

THE WATCH AND CLOCK TRADE

INTRODUCTORY

This trade comprises firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture or repair of watches and clocks and parts thereof.

Certain firms mainly engaged in assembling purchased movements and cases of watches and clocks furnished returns for the 1935 Inquiry but not for that of 1934. Corresponding information in respect of the business carried on by those firms in 1934 has since been obtained and the aggregates previously published in respect of that year have been amended by the inclusion of these additional particulars.

The Watch and Clock Trade was excluded from the scope of the Import Duties Act Inquiry for 1933, while the Inquiry for 1934 did not cover firms whose business was confined to repair work; the figures for 1934, however, are still somewhat defective compared with those for 1935.

Table I A.—General summary

Particulars	All firms		Firms covered by the Import Duties Act Inquiry, 1934			All firms	
	1935	1935	1934	1930	1930	1924	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Value of products (Gross output)	1,412	1,347	1,056	855	911	639	
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used ...	652	629	535	406	409	247	
Amount paid for work given out	12	12	7	—	7	3	
Net output ...	748	706	514	449	495	389	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	4,029	3,725	3,021	2,354	2,675	2,051	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers) ...	186	190	170	191	185	190	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Number of returns ...	62	50	*	43	57	75	
Number of establishments ...	66	54	*	60	74	*	

* Not available.

Table I B.—Firms employing not more than ten persons on the average

Particulars	1935	1930	1924
	No.	No.	No.
Number of returns received ...	941	1,044	1,005
Average number of persons employed :—			
Males ...	2,614	2,638	2,233
Females ...	395	477	107
TOTAL ...	3,009	3,115	2,340
Number of firms not making returns ...	3	48	37 ⁰

In 1924 the value of the gross output of the small firms making returns was 40.4 per cent. of the total. The amount received by these firms in respect of repair work and work done for the trade represented 75.8 per cent. of the total, but their output formed only 7.8 per cent. of the total value of all goods made.

Table II.—Size of establishments in 1935

Size of establishment (average number employed)	Number of establishments	Gross output	Net output	Number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
11-24 ...	27	216	89	468	191
25-49 ...	16	212	111	567	195
50-99 ...	14	356	170	987	172
100-199 ...	5	184	103	642	160
200 and over ...	4	444	275	1,305	202
TOTAL ...	66	1,412	748	4,029	186

Table III.—Particulars of output, etc., in each of the principal areas of the United Kingdom

Area*	Number of establishments†	Gross output	Net output	Number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	Net output per person employed	
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£	
1... ..	1935	40	1,056	561	2,967	189
	1930	25	511	288	1,306	221
2... ..	1935	4	29	15	123	122
	1930	5	35	17	126	136
5... ..	1935	10	270	131	666	196
	1930	13	301	145	898	161
18... ..	1935	3	11	9	85	104
	1930	4	13	11	88	125
Other areas ...	1935	9	46	32	188	173
	1930	10	51	34	257	132
TOTAL ...	1935	66	1,412	748	4,029	186
	1930	57	911	495	2,675	185

* For particulars see page xviii.

† Number of returns for 1930.

Table IV.—No sub-divisions of this trade have been distinguished.

PRODUCTION

Table V A.—Output of principal products

Kind of output	1935			1934	
	Quantity	Value	Entries	Quantity	Value
	Thous.	£'000	No.	Thous.	£'000
Clocks, complete :—					
Electric*	101.2	199	21	92.0	146
Other (including time recording clocks and chronometers) ...	629.5	454	26	515.8	352
Unclassified	—	—	—	...	34
Parts of clocks, sold separately:—					
Complete movements :—					
For electric clocks	3.4	5	6	5.0	6
For other clocks	219.3	103	10	216.4	113
Cases	1,025.6	201	15	...	161
Other parts (excluding glasses)	...	93	18	...	98
TOTAL—Clocks and parts ...	...	1,055	...	...	910
Watches, complete :—					
With gold cases	39.9	55	7	42.3	53
With silver cases	6.4	8	6	7.6	8
With platinum cases	0.7	8	4	33.9	28
With cases of other metals ...	168.9	36	6		
Parts of watches, sold separately :—					
Watch cases (gem-set or not):—					
Of gold	261.1	189	8	249.8	164
Of other metals, including platinum	95.6	50	8	82.5	46
Other parts† ... ..	...	15	6	...	10
TOTAL—Watches and parts ...	...	361	...	...	309
Repair work and work done for the trade ... ..	...	152‡§	39	...	49‡
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS	...	1,568	...	...	1,268

* Described in 1935 as "Electric, including mains operated, battery and master clocks (with slave dials)," and in 1934 as "Electric" clocks.

† Including complete movements, but excluding glasses.

‡ Amount received.

§ Including the amount (£65,000) received by firms not covered by the Inquiry for 1934, see introductory note (page 532).

The figures shown in the preceding table include the following output recorded by firms whose returns were made on schedules for other trades and are not, therefore, included in Table I A.

Kind of output	1935			1934	
	Quantity	Value	Entries	Quantity	Value
	Thous.	£'000	No.	Thous.	£'000
Clocks, complete :—					
Electric	35.4	77	9	81.8	107
Other (including time recording clocks)	191.8	127	6	215.2	139
Parts of clocks, sold separately:—					
Complete movements :—					
For electric clocks	1.4	2	1	4.1	5
For other clocks	9.8	8	1	5.4	5
Cases	7.5	1	4	...	1
Other parts (excluding glasses)	...	9	4	...	15
Watches, complete :—					
With gold cases	—	—	—	2.2	3
With cases of other metals, including platinum... ..	0.2	3	...	0.1	3
Parts of watches, sold separately :—					
Watch cases (gem-set or not):—					
Of gold	—	—	—	25.2	12
Of other metals	—	—	—	0.2	5
Repair work on customers' goods	...	15*	1	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	...	242	...	...	295

* Amount received.

Table V B.—Output for sale of certain principal products, 1924-1935

Kind of output	1924	1930	1934	1935
Clocks, complete	{ Thous. 121.0*	{ 197.0*	{ 645.0*	{ 730.7
	{ £'000 261	{ 391	{ 532	{ 653
Clock movements... ..	{ Thous. 8.1	{ 21.1	{ 221.4	{ 222.7
	{ £'000 17	{ 36	{ 119	{ 108
Watches, complete	{ Thous. 4.1	{ 6.7	{ 83.8	{ 215.9
	{ £'000 44	{ 36	{ 89	{ 107
Watch cases	{ Thous. 180.0	{ 289.8	{ 332.3	{ 356.7
	{ £'000 227	{ 212	{ 210	{ 239
Other principal products and work done	£'000 222	326	318†	461
TOTAL	£'000 771	1,001	1,268	1,568

* Including estimates in respect of output recorded by value only.

† The amount is understated, see footnote (§) to Table V A.

Table VI.—Average values of goods produced, exported and imported

Kind of goods	Production (at factory)		1935 as a percentage of 1934	Exports (f.o.b.)		Imports (c.i.f.)	
	Average value			Average value		Average value	
	1935	1934	1935	1934	1935	1934	1935	1934
	s. each	s. each	Per cent.	s. each	s. each	s. each	s. each
Clocks, complete :—							
Electric	39.3	31.7	123.8	32.8	24.7	10.7	11.6
Other (including time-recording clocks and chronometers) ...	14.4	13.6	106.0	19.2	19.4	2.5	2.6
Complete clock movements :—							
For electric clocks ...	27.0	25.8	104.8	19.6	20.0	7.1	6.3
For other clocks ...	9.4	10.4	90.0	17.6	19.3	3.7	3.8
Watches, complete :—							
With gold cases ...	27.7	25.2	110.1	38.3	32.6	33.8	30.6
With silver cases ...	22.7	21.2	107.0	28.7	22.4	13.2	13.6
With cases of other metals, including platinum ...	5.2	16.2	...	7.2	4.3	3.1	3.3
Watch cases (gem-set or not) :—							
Of gold	14.5	13.1	110.3	15.1	...	15.7	14.4
Of silver	8.6	8.5	101.3	6.2	...	4.9	3.9
Of other metals, including platinum ...	13.6	12.7	106.8	2.3	...	2.4	2.3

Table VII.—Volume of Production, 1924-1935

Kind of output	Total production			Production index (1935=100)		
	1935 as returned	1934		1924	1930	1934
		As returned	At 1935 average values			
	£'000	£'000	£'000	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Clocks, complete	653	532	592	12	21	91
Parts of clocks :—						
Complete movements ...	108	119	108	3	9	100
Cases and other parts ...	294	259	266	10	22	91
Watches, complete	107	89	78	8	13	73
Watch cases	239	210	209	56	84	87
Other output (including repair work)	167	59	59	47	74	58*
TOTAL	1,568	1,268	1,312	21	35	87*

* Owing to the exclusion in 1934 of firms mainly engaged in repair work, the 1935 base figures have been adjusted in calculating these indices, see introductory note (page 532).

Table VIII.—Production, Exports and Imports

A precise comparison between production and oversea trade in complete clocks and watches is impracticable owing to the practice of distributing firms assembling imported movements and cases of British manufacture.

Kind of goods	Production		Exports		Retained imports	
	Quantity	Value (at factory)	Quantity	Value (f.o.b.)	Quantity	Value (c.i.f.)
	Thous.	£'000	Thous.	£'000	Thous.	£'000
Clocks, complete :—						
Electric	1935 101.2	199	11.7	19	18.7	9
Other clocks†	1934 99.0*	160*	13.2	16	12.7	7
Other clocks†	1935 629.5	454	47.9	46	3,466.9	425
Other clocks†	1934 546.0*	372*	39.0	38	3,540.1	454
Clock movements, complete :—						
For electric clocks ...	1935 3.4	5	3.1	3	6.8	2
For electric clocks ...	1934 5.0	6	1.4	1	10.4	3
For other clocks	1935 219.3	103	2.9	3	1,248.6	227
For other clocks	1934 216.4	113	2.7	3	1,201.7	228
Other parts of clocks... ..	1935 ...	294‡	...	7	...	36
Other parts of clocks... ..	1934 ...	259‡	...	7	...	34
TOTAL—Clocks and parts	1935 ...	1,055	...	78	...	699
TOTAL—Clocks and parts	1934 ...	910	...	65	...	726
Watches, complete :—						
With gold cases	1935 39.9	55	3.1	6	73.6	121
With gold cases	1934 42.3	53	2.0	3	77.2	116
With silver cases	1935 6.4	8	0.4	1	39.3	25
With silver cases	1934 7.6	8	0.3	1	50.6	33
With cases of other metals	1935 169.6	44	15.5	5	5,739.9	888
With cases of other metals	1934 33.9	28	10.4	2	4,835.8	782
Watch cases (gem-set or not) :—						
Of gold	1935 261.1	189	1.1	1	2.3	2
Of gold	1934 249.8	164	0.2	0	§	2
Of other metals	1935 95.6	50	4.9	1	77.0	12
Of other metals	1934 82.5	46	0.6	1	76.4	10
Watch movements, complete	1935 ...	15‡	0.0	0	468.2	214
Watch movements, complete	1934 ...	10‡	0.1	0	404.3	194
Other parts of watches	1935 ...	...	...	2	...	68
Other parts of watches	1934 ...	...	...	1	...	56
TOTAL—Watches and parts	1935 ...	361	...	16	...	1,330
TOTAL—Watches and parts	1934 ...	309	...	8	...	1,193

* Including an estimate for the output of unclassified clocks shown by value only.

† Including time-recording clocks and chronometers.

‡ Excluding glasses.

§ Re-exports in excess of imports.

Table IX.—Other output of the Watch and Clock Trade

The value of the gross output of the firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Watch and Clock Trade was £1,412,000 in 1935 and £1,056,000 in 1934, of which £1,326,000 in 1935 and £973,000 in 1934 consisted of products included in Table V A. Particulars of the remaining items are shown below.

Kind of output	1935	1934
	£'000	£'000
Jewellery, gem-set or not...	28	51
Other wares of gold, silver, electro-plate, etc. ...	5	4
Other goods made ...	51	25
Waste products sold ...	2	3
TOTAL ...	86	83

MATERIALS AND FUEL**Table X A.—Materials, fuel and electricity purchased and used**

Kind of materials, etc.	1935		1934	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
Gold :—	Th. ozs. troy	£'000	Th. ozs. troy	£'000
Up to and including 9 carat ...	14.5	39	22.5	113
Over 9 carat ...	11.6	81		
Silver ...	38.5	7	37.7	3
	Thous.			
Clock cases ...	279.2	45	...	419
Clock movements...	315.6	75		
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes :—	Th. tons			
Coal ...	0.4	1	...	419
Coke ...	1.4	2		
Heavy fuel oil ...	19	*		
	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)			
Purchased electricity ...	1,653	8		
All other purchased materials and fuel...		394		
TOTAL ...		652		535

* Less than £500.

Table X B.—Consumption of coal, coke and electricity in 1935 and 1930

Kind of fuel	1935	1930
	Th. tons	Th. tons
Coal ...	0.4	0.2
Coke ...	1.4	0.2
	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Electricity :—		
Generated in same works ...	5	3
Purchased ...	1,653	902
Total electricity consumed ...	1,658	905

EMPLOYMENT**Table XI A.—Average numbers employed in 1935 and 1934**

Persons employed	Males		Females		Total	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
Operatives (average for the year) ...	469	2,234	316	1,285	785	3,519
Administrative, technical and clerical staff* ...	318	1,053	289	1,008	607	2,661
	13	303	62	207	75	510
	6	188	40	172	46	360
TOTAL ...	482	2,537	378	1,492	860	4,029
	324	1,841	329	1,180	653	3,021
Average number of out-workers ...	52	—	—	—	52	—
	50	—	1	—	51	—

* As at 12th October, 1935, and 13th October, 1934.

Table XI B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1934 and 1935 by firms furnishing returns in respect of the twelve months ended December

Mid week of*	Firms covered by the Import Duties Act Inquiry, 1934				All firms	
	Operatives employed		Monthly index†		Operatives employed	Monthly index†
	1934	1935	1934	1935	1935	1935
January ...	1,736	2,155	77.6	94.4	2,328	94.6
February ...	1,766	2,212	78.9	96.9	2,387	97.0
March ...	1,778	2,229	79.5	97.7	2,402	97.6
April ...	1,775	2,239	79.3	98.1	2,414	98.1
May ...	1,767	2,261	79.0	98.1	2,435	98.9
June ...	1,784	2,236	79.8	99.1	2,411	97.9
July ...	1,795	2,236	80.2	98.0	2,421	98.3
August ...	1,802	2,238	80.6	98.1	2,420	98.3
September ...	1,881	2,309	84.1	101.2	2,500	101.5
October ...	1,941	2,381	86.8	104.3	2,564	104.1
November ...	1,939	2,458	86.7	107.7	2,642	107.3
December ...	1,904	2,427	85.1	106.4	2,616	106.3
Average for the twelve months	1,822	2,282	81.5	100.0	2,462	100.0
Proportion of total operatives represented ...	68.47	69.85	...	...	69.96	...

* For the ending date of each week see page xiv.

† Based on the estimated average for the year 1935.

Table XI C.—Average numbers employed, 1924-1935

Year	Operatives	Administrative, technical and clerical staff	Total (excluding outworkers)
1924	1,735	316	2,051
1930	2,378	297	2,675
1930*	2,112	242	2,354
1934*	2,661	360	3,021
1935*	3,267	458	3,725
1935	3,519	510	4,029

* Firms covered by the Import Duties Act Inquiry, 1934.

WAGES

Table XII.—Wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages in 1935 and 1930

The aggregate amount of wages paid by firms furnishing returns of wages was £277,000 in 1935 representing 48.7 per cent. of the net output of these firms, the corresponding figures for 1930 being £141,000 and 58.5 per cent. The figures for these firms given below indicate the size of the sample and the extent to which it is representative.

Firms furnishing returns of wages	1935		1930*	
	Aggregate	Proportion of trade	Aggregate	Proportion of trade
	£'000	Per cent.	£'000	Per cent.
Gross output	1,000	70.9	521	58.0
Net output	569	76.1	241	49.8
	No.		No.	
Operative staff employed :—				
During mid-week of October :—				
Males	1,520	66.4	†	†
Females	1,237	93.7		
Total	2,757	76.4	1,153	49.0
Average for the year	2,655	75.5	1,128	48.7
Administrative, technical and clerical staff	346	67.8	†	†
Number of establishments	34	51.5	...	...

* Great Britain only.

† Not recorded separately.

COUNTRY TABLES (1935)

Note.—The figures given in the following tables relate only to firms whose returns were made on schedules for the Watch and Clock Trade.

Owing to the possible disclosure of information relating to individual firms, separate particulars for England and Wales and for Scotland cannot be given.

Table I.—General summary

Particulars	Unit	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Value of products (Gross output)	£'000	1,401	11
Cost of materials, fuel and electricity used	"	650	2
Amount paid for work given out	"	12	—
Net output	"	739	9
Average number of persons employed (excluding outworkers)	No.	3,944	85
Net output per person employed (excluding outworkers)	£	187	104
Number of returns	No.	59	3
Number of establishments	"	63	3

Table II.—Output

Kind of output	Great Britain	
	Quantity	Value
Clocks, complete :—	Thous.	£'000
Electric	65.8	122
Other (including time recording clocks and chronometers)	437.7	327
Parts of clocks, sold separately :—		
Complete movements :—		
For electric clocks	2.0	3
For other clocks	209.5	95
Cases	1,018.1	200
Other parts (excluding glasses) ... ..	...	84
Total—Clocks and parts ... ..	...	831
Watches, complete :—		
With gold cases	39.9	55
With silver cases	6.4	8
With cases of other metals	169.4	41
Parts of watches, sold separately :—		
Watch cases (gem-set or not) :—		
Of gold	261.1	189
Of other metals	95.6	50
Other parts (excluding glasses) ... ..	...	15
Total—Watches and parts ... ..	...	358
Jewellery, gem-set or not* ... ..	...	28
Other wares of gold, silver, electro-plate, etc. ... ..	...	5
Other goods made ... ..	...	51
Waste products sold ... ..	...	2
Repair work and work done for the trade ... ..	...	137*†
TOTAL—GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE ... ..	...	1,412†

* Amount received.

† Including the amount (£11,000) received by firms in Northern Ireland.

Table III A.—Materials, fuel and electricity purchased and used

Kind of materials, etc.	Unit	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Gold :—			
Up to and including 9 carat ...	<i>Th. ozs. troy</i>	14.5	—
	£'000	39	—
Over 9 carat ...	<i>Th. ozs. troy</i>	11.6	—
	£'000	81	—
Silver ...	<i>Th. ozs. troy</i>	38.5	—
	£'000	7	—
Clock cases ...	<i>Thous.</i>	279.2	—
	£'000	45	—
Clock movements ...	<i>Thous.</i>	315.6	—
	£'000	75	—
Fuel and electricity used for all purposes :—			
Coal ...	<i>Th. tons</i>	0.4	—
	£'000	1	—
Coke ...	<i>Th. tons</i>	1.4	—
	£'000	2	—
Heavy fuel oil ...	<i>Th. galls.</i>	19	—
	£'000	*	—
Purchased electricity ...	<i>Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)</i>	1,650	3
	£'000	8	*
All other purchased materials and fuel ...	£'000	392	2
TOTAL ...	£'000	650	2

* Less than £500.

Table III B.—Consumption of electricity

Electricity consumed	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
	<i>Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)</i>	<i>Th. B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)</i>
Generated in same works ...	5	—
Purchased ...	1,650	3
TOTAL ...	1,655	3

Table IV A.—Numbers employed in week ended 12th October, 1935

Persons employed (excluding outworkers)	Males		Females		Total	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
Great Britain :—						
Operatives ...	473	2,230	324	1,320	797	3,550
Administrative, etc.* ...	12	291	62	196	74	487
TOTAL ...	485	2,521	386	1,516	871	4,037
Northern Ireland :—						
Operatives ...	8	61	—	—	8	61
Administrative, etc.* ...	1	12	—	11	1	23
Total... ...	9	73	—	11	9	84

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

Table IV B.—Operatives employed in one week in each month of 1935

Week ended	Males and females	
	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
January 19 ...	3,322	63
February 16 ...	3,391	62
March 16... ...	3,399	62
April 13 ...	3,447	62
May 18 ...	3,452	63
June 15 ...	3,424	62
July 13 ...	3,418	62
August 17 ...	3,345	62
September 14 ...	3,467	61
October 12 ...	3,550	61
November 16 ...	3,647	59
December 14 ...	3,625	60
Average for the twelve months ...	3,457	62

Table IV C.—Numbers of outworkers at two specified periods in 1935

Country	January			July		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
England and Wales ...	51	—	51	52	—	52

No outworkers were recorded for Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Table V.—Firms employing not more than ten persons on the average

Particulars	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
Number of returns received ...	No. 879	No. 62
Average number of persons employed :—		
Males ...	2,482	132
Females ...	381	14
Total ...	2,863	146