.	£'000.	No.	£'000.
	3,423	143	3,582	154	4,668
Mats and rugs of fur	19	15	19	15	68
TOTAL—Principal products ...	3,442	...	3,601	...	4,736

Alterations, repairs and work done for the trade.—The following table shows the amount received for alterations, repairs and other work done for the trade in 1930 and 1924 :—

Kind of work.	1930.				1924.	
	Returned on schedules for				Total.	
	The Fur Trade.		All trades.			
	Amount received.	Entries.	Amount received.	Entries.	Amount received.	
£'000.	No.	£'000.	No.	£'000.		
Alterations and repairs of fur goods ...	180	75	185	76	300	
Work done for the trade:—						
Fur dressing ...	206	19	206	19	229	
Fur dyeing ...	249	15	249	15	278	
Cutting and making-up of furs ...	17	14	17	14	63	
Other work ...	—	—	2	2	3	
TOTAL ...	652	...	659	...	873	

Prices.—As quantitative data are not available for 1930 or 1924, no comparison can be made of the average values of fur goods in these years.

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—Owing to the lack of data relating to prices, no precise comparison can be made of the volume of production in the two years. From such information as is available regarding the average values of imported furs and the movement of wages, it appears, however, that the recorded output of fur goods in 1924 (£4,736,000) represented in terms of values ruling in 1930 a sum of approximately £4½ million and that production in 1930 amounted to about 85 per cent. of that returned for 1924. It will be noted that the total number of employees returned for 1930 formed about 87 per cent. of that shown for the earlier year, while, including outworkers, the total number employed was about 15 per cent. smaller in 1930 than in 1924.

Exports and imports.—The value of exports of clothing of fur or skins (including muffs and similar articles but excluding gloves, other than astrakhan gloves) in 1930 amounted to £110,000 and net imports were valued at £511,000. The total production of made-up fur goods in that year was valued at £3,582,000

at the place of production. In 1924, the corresponding exports were valued at £350,000, retained imports at £565,000 and production at £5,537,000 (including the production of the small firms, valued at £869,000).

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 449, other goods, valued at £27,000 in 1930 and £6,000 in 1924, were produced by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Fur Trade. These goods are dealt with in the reports on those trades in which the principal output was recorded.

Waste products sold.—Sales of waste products recorded by firms in the Fur Trade in 1930 and 1924 amounted to £3,000 and £2,000 respectively.

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)	378	2,335	483	2,449	861	4,784
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	45	681	67	430	112	1,111
TOTAL	423	3,016	550	2,879	973	5,895
1924.						
Operatives (average for the year)	425	2,667	603	2,860	1,028	5,527
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	48	756	57	481	105	1,237
TOTAL... ..	473	3,423	660	3,341	1,133	6,764
Average number of outworkers :—						
1930		73		17		90
1924		220		84		304

Wages.—The available information as to the amount of wages paid in 1930 and 1924 is given on pages 376-7.

Power.

The following table shows the capacity of prime movers 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	40	—	40	77	75	152
Gas engines	4	—	4	33	—	33
TOTAL	44	—	44	110	75	185
ELECTRIC MOTORS.						
Driven by Purchased electricity	1,926	90	2,016	1,371	133	1,504
TOTAL	1,926	90	2,016	1,371	133	1,504

No electric generators were recorded for either year.

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.
	Tons.	Tons.
Coal	410	747
Coke	—	2,363
		B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Electricity used for all purposes : purchased		1,683

TABLES.**I.—Summary of results.**

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)... ..	£'000	3,938	186	4,124
Cost of materials used	"	2,514	97	2,611
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	85	1	86
Net output	"	1,339	88	1,427
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	5,471	424	5,895
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	245	207	242
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	44	—	44
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	1,990	26	2,016

II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Made-up fur goods (including wearing apparel of fur or lined or trimmed with fur)	3,292	131	3,423
Mats and rugs of fur	19	*	19
Fur waste sold	3	*	3
Other goods made	27	—	27
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE	3,341	131	3,472
	Amount received.	Amount received.	Amount received.
Alterations and repairs of fur goods ...	125	55	180
Work done for the trade :—			
Fur dressing	206	*	206
Fur dyeing	249	*	249
Cutting and making-up of furs	17	*	17
TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED FOR WORK DONE	597	55	652
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)	3,938	186	4,124

* Less than £500.

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	365	2,319	457	2,303	822	4,622
Administrative, etc.* ...	42	647	61	376	103	1,023
TOTAL	407	2,966	518	2,679	925	5,645
<i>Scotland</i> :—						
Operatives	28	104	44	238	72	342
Administrative, etc.* ...	3	34	6	54	9	88
TOTAL	31	138	50	292	81	430
<i>Great Britain</i> :—						
Operatives	393	2,423	501	2,541	894	4,964
Administrative, etc.* ...	45	681	67	430	112	1,111
TOTAL	438	3,104	568	2,971	1,006	6,075

* 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	4,040	352	4,392	July 19th	4,563	309	4,872
Feb. 15th	4,289	346	4,635	Aug. 16th	4,405	313	4,718
Mar. 15th	4,451	341	4,792	Sept. 13th	4,534	341	4,875
Apl. 12th	4,507	333	4,840	Oct. 18th	4,622	342	4,964
May 17th	4,488	327	4,815	Nov. 15th	4,643	349	4,992
June 21st	4,561	329	4,890	Dec. 13th	4,274	350	4,624
AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ...					4,448	336	4,784

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

Country.	January.			July.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
<i>England and Wales</i>	58	12	70	77	22	99
<i>Scotland</i>	6	—	6	6	—	6
<i>Great Britain</i>	64	12	76	83	22	105

IV.—Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England 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.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
PRIME MOVERS.						
Reciprocating steam engines	40	—	—	—	40	—
Gas engines	4	—	—	—	4	—
TOTAL	44	—	—	—	44	—
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	44		—		44	
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
ELECTRIC MOTORS.						
Driven by Purchased electricity	1,903	87	23	3	1,926	90
TOTAL	1,903	87	23	3	1,926	90
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC MOTORS INSTALLED	1,990		26		2,016	

V.—Consumption of fuel.

Kind of fuel used.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.
Coal used for power	Tons. 410	Tons. —	Tons. 410
Coke used for power	—	—	—
Electricity used for all purposes: purchased	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000. 1,622	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000. 61	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000. 1,683