

Manual database *Textile Wages_United Kingdom_February 2024**

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1. Code Book

Variable	Variable name	Description
A	YEAR	The year in which the observed wage was earned.
B	LOC_1	First level indication of location (country).
C	LOC_2	Second level indication of location (county).
D	LOC_3	Third level indication of location (district).
E	TYPETEX	The type of textile (e.g. wool, cotton, flax, etc.).
F	OCCSOURCE	The occupational title as written down in the source.
G	OCCSTAN	The standardized occupational title (interpretation of the author of the database). If possible, the author used the occupational title as given by HISCO.
H	TECH	The type of machine/technology the labourer used.
I	WAGE_SOURCE	The wage as listed in the source (shilling pence). The vertical line was used in the database as to not cause confusion in excel. In the original sources there usually was a space between shillings and pence.
J	WAGE_PENCE	The wage in pence (calculation by the author of the database). NB: 1 shilling = 12 pence.
K	WAGE_TYPE	The type of wage (piece or time). NB: often when piece wage were included in the source, these were not the piece rates, but rather the total wage a piece labourer earned on average in a given amount of time.
L	WAGE_TIME	The time unit in which the wage was earned (day/week/month/year).
M	WAGE_HOURS	The number of hours that was worked in the period specified under WAGE_TIME.
N	LAB_AGE	(Indication of) the age of the labourer / group of labourers. Exact ages were rarely listed.
O	LAB_CH/AD	Indicates whether the labourer was a child or an adult. NB: when someone was labelled a child differed between sources and even between boys and girls within the same source.
P	LAB_SEX	Sex of the labourer.
Q	LAB_N	The number of labourers on which the average wage listed in the source (WAGE_SOURCE) was based.
R	SOURCE	Reference to the original source including page number.
S	REMARKS	Any additional remarks.

2. Sources

2.1. List of sources

1. Factories Inquiry Commission, *Supplementary Report of the Central Board of His Majesty's Commissioners Appointed to Collect Information in the Manufacturing Districts, as to the Employment of Children in Factories, and as to the Propriety and Means of Curtailing the Hours of Labour* (1834).
2. Parliamentary Papers, *Return of rates of wages in the principle textile trades of the United Kingdom, with report thereon* (London 1889).
3. Parliamentary Papers, *Report of an enquiry by the board of trade into the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople of the United Kingdom - I. Textile trades in 1906* (London 1909).

2.2. Description of the sources

(1) Factories Inquiry Commission, Supplementary Report of the Central Board of His Majesty's Commissioners Appointed to Collect Information in the Manufacturing Districts, as to the Employment of Children in Factories, and as to the Propriety and Means of Curtailing the Hours of Labour (1834)

This report lists average wages in the cotton, flax, lace, silk, and wool industry, all of which are included in the database. The wages are not listed on an occupational level, but instead give detailed information on age. Thus, wages are listed for males and females separately as averages of all the workers within 1-year age groups. Because no information is given on the wages of specific occupations, the database assigns all observations the qualification 'unclassified textile labourer'. Every observation includes the following information directly taken from the source:

- district
- gender of the labourer
- age of the labourer (adult or child)
- number of labourers on which the average is based

Representativity

From the report it is hard to discern the exact share of the total number of textile laborers that is included. The wages are taken from 'Dr. Mitchell's Report', which includes an extensive appendix with the exact firms that have been included in the research. In total, the wages of 51,966 laborers are included in the database. As mentioned before, every observation is the average wage of all the laborers in a certain age category, divided by males and females, district, and type of material.

(2) Parliamentary Papers, Return of rates of wages in the principle textile trades of the United Kingdom, with report thereon (London 1889)

The *Return of rates of wages* lists the wages of textile labourers in the cotton trade, woollen trade, worsted trade, and linen trade on a district level. The database includes the cotton and

woollen manufacture wages. Every observation in the database is the average weekly wage, generally based on a 56.5 hour workweek (except for 'half timers': small children who worked 28.25 hours per week) and includes the following information directly taken from the source:

- district
- gender of the labourer
- age of the labourer (adult or child)
- department within the factory
- occupational title
- whether it was a piece or a time wage
- number of labourers on which the average is based

Representativity

It is estimated that for cotton, approximately 28% of all the laborers were included (143,000 out of a total working population of 504,000) and for woollen 26% (37,000 out of 139,000). The sum of the laborers included in the database (column Q) is 174,429 (p .vii). As mentioned before, the wages as entered in the database are average wages of men, women, boys, and girls on a district level for individual occupations or occupational groups. This means that there is not information on individual earnings. The average number of laborers on which one observation is based is 69 and the median is 19.

(3) Parliamentary Papers, Report of an enquiry by the board of trade into the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople of the United Kingdom – I. Textile trades in 1906 (London 1909)

This report lists the wages for various kinds of textile trades, of which in the current version of the database (February 2024) only cotton is included. The report lists wages in two ways: 1) average full time earnings (subdivided into the lower quartile, the median, and the upper quartile) and 2) average wages of all workpeople (hence including those who worked less or more than fulltime). The database includes the wages of the second group, as that group gives the best representation of actual earnings. It has to be noted that the differences between group 1 and group 2 were not large, usually only a couple of pence. Every observation in the database includes the following information directly taken from the source:

- district
- gender of the labourer
- age of the labourer (adult or child). NB: i) Men = of and above 20 years of age; ii) Lads and Boys = under 20 years of age; iii) Women = of and above 18 years of age; iv) Girls = under 18 years of age
- occupational title
- whether it was a piece or a time wage
- number of labourers on which the average is based

Representativity

The report states that about 44% of the total working population of 482,000 men and 689,000 women in the entire textile trade is included in the investigation (p. v). For cotton textile manufacturing alone, a total number of 523,030 laborers was employed in 1904, of which 212,807 (40.7%) is included in the investigation. The sum of the laborers included in the database (column Q) is 210,297. The wages as entered in the database are average wages of

men, women, boys, and girls on a district level for individual occupations or occupational groups. The average number of laborers on which one observation is based is 266 and the median is 113.

3. Occupations

For the 1886 and 1906 investigations, a great variety of occupations has been included. As mentioned in the code book above, column F in the database lists the occupation as it was described in the source and column G lists a standardized occupational title. Eventually, all occupational titles will be linked to a HISCO (Historical International Classification of Occupations) code, but this is still work in progress. The database and this manual will soon be updated with HISCO codes and a corresponding explanation of the main occupations that have been included in the database. For now though, the user of the database will see that column G is not yet 100% consistent.