

LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

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Introductory.*

The tables on pages 398 to 402 are based on returns received from Local Government Authorities and other Public Authorities (including canal, dock, harbour, river, etc. authorities) in Great Britain and Northern Ireland in respect of all work of construction and repair carried out by their employees during the year 1924, other than work connected with the supply of gas, electricity and water. The number of such returns received was 2,233.

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 the next paragraph. In view of the exclusion of building and similar work from the Census of 1912, returns were not obtained from Local Authorities in respect of that year. It should be observed that the accounting period normally used by Local Authorities is the financial year ending, for Authorities in England and Wales, on 31st March and, for Authorities in Scotland, on 15th May, and that the returns received usually covered periods of twelve months ended at those dates in the years 1925 and 1908.

Particulars.	Unit.	1924.	1907.
Value of work done and goods made (Gross output)	£'000	58,068	20,018
Cost of materials used	"	26,111	8,080
Net output	"	31,957	11,938
Average number of persons employed	No.	199,342	185,286
Net output per person employed	£	160	64
Mechanical power available :—			
Prime movers (including road rollers, dredgers, etc.)	H.P.	184,516	192,561
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	"	40,294	(not recorded)

* See also the Notes on pages vii to xv.

Qualifications affecting comparisons.—In considering the above table and 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 Great Britain and the whole of Ireland, but that of 1924 applied only to Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 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 all productive work carried out by Local Authorities in that year amounted to £1,877,000, and the numbers employed to 10,654. In 1907, the gross output returned by Local Authorities in the whole of Ireland was valued at £1,325,000, and the numbers of persons employed was 26,842.

(3) The following classes of Authorities were exempted from the obligation to furnish returns for the Census of 1924 :—

In England and Wales—

Parish Councils,
Parish Meetings,
Boards of Guardians, and
Overseers of the Poor.

In Scotland—

Parish Councils, and
District Boards of Control.

The aggregates shown above for 1907 include a number of returns made by these classes of Authorities. These returns, however, represented a comparatively small volume of work in the aggregate, and their inclusion for 1907 does not seriously affect the comparability of the figures for the two years.

Valuation of output.—All figures in this report relating to output represent the cost of carrying out the work, or manufacturing the goods, specified. The value shown consists of a sum calculated to cover the cost of the materials used and the wages and salaries of the persons employed in connexion with the work, together with the establishment charges properly attributable thereto. Interest, sinking fund and other charges for loans are excluded.

Production.

Detailed information relating to the work done by Local Authorities in England and Wales, in Scotland and in Northern Ireland in 1924 is given in Table II on page 399.

Output.—The following statement shows the value of the principal classes of work done and goods made by employees of Local Authorities in the years 1924 and 1907.

Kind of work done and goods made.	1924.	1907.
	£'000	£'000
Building work :—		
New constructional work :—		
Public buildings (town halls, schools, baths, libraries and similar buildings)	921	203
Factories and workshops	57	
Working-class dwellings	1,208	221
Other buildings	81	
TOTAL—New constructional work on buildings	2,267	424
Repair or maintenance of existing buildings (including painting, decorating, etc.) ..	1,694	862
TOTAL—BUILDING WORK	3,961	1,286
Other work—		
Construction, repair and renewal of :—		
Highways and bridges (including roads, streets, footpaths, surface drains, tunnels, subways, lighting standards, public conveniences, etc.)	36,693	11,622
Sewers and sewage disposal works (except surface drains)	2,954	2,105
Harbours and docks (including wharves, piers and jetties, and dock railways)	2,514	1,294
Rivers and canals (including embankments, ferries and landing stages)	917	691
Sea walls and defences	422	
Parks, gardens, open spaces and cemeteries ..	1,626	783
Land drainage works	286	70
Tramways and light railways :—		
Permanent way	4,145	1,064
Tramcars and motor omnibuses	2,925	672
Repairs to ships and boats	277	
Repairs to machinery and plant	757	94
Printing	34	7
Other and unspecified work	141	36
TOTAL—OTHER WORK	53,691	18,438
Goods made and sold or added to stock :—		
Road metal, concrete, tarred macadam, etc. ..	199	145
Mortar	34	12
Manures	40	21
Other goods	143	116
TOTAL VALUE OF WORK DONE AND GOODS MADE	58,068	20,018

The particulars shown in the above table for the various specified services do not necessarily represent the total expenditure incurred on account of maintenance costs, since certain classes of maintenance work (e.g., street cleaning and watering, the collection and disposal of house refuse, the disposal of sewage, etc.), were not considered as falling within the category of productive work for the purposes of the Census, and Local Authorities were requested to exclude particulars relating to such work from their returns. Similarly charges for such services as the operation of tramways and the policing of parks and open spaces were not included in the returns.

The gross value of the work carried out by Local Authorities in 1924 was nearly three times as great as that returned for 1907, and

this excess, taken in conjunction with the increase in the number of persons employed, which was over 20 per cent. for Great Britain, though the number in Ireland appears to have decreased, suggests that the volume of work carried out by direct labour was substantially greater in 1924 than in 1907. Among the particular services in which marked increases occurred may be mentioned the construction of buildings (mainly associated with dwellings erected under Housing Schemes), the construction and repair of roads and work connected with the upkeep of tramway undertakings.

Work carried out by Urban and by Rural Authorities.—The following statement gives particulars of the main classes of work done and other aggregate figures returned by Urban Authorities and by Rural Authorities separately. Harbour and dock authorities have been included among Urban Authorities; and county councils (other than the London County Council), land drainage authorities, boards of conservators and river and navigation commissioners have been included among Rural Authorities.

Particulars.	Unit.	Urban Authorities.	Rural Authorities.
Work of construction and repair carried out :—			
On buildings	£'000	3,656	305
On highways and bridges	"	17,838	18,855
On tramways and light railways	"	7,070	—
Other work done and goods made	"	8,894	1,450
Gross output (total value of work done and goods made)	£'000	37,458	20,610
Cost of materials used	"	15,696	10,415
Net output	"	21,762	10,195
Average number of persons employed	No.	134,616	64,726
Net output per person employed	£	162	157

Cost of materials.—The cost of materials used in the production of the total output of Local Authorities was returned as £26,111,000 in 1924, and £8,080,000 in 1907.

Net output.—The net output in 1924 of Local Authorities (whose gross output was valued at £58,068,000) was £31,957,000, that sum representing the total amount by which the aggregate output exceeded the cost of the materials used.

The net output per head of persons employed in the censal year 1924 was £160, as compared with £64 in 1907.

Employment.

The detailed information relating to employment in 1924 is summarised in Table III on pages 400 and 401. 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.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
1924.						
Operatives	2,778	188,461	21	393	2,799	188,854
Administrative, etc.	319	9,852	36	636	355	10,488
TOTAL	3,097	198,313	57	1,029	3,154	199,342
1907.						
Wage earners	2,223	174,912	14	733	2,237	175,645
Salaried	283	9,523	5	118	288	9,641
TOTAL	2,506	184,435	19	851	2,525	185,286

The numbers of operatives recorded month by month in 1924 ranged from 5,670 below the average, in January, to 4,406 above the average, in July (see Table IIIB, page 401).

Mechanical Power.

The detailed information relating to mechanical power in 1924 is summarised in Table IV on page 402. 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 :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Reciprocating steam engines	125,514	2,403	127,917	138,888
Steam turbines	195	87	282	1,725
Gas engines	3,683	930	4,613	24,211
Petrol and light oil engines	9,119	353	9,472	
Heavy oil engines	1,349	110	1,459	
Water power	182	—	182	
Other (road rollers, dredgers, etc.)	37,306	3,285	40,591	5,673
TOTAL	177,348	7,168	184,516	22,064
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines	2,725	391	3,116	Not recorded
Steam turbines	92	59	151	
Gas engines	90	8	98	
Petrol and light oil engines	12	—	12	
TOTAL	2,919	458	3,377	..

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	9,259	322	9,581
Purchased electricity	36,021	4,273	40,294

Corresponding information was not required for 1907, but electric motors of a capacity of 4,469 h.p. were reported in that year.

TABLES.

I.—Summary of results.

Particulars.	Unit.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.	Northern Ireland.
Value of work done and goods made (Gross output)	£'000	51,591	5,428	57,019	1,049
Cost of materials used	„	23,537	2,221	25,758	353
Net output	„	28,054	3,207	31,261	696
Average number of persons employed	No.	173,830	20,098	193,928	5,414
Net output per person employed ..	£	161	159	161	129
Mechanical power available :—					
Prime movers (including road rollers, dredgers, etc.) ..	H.P.	152,636	23,055	175,691	8,825
Electric motors driven by purchased electricity	„	27,198	12,996	40,194	100

II.—Production.

Kind of work done and goods made.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.	Northern Ireland.
	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Building work :—				
New constructional work—				
Public buildings (town halls, schools, baths, libraries, etc.)	887†	34	921†	†
Factories and workshops ..	57	—	57	—
Working-class dwellings ..	1,176	32	1,208	—
Other buildings	72†	9	81†	†
Repair or maintenance work on existing buildings (including painting, decorating, etc.) ..	1,577	89	1,666	28
TOTAL—BUILDING WORK ..	3,766	164	3,930	31
Other work :—				
Construction, repair and renewal of—				
Highways and bridges (including roads, streets, foot-paths, surface drains, tunnels, subways, lighting standards, public conveniences, etc.) ..	32,659	3,289	35,948	745
Sewers and sewage disposal works (except surface drains)	2,823	101	2,924	30
Tramways and light railways :—				
Permanent way, track equipment, conduits, overhead wires, etc.	3,397†	748	4,145†	†
Tramcars and motor omnibuses	2,589†	336	2,925†	†
Harbours and docks (including wharves, piers and jetties) ..	1,973	259	2,232	78
Dock railways	161†	43	204†	†
Rivers and canals (including embankments, ferries and landing stages)	808	80	888	29
Sea-walls and defences ..	403	19	422	—
Parks, gardens, open spaces and cemeteries	1,495	125	1,620	6
Land drainage works	278	8	286	—
Repairs to ships and boats ..	228†	49	277†	†
Repairs to machinery and plant	610	135	745	12
Printing	33	1	34	—
Other and unspecified work ..	102	12	114	27
TOTAL—OTHER WORK ..	47,469	5,205	52,674	1,017
Goods made and not used in work shown above :—				
Road-metal, concrete, tarred macadam, etc.	154	44	198	1
Mortar	34	—	34	—
Manures	39	1	40	—
Other goods	129	14	143	—
TOTAL VALUE OF WORK DONE AND GOODS MADE (GROSS OUTPUT) ..	51,591	5,428	57,019	1,049

† In order to avoid the possible disclosure of information relating to individual authorities in Northern Ireland, the output of that division of the United Kingdom has been combined with that for England and Wales and for Great Britain.

III.—Employment.

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

Kind of staff.	Males.		Females.		Males and females.	
	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.	Under 18.	All ages.
<i>England and Wales</i> :—						
Operatives	2,499	163,334	16	332	2,515	163,666
Administrative, etc.*	294	8,778	31	503	325	9,281
TOTAL	2,793	172,112	47	835	2,840	172,947
<i>Scotland</i> :—						
Operatives	212	18,803	5	51	217	18,854
Administrative, etc.*	18	842	5	114	23	956
TOTAL	230	19,645	10	165	240	19,810
<i>Great Britain</i> :—						
Operatives	2,711	182,137	21	383	2,732	182,520
Administrative, etc.*	312	9,620	36	617	348	10,237
TOTAL	3,023	191,757	57	1,000	3,080	192,757
<i>Northern Ireland</i> :—						
Operatives	49	5,022	—	—	49	5,022
Administrative, etc.*	7	232	—	19	7	251
TOTAL	56	5,254	—	19	56	5,273
<i>United Kingdom</i> :—						
TOTAL	3,079	197,011	57	1,019	3,136	198,030

* Administrative, technical and clerical class.

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

England and Wales. (Annual average : Males, 164,214 ; Females, 335 ; Total, 164,549.)

Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.	Week ended	Males.	Females.	Total.
Jan. 12th ..	159,709	310	160,019	July 19th ..	166,824	363	167,187
Feb. 16th ..	163,316	305	163,621	Aug. 16th ..	164,934	373	165,307
Mar. 15th ..	164,663	302	164,965	Sept. 13th ..	162,602	374	162,976
April 12th ..	163,739	321	164,060	Oct. 18th ..	163,334	332	163,666
May 17th ..	165,438	333	165,771	Nov. 15th ..	163,146	331	163,477
June 21st ..	167,260	356	167,616	Dec. 13th ..	165,596	322	165,918

Scotland. (Annual average : Males, 19,084 ; Females, 58 ; Total, 19,142.)

Jan. 12th ..	17,718	46	17,764	July 19th ..	20,819	57	20,876
Feb. 16th ..	18,238	52	18,290	Aug. 16th ..	20,432	68	20,500
Mar. 15th ..	18,627	56	18,683	Sept. 13th ..	19,797	67	19,864
April 12th ..	18,339	58	18,397	Oct. 18th ..	18,803	51	18,854
May 17th ..	18,937	77	19,014	Nov. 15th ..	18,710	46	18,756
June 21st ..	20,114	71	20,185	Dec. 13th ..	18,479	44	18,523

Great Britain. (Annual average : Males, 183,298 ; Females, 393 ; Total, 183,691.)

Jan. 12th ..	177,427	356	177,783	July 19th ..	187,643	420	188,063
Feb. 16th ..	181,554	357	181,911	Aug. 16th ..	185,366	441	185,807
Mar. 15th ..	183,290	358	183,648	Sept. 13th ..	182,399	441	182,840
April 12th ..	182,078	379	182,457	Oct. 18th ..	182,137	383	182,520
May 17th ..	184,375	410	184,785	Nov. 15th ..	181,856	377	182,233
June 21st ..	187,374	427	187,801	Dec. 13th ..	184,075	366	184,441

Northern Ireland. (Annual average : Males, 5,163 ; Females, — ; Total, 5,163.)

Jan. 12th ..	5,401	—	5,401	July 19th ..	5,197	—	5,197
Feb. 16th ..	5,439	—	5,439	Aug. 16th ..	5,181	—	5,181
Mar. 15th ..	5,339	—	5,339	Sept. 13th ..	5,111	—	5,111
April 12th ..	4,859	—	4,859	Oct. 18th ..	5,022	—	5,022
May 17th ..	4,910	—	4,910	Nov. 15th ..	5,045	—	5,045
June 21st ..	5,199	—	5,199	Dec. 13th ..	5,249	—	5,249

IV.—Mechanical Power.

PARTICULARS OF PRIME MOVERS, ELECTRIC GENERATORS AND
ELECTRIC MOTORS.

(a) Ordinarily in use. (b) In reserve or idle.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Great Britain.	Northern Ireland.
	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
PRIME MOVERS :—				
Reciprocating steam engines { (a) 112,972 (b) 2,130	5,370	113	118,342	7,172
Steam turbines { (a) 195 (b) 87	—	—	195	—
Gas engines { (a) 3,307 (b) 930	264	—	3,571	112
Petrol and light oil engines { (a) 7,995 (b) 313	898	40	8,893	226
Heavy oil engines { (a) 1,072 (b) 110	252	—	1,324	25
Water power. { (a) 182 (b) 20,093	16,083	—	182	—
Other (road rollers, dredgers, etc.) { (a) 20,093 (b) 3,250	35	—	36,176	1,130
	3,285	—	—	—
TOTAL { (a) 145,816 (b) 6,820	22,867	188	168,683	8,665
	7,008	—	—	160
TOTAL OF PRIME MOVERS INSTALLED	152,636	23,055	175,691	8,825
ELECTRIC GENERATORS :—	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.	Kw.
Driven by—				
Reciprocating steam engines { (a) 1,635 (b) 391	1,050	—	2,685	40
Steam turbines { (a) 92 (b) 59	—	—	92	—
Gas engines { (a) 90 (b) 8	—	—	90	—
Petrol and light oil engines.. { (a) 12 (b) 12	—	—	12	—
TOTAL { (a) 1,829 (b) 458	1,050	—	2,879	40
	458	—	458	—
TOTAL OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS INSTALLED	2,287	1,050	3,337	40
ELECTRIC MOTORS :—	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.	H.P.
Driven by—				
Electricity generated in own works { (a) 3,349 (b) 322	5,910	—	9,259	—
Purchased electricity { (a) 23,063 (b) 4,135	12,858	138	35,921	100
	4,273	—	—	—