
 THE BASKET AND WICKER WORK TRADES.

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Introductory.*

The tables on pages 172 to 174 are based on returns received from firms in Great Britain and Northern Ireland whose business in 1924 consisted wholly or mainly in the manufacture of baskets and wicker furniture.

The number of such separate returns was 429. About 180 firms to which schedules were sent did not furnish returns, but these firms for the most part had very small establishments and they included some which ceased operations before the end of the censal year. On the basis of the information available it is estimated that they did not employ more than 450 persons in all and that their total net output probably did not exceed £50,000. Philanthropic institutions, in which the inmates were employed in making baskets, etc., were not covered by the Census of 1924.

Summary of results.—The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1924 and 1907, comparisons between the figures for the two years being subject to the qualifications mentioned in

* See also the Notes on pp. vii to xv.

the next paragraph. The information received in connexion with the Census of 1912, when details of output were not required from firms employing five persons or less, was not sufficiently complete to warrant its use for purposes of comparison.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1907.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	836	427
Cost of materials used	"	325	185
Net output	"	511	242
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	3,491	3,615
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	146	67
Mechanical power available:—			
Prime movers	H.P.	197	95
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	73	(not recorded)

Qualifications affecting comparisons.—In considering the above table and the other tables in this report which show figures for different censal years, it should be borne in mind that:—

(1) 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.

(2) The Census of 1907 covered the whole of Great Britain and Ireland, but that of 1924 applied only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The exclusion of Southern Ireland in 1924 does not seriously affect the comparability of the figures, since, according to the Census of Production taken by the Government of the Irish Free State in respect of the year 1926, the total value of bamboo and wicker furniture made in that year, as recorded in the report on the Furniture, Cabinet-making and Upholstery Trades, was returned as only £2,900.

Production.

Detailed information relating to the output of the Basket and Wicker-work Trades in 1924 is summarised in Table II on page 172.

In addition to the output dealt with in this report, baskets, etc. valued, on a cost basis, at £4,000 were made in 1924 by Railway Companies and in H.M. Prisons.

Principal products.—The following statement shows, for 1924 and 1907, the value of the principal classes of output recorded, the figures for each year being inclusive of the output of similar products returned on schedules for other trades.

Kind of goods.	1924.		1907
	Returned on schedules for		
	The Basket and Wicker-work Trades.	All trades.	All trades
	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
Baskets of all kinds, including hampers, skips, sieves, punnets, etc.	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Wicker furniture	463	548	317
Cane parts for basket and wicker-work, including prepared willows	270	329	195
	16	16	—
TOTAL VALUE OF PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS	749	893	512

The above totals are free from any material duplication, except in respect of such part of the £16,000 for *cane parts*, etc., as may have been sold to other firms in the trade.

Other products.—In addition to the products shown in the above table, firms that made their returns on schedules for the Basket and Wicker-work Trades recorded an output of other products (mainly of wood) in 1924 to the value of £23,000; these goods, being of kinds mainly produced in other trades, are dealt with in the reports on those trades. In 1907 the corresponding figure was £22,000 (including perambulators and bodies therefor, valued at £14,000).

Repairs and work done for the trade.—Firms that made their returns on schedules for the Basket and Wicker-work Trades recorded in 1924 the sum of £55,000 as the amount received by them for repair work, the corresponding amount for 1907 being £2,000. The amount recorded as received for work done for the trade was £9,000 in 1924 and £3,000 in 1907.

Cost of materials.—The cost of materials used by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Basket and Wicker-work Trades was returned as £325,000 in 1924 as compared with £185,000 in 1907.

No record was received in either year of payments made in respect of work given out to other firms.

Net output.—The net output in 1924 of the firms that made their returns on schedules for the Basket and Wicker-work Trades (whose gross output was valued at £836,000) was £511,000, that sum representing 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 (excluding outworkers) in the censal year 1924 was £146 as compared with £67 in 1907.

Exports and imports.—Exports and retained imports in 1924 of the chief products of the Basket and Wicker-work Trades were as follows :—

	Exports. £'000.	Retained imports. £'000.
Baskets and basketware :—		
Furniture	5	21
Other descriptions	21	342

In 1907 the exports of baskets and basketware were valued at £19,000 and the net imports at £218,000.

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 Basket and Wicker-work Trades 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, 1,070 operatives, or 38 per cent. of the total of 2,837 operatives for the trades as a whole, and their net output totalled £194,000, or 38 per cent. of the aggregate net output of £511,000 for the trades as a whole. The total wage-bill of these firms, as returned to the Ministry of Labour, was £114,000, representing about 58 per cent. of their aggregate net output.

Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on pages 173 and 174. The following table sets out certain particulars for that year together with those relating to the 1907 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 (excluding outworkers).	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
1924.						
Operatives	209	1,920	285	947	494	2,867
Administrative, etc.	6	531	20	93	26	624
TOTAL	215	2,451	305	1,040	520	3,491
1907.						
Wage earners	438	2,670	130	542	568	3,212
Salaried	20	372	7	31	27	403
TOTAL	458	3,042	137	573	595	3,615
Average number of outworkers :—						
1924	7		—		7	
1907	17		14		31	

It will be noted that a decrease of 750 in the number of male operatives and an increase of 405 in that of female operatives occurred in the interval between the two Censuses.

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 83 below the average, in January, to 140 above the average, in June (see Table IIIB, page 173).

Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 174. The following table sets out the particulars for 1924 and 1907 relating to the capacity and kinds of *prime movers* and the capacity of *electric generators* installed.

Power equipment.	1924.			1907.
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.	Total.
PRIME MOVERS :—				
Reciprocating steam engines	H.P. 12	H.P. —	H.P. 12	H.P. 40
Gas engines	71	22	93	} 55
Petrol and light oil engines	36	11	47	
Heavy oil engines	45	—	45	
TOTAL	164	33	197	95
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—				
Driven by—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Gas engines	8	—	8	—
Petrol and light oil engines	10	—	10	—
TOTAL	18	—	18	—

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

Electric motors.	1924.		
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.	Total.
Driven by—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in own works	5	—	5
Purchased electricity	73	—	73

Corresponding information was not required for 1907. The total number of Board of Trade units of electricity purchased for power and lighting purposes in that year was returned as 5,000.

TABLES.

I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	761	75	836
Cost of materials used	"	294	31	325
Net output	"	467	44	511
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	3,195	296	3,491
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	146	149	146
Mechanical power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	197	—	197
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	73	—	73

* In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms in Northern Ireland, the figures for that division of the United Kingdom have been combined with those for England and Wales.

II.—Production.

Goods sold or added to stock and work done.	England and Wales and N. Ireland.*	Scotland.	United Kingdom.
	Selling value.	Selling value.	Selling value.
	£'000.	£'000.	£'000.
Baskets of all kinds, including hampers, skips, sieves, punnets, etc.	398	65	463
Wicker furniture	†	†	270
Cane parts for baskets and wicker-work, including prepared willows	16	—	16
Other goods (mainly of wood)	†	†	23
Repair work	†	†	55‡
Work done for the trade	9‡	—	9‡
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)	761	75	836

* See footnote to Table I.

† In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, figures are given only for the United Kingdom as a whole.

‡ Amount received for work done.

III.—Employment.

A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1924 (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

Kind of staff.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<i>England and Wales and Northern Ireland† :—</i>						
Operatives	197	1,845	226	721	423	2,566
Administrative, etc.*	6	510	19	82	25	592
TOTAL	203	2,355	245	803	448	3,158
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives	12	81	48	190	60	271
Administrative, etc.*	—	21	1	11	1	32
TOTAL	12	102	49	201	61	303
<i>United Kingdom :—</i>						
Operatives	209	1,926	274	911	483	2,837
Administrative, etc.*	6	531	20	93	26	624
TOTAL	215	2,457	294	1,004	509	3,461

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

† See footnote to Table I.

B.—OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1924 (EXCLUDING OUTWORKERS).

*England and Wales and Northern Ireland.**

(Annual average : Males, 1,840 ; Females, 763 ; Total, 2,603.)

Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	1,790	753	2,543	July 19th ..	1,859	749	2,608
Feb. 16th ..	1,825	729	2,554	Aug. 16th ..	1,816	742	2,558
March 15th ..	1,818	749	2,567	Sept. 13th ..	1,817	720	2,537
April 12th ..	1,881	814	2,695	Oct. 18th ..	1,845	721	2,566
May 17th ..	1,871	837	2,708	Nov. 15th ..	1,818	731	2,549
June 21st ..	1,878	849	2,727	Dec. 13th ..	1,865	763	2,628

Scotland. (Annual average : Males, 80 ; Females, 184 ; Total, 264.)

Jan. 12th ..	80	161	241	July 19th ..	81	200	281
Feb. 16th ..	79	162	241	Aug. 16th ..	81	192	273
March 15th ..	81	172	253	Sept. 13th ..	80	190	270
April 12th ..	81	182	263	Oct. 18th ..	81	190	271
May 17th ..	81	200	281	Nov. 15th ..	79	187	266
June 21st ..	80	200	280	Dec. 13th ..	78	172	250

United Kingdom. (Annual average : Males, 1,920 ; Females, 947 ; Total, 2,867.)

Jan. 12th ..	1,870	914	2,784	July 19th ..	1,940	949	2,889
Feb. 16th ..	1,904	891	2,795	Aug. 16th ..	1,897	934	2,831
March 15th ..	1,899	921	2,820	Sept. 13th ..	1,897	910	2,807
April 12th ..	1,962	996	2,958	Oct. 18th ..	1,926	911	2,837
May 17th ..	1,952	1,037	2,989	Nov. 15th ..	1,897	918	2,815
June 21st ..	1,958	1,049	3,007	Dec. 13th ..	1,943	935	2,878

* See footnote to Table I.

C.—NUMBER OF OUTWORKERS AT TWO SPECIFIED PERIODS IN 1924.

Country.	January.			July.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
England and Wales* ..	7	—	7	7	—	7

* No outworkers were returned for Scotland or Northern Ireland.

IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS.

Power equipment.	England and Wales.*	
	Ordinarily in use.	In reserve or idle.
	H.P.	H.P.
PRIME MOVERS :—		
Reciprocating steam engines	12	—
Gas engines	71	22
Petrol and light oil engines	36	11
Heavy oil engines	45	—
TOTAL	164	33
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	197	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—		
Gas engines	8	—
Petrol and light oil engines	10	—
TOTAL	18	—
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	18	
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—		
Electricity generated in own works	5	—
Purchased electricity	73	—

* No mechanical power was returned for Scotland or Northern Ireland.