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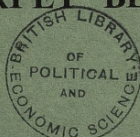
BOARD OF TRADE

FINAL REPORT  
on the  
CENSUS OF PRODUCTION  
FOR 1948

Volume 11

Trade K

LAUNDRY, CLEANING, JOB DYEING AND  
CARPET BEATING



*Presented by the Board of Trade to Parliament  
in pursuance of the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947  
(10 & 11 Geo. 6, Ch. 39, Sec. 7).*

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In interpreting the data in the following tables, it is essential to bear in mind not only the qualifications mentioned in this report but also the general explanations and qualifications contained in the separate booklet published in this series by H.M. Stationery Office entitled "Final Reports of the Census of Production for 1948: Introductory Notes", price 2s Od. NET

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\* Not applicable to this trade

LAUNDRY, CLEANING, JOB DYEING AND CARPET BEATING TRADES

THIS REPORT on the Laundry, Cleaning, Job Dyeing and Carpet Beating Trades relates to establishments engaged wholly or mainly in mechanical and hand laundry work, dry cleaning, pressing or dyeing clothing, re-blocking and renovating hats, invisible mending, other repairs and alteration to clothing for the general public, cleaning and dyeing carpets and curtains, and towel, overall, etc., hire service.

These trades correspond to minimum list headings 286 and 287 in the Standard Industrial Classification, together with towel, overall, etc., hire service included in heading 299(6).

These trades were not covered for 1937 or 1935. Establishments in Northern Ireland are excluded for 1948.



## LAUNDRY, CLEANING, JOB DYEING AND CARPET BEATING TRADES

## Summary

## Larger establishments (a)

TABLE 1

	1948
	£'000
Gross output (work done)	63,864
Cost of materials and fuel used	12,893
Payment for work given out	1,368
Net output	49,603
Wages and salaries of persons employed	31,155
Average number of persons employed (b)	No. 164,441
Net output per person employed	£. 302
Stocks at end of year	£'000
Materials and fuel	3,495
Number of establishments	No. 2,106

(a) For small firms' summary see Table 2.

(b) For an estimate of the total number of persons employed in these trades see Table 3.

The values of gross output and of materials and fuel used are derived in the following way:-

	1948
	£'000
Output of firms in these trades	
Total value of "principal products" (see Table 8)	64,771
Less	
Payment for transport by other firms	439
Commissions, etc, paid to independent receiving offices or agents	468
Gross output (work done)	63,864
Materials and fuel used by firms in these trades	
Purchases (see Table 13)	13,336
Adjustment for changes in stocks (see Table 14)	- 443
Materials and fuel used	12,893

## Summary, 1948

## Small firms in Great Britain

TABLE 2

	£'000
Gross output (work done)	2,036
Cost of materials and fuel used during the year	329
Payment for work given out	249
Net output	1,458
Average number of persons employed (a)	No. 4,499
Net output per person employed	£. 324
Number of returns	No. 884

(a) Including working proprietors.

## Estimated average employment, 1948

## All firms in Great Britain

TABLE 3

As returned by firms	
Employing on average more than ten persons (a)	164,441
Employing on average ten persons or less (b)	4,499
	168,940
Estimated average employment in firms not making satisfactory returns	3,000
Estimated average employment in all firms	171,940

(a) See Tables 1, 15(1) and (11).

(b) See Table 2.



Analysis by size, 1948  
Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 4

Average number employed	Establishments	Gross output	Net output	Persons employed	Remuneration			Net output per person employed
					Wages	Salaries	Total	
	No.	£'000	£'000	No.	£'000	£'000	£'000	£
11 - 24	462	3,200	2,467	8,083	1,265	215	1,481	305
25 - 49	604	7,891	6,154	21,642	3,332	602	3,934	284
50 - 99	612	15,640	12,231	42,470	6,656	1,216	7,872	288
100 - 199	302	15,900	12,307	41,369	6,711	1,200	7,911	298
200 - 299	62	5,873	4,566	15,348	2,501	430	2,931	298
300 - 399	27	3,686	2,719	9,116	1,545	262	1,808	298
400 - 499	15	3,473	2,566	6,512	1,141	273	1,414	394
500 - 749	14	3,131	2,514	8,804	1,401	266	1,667	286
750 - and over	8	5,071	4,078	11,097	1,764	374	2,138	368
Total	2,106	63,864	49,603	164,441	26,317	4,838	31,155	302

Analysis by standard region, 1948  
Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 5

Region	Establishments	Gross output	Net output		Persons employed	Remuneration		
			Value	Percentage of total		Wages	Salaries	Total
	No.	£'000	£'000		No.	£'000	£'000	£'000
England								
Northern	78	2,588	2,037	4.1	7,212	1,070	201	1,272
East and West Ridings of Yorkshire	151	5,869	4,429	8.9	14,510	2,201	459	2,660
North Midland	94	3,568	2,839	5.7	8,978	1,487	255	1,742
Eastern	156	3,491	2,740	5.5	9,281	1,473	247	1,720
London and South Eastern	684	22,659	17,432	35.1	52,710	8,995	1,687	10,682
Southern	167	3,909	3,046	6.1	10,751	1,681	326	2,007
South Western	132	3,215	2,517	5.1	8,969	1,397	253	1,650
Midland	102	4,138	3,329	6.7	11,220	1,814	307	2,121
North Western	254	7,471	5,889	11.9	20,412	3,196	538	3,734
Total England	1,818	58,908	44,259	89.2	144,043	23,316	4,273	27,589
Wales	72	1,535	1,179	2.4	4,276	651	105	756
Scotland	216	5,421	4,165	8.4	16,122	2,351	460	2,811
Great Britain	2,106	63,864	49,603	100.0	164,441	26,317	4,838	31,155



## Analysis according to specialisation within the trades, 1948

## Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 6

	Establish- ments	Gross output	Value of charac- teristic products (a)	Net output	Persons employed	Remuneration			Net output per person employed
						Wages	Salaries	Total	
	No.	£'000	£'000	£'000	No.	£'000	£'000	£'000	£
Specialists in									
Laundry work	1,718	45,988	43,239	35,884	128,455	20,134	3,457	23,591	278
Hire service	15	2,352	2,501	1,311	2,178	365	193	558	602
Dry cleaning, valeting, dyeing and carpet beating	351	14,982	13,953	12,219	32,965	5,652	1,158	6,814	371
Remainder of the trades	22	538		389	843	121	30	192	461
Total	2,106	63,864		49,603	164,441	26,317	4,838	31,155	302

(a) Amount charged for work done, including cost of transport by other firms and commissions, etc. paid to independent receiving offices or agents.

TABLE 7 - Total make of intermediate products: Larger establishments

This table is not applicable to the trades.

## Work done ("principal products" of these trades), including similar work done by establishments classified to other trades

## Larger establishments (a)

TABLE 8

	1948	
	Amount charged for work done	Entries
	£'000	No.
Laundry work		
Domestic work		
Fully finished	19,806	1,430
Machine finished	13,118	871
"Bag-wash" and similar finishes	1,606	149
Unclassified	902	71
Total domestic laundry work	35,433(d)	..
For hotels, factories, etc.	3,797	1,155
For hospitals and other public institutions	2,038	1,017
For His Majesty's Forces	1,338	581
Other than domestic, unclassified	312	42
Carpet cleaning and beating	856	531
Cleaning only (other than carpets)	11,178	874
Dyeing, including preparatory cleaning (other than carpets)	3,236	422
Cleaning and dyeing (other than carpets), unclassified	839	76
Valeting	233	53
Cleaning, dyeing and valeting, unclassified	465	20
Towel, coat and overall hire service	2,125	31
Hire service of other articles (e.g., table cloths, sheets, cleaning cloths) (c)	637	8
Clothing and boot and shoe repairs, charged separately (d)	315	88
Work done for other firms in these trades		
Laundry work	790	277
Other	987	178



TABLE 8 (contd.)

	1948	
	Amount charged for work done	Entries
	£'000	No.
Other kinds of work done	182	..
Total	64,801	..
Less work done in other trades (see Table 9)	30	..
Total work done ("principal products") by establishments in these trades (e)	64,771	2,033

(a) For output of small firms see Table 23 (11).

(b) Of this amount £34,895,000 was recorded as domestic laundry work delivered to:-

	Amount charged
	£'000
Consumers' premises	27,420
Receiving offices and agents	7,475

(c) So far as recorded separately.

(d) For repairs by establishments not classified to these Trades, see the Tailoring, Dressmaking, etc. Trades (Volume 7, Trade H), and the Boot and Shoe Trade (Volume 7, Trade L).

(e) The number of customers, for each of the following classes of work, on the books of larger establishments in these trades in the week ended September 25, 1948, was:-

Customers for domestic work	5,650,537
Hotel and factory contracts, etc.	32,553
Hospitals and other public institutions	9,393

Work done ("principal products" of these trades)  
by establishments classified to other trades

Larger establishments

TABLE 9

	1948	
	Amount charged for work done	Entries
	£'000	No.
Laundry work		
Domestic work, unclassified	12	..
For hotels, factories, etc.	6	..
Other than domestic, unclassified	6	..
Carpet cleaning and beating	1	..
Cleaning only (other than carpets)	3	..
Dyeing, including preparatory cleaning (other than carpets)	1	..
Cleaning and dyeing (other than carpets), unclassified	1	..
Total	30	..

TABLE 10 - Sales (or production) in these trades of other than principal products: Larger establishments

TABLE 11 - Analysis of sales, 1948: Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 12 - Production, exports and imports of certain principal products

These tables are not applicable to the trades.



Purchased materials and fuel  
Larger establishments

TABLE 13

	1948	
	Quantity	Cost
Materials	Th. cwts.	£'000
Soap (including liquid and powdered)	372.5	1,525
Washing powders, alkali, bleaching agents and washing liquids, other than soap, but including mixtures of soap with other materials	482.5 ..	650 78
Water-softening materials	452.1	143
Starch (including similar preparations for stiffening)	50.7	173
Dyes and dyestuffs	18.1 ..	332 76
	Th. galls.	
Dry cleaning solvents	3,557 ..	431 54
Water	..	482
Articles purchased for use in a hire service		
Towels, coats and overalls	..	533
Other articles	..	282
Packing materials	..	962
All other purchased materials	..	2,773
	Th. tons	
Fuel and electricity		
Coal	883.6	2,831
Coke	137.0	500
	Th. B. T. U. (kW. hrs.)	
Electricity (a)	80,853 ..	483 69
	Th. galls.	
Motor spirit (petrol) and derv. fuel	6,568	571
Other oil fuel (including creosote/pitch mixtures)	3,771 ..	147 19
	Th. therms.	
Gas	2,088 ..	108 26
All other purchased fuel	..	88
Total		13,336

(a) The total quantity of electricity consumed was approximately 117,100,000 B. T. units including 24,748,000 generated in the same works.

Stocks of materials and fuel, 1948  
Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 14

	At beginning of year		At end of year	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Th. cwts.	£'000	Th. cwts.	£'000
Materials and fuel				
Soap (including liquid and powdered)	93.7 ..	370 69	81.2 ..	349 74
Towels, etc. for use in hire service (used or unused)	..	412	..	515
Other descriptions of materials and fuel	..	2,200	..	2,557
Total materials and fuel		3,052		3,495



## Employment and remuneration (a)

## Larger establishments

## (i) Private Firms

TABLE 15

	Average number of operatives	Administrative, technical and clerical employees (b)	Total
	1948	1948	1948
Males			
Under 18	4,452	89	4,541
All ages	32,140	4,494	36,634
Females			
Under 18	12,715	2,058	14,773
All ages	115,476	11,435	126,911
Total			
Under 18	17,167	2,147	19,314
All ages	147,616 (c)	15,929 (d)	163,545 (d) (e)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total remuneration	26,272	4,835	31,107

(a) There were 22 male and 1,312 female canteen workers employed at private establishments in these trades; these workers are not included in the table or in any other report.

(b) Number at September 25, 1948.

(c) The following operatives (included in this total) were employed wholly or mainly in:-

Receiving offices or agencies	13,573
Transport of work outside the premises	10,459

(d) There were, in addition, 648 working proprietors (472 males and 176 females).

(e) The employers' share of contributions to all National Insurance Schemes payable during the year in respect of these workers amounted to £1,139,000.

## Employment and remuneration (a)

## Larger establishments

## (ii) Government Departments

TABLE 15 (contd.)

	Average number of operatives	Administrative, technical and clerical employees (b)	Total
	1948	1948	1948
Males			
Under 18	6	-	6
All ages	65	7	72
Females			
Under 18	22	-	22
All ages	172	4	176
Total			
Under 18	28	-	28
All ages	237	11	248 (c)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Total remuneration	45	3	48

(a) The figures for employment given in the table include all the persons employed at establishments in these trades.

(b) Number at September 25, 1948.

(c) The employers' share of contributions to all National Insurance Schemes payable during the year in respect of these workers amounted to £2,000.

## Wages and salaries paid, 1948 (a)

## Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 16

	Amount paid by all establishments	Amount paid	Establishments making returns for the calendar year				
			Percentage of annual remuneration paid in				
			First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year
Wages and salaries of	£'000	£'000					
Operatives	26,317	10,598	24.0	25.2	25.1	25.7	100.0
Administrative, technical and clerical employees	4,838	1,927	24.2	24.7	24.9	26.1	100.0
Total	31,155	12,525	24.1	25.1	25.1	25.8	100.0

(a) Including bonus and commission payments.



Payments for work given out, 1948  
Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 17

Work done	Amount paid
	£'000
Laundry work	703
Other work	665
Total	1,368

Payments for certain services, 1948 (a)  
Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 18

	Amount paid
	£'000
Repair and maintenance	
Of buildings	490
Of plant, machinery and vehicles	1,151
Unclassified	847
Hire of plant, machinery and vehicles	190
Payments made for research work	24
Rates (excluding water rates) payable in the year	449(b)

- (a) In addition, £346,000 was paid out to customers in the year to meet claims for loss or damage.  
(b) Including £53,000 recorded as "Rates (including water rates) payable in the year".

Plant, machinery and vehicles acquired and disposed of, 1948  
Larger establishments in Great Britain

TABLE 19

	Acquisitions		Disposals
	New	Second-hand	
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Plant and machinery	2,850	325	232
Vehicles	767	161	127
Total	3,617	486	359

TABLE 20 - Capital expenditure on building work and changes in occupation of buildings and land, 1948

## Larger establishments in Great Britain

The total amount of capital expenditure on building work, excluding site value, was £618,000. No particulars relating to changes in occupation of existing buildings and land were collected.



MISCELLANEOUS COUNTRY TABLES  
LAUNDRY, CLEANING, JOB DYEING AND CARPET BEATING TRADES

1948

## Summary

## Larger establishments

TABLE 21

	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross output (work done)	56,908	1,535	5,421	63,864
Cost of materials and fuel used	11,405	313	1,174	12,893
Payment for work given out	1,244	43	82	1,368
Net output	44,259	1,179	4,165	49,603
Wages and salaries of persons employed	27,589 No.	756 No.	2,811 No.	31,155 No.
Average number of persons employed	144,043 £	4,276 £	16,122 £	164,441 £
Net output per person employed	307	276	258	302
Stocks at end of year	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Materials and fuel	3,161 No.	58 No.	276 No.	3,495 No.
Number of establishments	1,818	72	216	2,106

The values of gross output and of materials and fuel used are derived in the following way:-

	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Output of firms in these trades				
Total value of "principal products" (see Table 23(1))	57,669	1,550	5,552	64,771
Less				
Payment for transport by other firms	344	3	92	439
Commission, etc., paid to independent receiving offices or agents	417	12	39	468
Gross output (work done)	56,908	1,535	5,421	63,864
Materials and fuel used by firms in these trades				
Purchases (see Table 24)	11,811	322	1,202	13,336
Adjustment for changes in stocks	- 407	- 9	- 28	- 443
Materials and fuel used	11,405	313	1,174	12,893

## Summary

## Small firms

TABLE 22

	England	Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Gross output (work done)	1,867	32	136	2,036
Cost of materials and fuel used during the year	301	5	23	329
Payment for work given out	228	3	18	249
Net output	1,339 No.	24 No.	95 No.	1,458 No.
Average number of persons employed (a)	4,087 £	90 £	322 £	4,499 £
Net output per person employed	328 No.	272 No.	294 No.	324 No.
Number of returns	801	21	62	884

(a) Including working proprietors.



## Work done in these trades

## Larger establishments (a)

TABLE 23 (i)

	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	Amount charged for work done	Amount charged for work done	Amount charged for work done
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Laundry work			
Domestic work			
Fully finished	18,655	1,151	19,806
Machine finished	11,593	1,525	13,118
"Bag-wash" and similar finishes	1,541	65	1,606
Unclassified	771	119	890
Total domestic laundry work	32,561	2,860	35,421
For hotels, factories, etc.	3,377	414	3,791
For hospitals and other public institutions	1,851	187	2,038
For His Majesty's Forces	1,233	104	1,338
Other than domestic, unclassified	293	13	306
Carpet cleaning and beating	778	77	854
Cleaning only (other than carpets)	9,937	1,238	11,175
Dyeing, including preparatory cleaning (other than carpets)	2,812	424	3,236
Cleaning and dyeing (other than carpets), unclassified	797	42	839
Valeting	207	26	233
Cleaning, dyeing and valeting, unclassified	465	-	465
Towel, coat and overall hire service	2,165	-	2,165
Hire service of other articles (e.g., tablecloths, sheets, cleaning cloths)	637	-	637

TABLE 23 (i) (contd.)

	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	Amount charged for work done	Amount charged for work done	Amount charged for work done
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Clothing and boot and shoe repairs, charged separately	275	40	315
Work done for other firms in these trades			
Laundry work	771	19	790
Other	915	72	987
Other kinds of work done	146	36	182
Total	59,219	5,552	64,771

(a) For output of small firms see Table 23 (ii).

## Work done in these trades

## Small firms

TABLE 23 (ii)

	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
	Amount charged for work done	Amount charged for work done	Amount charged for work done
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Laundry work	714	25	740
Work done for other firms in these trades	1,185	111	50
Other work (e.g., dyeing)			1,246
Total	1,900	136	2,036

(a) Owing to the risk of disclosure of information relating to individual firms separate particulars cannot be given.



## Purchased materials and fuel

## Larger establishments (a)

TABLE 24

	England and Wales		Scotland		Great Britain	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
	Th. cwts.	£'000	Th. cwts.	£'000	Th. cwts.	£'000
Materials						
Soap (including liquid and powdered)	329.5	1,376	43.0	150	372.5	1,525
Washing powders, alkali, bleaching agents and washing liquids, other than soap, but including mixtures of soap with other materials	447.7 ..	598 68	34.9 ..	52 10	482.5 ..	650 78
Water-softening materials	448.1	142	4.0	2	452.1	143
Starch (including similar preparations for stiffening)	46.1	158	4.6	16	50.7	173
Dyes and dyestuffs	14.2 ..	294 69	3.9 ..	38 7	18.1 ..	332 76
Dry cleaning solvents	Th. galls. 3,248 ..	388 50	Th. galls. 308 ..	43 4	Th. galls. 3,557 ..	431 54
Water	..	447	..	35	..	482
Articles purchased for use in a hire service						
Towels, coats and overalls	..	533	-	-	..	533
Other articles	..	282	-	-	..	282
Packing materials	..	842	..	119	..	962
All other purchased materials	..	2,513	..	260	..	2,773
Fuel and electricity	Th. tons		Th. tons		Th. tons	
Coal	762.8	2,490	120.8	341	883.6	2,831
Coke	135.0	493	2.0	7	137.0	500
Electricity (b)	Th. B.T.U. (kW. hrs.) 72,933 ..	436 65	Th. B.T.U. (kW. hrs.) 7,919 ..	47 4	Th. B.T.U. (kW. hrs.) 80,853 ..	483 69

TABLE 24 (contd.)

	England and Wales		Scotland		Great Britain	
	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost	Quantity	Cost
	Th. galls.	£'000	Th. galls.	£'000	Th. galls.	£'000
Fuel and electricity (contd.)						
Motor spirit (petrol) and deriv. fuel	6,050	521	518	49	6,568	571
Other oil fuel (including creosote/pitch mixtures)	3,727 ..	145 19	44	2	3,771 ..	147 19
Gas	Th. therms 1,899 ..	101 23	Th. therms 188 ..	7 3	Th. therms 2,088 ..	108 26
All other purchased fuel	..	83	..	5	..	88
Total		12,133		1,202		13,336

(a) The only particulars ascertained from small firms of materials and fuel are given in Table 22.

(b) The total quantity of electricity consumed in England and Wales was approximately 107,000,000 B.T. units including 23,235,000 generated in the same works. The total quantity of electricity consumed in Scotland was approximately 10,100,000 B.T. units including 1,513,000 generated in the same works.



Employment and remuneration  
Larger establishments (a)  
Private firms (b)

TABLE 25 (i)

	England and Wales			Scotland			Great Britain		
	Average number of operatives	Administrative, technical and clerical employees (c)	Total	Average number of operatives	Administrative, technical and clerical employees (c)	Total	Average number of operatives	Administrative, technical and clerical employees (c)	Total
Males									
Under 18	3,600	84	3,684	852	5	857	4,452	89	4,541
All ages	29,092	4,085	33,177	3,048	409	3,457	32,140	4,494	36,634
Females									
Under 18	11,200	1,755	12,955	1,515	303	1,818	12,715	2,058	14,773
All ages	104,233	10,106	114,339	11,243	1,329	12,572	115,476	11,435	126,911
Total									
Under 18	14,800	1,839	16,639	2,367	308	2,675	17,167	2,147	19,314
All ages	133,325	14,191 (d)	147,516 (d) (e)	14,291	1,738 (d)	16,029 (d) (e)	147,616	15,929 (d)	163,545 (d) (e)
Total remuneration	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
	23,921	4,375	28,296	2,351	460	2,811	26,272	4,835	31,107

(a) For employment in small firms see Table 25 (ii).

(b) For Government Departments, see Table 15 (ii). There were no Government establishments in Scotland in the register for these trades.

(c) Number at September 25, 1948.

(d) There were, in addition, 648 working proprietors (472 males, 176 females) in Great Britain; 399 males, 156 females in England and Wales, and 73 males, 20 females in Scotland.

(e) The employers' share of contributions to all National Insurance Schemes payable during the year in respect of these workers amounted to a total of £1,139,000; £1,029,000 for England and Wales, and £110,000 for Scotland.

Employment (a)  
Small firms

TABLE 25 (ii)

	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
Males			
Under 18	58	7	65
All ages	1,534	118	1,652
Females			
Under 18	241	20	261
All ages	2,643	204	2,847
Total			
Under 18	299	27	326
All ages	4,177	322	4,499

(a) Including working proprietors.

Monthly index of employment of operatives: Larger establishments  
(average employment in 1948 = 100)

TABLE 26

Month	Monthly index (a)			Month	Monthly index (a)		
	England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain		England and Wales	Scotland	Great Britain
1948				1948			
January	99.2	101.4	99.4	August	100.1	99.2	100.0
February	100.0	102.0	100.2	September	100.3	99.6	100.3
March	100.1	102.6	100.4	October	99.3	98.1	99.2
April	101.1	102.1	101.2	November	99.0	97.6	98.8
May	101.3	101.3	101.3	December	97.9	96.9	97.8
June	101.1	100.5	101.1	Percentage employment in these trades covered by the index	43.4	50.2	44.1
July	100.5	98.6	100.3				

(a) The index numbers are calculated from the number of operatives employed in one week in each month returned by larger establishments that made returns for the calendar year 1948.



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