
 THE WALLPAPER TRADE.

 Contents.

	Page
INTRODUCTORY	295
Summary of results	295
PRODUCTION	296
Paper hangings	296
Other products	296
Cost of materials	296
Net output.. .. .	296
Exports and imports	296
WAGES IN 1924	297
EMPLOYMENT.. .. .	297
MECHANICAL POWER	298
TABLES	299

Introductory.*

The tables on pages 299 and 300 are based on returns received from firms in Great Britain whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the manufacture of paper hangings. The trade is mainly confined to England. The number of such separate returns was 22, and no firms failed to furnish returns.

Summary of results.—Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to the business of individual firms, it was not possible to publish separate particulars relating to this trade in the year 1907, and the relevant data were accordingly incorporated in more general aggregates which did not permit of their identification. The particulars which are taken for comparison with the results of the 1924 Census are accordingly those relating to the year 1912. In 1912 firms employing not more than five persons were not required to make returns, but the number of workpeople so excluded was only 13. The following table, therefore, affords an effective comparison of the principal results of the two Censuses. It should be borne in mind, however, that the comparability of figures relating to value or cost is affected by the changes which have taken place in the general purchasing power of money.

* See also the Notes on pages vii to xv.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1912.
Value of goods made (Gross output) ..	£'000	2,854	1,524
Cost of materials used	"	1,289	820
Net output	"	1,565	704
Average number of persons employed ..	No.	4,598	4,944
Net output per person employed	£	341	142
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	2,613	4,765
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity ..	"	1,759	588

Production.

Detailed information relating to the output of the Wallpaper Trade in 1924 will be found in Table II on page 299.

Paper hangings.—The total quantity and value of paper hangings produced in 1924 was 813,000 cwts., valued at £2,841,000, including 6,000 cwts. valued at £6,000 recorded on schedules for other trades. The total value of the output returned in 1912 was £1,497,000; of this sum £1,292,000 represented the value of 880,000 cwts. of paper hangings, the remainder of the output being returned by value only. If the average value of the paper hangings for which no weight was furnished in 1912 be taken at the same figure as that for which particulars of weight were given, the aggregate weight of the output in that year would be 1,020,000 cwts. The total weight recorded for 1924 would, in that event, be less by about 20 per cent. than the estimated output in 1912.

Other products.—In addition to the output of paper hangings stated above, firms that made their returns on schedules for the Wallpaper Trade recorded an output in 1924 of other goods valued at £19,000; these goods, being of kinds mainly produced in other trades, are dealt with in the reports on those trades. The corresponding figure for 1912 was £68,000.

The total output of the trade may be accepted as free from material duplication.

Cost of materials.—The cost of materials used by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Wallpaper Trade was returned as £1,289,000 in 1924, and £820,000 in 1912.

Net output.—The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their returns on schedules for the Wallpaper Trade (whose gross output was valued at £2,854,000) was £1,565,000, that sum representing, without duplication, the total amount by which the value, as delivered, of the aggregate output exceeded the cost, as purchased, of the materials used.

The net output per head of persons employed in the censal year 1924 was £341, as compared with £142 in 1912.

Exports and imports.—Exports of wallpaper were 128,400 cwts. in 1912 and 112,300 cwts. in 1924, exclusive of 17,200 cwts. exported in the latter year to the Irish Free State. The retained imports of wallpaper were 62,800 cwts. in 1912, and 70,100 cwts. in 1924.

Wages in 1924.

Under the Census of Production Act, 1906, the powers of the Board of Trade to require information do not extend to particulars of the amount of wages paid, and, consequently, no information on this head was secured in connexion with the Census of 1924. As a result, however, of the voluntary enquiry undertaken by the Ministry of Labour into wages and hours in the United Kingdom in 1924, information was obtained as to the total wage-bill of a group of firms in the Wallpaper Trade that made returns both to the Ministry of Labour and to the Census of Production office. According to the Census records this group of firms employed, in the week ended 18th October, 1924, 3,666 operatives, or 86 per cent. of the total of 4,263 operatives for the trade as a whole, and their net output totalled £1,366,000, or 87 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £1,565,000 for the trade as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £371,000, representing about 27 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on pages 299 and 300. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year, together with those relating to the 1912 Census. For the purpose of this comparison the average numbers of operatives of each sex returned for 1924 have been divided between the two age-groups in the proportions shown by the data relating to the week ended 18th October :—

Average number.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
1924.						
Operatives	516	2,988	306	944	822	3,932
Administrative, etc. ..	65	517	26	149	91	666
TOTAL	581	3,505	332	1,093	913	4,598
1912.						
Wage earners	720	3,717	243	621	963	4,338
Salaried	57	567	5	39	62	606
TOTAL	777	4,284	248	660	1,025	4,944

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 443 above the average, in December, to 262 below the average, in April (see Table IIIB on page 300). The movement in numbers was downwards until April and thereafter upwards. The proportion of females, it will be noted, was substantially greater in 1924 than in 1912.

Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 300. The following table sets out the particulars for 1924 and 1912 relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers* and the capacity of *electric generators* installed—

Power equipment.	1924.			1912.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
PRIME MOVERS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines ..	2,394	200	2,594	4,689
Gas engines	14	—	14	76
Water power	—	5	5	—
TOTAL	2,408	205	2,613	4,765
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines	775	36	811	832
Gas engines	—	—	—	18
TOTAL	775	36	811	850

The capacity of *electric motors* recorded in 1924 and in 1912 was as shown below :—

Electric motors.	1924.			1912.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
Driven by—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in own works	978	17	995	513
Purchased electricity	1,708	51	1,759	588

TABLES.

Note.—No production was recorded in Northern Ireland.

I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	Great Britain.*
Value of goods made (Gross output)	£'000	2,854
Cost of materials used	"	1,289
Net output	"	1,565
Average number of persons employed	No.	4,598
Net output per person employed	£	341
Mechanical power available :—		
Prime movers	H.P.	2,613
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	1,759

* In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, figures are given only for Great Britain as a whole.

II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock.	Great Britain.*	
	Selling value.	
	£'000	
Paper hangings	2,835	
Other goods made	(807)	19
TOTAL VALUE OUTPUT OF GOODS MADE (GROSS OUTPUT)	2,854	

* See footnote to Table I.

III.—Employment.**A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1924.**

Kind of staff.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<i>Great Britain :—*</i>						
Operatives	540	3,123	368	1,140	908	4,263
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	65	517	26	149	91	666
TOTAL	605	3,640	394	1,289	999	4,929

* See footnote to Table I.

B.—OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1924.

Great Britain. (Annual average : Males, 2,988 ; Females, 944 ; Total, 3,932.)*

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	3,015	1,097	4,112	July 19th ..	2,895	834	3,729
Feb. 16th ..	2,942	900	3,842	Aug. 16th ..	2,911	844	3,755
Mar. 15th ..	2,889	825	3,714	Sept. 13th ..	2,994	954	3,948
April 12th ..	2,893	775	3,668	Oct. 18th ..	3,123	1,140	4,263
May 17th ..	2,924	779	3,703	Nov. 15th ..	3,154	1,175	4,329
June 21st ..	2,910	808	3,718	Dec. 13th ..	3,202	1,171	4,373

* See footnote to Table I.

IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	Great Britain.*	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
PRIME MOVERS :—	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines	2,394	200
Gas engines	14	—
Water power	—	5
TOTAL	2,408	205
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED ..	2,613	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by reciprocating steam engines ..	775	36
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	811	
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—		
Electricity generated in own works ..	978	17
Purchased electricity	1,708	51

* See footnote to Table I.