

THE COOPERING TRADE

Note.—For information regarding the scope of the Census, instructions given to firms for making returns, and definitions of the terms used in this report, reference should be made to the Introductory Notes on pages v to xviii.

Introductory

This trade comprises firms that were engaged wholly or mainly in the manufacture of wooden casks, kegs, barrels and tubs. The following table shows the main results of the Censuses of 1930 and 1924 in respect of firms in Great Britain that employed an average of more than ten persons :—

Particulars	Unit	1930	1924
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	1,830	2,418
Cost of materials used and amount paid for work given out to other firms	"	1,139	1,522
Net output	"	691	896
Average number of persons employed	No.	3,340	3,663
Net output per person employed	£	207	245
Power available :—			
Prime movers	H.P.	1,804	1,730
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	3,308	2,647
Number of returns	No.	95	118
Number of establishments	"	108	*

* Not available.

Deficiencies in 1930 aggregates.—The aggregate number of persons employed in 1930 by firms that stated that they employed not more than ten persons on the average was 1,368, or over 29 per cent. of the total number recorded as employed by all firms from which returns were received; the figure for 1924 (including persons employed by the few firms in Northern Ireland, for which separate particulars cannot be given) was 1,123, or over 23 per cent. of the total number recorded as employed in that year. In addition, 55 firms to which schedules were sent at the 1930 Census and 85 at that of 1924 furnished no information; these firms either had small businesses or had ceased productive operations before the end of the censal year.

The value of the gross output in 1924 of the small firms and of firms in Northern Ireland was £443,000 and particulars of the items included in this figure are given below :—

"Wet" or "tight" coopering :—	£'000
Casks and cases for breweries and distilleries :—	
Machine-made	6
Hand-made	19
Herring pickle barrels	37
Other casks	32
"Dry" coopering :—	
Casks and kegs :—	
Machine-made	3
Hand-made	57
"White" coopering	24
Vats, backs, etc., and parts of barrels, casks, etc.	11
Casks re-made, re-conditioned, etc., and sold	166
Packing cases	3
Repair and other work done	85
TOTAL	443

The small firms contributed about 33 per cent. of the whole of the repair work done for customers in 1924 and about 20 per cent. of the value of the casks reconditioned for sale. The output of new casks, etc., amounted to £189,000, or only about 11 per cent. of the total returned on schedules for the Coopering Trade.

Size of firms.—In the following table the main particulars recorded at the Census of 1930 are grouped according to the average numbers of persons shown in the returns:—

Size of firm (average numbers employed)	Number of returns	Gross output	Net output	Average number of persons employed	Net output per person employed
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£
11-24 ...	47	395	155	807	192
25-49 ...	29	571	222	1,023	217
50-99 ...	15	500	195	912	214
100-199 ...	4	364	119	598	199
TOTAL ...	95	1,830	691	3,340	207

Regional distribution.—In the following table the results recorded at the Censuses of 1930 and 1924 are grouped according to the principal areas* of Great Britain in which firms in this trade are situated:—

Area	Number of returns	Gross output	Net output	Average number of persons employed	Net output per person employed	
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£	
1 ...	1930	21	518	193	1,045	185
	1924	16	291	133	538	247
2 ...	1930	13	202	72	340	213
	1924	22	563	172	681	253
3 ...	1930	5	51	26	132	199
	1924	6	96	32	169	189
3 and 4	1930	8	94	37	172	216
	1924	9	141	51	241	212
5 ...	1930	14	208	85	436	195
	1924	20	227	99	485	204
6 ...	1930	3	24	12	61	189
	1924	4	24	14	74	189
7 and 8	1930	13	347	113	467	242
	1924	15	457	179	599	299
9 ...	1930	18	386	153	687	222
	1924	26	619	216	876	247
10 ...	1930	95	1,830	691	3,340	207
	1924	118	2,418	896	3,663	245
TOTAL						

* For particulars see page xviii.

Northern Ireland.—Separate particulars for the Coopering Trade were not published in the Report on the Census of Production of Northern Ireland, the information being included in the aggregates shown for the Timber Trade (see page 25). The particulars for 1924 are also included with the output of the small firms on page 75.

Production

Principal products.—The following table shows the value of the chief classes of casks and barrels made in 1930 and 1924 for sale* :—

Kind of goods	1930				1924
	Returned on schedules for				
	The Coopering Trade		All trades		Total
	Value	Entries	Value	Entries	Value.
	£'000	No.	£'000	No.	£'000
"Wet" or "tight" coopering:—					
Casks and cases for breweries and distilleries:—					
Machine-made	303	16	303	16	477
Hand-made	100	17	103	18	78
Herring pickle barrels	129	10	180	14	266
Other casks	87	18	87	19	388
TOTAL—"Wet" or "tight" coopering	619	...	673	...	1,209
"Dry" coopering:—					
Casks and kegs:—					
Machine-made	299	17	299	17	68
Hand-made	27	21	34	24	102
Not separately distinguished	—	—	2	1	22
TOTAL—"Dry" coopering	326	...	335	...	192
"White" coopering (churns, tubs, buckets, etc.)	54	18	59	20	59
Vats, backs and other wooden vessels for storage	50	13	52	15	54
Staves, barrel ends, and other parts of barrels, casks, etc., sold separately	56	32	160	131	139
Casks re-made, re-conditioned, etc., and sold	647	50	648	51	676
TOTAL—PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS	1,752	...	1,927	...	2,329

The figures in the above table do not include the value of casks and barrels made and repaired by manufacturing firms in other

* Examination of the returns for 1930 has revealed some cases of inaccurate classification in the 1924 output returns, necessitating adjustments of the previously published totals for 1924. The headings affected are "herring pickle barrels" and "casks for breweries and distilleries—hand-made".

trades for their own use. The following amounts were returned in respect of such output:—

	1930 £'000	1924 £'000
Casks, etc., made and repaired by firms engaged in:—		
Brewing and malting	579	549
Cement-making	64	402
Fish curing	69	30
Other manufacture	8	46
TOTAL	720	1,027

Including these amounts, the total value of the output of casks, barrels, etc. (including reconditioned goods) in 1930 was £2,647,000, and in 1924, £3,356,000.

Volume of production in 1930 and 1924.—As the output of wooden casks, kegs, barrels, etc., was not recorded quantitatively, no comparison of average values in the two years can be made. From such particulars of manufacturing costs as are available, it is estimated that the output in 1924, valued at £3,356,000 (including new and reconditioned goods made for manufacturers' own use), would be equivalent to a sum of about £2,600,000 at 1930 prices. On this basis, the output in 1930 represents an increase in volume of production of about 2 per cent.

Exports and imports.—As wooden casks, kegs, barrels, etc., are not separately recorded in the trade returns, no comparison between production and overseas trade can be made.

Repairs and other work done.—The total amount recorded as received for repairs and other work done for the trade in 1930 was £45,000, the corresponding total for 1924 being £175,000. The principal kinds of work included in these totals were as follows:—

Kind of work	1930 £'000	1924 £'000
Repair work for customers	32	} 175
Work done for the trade or on commission	1	
Other work done (new construction, repairs, etc.)	12	
TOTAL	45	175

Other products.—In addition to the output shown in the table of principal products on page 77, the following goods were produced in 1930 and 1924 by firms that made their returns on schedules for the Coopering Trade. These goods are dealt with in the reports on those trades in which the principal output was recorded.

Kind of goods	1930 £'000	1924 £'000
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise (including cable drums, etc.)	25	20
Firewood, shavings, etc., sold	2	5
Other goods	6	4
TOTAL	33	29

Employment and Wages

Employment.—The following table shows the average numbers of persons employed in 1930 and 1924:—

Persons employed	Males		Females		Total	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
1930						
Operatives (average for the year)	539	3,019	3	25	542	3,044
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	13	235	8	61	21	296
TOTAL	552	3,254	11	86	563	3,340
1924						
Operatives (average for the year)	474	3,292	16	39	490	3,331
Administrative, technical and clerical staff (as at 18th October)	13	268	11	64	24	332
TOTAL	487	3,560	27	103	514	3,663

Wages.—The available information as to the amount of wages paid in 1930 and 1924 is given on pages 14 and 15.

Power

The following table shows the capacity of prime movers, electric generators and electric motors ordinarily in use and in reserve or idle in 1930 and 1924:—

Power equipment	1930			1924		
	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Total	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Total
PRIME MOVERS						
Reciprocating steam engines	794	90	884	862	—	862
Internal combustion engines:—						
Gas	771	20	791	811	12	823
Petrol, kerosene, or other light oils	—	25	25	25	—	25
Heavy oils	104	—	104	20	—	20
TOTAL	1,669	135	1,804	1,718	12	1,730

Power equipment	1930			1924		
	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Total	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Total
	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
ELECTRIC GENERATORS						
Driven by						
Reciprocating steam engines	34	9	43	67	—	67
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	13	—	13	5	15	20
Heavy oils	5	—	5	—	—	—
TOTAL	52	9	61	72	15	87
ELECTRIC MOTORS						
Driven by						
Electricity generated in same works ...	45	—	45	167	—	167
Electricity generated in other works under same ownership	240	10	250	—	—	—
Purchased electricity	2,962	346	3,308	2,378	269	2,647
TOTAL	3,247	356	3,603	2,545	269	2,814

Consumption of fuel

The following table shows the quantities of coal, coke and electricity recorded as used in 1930 :—

Kind of fuel used	For power (driving engines)	For other purposes (so far as recorded)
Coal	Tons 3,317	Tons 1,501*
Coke	93	272*
		B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.) '000
Electricity used for all purposes :—		
Generated in same works		5
Generated in other works under same ownership		47
Purchased		1,365
TOTAL—Electricity		1,417

* These figures were recorded by firms representing 87·8 per cent. of the net output of the whole trade.

TABLES

I. Summary of results

Particulars	Unit	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Value of goods made and work done (Gross output)	£'000	1,097	733	1,830
Cost of materials used and amount paid for work given out to other firms	„	672	467	1,139
Net output	„	425	266	691
Average number of persons employed ...	No.	2,186	1,154	3,340
Net output per person employed ...	£	195	230	207
Power available :—				
Prime movers	H.P.	793	1,011	1,804
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	„	2,361	947	3,308

II. Production

Kind of goods made and work done	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	Value	Value	Value
“Wet” or “tight” coopering :—	£'000	£'000	£'000
Casks and cases for breweries and distilleries :—			
Machine-made	109	194	303
Hand-made	*	*	100
Herring pickle barrels	*	*	129
Other casks	*	*	87
Total—“Wet” or “tight” coopering	253	366	619
“Dry” coopering :—			
Casks and kegs :—			
Machine-made	299	†	299
Hand-made	21	6	27
Total—“Dry” coopering	320	6	326
“White” coopering (churns, tubs, buckets, etc.) ...	54	†	54
Vats, backs and other wooden vessels for storage	*	*	50
Staves, barrel ends, and other parts of barrels, casks, etc., sold separately	17	39	56
Casks re-made, re-conditioned, etc., and sold ...	351	296	647
Crates, cases and boxes for packing merchandise (including cable drums, etc.)	23	2	25
Other goods made	*	*	8
Repair work for customers	16	16	32
Other work done	12	1	13
TOTAL VALUE OF GOODS MADE AND WORK DONE (GROSS OUTPUT)	1,097	733	1,830

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

† Less than £500.

III. Employment

A.—NUMBERS EMPLOYED IN WEEK ENDED 18TH OCTOBER, 1930

Persons employed	Males		Females		Males and females	
	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages	Under 18	All ages
<i>England and Wales :—</i>						
Operatives	355	1,923	3	17	358	1,940
Administrative, etc.*	11	161	6	35	17	196
TOTAL	366	2,084	9	52	375	2,136
<i>Scotland :—</i>						
Operatives	166	998	—	7	166	1,005
Administrative, etc.*	2	74	2	26	4	100
TOTAL	168	1,072	2	33	170	1,105
<i>Great Britain :—</i>						
Operatives	521	2,921	3	24	524	2,945
Administrative, etc.*	13	235	8	61	21	296
TOTAL	534	3,156	11	85	545	3,241

* Administrative, technical and clerical staff.

B.—OPERATIVES EMPLOYED IN ONE WEEK IN EACH MONTH OF 1930

Week ended	Males and females			Week ended	Males and females		
	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain		England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Jan. 18 ...	1,969	1,136	3,105	July 19 ...	2,104	989	3,093
Feb. 15 ...	2,001	1,044	3,045	Aug. 16 ...	2,025	1,029	3,054
Mar. 15 ...	1,947	1,107	3,054	Sept. 13 ...	1,999	1,033	3,032
April 12 ...	2,024	1,170	3,194	Oct. 18 ...	1,940	1,005	2,945
May 17 ...	2,024	1,126	3,150	Nov. 15 ...	1,828	970	2,798
June 21 ...	2,127	1,003	3,130	Dec. 13 ...	1,891	1,035	2,926
AVERAGE FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS					1,990	1,054	3,044

IV. Power

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND ELECTRIC MOTORS

Power equipment	England and Wales		Scotland		Great Britain	
	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle	Ordinarily in use	In reserve or idle
PRIME MOVERS						
Reciprocating steam engines	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	175	10	619	80	794	90
Petrol, kerosene, or other light oils ...	588	20	183	—	771	20
Heavy oils	—	—	—	25	—	25
	—	—	104	—	104	—
TOTAL	763	30	906	105	1,669	135
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	793		1,011		1,804	
ELECTRIC GENERATORS						
Driven by	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Reciprocating steam engines	—	—	34	9	34	9
Internal combustion engines :—						
Gas	13	—	—	—	13	—
Heavy oils	—	—	5	—	5	—
TOTAL	13	—	39	9	52	9
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	13		48		61	
ELECTRIC MOTORS						
Driven by	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Electricity generated in same works ...	45	—	—	—	45	—
Electricity generated in other works under same ownership	240	10	—	—	240	10
Purchased electricity	2,163	198	799	148	2,962	346
TOTAL	2,448	208	799	148	3,247	356
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC MOTORS INSTALLED	2,656		947		3,603	

V. Consumption of fuel

Kind of fuel used	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	Tons	Tons	Tons
Coal used for power	911	2,406	3,317
Coke used for power	91	2	93
	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)	B.T.U. (Kw.-hrs.)
Electricity used for all purposes :—	'000	'000	'000
Generated in same works	1	4	5
Generated in other works under same ownership	47	—	47
Purchased	1,031	334	1,365
TOTAL—Electricity	1,079	338	1,417