

Output of Scottish slates

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From: Richey, J.E. and Anderson, J.G.C. 1944. Scottish slates. Wartime pamphlet No. 40. London : Geological Survey of Great Britain.

Output

The most recent figures available of the output from the main Highland quarries were collected for the year 1937 by Mr. T. Graham, F.I.O.B., 45 Castle Street, Edinburgh, to whom we are much indebted for the information in the following table:

Quarry	Men Employed	Fullsize Slates	Undersize Slates
Ballachulish	180	2,500,000	1,500,000
West Larach	18	250,000	250,000
Balvicar	40	750,000	500,000
Cullipool	40	1,000,000	500,000
Toberonochy	20	460,000	350,000
Aberfoyle	60	1,200,000	400,000
Luss	12	500,000	250,000
Totals	370	6,660,000	3,750,000
Total	370 men	10,410,000 slates	

From 1870 to 1880 it is probable that the output of Scottish slates was in the neighbourhood of 25 million to 30 million per annum, giving employment to approximately 1,000 to 1,500 men and boys.

Some information concerning output prior to 1870 is contained in various publications in which reference is made to the Scottish slate industry, and is set out in the following table:

Quarries	1795 ^[1]		1837 ^[2]		1845 ^[3]		1842-1861 ^[4]		1869 ^[4]	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
Easdale	300	500	-	-	Upwards of 200	4 to 5	-	Annual Average 7	-	-
Ballachulish	-	-	About 200	3	300	5 to 7	-	-	400	15
Aberfoyle	-	-		½	About 20	-	-	-	-	-

A = Number of Workmen Employed B = Output of slates (in millions) per annum

- [↑](#) Sinclair, J. 1791-1799. The statistical Account of Scotland. Drawn from the Communicatins of the Ministers of the Difference Parishes. 21 vols. Edinburgh. (Easdale slate quarries, vol. Xiv, pp. 161-163).
- [↑](#) Carmichael, J. 1837. An account of the Principal Marble, Slate, Sandstone and Greenstone Quarries in Scotland. Prize Essays and Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, vol. V, pp. 398-416.

3. [↑](#) 1845. The New Statistical Account of Scotland. By the Ministers of the Rspective Parishes. 15 vols. Edinburgh and London. (Ballachulish, vol. VII, pp. 247-251; Easdale, vol. VII, pp. 77-78; Aberfoyle, vol. X, p. 1153)
4. [↑](#) ^{4.0} ^{4.1} Bremner, D. 1869. The Industries of Scotland. Their Rise, Progress and Present Conditions. Edinburgh. (Slate quarrying, pp. 424-432).

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