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Report on the
Census of Production

Construction industry

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ECONOMIC SCIENCE

Report on the Census of Production 1978

Construction industry

Presented by the Secretary of State for Industry
to Parliament in pursuance of the Statistics of Trade Act 1947
(10 & 11 Geo.6 Cha.39 sec 7)

Department of Industry
Business Statistics Office

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Commencing with the 1971 Census, the Census of Production reports are being numbered in a uniform series embracing all industrial inquiries in the Business Monitor series. Business Monitors have a code P (for production) followed first by A (indicating that it is an annual series) or O (occasional) or Q (quarterly) or M (monthly): and then by a number indicating the minimum list heading, or sub-division of a minimum list heading, of the Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1968).

The Census of Production (PA) reports are available on standing order (details on application to Her Majesty's Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Telephone 01-928 6977), although they are not included in the global subscription arrangements for the Business Monitor series.

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PA500 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

PA500

The information in this report relates to undertakings engaged in the construction industry, minimum list heading 500 in the Standard Industrial Classification (revised 1968). The activities of the industry include:—

Erecting and repairing buildings of all types. Constructing and repairing roads and bridges; erecting steel and reinforced concrete structures; other civil engineering work such as laying sewers, gas and water mains, and electricity cables, erecting overhead lines and line supports and aerial masts, extracting coal from opencast workings, etc. On-site industrialised building is also included. Establishments specialising in demolition work or in sections of construction work such as asphaltting, electrical wiring, flooring, glazing, installing heating and ventilating apparatus, painting, plastering, plumbing, roofing. The hiring of Contractor's plant and scaffolding.

The report covers the construction work done by private enterprises and by persons directly employed by Local Authorities, Public Authorities and Government Departments. It excludes construction work carried out by the employees of nationalised industries and transport and water undertakings, except for the building and civil engineering work of the British Steel Corporation and the housing departments of the National Coal Board. Contractual work on opencast coal-mining is included but the activities of the division of the National Coal Board responsible for selling the coal so obtained are excluded.

In interpreting the data in the tables it is essential to bear in mind the notes and definitions which commence on page 20.

Tables arranged according to the "Nomenclature of Economic Activities in the European Communities" (NACE) classification (tables 5i and 5ii in PA500 for 1977) will no longer be published in this Business Monitor. They will however continue to be available in the Eurostat publication — "Structure and Activity of Industry", volumes I, XIII and XV obtainable from —

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Table 1 Output and costs 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the industry (a)

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	Unit	1975	1976	1977	1978
Number of undertakings	No	89,988	87,960	85,410	92,775
Buildings and civil engineering work carried out:					
As a main or direct contractor	£'000	11,471,316	12,295,435	13,060,469	15,045,287
As a sub-contractor	£'000	2,555,599	2,753,344	2,869,043	3,671,384
Receipts for plant hire	£'000	560,762	418,830	514,588	599,559
Other work done and sales of goods produced	£'000	197,349	209,752	203,977	206,491
Goods merchanted or factored	£'000	112,487	98,512	127,908	131,661
Total work done and goods sold	£'000	14,897,514	15,775,873	16,775,985	19,654,382
Change in year in goods on hand for sale	£'000	+1,739	+3,060	+7,682	+3,959
Gross output	£'000	14,899,253	15,778,933	16,783,667	19,658,341
Purchases of materials for use in construction	£'000	4,037,822	4,351,163	4,635,968	5,544,613
Cost of fuel and electricity	£'000	175,396	193,351	238,296	265,138
Purchases of goods for merchenting or factoring	£'000	90,567	75,948	99,872	89,942
Other purchases	£'000	237,266	226,250	272,303	319,356
Change in year of stocks of materials, stores and fuel	£'000	+13,831	+40,781	+30,597	+60,552
Cost of industrial services received	£'000	3,667,925	3,845,591	4,055,490	4,774,985(b)
Net output	£'000	6,704,109	7,127,410	7,512,337	8,724,859
Total employment (c)	No	1,464,817	1,396,921	1,334,394	1,366,825
Net output per head	£	4,577	5,102	5,630	6,383
Cost of non-industrial services received	£'000	754,685	823,155	934,118	1,132,067
Licensing of motor vehicles	£'000	22,125	18,865	24,638	28,575
Rates, excluding water rates	£'000	37,244	47,311	46,523	52,697
Gross value added at factor cost	£'000	5,890,056	6,238,078	6,507,058	7,511,519
Gross value added at factor cost per head	£	4,021	4,466	4,876	5,496

(a) Includes estimates for non-response and unsampled small undertakings (only 5% of firms employing fewer than 20 people were included in the census). For 1978, these estimates represented 44% of total employment and 41% of total output shown in the table. The three main size groups contribute to these percentages as follows:—

Size (employment)	Less than 20	20-99	100 and over	Total
Employment	24%	10%	10%	44%
Output	18%	11%	12%	41%

(b) Of industrial service costs incurred by private undertakings in 1978, £4,616,825,000 was for payments for work sub-contracted out, of which £842,395,000 was paid to labour only sub-contractors.

(c) Average number employed during the year, including working proprietors.

Table 1 Supplement Analysis of service costs, 1978
United Kingdom undertakings employing 100 or more persons (a)

£'000

	Private undertakings	Public undertakings	Total
Amounts payable to other organisations:			
Payments for work sub-contracted out	3,035,085	(b)	3,035,085
Other industrial services	65,596	16,272	81,868
Total cost of industrial services	3,100,681	16,272	3,116,953
Rents paid for industrial buildings	17,999	2,742	20,741
Hire of vehicles and plant and machinery	358,431	63,884	422,316
Commercial insurance premiums	71,420	6,169	77,589
Bank charges	9,115	247	9,362
Other non-industrial services	190,782	32,888	223,670
Total cost of non-industrial services	647,747	105,930	753,677

(a) Includes estimates for non-response.

(b) Not collected for public undertakings.

Table 1A Analysis of output and costs 1978
Private undertakings in United Kingdom (a)

	Unit	Sub-divisions of the industry – Great Britain (b)									
		General builders	Building and civil engineering contractors	Civil engineers	Plumbers	Carpenters and joiners	Painters	Roofers	Plasterers	Glaziers	Demolition contractors
Number of undertakings	No	36,591	2,186	1,873	7,455	5,848	12,330	2,442	2,778	921	435
Building and civil engineering work carried out:											
As a main contractor	£'000	6,639,517	3,274,383	1,194,148	154,999	98,720	284,483	107,908	13,406	63,097	42,676
As a sub-contractor	£'000	161,559	159,842	355,149	196,339	118,367	178,861	239,505	172,547	84,553	12,352
Receipts for plant hire	£'000	19,038	23,663	25,399	16	3,195	4,179	445	17	2,733	3,913
Other work done and sales of goods produced	£'000	34,323	28,282	16,183	1,524						
Goods merchanted or factored	£'000	19,080	4,858	4,041	2,798	1,268	4,509	9,916	177	4,500	173
Total work done and goods sold	£'000	6,873,516	3,491,028	1,594,919	355,676	221,550	474,364	357,884	186,548	154,882	61,264
Change in year in goods on hand for sale	£'000	+634	-239	+483	-28	+32	+144	+590	-28	+236	+27
Gross output	£'000	6,874,150	3,490,789	1,595,402	355,648	221,582	474,508	358,474	186,520	155,118	61,291
Purchases of materials for use in construction	£'000	1,919,125	751,794	400,837	172,268	56,671	87,078	154,731	55,964	67,364	5,931
Cost of fuel and electricity	£'000	57,110	46,252	37,914	3,805	4,417	6,455	4,969	2,060	1,247	1,804
Purchases of goods for merchenting or factoring	£'000	10,735	3,959	2,328	1,945	810	3,397	8,329	117	3,100	199
Other purchases	£'000	44,162	57,123	53,762	1,426	1,564	2,760	2,786	802	1,562	2,941
Change in year in stocks of materials, stores and fuel	£'000	+19,335	+6,983	+9,374	+2,286	+1,240	+323	+2,080	-91	+2,574	-846
Cost of industrial services received	£'000	2,501,380	1,264,942	286,490	15,013	66,679	71,256	30,127	40,460	18,313	6,474
Net output	£'000	2,360,974	1,373,702	823,445	163,478	92,681	303,885	159,612	87,026	66,104	43,095
Total employment (c)	No	405,183	175,287	89,881	33,318	23,862	61,879	24,706	19,367	11,436	5,134
Net output per head	£	5,827	7,837	9,162	4,907	3,884	4,911	6,460	4,494	5,780	8,394
Operatives:											
Average number employed	No	301,509	121,886	68,217	23,842	17,188	48,602	17,899	15,467	7,427	4,269
Wages and salaries	£'000	1,063,448	507,492	321,936	79,451	65,634	174,389	64,502	62,401	29,112	15,745
Other employees: (d)											
Average number employed	No	84,540	52,109	20,819	5,960	3,504	7,820	5,700	2,655	3,785	659
Wages and salaries	£'000	335,056	237,990	107,474	19,357	12,474	29,311	22,717	11,061	14,682	2,696
Cost of non-industrial services received	£'000	276,480	208,929	200,160	8,194	7,348	18,897	14,300	5,127	8,954	11,346
Licensing of motor vehicles	£'000	5,460	6,030	2,090	414	678	576	935	197	198	665
Rates, excluding water rates	£'000	13,608	6,233	3,349	917	225	1,182	972	401	1,016	124
Gross value added at factor cost	£'000	2,065,427	1,152,510	617,847	153,953	84,430	283,231	143,405	81,302	55,936	30,959
Gross value added at factor cost per head	£	5,098	6,575	6,874	4,621	3,538	4,577	5,804	4,198	4,891	6,030

Table 1A (continued)

	Unit	Sub-divisions of the industry — Great Britain (b)									
		Scaffolding specialists	Reinforced concrete specialists	Heating and ventilating engineers	Electrical contractors	Asphalt and surface dressing contractors	Plant hiring contractors with operators	Plant hiring contractors without operators	Flooring contractors	Constructional engineers	Insulating specialists
Number of undertakings	No	344	316	3,961	6,948	526	1,883	662	759	669	411
Building and civil engineering work carried out:											
As a main contractor	£'000	18,354	31,633	293,512	324,321	116,002	9,909	1,551	25,412	113,002	34,040
As a sub-contractor	£'000	91,095	62,140	602,781	526,786	144,103	5,503	2,142	61,479	101,102	121,040
Receipts for plant hire	£'000	26,136	335	363	48	1,392	317,923	168,190	—	47	103
Other work done and sales of goods produced	£'000	5,600	580	12,781	6,356	8,060	16,966	8,571	2,526	825	301
Goods merchanted for factored	£'000	20,192	3,887	5,644	12,705	1,250	7,074	8,916	2,430	490	5,162
Total work done and goods sold	£'000	161,377	98,576	915,081	870,217	270,808	357,376	189,370	91,847	215,466	160,646
Change in year in goods on hand for sale	£'000	+153	+576	+110	+227	-28	+358	+235	+31	—	+273
Gross output	£'000	161,529	99,152	915,191	870,444	270,779	357,734	189,605	91,878	215,466	160,919
Purchases of materials for use in construction	£'000	5,720	33,804	425,917	359,471	125,709	8,167	3,380	43,136	86,544	56,721
Cost of fuel and electricity	£'000	2,435	1,481	6,309	6,582	5,465	15,096	6,345	1,137	2,181	1,691
Purchases of goods for merchenting or factoring	£'000	14,792	3,566	2,758	6,350	1,082	5,237	6,699	1,743	19	3,426
Other purchases	£'000	3,068	1,174	5,479	4,868	5,158	41,916	22,209	797	2,266	965
Change in year in stocks of materials, stores and fuel	£'000	-7,967	+1,065	+3,883	+2,179	+725	+1,523	+1,477	+573	+132	+839
Cost of industrial services received	£'000	4,727	16,113	142,842	47,565	13,158	19,210	8,910	5,082	40,801	6,421
Net output	£'000	122,820	44,079	335,770	447,785	120,931	269,631	143,539	40,556	83,788	92,533
Total employment (c)	No	15,678	7,158	57,301	77,168	12,064	29,481	12,128	6,355	13,163	11,236
Net output per head	£	7,834	6,158	5,860	5,803	10,024	9,146	11,835	6,382	6,365	8,235
Operatives:											
Average number employed	No	11,521	4,754	37,770	58,841	9,516	22,841	8,373	4,327	8,790	8,658
Wages and salaries	£'000	54,842	20,702	151,585	251,196	36,016	104,401	36,830	16,597	44,758	43,790
Other employees: (d)											
Average number employed	No	3,938	2,163	17,812	16,434	2,335	5,626	3,490	1,657	4,078	2,322
Wages and salaries	£'000	16,993	8,014	73,798	66,802	9,931	21,898	12,998	6,064	19,815	10,276
Cost of non-industrial services received	£'000	16,107	8,447	38,194	31,274	18,496	38,951	23,906	4,090	13,124	10,597
Licensing of motor vehicles	£'000	483	162	476	700	592	1,619	1,325	66	154	79
Rates, excluding water rates	£'000	1,035	651	3,715	2,616	316	1,765	1,442	1,095	1,151	288
Gross value added at factor cost	£'000	105,195	34,819	293,385	413,196	101,527	227,296	116,867	35,304	69,358	81,569
Gross value added at factor cost per head	£	6,710	4,864	5,120	5,355	8,416	7,710	9,636	5,555	5,269	7,260

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Table 1A (continued)

	Unit	Sub-divisions of the industry — Great Britain (b)				Great Britain		
		Suspended ceiling specialists	Floor and wall tiling specialists	Open cast coalmining contractors	Miscellaneous	Total	Main contractors	Sub-contractors
Number of undertakings	No	325	547	22	1,207	91,439	62,492	28,947
Building and civil engineering work carried out:								
As a main contractor	£'000	11,966	6,578	159,252	114,203	13,133,071	12,627,942	505,128
As a sub-contractor	£'000	55,908	48,077	5,664	114,743	3,621,639	543,811	3,077,828
Receipts for plant hire	£'000	32	37	2,464	156	593,898	69,824	524,074
Other work done and sales of goods produced	£'000	8	723	936	8,268	163,733	96,044	67,690
Goods merchanted or factored	£'000	776	2,448	55	3,886	126,232	53,780	72,452
Total work done and goods sold	£'000	68,690	57,863	168,371	241,255	17,638,574	13,391,401	4,247,173
Change in year in goods on hand for sale	£'000	+67	+25	+6	+21	+3,904	+1,985	+1,920
Gross output	£'000	68,757	57,888	168,378	241,276	17,642,478	13,393,385	4,249,093
Purchases of materials for use in construction	£'000	30,099	24,291	12,494	82,068	4,969,283	3,502,196	1,467,087
Cost of fuel and electricity	£'000	792	583	12,277	3,173	231,582	165,916	65,665
Purchases of goods for merchenting or factoring	£'000	689	1,268	37	2,931	85,517	34,480	51,037
Other purchases	£'000	265	611	23,132	7,064	287,861	185,727	102,133
Change in year in stocks of materials, stores and fuel	£'000	-81	+295	+495	-189	+48,207	+44,036	+4,171
Cost of industrial services received	£'000	14,793	4,888	23,064	30,439	4,679,148	4,223,133	456,015
Net output	£'000	22,037	26,542	97,869	115,413	7,437,296	5,325,969	2,111,327
Total employment (c)	No	3,582	4,037	7,512	14,738	1,121,654	788,351	333,303
Net output per head	£	6,152	6,575	13,028	7,831	6,631	6,756	6,335
Operatives:								
Average number employed	No	2,176	2,786	5,971	9,563	822,193	574,726	247,467
Wages and salaries	£'000	9,772	11,731	30,902	39,756	3,236,985	2,207,180	1,029,805
Other employees: (d)								
Average number employed	No	1,298	1,036	1,535	4,591	255,866	182,980	72,886
Wages and salaries	£'000	5,459	3,741	7,263	21,382	1,077,252	781,928	295,324
Cost of non-industrial services received	£'000	3,414	2,682	24,963	17,178	1,011,157	753,534	257,623
Licensing of motor vehicles	£'000	6	69	71	301	23,345	15,872	7,473
Rates, excluding water rates	£'000	164	638	114	693	43,711	28,055	15,656
Gross value added at factor cost	£'000	18,453	23,153	72,721	97,241	6,359,083	4,528,508	1,830,575
Gross value added at factor cost per head	£	5,151	5,735	9,681	6,598	5,669	5,744	5,492

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Table 1A (continued)

	Unit	Northern Ireland			United Kingdom		
		Main contractors	Sub-contractors	Total	Main contractors	Sub-contractors	Total
Number of undertakings	No	581	191	772	63,073	29,138	92,211
Building and civil engineering work carried out:							
As a main contractor	£'000	252,537	3,713	256,250	12,880,480	508,841	13,389,321
As a sub-contractor	£'000	5,501	44,244	49,745	549,312	3,122,072	3,671,384
Receipts for plant hire	£'000	3,203	1,676	4,879	73,027	525,751	598,777
Other work done and sales of goods produced	£'000	2,672	586	3,258	98,715	68,276	166,991
Goods merchanted or factored	£'000	1,654	3,063	4,717	55,434	75,515	130,950
Total work done and goods sold	£'000	265,567	53,282	318,849	13,656,968	4,300,455	17,957,423
Change in year in goods on hand for sale	£'000	-101	+153	+53	+1,884	+2,073	+3,957
Gross output	£'000	265,466	53,436	318,902	13,658,852	4,302,528	17,961,380
Purchases of materials for use in construction	£'000	98,635	19,041	117,676	3,600,831	1,486,128	5,086,959
Cost of fuel and electricity	£'000	5,342	836	6,178	171,259	66,501	237,760
Purchases of goods for merchenting or factoring	£'000	1,340	2,561	3,900	35,820	53,597	89,417
Other purchases	£'000	3,138	478	3,616	188,866	102,611	291,476
Change in year in stocks of materials, stores and fuel	£'000	+236	+20	+256	+44,272	+4,191	+48,463
Cost of industrial services received	£'000	76,035	2,396	78,431	4,299,168	458,411	4,757,578
Net output	£'000	81,213	28,145	109,357	5,407,182	2,139,471	7,546,653
Total employment (c)	No	19,204	3,560	22,764	807,555	336,863	1,144,418
Net output per head	£	4,229	7,906	4,804	6,696	6,351	6,594
Operatives							
Average number employed	No	15,546	2,746	18,292	590,272	250,213	840,485
Wages and salaries	£'000	49,456	8,982	58,437	2,256,635	1,038,787	3,295,422
Other employees: (d)							
Average number employed	No	2,850	680	3,530	185,830	73,566	259,396
Wages and salaries	£'000	10,604	2,644	13,249	792,532	297,968	1,090,500
Cost of non-industrial services received	£'000	10,828	1,891	12,718	764,362	259,513	1,023,875
Licensing of motor vehicles	£'000	390	13	402	16,262	7,486	23,748
Rates, excluding water rates	£'000	332	38	369	28,386	15,694	44,080
Gross value added at factor cost	£'000	69,664	26,203	95,867	4,598,172	1,856,778	6,454,950
Gross value added at factor cost per head	£	3,628	7,360	4,211	5,694	5,512	5,640

(a) Includes estimates for non-response and unsampled small undertakings.

(b) The method of classifying returns to sub-divisions of the industry is explained in the notes, paragraph 5 page 20.

(c) Average number employed during the year, including working proprietors.

(d) Administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees.

Table 1B Analysis of output and costs, 1978
Public undertakings in United Kingdom (a)

PA500

	Unit	Great Britain	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
Number of undertakings	No	546	18	564
Building and civil engineering work carried out	£'000	1,611,792	44,173	1,655,966
Receipts for plant hire	£'000	782	—	782
Other work done and sales of goods produced	£'000	39,086	414	39,500
Goods merchanted or factored	£'000	711	—	711
Total work done and goods sold	£'000	1,652,371	44,587	1,696,959
Change in year in goods on hand for sale	£'000	+2	—	+2
Gross output	£'000	1,652,373	44,587	1,696,961
Purchases of materials for use in construction	£'000	445,772	11,883	457,655
Cost of fuel and electricity	£'000	26,377	1,001	27,378
Purchases of goods for merchenting or factoring	£'000	524	—	524
Other purchases	£'000	27,670	210	27,879
Change in year in stocks of materials, stores and fuel	£'000	+11,742	+346	+12,089
Cost of industrial services received (b)	£'000	17,237	170	17,407
Net output	£'000	1,146,536	31,670	1,178,206
Total employment (c)	No	214,342	8,065	222,407
Net output per head	£	5,349	3,927	5,298
Operatives:				
Average number employed	No	175,323	6,927	182,250
Wages and salaries	£'000	637,486	20,936	658,422
Other employees (d)				
Average number employed	No	39,019	1,138	40,157
Wages and salaries	£'000	177,972	4,418	182,390
Cost of non-industrial services received	£'000	105,734	2,458	108,192
Licensing of motor vehicles	£'000	4,812	15	4,828
Rates, excluding water rates	£'000	8,432	185	8,617
Gross value added at factor cost	£'000	1,027,559	29,011	1,056,570
Gross value added at factor cost per head	£	4,794	3,597	4,751

(a) Includes estimates for non-response

(b) Not including any work sub-contracted out

(c) Average number employed during the year

(d) Administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees.

Table 2 Capital expenditure and stocks 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978
All United Kingdom undertakings classified to the industry (a)

PA500

£'000

	1975	1976	1977	1978
Capital expenditure: (b)				
Land and buildings:				
New building work	70,410	59,561	59,506	53,870
Land and existing buildings:				
Acquisitions	30,801	42,488	33,856	26,640
Disposals	22,183	16,597	15,715	16,956
Vehicles:				
Acquisitions	176,605	191,733	263,523	292,976
Disposals	47,352	57,357	73,708	87,079
Plant and machinery:				
Acquisitions	292,358	324,475	318,754	436,552
Disposals	70,342	81,953	77,081	118,599
Total net capital expenditure (c)	430,297	462,350	509,135	587,403
Buildings constructed and capital goods produced by undertakings' own staff, for their own use	42,434	35,627	39,602	28,514
Stocks: end of year				
Materials, stores and fuel	407,757	420,745	441,118	528,684
Goods on hand for sale	44,952	31,426	39,434	33,289

(a) Includes estimates for non-response and unsampled small undertakings.

(b) Capital expenditure in respect of units not in operation by the end of the year is included.

(c) New building work plus acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery.

Table 2A Capital expenditure and stocks 1978
Private undertakings in the United Kingdom (a)

£'000

	Sub-divisions of the industry – Great Britain (b)									
	General builders	Building and civil engineering contractors	Civil engineers	Plumbers	Carpenters and joiners	Painters	Roofers	Plasterers	Glaziers	Demolition contractors
Capital expenditure (c)										
Land and buildings:										
New building work	10,345	8,547	2,487	615	70	453	1,831	132	718	35
Land and existing buildings:										
Acquisitions	6,919	3,583	2,185	132	8	1,187	1,426	346	370)	(
Disposals	8,223	2,565	839	35	127	703	366	82	70)	–28 (
Vehicles:										
Acquisitions	77,637	46,605	21,700	8,313	5,022	14,103	7,520	3,609	2,330	2,675
Disposals	26,168	11,479	10,974	2,511	1,694	4,298	2,285	1,359	588	1,280
Plant and machinery:										
Acquisitions	35,877	107,036	68,881	1,138	1,142	2,404	1,201	915	732	4,849
Disposals	7,729	30,717	14,296	11	59	155	203	44	10	1,131
Total net capital expenditure (d)	88,658	121,011	69,143	7,640	4,361	12,992	9,125	3,517	3,482	5,120
Buildings constructed and capital goods produced by undertakings' own staff, for their own use	10,192	4,803	2,510	233	–	18	110	–	487	–
Stocks:										
Materials, stores and fuel:										
Beginning of year	115,213	52,273	32,268	11,774	5,093	6,287	10,444	2,513	8,910	2,485
End of year	134,549	59,256	41,642	14,060	6,333	6,610	12,524	2,423	11,484	1,639
Goods on hand for sale:										
Beginning of year	3,207	2,439	1,210	919	229	756	1,258	78	1,156	19
End of year	3,841	2,200	1,693	891	261	900	1,848	49	1,392	46

Table 2A (continued)

£'000

	Sub-divisions of the industry – Great Britain (b)									
	Scaffolding specialists	Re-inforced concrete specialists	Heating and ventilating engineers	Electrical contractors	Asphalt and surface dressing contractors	Plant hiring contractors with operators	Plant hiring contractors without operators	Flooring contractors	Constructional engineers	Insulating specialists
Capital expenditure (c)										
Land and buildings:										
New building work	375	368	1,479	2,346	271	1,043	890	78	4,450	192
Land and existing buildings:										
Acquisitions	494)	-42	(863	1,671	165	2,069	849	256	1,205)	(
Disposals	592)		(57	73	131	801	148	127	54)	+55 (
Vehicles:										
Acquisitions	5,097	1,509	13,027	12,911	4,730	13,552	9,646	1,514	2,540	2,494
Disposals	1,443	481	3,751	3,761	1,079	3,979	2,129	424	1,000	912
Plant and machinery:										
Acquisitions	21,204	939	3,534	2,654	5,823	79,777	51,044	237	1,138	873
Disposals	3,558	261	261	30	786	38,481	15,225	27	346	22
Total net capital expenditure (d)	21,576	2,031	14,834	15,718	8,993	53,179	44,927	1,507	7,934	2,680
Buildings constructed and capital goods produced by undertakings' own staff, for their own use	52	162	974	319	171	93	174	-	10	-
Stocks:										
Materials, stores and fuel:										
Beginning of year	14,363	2,847	18,338	18,397	3,498	8,965	7,528	3,918	11,111	2,966
End of year	6,395	3,912	22,221	20,576	4,223	10,488	9,005	4,491	11,243	3,805
Goods on hand for sale:										
Beginning of year	7,391	936	359	2,132	188	1,059	2,224	484	-	438
End of year	7,544	1,512	469	2,360	160	1,417	2,460	515	-	711

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Table 2A (continued)

£'000

	Sub-divisions of the industry – Great Britain (b)				Great Britain		
	Suspended ceiling specialists	Floor and wall tiling specialists	Open cast coal mining contractors	Miscellaneous	Total	Main contractors	Sub-contractors
Capital expenditure (c)							
Land and buildings:							
New building work	4	44	255	267	37,292	28,728	8,564
Land and existing buildings:							
Acquisitions	25	67)		(138	24,292	14,197	10,095
Disposals	-	250)	-68	(49	15,708	12,622	3,085
Vehicles:							
Acquisitions	921	1,004	901	7,026	266,387	181,695	84,691
Disposals	346	231	363	1,939	84,475	60,637	23,837
Plant and machinery:							
Acquisitions	153	621	17,749	1,661	411,583	222,808	188,776
Disposals	50	26	2,211	109	115,748	53,484	62,263
Total net capital expenditure (d)	707	1,229	16,263	6,995	523,624	320,684	202,940
Buildings constructed and capital goods produced by undertakings' own staff, for their own use	-	12	588	46	20,954	18,879	2,075
Stocks:							
Materials, stores and fuel:							
Beginning of year	1,923	2,943	4,366	8,768	357,190	243,311	113,878
End of year	1,841	3,237	4,861	8,579	405,397	287,347	118,050
Goods on hand for sale:							
Beginning of year	63	217	20	348	27,131	11,158	15,973
End of year	130	243	26	369	31,035	13,142	17,893

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TABLE 2A (continued)

	£'000					
	Northern Ireland			United Kingdom		
	Main contractor	Sub-contractor	Total	Main contractor	Sub-contractor	Total
Capital expenditure (c)						
Land and buildings:						
New building work	2,002	453	2,455	30,730	9,017	39,746
Land and existing buildings:						
Acquisitions	1,000	231	1,231	15,197	10,326	25,523
Disposals	893	80	973	13,516	3,165	16,681
Vehicles:						
Acquisitions	3,732	709	4,441	185,428	85,400	270,828
Disposals	1,049	239	1,288	61,686	24,076	85,762
Plant and machinery:						
Acquisitions	7,717	1,336	9,053	230,525	190,112	420,636
Disposals	1,880	152	2,032	55,364	62,415	117,779
Total net capital expenditure (d)	10,630	2,257	12,887	331,313	205,197	536,511
Buildings constructed and capital goods produced by undertaking's own staff, for their own use	—	—	—	18,879	2,075	20,954
Stocks:						
Materials, stores and fuel:						
Beginning of year	4,646	2,097	6,743	247,957	115,976	363,933
End of year	4,882	2,117	6,999	292,229	120,167	412,396
Goods on hand for sale:						
Beginning of year	1,416	769	2,186	12,574	16,742	29,316
End of year	1,316	923	2,238	14,458	18,815	33,273

(a) Includes estimates for non-response and unsampled small undertakings

(b) The method of classifying returns to sub-divisions of the industry is explained in the report notes, paragraph 5, page 20.

(c) Capital expenditure in respect of units not in operation by the end of the year is included.

(d) New building work plus acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery.

Table 2B Capital expenditure and stocks, 1978
Public undertakings in the United Kingdom (a)

PA500

£'000

	Great Britain	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
Capital expenditure (b)			
Land and buildings:			
New building work	12,500	1,623	14,123
Land and existing buildings:			
Acquisitions) +763	(+79	1,117
Disposals)	(276
Vehicles:			
Acquisitions	21,042	1,106	22,148
Disposals	1,262	54	1,316
Plant and machinery:			
Acquisitions) +14,849	(+250	15,916
Disposals)	(820
Total net capital expenditure (c)	47,892	3,001	50,892
Buildings constructed and capital goods produced by undertakings' own staff, for their own use	*	*	7,559
Stocks:			
Materials, stores and fuel:			
Beginning of year	101,618	2,581	104,200
End of year	113,361	2,928	116,288
Goods on hand for sale:			
Beginning of year	13	—	13
End of year	16	—	16

(a) Includes estimates for non-response.

(b) Capital expenditure in respect of units not in operation by the end of the year is included.

(c) New building work plus acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery.

Table 3A Analysis of undertakings by size, 1978
Private undertakings classified to the industry (a)

Size group	Under-takings	Employment			Wages and salaries				Total work done and goods sold	Gross output	Net output		Gross value added at factor cost		Net capital expenditure (d)	Total stocks at end of year		
		Total (b)	Operatives	Others (c)	Operatives		Others (c)				Total	per head	Total	per head			Total	per head
					£'000	£	£'000	£										
0-19	83,338	348,229	246,327	63,359	867,867	3,523	217,387	3,431	3,816,566	3,818,242	1,716,625	4,930	1,547,800	4,445	98,650	113,905		
20-49	5,929	172,731	135,151	33,314	505,165	3,738	142,271	4,271	2,463,458	2,464,165	1,084,756	6,280	941,902	5,453	80,792	70,265		
50-99	1,602	110,609	87,857	21,409	333,134	3,792	94,317	4,405	1,759,022	1,758,708	738,454	6,676	638,843	5,776	53,026	43,172		
100-199	713	99,171	74,917	24,003	296,451	3,957	104,838	4,368	1,721,819	1,722,499	694,968	7,008	578,581	5,834	49,970	39,749		
200-499	417	128,022	94,078	33,846	400,413	4,256	147,703	4,364	2,501,353	2,501,825	1,022,650	7,988	831,337	6,494	77,261	54,010		
500-999	137	95,761	69,423	26,312	299,847	4,319	118,724	4,512	1,954,952	1,955,309	764,259	7,981	629,482	6,573	52,773	44,914		
1,000-2,499	55	79,255	58,231	21,014	260,604	4,475	96,177	4,577	1,571,521	1,571,593	643,476	8,119	533,609	6,733	42,348	34,518		
2,500-4,999	15	50,103	34,297	15,806	156,566	4,565	73,240	4,634	1,083,271	1,083,900	405,144	8,086	339,909	6,784	43,419	21,392		
5,000 and over	5	60,537	40,204	20,333	175,374	4,362	95,842	4,714	1,085,461	1,085,139	476,322	7,868	413,488	6,830	38,272	23,745		
Total	92,211	1,144,418	840,485	259,396	3,295,422	3,921	1,090,500	4,204	17,957,423	17,961,380	7,546,653	6,594	6,454,950	5,640	536,511	445,669		

- (a) Includes estimates for non-response and unsampled small undertakings.
 (b) Average number employed during the year (including working proprietors) by the undertakings.
 (c) Administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees.
 (d) New building work plus acquisitions less disposals of land and existing buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery.

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Table 3B Analysis of undertakings by size, 1978
Public undertakings in the United Kingdom (a)

Size group	Under-takings	Employment			Wages and salaries				Total work done and goods sold	Gross output	Net output		Gross value added at factor cost		Net capital expenditure (d)	Total stocks at end of year		
		Total (b)	Operatives	Others (c)	Operatives		Others (c)				Total	Per head	Total	Per head			Total	Per head
					£'000	£	£'000	£										
0-19	15	204	160	44	511	3,196	175	3,974	1,124	1,124	737	3,615	686	3,362	13	150		
20-49	63	2,126	1,663	463	5,586	3,359	1,997	4,313	16,091	16,092	11,694	5,500	10,929	5,141	929	1,847		
50-99	103	7,472	5,907	1,565	20,105	3,404	6,778	4,331	51,760	51,760	37,959	5,080	35,403	4,738	2,004	6,119		
100-199	141	20,464	16,077	4,387	55,199	3,433	18,962	4,322	132,042	132,043	97,634	4,771	90,724	4,433	5,137	13,004		
200-499	125	40,583	32,693	7,890	118,079	3,612	35,810	4,539	293,519	293,519	199,447	4,915	177,234	4,367	10,317	23,847		
500-999	67	49,757	39,546	10,211	144,065	3,643	45,765	4,482	393,542	393,543	263,197	5,290	226,279	4,548	13,808	27,850		
1,000-2,499	44	62,659	51,275	11,384	180,913	3,528	51,176	4,495	517,907	517,907	335,283	5,351	294,616	4,702	14,755	28,719		
2,500 and over	6	39,142	34,929	4,213	133,963	3,835	21,728	5,157	290,973	290,973	232,255	5,934	220,699	5,638	3,930	14,767		
Total	564	222,407	182,250	40,157	658,422	3,613	182,390	4,542	1,696,959	1,696,961	1,178,206	5,298	1,056,570	4,751	50,892	116,304		

- (a) Includes estimates for non-response.
 (b) Average number employed during the year.
 (c) Administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees.
 (d) New building work plus acquisitions less disposals of land and buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery.

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Table 4A Percentage analysis of twelve-month periods covered by returns received from United Kingdom private undertakings

PA500

Accounting year ended		Percentage of total returns received	Percentage of total number employed
1978	April (a)	3.5	2.6
	May	3.0	2.1
	June	5.2	4.5
	July	2.9	1.5
	August	3.5	1.5
	September	6.4	6.8
	October	3.9	4.6
	November	3.0	1.8
	December	31.6	50.2
	1979	January	4.4
February		3.9	3.2
March (b)		28.7	18.2

Table 4B Percentage analysis of twelve-month periods covered by returns received from United Kingdom public undertakings

Accounting year ended		Percentage of total returns received	Percentage of total number employed
1978	April (a)	0.6	2.6
	May	—	—
	June	—	—
	July	—	—
	August	—	—
	September	—	—
	October	—	—
	November	—	—
	December	4.1	3.2
	1979	January	—
February		—	—
March (b)		95.3	94.2

(a) From 6 April 1978

(b) Including returns made for twelve-month period 1–5 April 1979.

Table 5 **Operating ratios, 1978**
Private undertakings in Great Britain (a)

	Gross value added per head	Gross value added as proportion of gross output	Gross output per head	Net output per head	Wages and salaries as proportion of gross value added	Ratio of operatives to APTC (b)	Average wages and salaries of APTC (b)	Average wages and salaries of operatives	Net capital expenditure per head	Net capital expenditure as proportion of gross value added
	£		£	£			£	£	£	
General builders	5,098	0.30	16,966	5,827	0.68	3.57	3,963	3,527	219	0.043
Building and civil engineering contractors	6,575	0.33	19,915	7,837	0.65	2.34	4,567	4,164	690	0.105
Civil engineers	6,874	0.39	17,750	9,162	0.70	3.28	5,162	4,719	769	0.112
Plumbers	4,621	0.43	10,674	4,907	0.64	4.00	3,248	3,332	229	0.050
Carpenters and joiners	3,538	0.38	9,286	3,884	0.93	4.91	3,560	3,819	183	0.052
Painters	4,577	0.60	7,668	4,911	0.72	6.22	3,748	3,588	210	0.046
Roofers	5,804	0.40	14,510	6,460	0.61	3.14	3,985	3,604	369	0.064
Plasterers	4,198	0.44	9,631	4,494	0.90	5.83	4,166	4,034	182	0.043
Glaziers	4,891	0.36	13,564	5,780	0.78	1.96	3,879	3,920	305	0.062
Demolition contractors	6,030	0.51	11,938	8,394	0.60	6.48	4,090	3,688	997	0.165
Scaffolding specialists	6,710	0.65	10,303	7,834	0.68	2.93	4,315	4,760	1,376	0.205
Reinforced concrete specialists	4,864	0.35	13,852	6,158	0.82	2.20	3,705	4,355	284	0.058
Heating and ventilating engineers	5,120	0.32	15,972	5,860	0.77	2.12	4,143	4,013	259	0.051
Electrical contractors	5,355	0.47	11,280	5,803	0.77	3.58	4,065	4,269	204	0.038
Asphalt and surface dressing contractors	8,416	0.37	22,445	10,024	0.45	4.08	4,253	3,785	745	0.089
Plant hiring contractors with operators	7,710	0.64	12,134	9,146	0.56	4.06	3,892	4,571	1,804	0.234
Plant hiring contractors without operators	9,636	0.62	15,634	11,835	0.43	2.40	3,724	4,399	3,704	0.384
Flooring contractors	5,555	0.38	14,458	6,382	0.64	2.61	3,660	3,836	237	0.043
Constructional engineers	5,269	0.32	16,369	6,365	0.93	2.16	4,859	5,092	603	0.114
Insulating specialists	7,260	0.51	14,322	8,235	0.66	3.73	4,426	5,058	239	0.033
Suspended ceiling specialists	5,151	0.27	19,195	6,152	0.83	1.68	4,206	4,491	197	0.038
Floor and wall tiling specialists	5,735	0.40	14,339	6,575	0.67	2.69	3,611	4,211	305	0.053
Opencast coal mining contractors	9,681	0.43	22,414	13,028	0.52	3.89	4,732	5,175	2,165	0.224
Miscellaneous	6,598	0.40	16,371	7,831	0.63	2.08	4,657	4,157	475	0.072
Industry ratios	5,669	0.36	15,729	6,631	0.68	3.21	4,210	3,937	467	0.082

(a) Figures include estimates for non-response, unsatisfactory returns and unsampled small undertakings.

(b) APTC — Administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees.

Introduction

1. These notes give the main information needed for interpreting the figures in this Business Monitor. More detailed information about the census in general is given in a separate booklet "Introductory Notes", Part PA1001 of the Report on the Census of Production for 1978, but in many respects, these general notes apply only to manufacturing industries.
2. The subjects to be covered for the census were decided after consultation with the Production Statistics Advisory Committee appointed under the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947, and with the Standing Consultative Committee on Construction Statistics of the National Consultative Council for the Building and Civil Engineering Industries.

Coverage

3. A return for Great Britain was required from all private undertakings employing 20 or more persons, but the full range of questions was only required from those employing 100 or more. Because of the relatively large proportion of output in this industry contributed by smaller businesses, a 5 per cent sample of undertakings with fewer than 20 employees was included in the Census. All Public Authorities were required to make a return in respect of their direct labour construction work.
4. The Department of Commerce, Belfast, conducts an Annual Census of Production for Northern Ireland. The information collected is passed to the Business Statistics Office for incorporation in the United Kingdom tables.

Industrial Classification

5. The census was conducted on the Business Statistics Office's construction register. This register was created from the Department of the Environment's builders address file of establishments in Great Britain engaged in construction (as defined in the Standard Industrial Classification minimum list heading 500), to which the addresses of Public Authorities' direct labour departments have been added. The register includes details of industry sub-division classification (used in tables 1A and 2A) obtained by the Department of the Environment in their Private Contractors Construction Census taken annually in October. As part of the Contractors census respondents are asked to indicate from a list of the various specialist classes of construction business the description most appropriate to their business. The Business Statistics Office, further sub-divides private contractors between 'main contractors' and 'sub-contractors' according to their major activity, measured in terms of the value of work done. 'Plant hiring contractors' are all classed as 'sub-contractors'.

Period Covered

6. Undertakings were asked to make returns in respect of the calendar year but a return for a business year ending on any date from 6 April 1978 to 5 April 1979 was accepted.

Estimation of figures

7. Estimates have been made in the Business Statistics Office for non-response and unsampled small firms in order to obtain totals for the industry as a whole. For Great Britain ratio estimates were obtained from satisfactory returns using as the auxiliary variables either employment or output figures obtained in the Department of the Environment's annual census for 1978. Separate estimates were calculated for each industry sub-division by employment size strata. For Northern Ireland, the Department of Commerce made individual estimates for non-response, using the latest information available from quarterly output returns and previous census returns; for unsampled small firms estimation was made by the Business Statistics Office on the basis of employment figures supplied by the Department of Commerce.
8. Additionally, respondents were asked to make reasonable estimates wherever exact figures were not readily available.

Description of tables

9. Of the tables, all except tables 4A and 4B include estimates for non-response and non-sampled businesses. Tables 4A and 4B are based on returns received only. Apart from table 5 which relates to the private contractors in Great Britain, all tables relate to the United Kingdom; tables 1A and 2A show separate figures for Great Britain analysed by industry sub-divisions and by main and sub-contractors and for Northern Ireland analysed by main and sub-contractors. Tables 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A are for private contractors only, tables 1B, 2B, 3B and 4B relate to the public sector.

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS REPORT

Average number employed

10. Undertakings were required to state the number of persons on the payroll on the average during the year of return, whether full-time or part-time employees. Separate figures were required for:
 - (a) administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees and
 - (b) all other employees (operatives and apprentices)
 Averages could be calculated from figures relating to the last week of each calendar month. Undertakings were also required to state the number of working proprietors where appropriate and these are included in total employment figures, but not in (a) or (b) above.
11. The figures include persons engaged in merchanting or factoring and canteen workers where particulars in respect of these activities could not be excluded from the return.

Working proprietors

12. These include all persons regarded as 'self-employed' for national insurance purposes and members of their families who worked in the business without receiving a definite wage or salary; such persons who worked less than half the normal number of working hours are excluded. Directors working in the business but not in receipt of a definite wage, salary or commission are included under this heading; directors paid by fee only are not included.

Employees

13. Administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees include employees (including learners and trainees) engaged in the business who do not do manual work, e.g. managing and other directors in receipt of a definite wage, salary or commission, managers, architects, surveyors, engineers, other professionals, training officers, superintendents, research, experimental, technical and design staff, draughtsmen and tracers, travellers, sales and office (including works office) staff, and general foremen and other supervisors who do not do manual work. Public Authorities were asked to include only such a proportion of total office and management staff as was fairly attributable to the building and civil engineering work carried out by direct employees.
14. Operatives include all other employees, both on-site and off-site. They include manual wage earners, apprentices, working foremen, operatives engaged in transport work, stores and warehouses, canteen workers and operatives engaged on the manufacture of goods for sale.

Capital expenditure

15. Capital expenditure during the year in respect of units not then in operation is included in the figures. Undertakings were asked not to deduct from the value of capital expenditure, amounts received or expected to be received in grants or allowances from the Government or any statutory body (or local authority).
 - a. New building work
This represents the cost incurred during the year of new building and other constructional work to be used in connection with the business covered by the return. The value is that charged to capital account during the year of return; it includes expenditure on new buildings and on the extension or reconstruction of old buildings, the value of works of a capital nature carried out by the undertaking's own staff and the cost of any newly constructed buildings purchased. Figures shown include any legal charges, stamp duties, agents' commissions, etc.
 - b. Land and existing buildings
The items shown are the capital costs of freeholds purchased and the capital cost or premium payable for leaseholds acquired (excluding the value of any assets acquired in taking over an existing business), and the amounts receivable for any freeholds or leaseholds disposed of. The value is that charged to capital account during the year of return.
 - c. Plant, machinery and vehicles
The items shown are the value of plant and machinery and of vehicles acquired, both new and second-hand, and the amount received for items disposed of during the year. The value of plant and machinery acquired includes plant, etc., which firms produced for their own use in connection with the business covered by the return. The value of plant, etc., acquired is the expenditure charged to capital account during the year of return less any discounts received, but including the cost of transport and installation. Deductible value added tax is excluded, but non-deductible value added tax and Customs and Excise car tax on motor cars acquired is included. No deduction is made for depreciation, amortization or obsolescence. The proceeds of items disposed of during the year exclude amounts written off for items scrapped.

Gross output

16. For the calculation of gross output the value of work done, sales of goods and receipts for plant hire is increased by the rise (or reduced by the fall) during the year in the value of stocks of goods on hand for sale.

Net output

17. Net output, a customary census measure, is calculated by deducting from gross output the cost of purchases, (reduced by the rise or increased by the fall, during the year in the value of stocks of fuel and raw materials), the cost of work sub-contracted out and of other industrial services.

Net output per head

18. The figures of net output per head are derived by dividing the net output by the average number of persons employed (full-time and part-time) on all activities covered by the returns, including operatives, administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees and working proprietors.

Gross value added at factor cost

19. Gross value added at factor cost is calculated by deducting from net output the cost of non-industrial services received (rent of buildings and capital equipment, commercial insurance premiums, bank charges and amounts paid for professional services, postal services, transport, advertising etc.) and certain indirect taxes (vehicles licences and rates). This estimate of gross value added approaches more closely than census net output to the definition of net output or value added used in national accounts statistics.

Gross value added at factor cost per head

The figures of gross value added at factor cost per head are derived by dividing the gross value added at factor cost by the average number of persons employed (full-time and part-time) on all activities covered by the returns, including operatives, administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees and working proprietors.

Purchases

21. Purchases include the cost of materials and goods used or incorporated in building and civil engineering work or in production; of fuel and electricity for all purposes; of packaging materials, including the full cost of returnable cases and containers when first purchased; of workshop materials, office materials and materials for repairs to an undertaking's own buildings, plant and vehicles carried out by their own work people included in the return; of consumable tools, and of parts for machinery purchased during the year as replacements. Water charges are also included. Purchases of goods for merchanting or factoring were collected separately. Materials supplied by customers for processing are excluded, as are all purchases of plant and machinery charged to capital account.
22. The values shown exclude value added tax but include any duty paid (less rebate, etc.). Values exclude trade discounts allowed. The cost of transport is included only if included in the cost of materials as invoiced; amounts paid to transport organisations, including an establishment's own separate transport organisation, for delivery of materials and fuel are therefore excluded. Materials purchased overseas are included at their full delivered cost. If, however, the cost of transport from the docks was not included in the invoiced price, then the c.i.f. cost plus any duty payable is used.
23. Materials and fuel transferred from another department of the establishment not covered by the same return are included at the estimated selling value recorded by the other department.

Stocks

24. Values are given of stocks of materials and fuels, and of goods on hand for sale, at the beginning and end of the year of return, including any stocks of goods held for merchanting or factoring. Values exclude value added tax.

Wages and salaries

25. These are the amounts paid during the year to operatives and administrative, professional, technical and clerical employees. Payments to working proprietors, whether called salaries or not, are excluded. The values shown include all overtime payments, bonuses and commissions, whether paid regularly or not, and no deduction is made for income tax, insurance, contributory pensions, etc. The value of any payments in kind, travelling expenses, lodging allowances etc., and employers' contributions to national insurance and pension schemes are excluded.

Employers' insurance and welfare contributions

26. Values shown include the employers' contribution to national insurance under the Social Security Pensions Act 1975, as well as commercial insurance premiums to provide pensions, superannuation, or other retirement benefits, sickness benefits, personal accident benefits, disability or death benefits for employees or former employees or their dependents. Contributions to running costs of canteens, social centres, childrens' and holiday homes, etc., for employees, former employees and their dependents are also included.

27. Values shown are exclusive of value added tax.
28. For work done the value shown is the net contract price of the work if the contract was executed wholly within the year of return; otherwise an appropriate proportion of the net contract price is used, representing the value of work done during the year. It includes the value of all goods used or incorporated in the work done.
29. Sales are in respect of goods made, goods bought and sold without processing, and waste products. Goods incorporated in the building and civil engineering work are excluded.
30. The value shown for sales is the net selling value charged to customers, excluding any trade discounts, agents' commissions etc. The net amount charged for packing materials is included.

Operating ratios

31. For each industry sub-division the operating ratios shown were obtained by dividing the estimate of the sub-division total for the quantities shown in the numerator by the corresponding estimates of the quantity shown in the denominator. These estimates cover all undertakings classified to each sub-division, including those exempted and non-respondents. In comparing the ratios between different sub-divisions, consideration must be given to the nature of the business carried on by undertakings in the sub-divisions concerned. Within a sub-division, it is possible to compare ratios for an individual undertaking with the ratios shown for the relevant sub-division. However, it is important to bear in mind that various factors may affect this result – for example, differences in definitions treatment of depreciation (which is not identified in the census data) and varying practice with regard to stock valuation, may affect comparability in some respects.

SYMBOLS USED

32. The following symbols are used throughout the report:

.. not available

– nil or less than half the final digit shown

* figures cannot be shown owing to the risk of disclosing information about individual enterprises.

R revised

ROUNDING OF FIGURES

33. Figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded to the nearest digit. Where figures have been so rounded, the sum of the constituent items may not always agree exactly with the total shown.

MA8 – NATIONALITY OF VESSELS IN UK SEABORNE TRADE

How much of UK seaborne trade is carried in UK ships, and how much by our bilateral trading partners? How much is carried by so-called Flags of Convenience? Has the UK share moved up or down? Do the shares differ in terms of weight, value or tonne-miles of cargo carried, or in terms of cargo type? And who carries UK seaborne trade with particular nations?

All these questions, very relevant to current discussions in the shipping world, are answered in the annual Business Monitor MA8 – Nationality of Vessels in United Kingdom Seaborne Trade. The latest issue, containing provisional figures for 1979 was published in October 1980 and is available from HMSO Bookshops (ISBN 0 11 512871 9) price £5.50 or can be ordered on standing order from HMSO Books, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. A standing order ensures that this publication will be supplied automatically on publication followed by further monitors in the MA series as they are published. A £10 deposit will open an account.

Processed from information taken from import and export documents, the main analyses in MA8 present a detailed picture by type of cargo (tanker, dry bulk and other dry cargoes) of the quantity imported or exported by sea in UK bilateral trade with a detailed list of countries and areas, and the percentage shares carried by the following flags: UK, European Community (other than the UK), remaining OECD countries, flags of convenience and other. In addition, for the first time in MA8, the percentage carried by the bilateral trading partner is shown. Quantities and flag shares are also shown for a selection of commodities, with other tables giving average lengths of haul and a more detailed list of flags with their percentage carryings by cargo type. Figures in these detailed analyses are shown for a series of three years. Summary analyses give a longer historical run and show amounts and percentage shares in terms of value and tonne-miles in addition to weight of cargo carried.

BUSINESS MONITOR SDA 25 Retailing (1978)

A new series of annual inquiries into retailing was introduced in 1976 to partially replace the periodic Censuses of Distribution. The results of the inquiry is available and published in Business Monitor Number SDA 25, (ISBN 0 11 512872 7) issued annually showing data for Great Britain as a whole, of type and number of businesses, turnover, gross margins, numbers employed, etc.

The monitor price £5.75, is available at HMSO Bookshops or can be ordered on standing order from HMSO Books, PO Box 569 London, SE1 9NH. A standing order ensures that this publication will be supplied automatically on publication followed by further monitors in the SDA 25 Retailing Series as they are published. A £10 deposit will open an account.

CURRENT COST ACCOUNTING

The Department of Industry and the Business Statistics Office jointly produce two publications which contain price index numbers which could be used for CCA purposes. "Price index numbers for Current Cost Accounting" (issue number 13) was published in April 1980 by HMSO, price £7.50, and provides historical series of price index numbers up to February 1980 for plant and machinery bought as fixed assets by specific industries, stocks held by specific industries, specific types of asset, and buildings and works. The retail price index is also included. A full explanation of the purpose, content and method of compiling the indices is given in this publication only.

The latest index numbers for the series available in the above publication are published each month in Business Monitor MM17 "Price index numbers for Current Cost Accounting (monthly supplement)". This is available from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, price £7.75 for 12 consecutive copies. Specimen copies are available from the Library, Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG, at £1.00 each.

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