

THE ELASTIC WEBBING 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 manufacture of elastic cords, braids and webs. 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 tables given 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 10 persons:—

Particulars.	Unit.	1930.	1924.
Value of goods made (Gross output)	£'000	1,770	1,923
Cost of materials used	"	842	1,015
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	26	50
Net output	"	902	858
Average number of persons employed	No.	5,799	5,514
Net output per person employed	£	156	156
Mechanical power available:—			
Prime movers	H.P.	878	1,115
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	2,707	1,708
Number of returns	No.	29	35
Number of establishments	"	34	*

* Not available.

Deficiencies in 1930 aggregates.—The aggregate number of persons employed in 1930 by firms that stated that they employed not more than 10 persons on the average was 14, the corresponding figure for 1924 being 21. The value of the gross output of the small firms in 1924 was £3,000, and particulars of the principal classes of goods included in this figure are given below:—

	Th. lin. yds.	£'000
Elastic cords and braids	692	3
Elastic webs above 2 inches	3	*
TOTAL	695	3

* Less than £500.

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.	Net output per person employed.
		£'000	£'000		£
11-49 ...	6	38	20	184	108
50-99 ...	8	202	88	541	163
100-299 ...	8	581	280	1,843	152
300 and over ...	7	949	514	3,231	159
TOTAL ...	29	1,770	902	5,799	156

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.	No. of returns.	Gross output.	Net output.	Average number of persons employed.	Net output per person employed.
		£'000	£'000		£
6 ... { 1930	24	1,654	852	5,360	159
... { 1924	27	1,733	785	4,951	159
2, 3, 5 and 9 1930	5	116	50	439	114
2, 3 and 5 1924	8	190	73	563	130
TOTAL ... { 1930	29	1,770	902	5,799	156
... { 1924	35	1,923	858	5,514	156

* For particulars see page xviii.

Northern Ireland.—No production of elastic webbing was recorded for Northern Ireland in 1930 or 1924.

Production.

Principal Products.—The following table shows the quantity and value of elastic cords, braids and webs made in 1930 and 1924 for sale :—

Kind of goods.	1930.						1924.	
	Returned on schedules for						Total.	
	The Elastic Webbing Trade.			All trades.				
	Quantity.	Value.	Ent- ries.	Quantity.	Value.	Ent- ries.	Quantity.	Value.
	Th. linear yards.	£'000.	No.	Th. linear yards.	£'000.	No.	Th. linear yards.	£'000.
Elastic cords and braids ...	184,549	561	16	184,944	562	17	151,760	491
Elastic webs :								
Up to 2 ins. ...	36,112	460	18	36,112	460	18	49,986	672
Above 2 ins. ...	5,055	225	13	5,055	225	13	4,450	247
TOTAL - ...	225,716	1,246	...	226,111	1,247	...	206,196	1,410

Prices.—The average selling values of elastic cords, braids and webs in 1930 and 1924, as calculated from the Census returns, are shown in the following table. It should be borne in mind, however, that these comparisons do not take account of any changes that may have occurred since the earlier year in the quality or type of goods included under the specified descriptions.

Kind of goods.	Average value.		1930 as a percentage of 1924.
	1930.	1924.	
	£ per th. linear yds.	£ per th. linear yds.	Per cent.
Elastic cords and braids ...	3·04	3·23	94·1
Elastic webs :—			
Up to 2 inches ...	12·74	13·45	94·7
Above 2 inches ...	44·51	55·52	80·2

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—The following table compares the volume of production of elastic cords, braids and webs in 1930 and 1924 :—

Kind of goods.	Total production.			1930 as a percentage of 1924.
	1930.	1924.		
	As returned.	As returned.	At 1930 average values.	
	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.	Per cent.
Elastic cords and braids	562	491	462	122
Elastic webs :—				
Up to 2 inches ...	460	672	636	72
Above 2 inches ...	225	247	198	114
TOTAL ...	1,247	1,410	1,296	96

Exports and imports.—The value of elastic cords, webs, braids and fabrics exported from the United Kingdom in 1930 and 1924 is shown below, together with the value of similar goods imported and retained.

	1930.	1924.
	£'000.	£'000.
Exports ...	237	297
Retained imports ...	293	279

As corresponding particulars of quantity are not recorded and separate particulars for cords and braids and for webs are not available, no comparison between production and overseas trade is practicable for either year.

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 278 the following goods were produced in 1930 and 1924 by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Elastic Webbing 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.
Braces, suspenders, belts, etc.	62	75
Other elastic goods	179	250
Cotton webbing, tapes and other smallwares ...	91	115
Woollen and other non-elastic webbing, tapes, braids, etc.	74	
Other textile manufactures	15	100*
Other goods made	102	
TOTAL	523	540

* Including a small amount received for work done for other firms.

Waste products sold.—The quantity of waste sold in 1930 by firms in the Elastic Webbing Trade was 440 cwts., valued at £1,000. No sales of waste were recorded at the 1924 Census.

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)	307	1,627	1,181	3,752	1,488	5,379
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at October 18th)	11	281	25	139	36	420
TOTAL	318	1,908	1,206	3,891	1,524	5,799
1924.						
Operatives (average for the year)	291	1,587	943	3,488	1,234	5,075
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at October 18th)	13	293	14	146	27	439
TOTAL	304	1,880	957	3,634	1,261	5,514

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	555	—	555	490	174	664
Gas engines	266	20	286	399	52	451
Water engines	22	15	37	—	—	—
TOTAL	843	35	878	889	226	1,115
ELECTRIC GENERATORS.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	114	—	114	122	50	172
Gas engines	28	25	53	78	13	91
TOTAL	142	25	167	200	63	263
ELECTRIC MOTORS.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works ...	30	12	42	142	93	235
Purchased electricity	2,427	280	2,707	1,257	451	1,708
TOTAL	2,457	292	2,749	1,399	544	1,943

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	2,882	6,336*
Coke	2	45*
Electricity used for all purposes :—		B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000.
Generated in same works		36
Purchased		2,039
TOTAL—Electricity		2,075

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 89.5 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 277).**II. Production.**

Goods sold or added to stock.	Quantity.	Value.
	Th. linear yds.	£'000.
Elastic cords and braids	184,549	561
Elastic webs :—		
Up to 2 inches	36,112	460
Above 2 inches	5,055	225
Manufactures of elastic webs, cords, etc. :—		
Braces, suspenders, belts, etc. ... ..	...	62
Other manufactures of elastic ... ..	...	179
Cotton webbing, tapes and other smallwares ... ..	...	91
Woollen and other non-elastic webbing, tapes, braids, etc. ... ..	...	74
Other textile manufactures ... ..	...	15
Other goods made ... ..	...	102
Waste sold	440 cwts.	1
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE (GROSS OUTPUT)	...	1,770

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.
Operatives	308	1,632	1,185	3,764	1,493	5,396
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	11	281	25	139	36	420
TOTAL	319	1,913	1,210	3,903	1,529	5,816

B.—OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1930.

Week ended	Males and females.	Week ended	Males and females.
January 18th	5,191	July 19th	5,476
February 15th	5,360	August 16th	5,302
March 15th	5,385	September 13th	5,438
April 12th	5,405	October 18th	5,396
May 17th	5,495	November 15th	5,297
June 21st	5,579	December 13th	5,222
AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS ... ..	...	...	5,379

IV. Power (see page 281).**V. Consumption of fuel** (see page 281).