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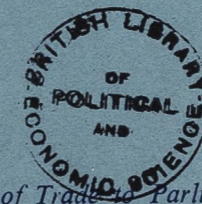
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STATISTICS  
BACK-UP

*The Report on the  
Census of Production  
for 1954*

VOLUME 7 : INDUSTRY A

ASBESTOS



*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 7 INDUSTRY A

## ASBESTOS

THIS REPORT on the Asbestos Industry relates to establishments engaged wholly or mainly in spinning and weaving asbestos and manufacturing engine and boiler packing, brake and clutch linings, etc.

This industry corresponds to minimum list heading 129(1) in the Standard Industrial Classification, with the addition of engine and boiler packing not of asbestos from heading 199(3) relating to miscellaneous manufactures.

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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.

TABLE 1 Industry summary: Estimates for the industry as a whole

	United Kingdom			Scotland	Wales
	1948	1951	1954	1954 (a)	1954 (a)
	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million
Gross output (production)	19.2	30.9	30.3	..	..
Net output	11.4	16.2	15.6	..	..
Total stocks and work in progress					
At beginning of year	3.5	5.7	8.6	..	..
Change during year	+ 1.1	+ 2.2	+ 0.1	..	..
Capital expenditure less disposals (b)	0.7	0.9	1.3	..	..
Wages and salaries	4.6	6.8	7.8	..	..
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Total employment (including working proprietors)	14.8	17.1	16.4	..	..

(a) Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars cannot be given.

(b) 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	United Kingdom	
		1948	1951	1954
<b>FIRMS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE MORE THAN 10 PERSONS</b>				
Number of establishments	No.	60	66	49
Total value of sales and work done	£'000	18,446	29,619	29,032
Products on hand for sale	"	1,633	2,443	3,218
and work in progress	"	+ 340	+ 725	+ 462
Gross output (production) (a)	"	18,616	30,344	29,494
Purchases of materials and fuel	"	8,172	15,424	13,375
Stocks of materials and fuel	"	1,763	3,109	5,210
at beginning of year	"	+ 706	+ 1,421	- 352
change during year	"	7,466	14,003	13,727
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	70	76	108
Payment for work done on materials given out	"	170	408	434
Payment for transport (b)	"	11,080	15,857	15,225
Net output	"	11,162	12,403	11,122
Average number of employees	{ operatives others	No.	3,297 (c)	4,901
Total employment (d)	"	14,465	16,777	16,023
Net output per person employed (d)	£	766	945	950
Wages and salaries	{ of operatives of others	£'000	3,203	4,586
	"	1,302	2,105	2,740
Capital expenditure	"	214	135	318
New building work (e)	"	350	604	644
Plant and machinery	{ acquisitions (e) disposals	"	3	17
	"	85	169	193
Vehicles	{ acquisitions (e) disposals	"	14	49
<b>FIRMS EMPLOYING ON AVERAGE 10 OR FEWER PERSONS</b>				
Number of returns	No.	58	51 (f)	58
Total employment, including working proprietors	"	357	305 (f)	308

(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) 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.

(c) Number in week ended September 25, 1948.

(d) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.

(e) Excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.

(f) Excluding Northern Ireland. No information about small firms was collected in Northern Ireland for 1951.

## ASBESTOS

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	8	272	128	114	29	41	15	9	894
25 - 49	9	640	273	276	64	113	45	14	803
50 - 99	7	1,102	366	374	100	155	56	25	772
100 - 199	7	1,850	984	704	223	296	161	53	1,061
200 - 299	7	3,065	1,611	1,289	480	462	291	94	911
300 - 399	3	1,674	918	650	355	246	190	22	814
400 - 999	3	3,458	1,847	1,606	494	714	280	83	880
1,000 and over	5	17,433	9,198	6,109	3,156	2,810	1,701	855	993
Total	49	29,494	15,225	11,122	4,901	4,838	2,740	1,154	950

(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.

Analysis according to specialisation within the industry, 1954

Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 4

	Unit	Specialist producers of			Total
		Asbestos manu- factures and pastes and compositions for coverings	Engine and boiler packing	Remainder of the industry	
Number of establishments	No.	37	4	8	49
Total value of sales and work done	£'000	28,063	519	450	29,032
Sales of characteristic products	"	23,527	328		
Products on hand for sale	"	3,164	22	32	3,218
and work in progress	"	+ 457	+ 5	+ 1	+ 462
Gross output (production)	"	28,520	523	451	29,494
Purchases of materials and fuel	"	12,885	329	162	13,375
Stocks of materials	"	5,137	44	30	5,210
and fuel	"	- 359	+ 7	+ 1	- 352
Cost of materials and fuel used	"	13,244	322	161	13,727
Payment for work done on materials given out	"	99	-	9	108
Payment for transport	"	419	8	6	434
Net output	"	14,758	193	274	15,225
Average number of employees	No.	10,578	227	317	11,122
of operatives	"	4,775	60	66	4,901
of others	"	15,353	287	383	16,023
Total employment (a)	"	961	673	715	950
Net output per person employed (a)	£	4,624	90	125	4,838
Wages and salaries	£'000	2,668	35	38	2,740
of operatives	"				
of others	"				
Capital expenditure	"				
New building work (b)	"	311	4	3	318
Plant and machinery	"	635	6	3	644
disposals	"	17	-	-	17
Vehicles	"	189	-	4	193
disposals	"	49	-	1	49

(a) Excluding outworkers and including working proprietors.

(b) Excluding expenditure for establishments not yet in production.

## ASBESTOS

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		
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Entries
	Tons	£'000	Tons	£'000	Number
Asbestos manufactures					
Yarn, carded fibre and compressed fibre sheets for joints	10,408	3,565	9,857	3,850	12
Rope, string and woven cloth	3,313	1,297	3,618	1,853	10
Brake and clutch linings	7,154	8,045	6,492	7,694	24
Mattresses	496(a)	119(a)	210	65	11
	..	82(a)	..	125	
Insulating materials not elsewhere specified	27,486	2,322	28,416	3,452	21
	..	869			
Proofed goods and packings	2,559	1,565	2,423	1,580	16
Webbing, listing and braiding			391	329	5
	12,323	3,089	..	72	
Other asbestos manufactures	..	2,691	2,964	2,258	..
			..	3,927	
Total asbestos manufactures	63,739(a)	20,002(a)	54,371	21,080	..
	..	3,641(a)	..	4,124	
Pastes and composition for coverings	25,806	591	23,759	523	15
Engine and boiler packing (not including asbestos packing)	2,025	1,288	1,878	1,142	10
	..	146			
Waste products	..	64	..	34	16
Work done for the trade or on commission (b)		2,474		414	10
Total		28,206		27,316	..
Sales in other industries (see Table 6)		2,472		2,005	..
Principal products of this industry sold by establishments in the industry		25,734		25,311	46

(a) Amended figures.

(b) Amount charged less value of compositions, etc. made and recorded as output. Work done by certain establishments classified to this industry for 1951 has for 1954 been included in the Report on Mechanical Engineering (General).

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	
	Tons	£'000	Number	
Asbestos manufactures				
Brake and clutch linings	38	53	12	3J
Insulating materials not elsewhere specified (b)	2,844	565	8	1L, 12A, 4I
	..	127	..	
All other asbestos manufactures (including proofed goods and packings)	302	20	8	
	..	1,064	..	
Total asbestos manufactures	3,184	637	..	
	..	1,210	..	
Pastes and compositions for coverings and engine and boiler packing (not including asbestos packing)	4,770	130	6	4I, 2E, 12A, 1L
	..	28	..	
Total		2,005	..	

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

(b) Included with 'Other asbestos manufactures' in 1951.

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

TABLE 7

	1954	
	Quantity	Value
	Tons	£'000
Machinery belting of cotton, hair, balata, etc.	1,891	1,765
Gaskets and joints for all purposes	601	679
Metallic packings, other than engine and boiler packing (a)	137	89
Other goods	..	1,187
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,720</b>

(a) Included with 'Other goods' in 1951.

Total make of intermediate products  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

TABLE 8

	Returned in this industry			Returned in all industries		
	1951		1954	1951		1954
	Quantity	Quantity	Entries	Quantity	Quantity	Entries
	Tons	Tons	Number	Tons	Tons	Number
Asbestos manufactures						
Yarn, carded fibre and compressed fibre sheets for joints	18,332	(a)	..	18,332	17,566	13
Rope, string and woven cloth	4,004	(a)	..	4,093	4,901	12
Webbing, listing and braiding (b)	-	470	5	-	470	5
Brake and clutch lining in sheets, rolls, coils, etc.	5,228	4,690	11	5,228	4,690	11

(a) Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, particulars cannot be given.

(b) Not recorded in 1951.

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

TABLE 9

	Quantity	Cost
	Tons	£'000
Materials		
Asbestos		
Raw and fibre		
Chrysotile	19,854	2,442
Other sorts	19,942	1,254
Yarn (including carded fibre)	Th.cwt. 24.8	580
	..	70
Cloth and fabric for brake and clutch linings	80.0	1,756
Other materials of asbestos	Tons 1,384	242
	..	27
Raw cotton and cotton yarn	Th.lb. 3,981	730

(57914)

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

TABLE 9 (contd.)

	Quantity	Cost
	Th.lb.	£'000
Materials (contd.)		
Hair and hair mixture yarns	193	50
Rubber in all forms	Th.cwt. 29.8	325
Iron and steel in all forms	17.4	124
Non-ferrous metals in all forms	28.8	387
Replacement parts for machinery, plant and vehicles, and accessories and consumable tools bought as replacement	..	386
Packing materials		
Paper, paperboard, cardboard boxes and fibre board packing cases	..	215
Other	..	266
All other purchased materials	..	3,676
Fuel and electricity	Th.tons	
Coal	65.3	265
Coke	6.9	37
Liquid fuels (including creosote/pitch mixtures)	Th.gal.	
For use in internal combustion engines	492	86
For burning in furnaces, boilers, kilns, etc.	2,834	112
Gas purchased (a)	Th.therms	
From Gas Boards and from other sources, including other departments of the same firms	1,627	94
Electricity purchased (a)	Th.kWh.	
From Electricity Boards and from other sources, including other departments of the same firms	50,855	248
All other purchased fuel		
<b>Total Cost</b>		<b>13,375</b>

(a) Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms the total quantity of gas and electricity obtained from other sources, including other departments of the same firms, cannot be given separately.

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	12,403	11,122
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	4,371	4,901
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,774</b>	<b>16,023</b>
Wages and salaries paid to	£'000	£'000
Operatives	4,586	4,838
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	2,105	2,740
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,691</b>	<b>7,579</b>

(57914)

TABLE 10 (contd.)

	1951	1954
	£	£
Wages and salaries per head		
Operatives	370	435
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	482	559
Superannuation and other pension funds for employees and dependants (b)		£'000
Employers' contributions	..	199
Employees covered	..	Number 10,017
Pension, etc. payments to former employees and dependants (b)	..	£'000 45

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

	1951	1954
	Number	Number
Canteen workers		
Male	16	20
Female	210	204
Total	226	224
Other workers		
Male	211	236
Female	98	153
Total	309	389
Total excluded employees	535	613

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

Employment in a specified week (a)  
Larger establishments in the United Kingdom

	Number					
	1951			1954		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Working proprietors	3	-	3	-	-	-
Operatives	9,418	3,242	12,660	8,471	3,121	11,592
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	2,733	1,762	4,495	2,985	2,010	4,995
Total employees	12,151	5,004	17,155	11,456	5,131	16,587

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

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