

THE NEEDLE, PIN, FISH-HOOK AND METAL SMALLWARES 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 needles, pins, fish-hooks, metal buttons and other metal smallwares. The production of buttons of horn, casein and other non-metallic materials is dealt with in a separate volume. The figures previously published in the Report on the 1924 Census have been adjusted to exclude certain returns in which the main output consisted of buttons of these descriptions.

Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars for England and Wales and for Scotland cannot be published. The summary table (I) and the tables showing details of power equipment (IV) and coal, coke and electricity used (V) are, therefore, not appended to this report, the whole of this information being 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	2,645	2,501
Cost of materials used	"	967	1,041
Paid for work given out to other firms	"	25	18
Net output	"	1,653	1,442
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)...	No.	9,460	10,328
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	175	140
Power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	4,065	3,128
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	4,146	2,845
Number of returns	No.	80	105
Number of establishments	"	94	*

* 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 334, the corresponding figure for 1924 being 294. The value of the gross output of the small firms in 1924 was £55,000, and particulars of the items included in this figure are given below :—

	£'000
Needles	22
Fishing tackle and fish-hooks	11
Buttons and studs of metal	7
Other goods	9
Work done for the trade	6
TOTAL	55

In addition, 7 firms to which schedules were sent at the 1930 Census and about 30 at that of 1924 furnished no information; these firms either had small businesses or had ceased productive operations before the end of the censal year.

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	20	73	51	348	147
25-49	20	182	114	755	151
50-99	15	242	142	1,090	130
100-199	13	467	269	1,607	167
200-299	5	291	184	1,187	155
400 and over	7	1,390	893	4,473	200
TOTAL	80	2,645	1,653	9,460	175

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.	£
5	1930 59	2,201	1,386	7,960	174
	1924 71	1,900	1,100	8,214	134
6	1930 16	354	211	1,159	182
	1924 22	385	231	1,475	157
Other areas	1930 5	90	56	341	164
	1924 12	216	111	639	174
TOTAL {	1930 80	2,645	1,653	9,460	175
	1924 105	2,501	1,442	10,328	140

Northern Ireland.—No production was recorded in Northern Ireland at either the 1930 or the 1924 Census.

*For particulars see page xviii.

Production

Principal products.—The following table shows the value and, where available, the quantity of needles, pins, metal buttons and other metal smallwares made in 1930 and 1924 for sale :—

Kind of goods	1930						1924	
	Returned on schedules for						Total	
	The Needle, Pin, Fish-hook and Metal Smallwares Trade			All trades				
Quantity	Value	Ent-ries	Quantity	Value	Ent-ries	Quantity	Value	
Thous.	£'000	No.	Thous.	£'000	No.	Thous.	£'000	
Needles :—								
Hosiery (latch)	7,922	34	4	7,922*	34	5	151	
Gramophone† ... ..	...	69	3	...	115	5	41
Other descrip-tions {	11,352	19	7	11,352	19	7	—	
{ <i>Number stated</i>	Th.lbs.	1,099	340	12	1,099	340	12	
{ <i>Weight stated</i>	...	56	5	...	62	6	90	
{ <i>Value only stated</i>	...	518	...	...	574	...	721
TOTAL—Needles ... ..	...	518	...	...	574	...	721
Pins :—								
Hair pins (including curlers and wavers) ... ..	...	148	10	...	172	13	158
Safety pins (including tie and collar pins) ... ..	...	125	8	...	125	8	...
Other pins :—	...	65	6	...	65	6	305	
Solid headed ... ..	...	55	10	...	60	11	...
Other sorts (including crochet hooks) ... ..	...	393	...	...	422	...	463
TOTAL—Pins ... ..	...	393	...	...	422	...	463
Buttons and studs of metal, covered or not :—								
Push buttons and studs... ..	Th. gross 927	68	7	Th. gross 929	69	8	75	
Other sorts	3,666	211	10	3,763	216	14	294	
TOTAL—Buttons and studs of metal	4,593	279	...	4,692	285	...	369	
Fishing tackle and fish-hooks ‡ ... ..	...	115	10	...	115	10	226
Buckles ... ..	...	129	12	...	167	20	156
Hooks and eyes, boot eye-lets and lacing hooks ... ..	...	191	6	...	191	6	257
Corset steels and busks† ... ..	...	232	3	...	232	3	144
Accoutrements, badges and similar accessories and fittings for uniforms† ... ..	...	36	4	...	36	4	55
Other metal smallwares (paper clips, ticket pins, curtain hooks and rings, thimbles, etc.)† ... ..	...	600	27	...	806	44	462
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS ... ..	...	2,493	...	...	2,828	...	2,853

* Quantity not stated.

† So far as recorded separately.

‡ The particulars shown do not include fishing tackle made by manufacturers of sports goods. This is dealt with in the report on the Sports Requisites Trade forms part of a separate volume.

Prices.—The average selling values of needles, other than hosiery (latch) and gramophone needles, and of metal buttons in 1930 and 1924, as calculated from the Census returns, are shown in the following table. It should be borne in mind that these comparisons do not take account of any changes that may have occurred since the earlier year in the type or quality of goods included under the specified descriptions.

Kind of goods	Average value		1930 as a percentage of 1924
	1930	1924	
	Shillings per lb.	Shillings per lb.	Per cent.
Needles, other than hosiery (latch) and gramophone needles	6.19	5.91	104.7
	Shillings per gross	Shillings per gross	
Buttons and studs of metal, covered or not:—			
Push buttons and studs	1.48	1.57	94.3
Other sorts	1.15	0.98	117.3

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—It is not possible to compare with any precision the volume of production of the principal commodities of this trade in the two censal years, since a large number of the items were recorded only in terms of value. In these cases no price factor is available, but a re-valuation of the goods concerned on the basis of such information as is available regarding manufacturing costs in the two years suggests that, at 1930 prices, the total value of the group of miscellaneous articles, of which the recorded value in 1924 was £1,955,000, would be in the neighbourhood of £1,650,000. Using this rough estimate, the following table indicates that the volume of production in 1930 of needles, pins, metal buttons and the other miscellaneous goods shown in the table on page 181, was about 3 per cent. lower than in 1924:—

Kind of goods	Total production			1930 as a percentage of 1924
	1930	1924		
	As returned	As returned	At 1930 average values	Per cent.
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Needles, other than hosiery (latch) and gramophone needles	421	529	554	76
Buttons and studs of metal, covered or not:—				
Push buttons and studs	69	75	71	97
Other sorts	216	294	345	63
Other principal products	2,013	1,955	1,830	122
TOTAL	2,719	2,853	2,800	97

Production, exports and imports.—The following table shows, in relation to production, the quantities of metal buttons and studs exported from the United Kingdom in 1930 and 1924, together with the quantities imported and retained. As regards the 1930 figures of production, the deficiencies referred to on page 179 should be borne in mind; the figures for 1924 include the output of small firms. Corresponding particulars in respect of hosiery (latch) needles are added for 1930 but effective comparison cannot be made with 1924 particulars owing to the lack of quantitative data regarding production in that year.

Kind of goods	Production	Exports	Proportion of production exported	Retained imports	Avail-able for use in the United Kingdom	Share of home market held by British products
					Th. gross	Th. gross
	Th. gross	Th. gross	Per cent.	Th. gross	Th. gross	Per cent.
Buttons and studs of metal, covered or not:—						
Push buttons and studs	1930 929	21	2.2	176	1,084	83.8
	1924 1,038	56	5.4	448	1,430	68.7
Other sorts	1930 3,763	323	8.6	1,703	5,143	66.9
	1924 6,014	612	10.2	1,055	6,457	83.7
	Thous.	Thous.		Thous.	Thous.	
Hosiery (latch) needles*	1930 8,920†	127	1.4	28,943	37,736	23.3

* In 1924 the total production of hosiery (latch) needles was valued at £156,000, exports at £12,000 (1 ton) and retained imports at £77,000 (42 tons).

† Including a rough estimate in respect of needles returned by value only.

The following table gives the available particulars regarding exports and retained imports of needles other than hosiery (latch) needles and of pins of all kinds in 1930 and 1924. Corresponding information cannot be given for the other products of this trade since, with the exception of fishing tackle, they were not recorded separately in the trade returns. Exports and imports of fishing tackle are dealt with in the report on the Sports Requisites Trade which forms part of a separate volume.

Kind of goods	Exports		Retained imports	
	1930	1924	1930	1924
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Needles other than hosiery (latch) needles	210	332	14	14
	(381)	(381)	(99)	(63)
Pins	120	165	33	19

Work done for the trade.—The total amount recorded as received for work done for the trade in 1930 was £7,000, the corresponding total for 1924 being £27,000.

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 181, firms that made returns on schedules for the Needle, Pin, Fish-hook and Metal Smallwares Trade recorded an output in 1930 of other goods (non-metallic buttons, miscellaneous iron and steel manufactures, etc.) valued at £142,000, as compared with £108,000 in 1924. These goods are dealt with in the reports on those trades in which the principal output was recorded.

Waste products sold.—Sales of metal scrap totalling £3,000 were recorded for 1930 by firms in this trade: no record of similar sales was obtained 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)	280	2,682	1,780	5,866	2,060	8,548
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	10	536	69	376	79	912
TOTAL	290	3,218	1,849	6,242	2,139	9,460
1924						
Operatives (average for the year)	435	2,988	1,649	6,515	2,084	9,503
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	44	488	67	337	111	825
TOTAL	479	3,476	1,716	6,852	2,195	10,328
Average number of outworkers:—						
1930	23		168		191	
1924	38		506		544	

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
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
PRIME MOVERS						
Reciprocating steam engines	249	—	249	390	47	437
Steam turbines	322	1,120	1,442	—	—	—
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	897	171	1,068	2,064	348	2,412
Petrol, kerosene or other light oils ...	9	7	16	18	—	18
Heavy oils	1,247	—	1,247	220	—	220
Water engines	43	—	43	41	—	41
TOTAL	2,767	1,298	4,065	2,733	395	3,128
	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
ELECTRIC GENERATORS						
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	86	2	88	31	—	31
Steam turbines	240	835	1,075	—	—	—
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	350	—	350	250	107	357
Petrol, kerosene or other light oils	—	—	—	2	—	2
Heavy oils	275	2	277	50	—	50
Water engines	—	—	—	6	—	6
TOTAL	951	839	1,790	339	107	446
ELECTRIC MOTORS						
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works ...	814	17	831	381	10	391
Purchased electricity	3,712	434	4,146	2,484	361	2,845
TOTAL	4,526	451	4,977	2,865	371	3,236

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)	For power and other purposes, not separately distinguished
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Coal	2,329	4,957*	159
Coke	30	2,706*	8
			B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Electricity used for all purposes :—			
Generated in same works			1,847
Purchased			3,109
TOTAL—Electricity			4,956

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 93.7 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 179)

II. Production

Goods sold or added to stock and work done	Quantity	Value
	Thousands	£'000
Needles :—		
Hosiery (latch)	7,922	34
Gramophone* ... ..	...	69
	<i>Number stated</i>	11,352
Other descriptions	<i>Weight stated</i> ...	1,099
	<i>Value only stated</i>	...
TOTAL—Needles		518
Pins :—		
Hair pins (including hair curlers and wavers) ... ..	...	148
Safety pins (including tie and collar pins) ... ..	...	125
Other pins :—		
Solid headed ... ..	...	65
Other sorts (including crochet hooks) ... ..	...	55
TOTAL—Pins		393
Buttons and studs of metal, covered or not :—	Th. gross	
Push buttons and studs	927	68
Other sorts	3,666	211
TOTAL—Buttons and studs of metal... ..	4,593	279
Fishing tackle and fish-hooks ... ..	...	115
Buckles ... ..	...	129
Hooks and eyes, boot eyelets and lacing hooks ... ..	...	191
Corset steels and busks* ... ..	...	232
Accoutrements, badges and similar accessories and fittings for uniforms* ... ..	...	36
Other metal smallwares (paper clips, ticket pins, curtain hooks and rings, thimbles, etc.)* ... ..	...	600
Other goods made ... ..	...	142
Metal scrap sold ... ..	...	3
Work done for the trade ... ..	...	7†
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)		2,645

* So far as recorded separately.

† 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	278	2,666	1,769	5,831	2,047	8,497
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	10	536	69	376	79	912
TOTAL	288	3,202	1,838	6,207	2,126	9,409

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	8,687	July 19	8,476
February 15	8,594	August 16	8,535
March 15	8,620	September 13	8,503
April 12	8,660	October 18	8,497
May 17	8,707	November 15	8,510
June 21	8,475	December 13	8,307
AVERAGE FOR THE 12 MONTHS			8,548

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

January			July		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
24	178	202	22	158	180

IV. Power (see page 185)

V. Consumption of fuel (see page 186)