

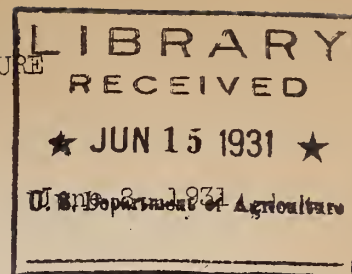
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington



WOOL-38

WORLD WOOL PROSPECTS

Prices

Trade and Consumption

Supply

Summary

There has been little change in the wool situation during the past month. Trading in the domestic market was very light throughout May and price declines occurred on all grades. Requirements for summer orders are evidently well covered and users are content to maintain a waiting policy. The narrowing of the margin between foreign and domestic prices during the first quarter of the year has been reflected in extremely small imports of wool into the United States, and United States manufacturers are using a larger percentage of domestic wool than usual in their consumption of combing and clothing wools. With the normal period of heaviest importations now past and a large domestic clip coming on the market it does not seem likely that imports will show much increase unless domestic prices are forced up considerably.

Consumption of wool by United States manufacturers continued to increase during April. Total consumption reported for the first four months of 1931 was 3,728,000 pounds greater than for the same months of 1930. Consumption of domestic wool increased 13,641,000 pounds while consumption of foreign wool declined 9,913,000 pounds.

Prices for most wools showed only small declines at the third series in London in spite of heavy offerings of greasy wools during the last few days of the sales which closed May 15. Compared with the close of the previous series prices of crossbred wools showed somewhat larger declines than merinos and prices for greasy wools were weaker than those for scoured sorts. There will probably be little activity in the foreign market until the opening of the

new series at London on July 7. Depression continues in Bradford wool industries. Home consumption remains below normal and exports of tissues from the United Kingdom during the first four months of the present year were the smallest for any similar period during the post-war years. Under these circumstances, manufacturers of tops and yarn find it impossible to maintain price levels and frequent reductions have been reported during the past two months.

Mill activity is still unsatisfactory in Continental Europe although the quantity of new orders improved somewhat during April. Trading in tops and noils was quiet, however, and prices have been revised downward in most cases. The French industry is now hampered by the strike of textile workers in the Roubaix-Tourcoing area which was called on May 18 in protest to the proposed reduction of 10 per cent in the wages of textile workers. Conditioning houses in Bradford and on the Continent showed a seasonal decline in activity during April.

Prospects for the 1931 clip in the Northern Hemisphere show little change since our previous report and production in these countries is expected to be slightly larger than that of last year. Seasonal conditions in the Southern Hemisphere have recently shown some improvement, especially in such important countries as Australia and the Union of South Africa. It seems probable that the carry-over in Southern Hemisphere countries at the end of the current season will be about normal except in the case of New Zealand where it will probably equal that of last year. Stocks of merino wool tops in four Continental European countries increased considerably in April and although there was a reduction in the stocks of crossbred tops during the month the total stocks on May 1 were above those of April 1 and were also greater than the stocks held on May 1, 1930.

Prices: Domestic

In April the wool market lost the buoyancy it had gained during February and March. The volume of business decreased steadily throughout the month. Price trends were mixed during the first half of April with some grades inclined to advance while other lines were showing an easing tendency. The latter part of April was marked by declines in prices of all grades of domestic wools.

The easing tendency in prices of domestic wools was apparent before the opening of the London sales late in April. Demand for wool had been diminishing several weeks before the London opening, due in some degree to seasonal tendencies in wool consumption. Along with a declining volume of business, reports of easing primary markets in Australia and South America and a weakening Top prices in Bradford tended to create a bearish sentiment regarding prices on domestic wools.

The slackening demand for wool was noted during the first week in April and each succeeding week showed a further decline in the volume of business. Sales were diminishing on all grades, but in spite of this fact Strictly Combing 56s Fleeces and Strictly Combing 58s, 60s and 48s, 50s Territory wools advanced in prices during the first week in April owing to the reduced selection that had been brought about by the activity during the previous two months. On the other hand, the finer grades of Fleeces including 58s, 60s and 64s, 70s, 80s qualities showed a continuation of the declines begun in March.

By about the middle of April, prices of original bag Territory wools began to show weakness owing to the arrival of sizable quantities of new wools. During the last week in April, good original bag 64s and finer western grown wools realized only 60-61 cents, scoured basis, for lots containing some fairly good Strictly Combing staple as compared with 62-63 cents during March. Average French Combing original bag 64s and finer wools sold at 57-59 cents, while lines containing short French Combing and Clothing staple moved at 55-56 cents. A moderate demand for the original bag Fine wools continued throughout April.

A general price decline took place in the prices of graded domestic wools after the middle of April. Trading during the latter half of April was restricted largely to original bag Fine and graded 58s, 60s Territory wools. The demand for 56s and 48s, 50s grades of both Fleece and Territory lines had almost entirely ceased by the close of the month with prices 1-2 cents per pound, scoured basis, lower than at the high point in April. Prices on graded Territory 64s, 70s, 80s and 58s, 60s grades had declined 2-4 cents, scoured basis, while on Fleeces of these grades, prices had declined 2-5 cents, scoured basis.

One encouraging feature of the April wool market was the steady rate at which wool moved into consumption. Manufacturers continued to accept delivery on previous purchases without interruption, thus confirming to some extent reports of a fair volume of business on goods. Topmakers also were very busy making deliveries on contracts for tops although new orders fell off sharply during the latter half of April.

The responsiveness of the domestic market to bearish sentiment was increased by the fact that domestic wool prices had failed to rise more than a few cents during February and March while foreign markets were making very substantial gains.

Spot foreign wools were very quiet throughout April. Quotations were steady until late in the month when South American low crossbred wools began to ease on a very light turnover.

The April business on Woolen Wools was very light as compared with the previous month. Scattered sales were closed on all grades of pulled wools but quotations showed practically no change in April. Scoured Clothing shorn wools were quiet.

The market on Noils was slow but prices were fairly firm during April.

New Business on Tops was much slower in April than during March. Most topmakers, however, had orders that occupied combs to about full capacity and so they were not pushing sales. On the other hand, spinners had covered fairly well on yarn orders and consequently were not pressed to buy. Prices on Tops showed a general moderate decline since the close of March. Oil Combed 64s of choice staple slipped back from 87-88 cents to 85-36 cents for the bulk with only occasional tops of extra long staple commanding prices in the former range. Average staple 64s Tops in oil were about steady at 82-83 cents. Short staple dry combed 60s eased slightly to 80-83 cents. Oil combed 60s eased about 2 cents to 78-81 cents, while 58s eased 2-3 cents to 67-69 cents. Late sales were closed on 56s at 63-65 cents and on 50s at 55-58 cents, each grade off 2-3 cents. The volume of Tops, on old contracts, delivered during April was very large and greater than for any other month this year.

Wool: Price per pound at Boston on specified dates, 1930-1931

Grade	1930			1931		
	Mar. 15	Apr. 18	May 17	Mar. 14	Apr. 18	May 16
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
64s, 70s, 80s (fine)						
Strictly combing						
Ohio and similar						
grease	32-33	30-31	29-30	29-31	26-27	25-26
Fleece scoured basis	78-80	75-78	72-75	70-75	65-68	61-65
Territory " "	78-80	75-78	73-77	65-68	65-68	62-65
58s, 60s ($\frac{1}{2}$ blood)						
Strictly combing						
Ohio and similar						
grease	34-35	31-32	29-30	26-27	26-27	25
Fleece scoured basis	73-75	69-72	65-70	57-60	56-59	54-56
Territory " "	73-78	72-75	68-72	59-62	60-62	56-59
56s ($\frac{3}{8}$ blood)						
Strictly combing						
Ohio and similar						
grease	34-35	32-33	28-30	23-24	23-24	22-23
Fleece scoured basis	62-67	62-65	53-58	42-45	42-46	41-44
Territory " "	65-70	62-67	60-63	49-53	49-53	46-50
46s (low $\frac{1}{4}$ blood)						
Strictly combing						
Ohio and similar						
grease	31-32	29-30	27-28	19-20	20-21	19-20
Fleece scoured basis	53-55	48-52	45-47	33-35	33-36	31-33
Territory " "	55-57	52-55	46-48	35-40	35-40	33-35

Compiled from Weekly Market News Reports of the Boston Office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Prices: Foreign

London wool sales

No further auctions will be held at London until the opening of the 4th series on July 7. Since sales for the present season are now practically closed in the Southern Hemisphere, the intervening period will be a quiet one in foreign wool centers. The 3rd series at London closed on May 15. Prices at the close were slightly below the opening levels but held up remarkably well in the face of very large offerings of greasy merinos which were available toward the end of the series. A large percentage of these offerings consisted of wools which had been shipped to London for the purpose of obtaining sterling and had been held from the market during the first two weeks of the series in the hope that prices would improve. As the end of the series approached with no improvement in sight, the necessity of obtaining exchange released large quantities of wool for the final days of the sale. Bradford and German buyers were the chief purchasers, the latter operating to cover part of their needs until the opening of the July series. Prices for greasy merinos at the close of the May series were $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 per cent

below the closing prices on March 31. Fine greasy crossbreeds were down 10 to 12½ per cent and medium greasy crossbreeds 17½ to 20 per cent while greasy Cape wools were 5 to 10 per cent and Punta Arenas 7½ per cent under the March prices. Best scoured merinos were at par to 5 per cent below the March close while faulty scoured merinos were 10 to 15 per cent lower than in March. Declines on other scoured wools were as follows: scoured Australian crossbreeds 5 to 10 per cent ; best New Zealand crossbreeds 5 to 10 per cent; Capes 10 per cent. Prices for slipped wools were weak during the series and closed 10 to 15 per cent cheaper than at the close of the previous series.

About 115,500 bales were disposed of at the 3rd series and 72,000 bales, some of which were not offered, will be carried over to the July sales. The English trade purchased 53,000 bales, the Continent 61,500 bales and the United States took 1,000 bales. Sales at the 3rd series of 1930 amounted to 112,000 bales. Available supplies and sales at the first three series at London for 1931 have been considerably above those at the corresponding sales of 1930 and 1929. The total quantity available for the first three sales this year was 496,500 bales, compared with 471,700 bales available in 1930, or an increase of 5.3 per cent and was 44.2 per cent above the amount available for the first three series of 1929. Sales so far this year have been 364,500 bales or 10.5 per cent above sales at the first three series of 1930 and 41.4 per cent above the same series of 1929.

United Kingdom: Prices at the London wool sales, reported on basis of official standards of the United States for grades of wool (scoured basis) specified dates, 1930-1931

United States grades	1930		1931			
	3rd series		2nd series		3rd series	
	Open	Close	Open	Close	Open	Close
	May 13	May 30	Mar. 10	Mar. 31	Apr. 28	May 15
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
70s	52.7	53.2	43.6	43.6	41.6	40.6
64s	48.7	49.7	41.6	41.6	39.5	38.5
60s	42.6	42.6	37.5	38.5	36.5	33.4
58s	37.5	39.5	31.4	32.4	30.4	28.4
56s	35.5	36.0	26.4	28.4	27.4	26.4
50s	29.9	30.4	22.3	24.3	20.3	19.3
48s	28.4	29.4	21.8	22.8	19.3	18.2
46s	26.4	27.4	20.8	22.3	18.2	16.7
44s	25.3	26.4	19.8	20.3	17.2	16.2
40s	25.3	26.9	19.3	20.3	17.2	16.2
36s	25.3	26.4	18.2	20.3	16.2	15.7

Compiled from reports of E. A. Foley, American Agricultural Attaché at London.

Southern Hemisphere

Regular sales of the 1930-31 selling season are now finished in the Southern Hemisphere with the exception of the sales at Brisbane, Australia and sales of second clip and lambs wools in South America and the Union of South Africa.

The main selling season in Australia closed earlier than usual this year and the carry-over is believed to be small. Competition was animated at the sales at Brisbane May 12 to 20, Japan showed great interest. France and Germany also bought freely and Bradford buyers made some purchases where offerings were suitable for their requirements. Prices of fine merinos were firm throughout the sale but coarse and faulty merinos declined slightly. Sales at Brisbane will probably continue into July. A clearing up sale is scheduled to be held at Sydney, June 15-17.

The regular season is over in New Zealand. Sales of crutchings have been arranged for Wellington on June 16 and August 18 and for Wangamui on June 18 and August 22. The first sale at Wellington will include some Hawkes Bay wool. Although final arrangements have not yet been made, it is now thought possible that the wool stores in Napier may be sufficient in order to enable the holding of a sale in that market on August 20.

There has recently been much discussion concerning legislation for the stabilization of the Australian wool industry and proposals along this line were recently placed before the Prime Minister by a committee of senators and representatives according to a report from Vice Consul McFadden. The Prime Minister is said to be favorably disposed toward such legislation if Australian growers can formulate a sound stabilizing scheme. The main items of the proposals are reported to be: the establishment of minimum reserve prices on all wools, the wools to be valued by wool brokers experts; the wool council to deduct 1 per cent on all wools for necessary expenses, including the erection of wool stores; arrangements with the Commonwealth Bank in conjunction with associated banks for the issuing of bills of credit for an amount up to 6 pence per pound for all wools. It is also proposed that the Wool Council approach South Africa and New Zealand with a view to their adopting similar arrangements.

Bradford depression continues

The depression which has continued for some time in the Bradford market showed no signs of change late in May. Merino tops were entering steadily into consumption but crossbreds were somewhat neglected and all prices showed declines during May. Yarn prices have also declined due to a decrease in demand. The home trade is below normal and exports of piece goods are very unsatisfactory being lower than at any other time in the post-war period.

Wool, tops and yarn: Price per pound at Bradford on specified dates,
1930-1931

Date	64s <u>1/</u>			50s <u>1/</u>		
	Scoured wool	Tops	Worsted yarn 2-48s	Scoured wool	Tops	Worsted yarn 2-32s
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1930 -						
Jan. 25	49.7	59.8	91.2	29.4	38.5	60.8
Feb. 25	48.7	58.8	91.2	29.4	36.5	57.8
Mar. 25	46.6	54.7	87.2	26.4	34.5	56.8
Apr. 25	47.7	57.8	89.2	27.4	35.5	56.8
May 24	52.7	60.8	92.3	30.4	37.5	58.8
June 25	50.7	57.8	91.2	29.4	36.5	56.8
July 25	48.7	56.8	89.2	28.4	34.5	55.8
Aug. 25	48.7	56.8	89.2	27.4	34.5	54.7
Sept. 26	46.6	54.7	85.2	24.3	32.4	53.7
Oct. 25	45.6	50.7	83.1	22.3	29.4	48.7
Nov. 26	40.6	50.7	81.1	19.3	27.4	47.7
Dec. 24	38.5	46.6	78.0	18.2	26.4	46.6
1931 -						
Jan. 26	30.4	42.6	73.0	16.7	24.3	44.6
Feb. 25	36.5	46.6	75.0	19.3	26.4	46.6
Mar. 25	44.6	52.7	81.1	24.3	31.4	49.7
Apr. 25	42.6	50.7	79.1	22.3	29.4	48.7
May 22	39.5	48.7	77.0	20.3	27.4	46.6

Compiled from cabled reports from E. A. Foley, Agricultural Attaché at London.

1/ Official standards of the United States for wool and wool tops.

Continental Europe

Prices of wool and semi-manufactures in Continental European markets weakened in late April and early May though in most cases the declines were not large. The tone of the market at the present time is somewhat dampened by the slowness in the economic recovery in continental countries. In the Roubaix-Tourcoing district of France the dispute over the proposed wage reduction of 10 per cent for textile workers has resulted in a general strike by textile operatives of that area. The strike which began on May 18 has almost completely paralyzed the textile industry in the Roubaix-Tourcoing district and affects about 125,000 workers who have unanimously rejected the reductions proposed by the employers. Engineers and transport workers

are expected to support the textile strikers. Quotations for tops, noils and yarns in France on May 7 were lower than during the first half of April. Prices of Australian tops, both merino and crossbred declined about 2 cents per pound from April 16 to May 7 while Argentine crossbred tops declined 2.5 cents per pound during the same period. The declines in prices of noils and yarns were smaller, being generally about 1 cent a pound.

Prices of wool and tops in Germany on May 1 were mostly 1 cent a pound lower than on April 1. German A/AA scoured wool was selling at 43.7 cents per pound on May 1 compared with 64.8 cents per pound on May 1, 1930. Washed Cape wool of medium quality on May 1 was 40.6 cents per pound compared with 51.7 cents on May 1, 1930. Australian A/AA tops, commercial fleeces, were 54.7 cents per pound on May 1, 1931 and 64.9 cents on May 1, 1930, while Buenos Aires medium quality tops were 30.9 cents per pound on May 1 compared with 35.5 cents the year previous.

Tops, noils and yarn: Price per pound in France, specified dates,
1930-1931

Item	1930			1931		
	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	Mar. 19	Apr. 16	May 7
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Tops, Australian -						
Merino 64s warp	71.0	68.9	70.0	60.8	60.8	58.8
Crossbreds 56s	50.7	50.7	53.7	48.7	48.7	46.6
Tops, Argentine -						
Crossbreds 56s	48.7	46.6	49.5	45.1	45.1	42.6
Noils -						
Australian merino	56.9	53.3	53.6	35.5	35.5	34.7
Australian crossbred ...	37.3	35.5	34.4	24.9	24.9	24.0
Cape	53.3	46.2	49.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Yarn -						
Merino	91.5	88.0	89.8	84.9	84.9	83.5
Cheviot	69.1	64.0	67.1	56.4	56.4	56.0

Compiled from reports of L. V. Steere, American Agricultural Attaché at Berlin.

Trade and consumption: Domestic

United States wool imports show further declines

Wool prices in foreign markets showed important gains during February and March while domestic prices declined. This narrowed the margin between foreign and domestic prices and imports of combing and clothing wool into the United States in recent months have been extremely small. During the 5-year period 1926-1930, imports of combing and clothing wool during the first four months of the year averaged 62.8 per cent of the imports during the entire year. In 1930 imports from January through April were 58.6 per cent of the years imports. Average imports for this four month period for the five years 1926-1930 were 71,136,000 pounds. From January 1 to April 30 of the present year however, only 23,495,000 pounds of combing and clothing wool had been imported into the United States or 33 per cent of the average for that period during the past five years, and 58 per cent of the 1930 imports. Imports of carpet wool from January 1 to April 30, 1931 were 38,214,000 pounds compared with 41,793,000 pounds imported in the same period of 1930.

Imports of combing and clothing wool into the ports of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia during the first two weeks of May were much smaller than during the same weeks of May 1930 but imports of carpet wool during that period showed a slight increase over last year.

Receipts of domestic wool at Boston during April amounted to 11,284,000 pounds compared with 8,501,000 pounds received in April 1930. Total receipts of domestic wool at Boston for the first four months of 1931 were 29,048,000 pounds compared with 25,701,000 pounds received during the first four months of 1930.

Wool: Imports into the United States, specified periods, 1930-1931

Wool	1930		1931		
	Jan. 1 - Apr. 30	Apr.	Jan. 1 - Apr. 30	Mar.	Apr.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Combing	30,632	9,008	20,194	3,910	8,121
Clothing	9,837	1,840	3,301	384	1,687
Total	40,469	10,848	23,495	4,294	9,808
Carpet	41,793	6,880	38,214	10,897	11,363
Total all wools . .	82,262	17,728	61,709	15,191	21,171

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Wool consumption improvement maintained

Wool consumption by United States manufacturers reporting to the Bureau of the Census showed a steady increase during the first four months of 1931 and consumption in March and April was well above that of March and April 1930. The total quantity of wool entering into manufacture as reported by 432 manufactures in April 1931, reduced to a grease equivalent, was 47,710,000 pounds as compared with 40,373,000 pounds reported by 429 manufacturers in March 1931; and 36,794,000 pounds reported by 440 manufacturers for April 1930. The total quantity as reported in April was 42,527,000 pounds and included 35,586,000 pounds in the grease, 4,304,000 pounds of scoured wool, and 2,637,000 pounds of pulled wool.

Consumption of combing and clothing wool as reported in April was 31,035,000 pounds compared with 26,394,000 pounds in March, and 22,688,000 pounds in April 1930. The consumption of combing and clothing wool reported for April 1931 was the largest reported for the month of April since 1923 and was greater than the consumption of combing and clothing wool reported for any month since October 1929. All grades of wool shared in the increased consumption during April. Consumption of carpet wool reported in April was 11,492,000 pounds compared with 9,303,000 pounds in March and 9,588,000 pounds in April 1930.

Wool: Consumption in the United States, by grades, for specified periods, 1930-1931 1/

Grades (Official standards of the United States)	1930		1931		
	Jan. 1- Apr. 30:	Apr.	Jan. 1- Apr. 30:	Mar.	Apr.
	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds
Combing and clothing wool					
64s, 70s and 80s	42,917	9,606	49,961	12,425	14,713
58s, and 60s	19,379	4,977	18,302	4,383	4,992
56s	14,160	3,055	17,517	4,504	5,778
49s and 50s	14,652	3,236	12,647	3,432	3,516
36s, 40s, 44s and 46s	7,787	1,814	5,866	1,649	2,036
Total combing and clothing wools	98,895	22,688	104,293	26,394	31,035
Carpet wools	38,573	9,588	36,902	9,303	11,492
Total all wools	137,468	32,276	141,195	35,697	42,527

Compiled from "Wool Consumption Reports" issued by the Bureau of the Census. 1/ These are the totals of grease, scoured, and pulled wool as published by the Bureau of the Census and have not been reduced to a grease basis.

Wool: Consumption in the United States by classes, monthly, January 1930-April 1931, annual, 1929 and 1930 1/

Year, month or period	Domestic and foreign					
	Domestic	Foreign	Combing	Clothing	Carpet	Total
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds
1930						
Jan.	: 21,280	: 17,410	: 21,933	: 5,558	: 11,199	: 38,690
Feb.	: 18,738	: 15,034	: 20,104	: 4,882	: 8,786	: 33,772
Mar.	: 17,695	: 15,035	: 19,036	: 4,694	: 9,000	: 32,730
Apr.	: 16,938	: 15,339	: 17,970	: 4,718	: 9,588	: 32,376
May	: 17,001	: 11,356	: 17,439	: 4,806	: 6,113	: 28,358
June	: 19,370	: 9,484	: 19,152	: 4,395	: 5,307	: 28,854
July	: 21,359	: 9,262	: 21,389	: 4,081	: 5,151	: 30,621
Aug.	: 21,372	: 8,449	: 21,157	: 5,819	: 4,845	: 29,821
Sept.	: 22,756	: 10,456	: 22,814	: 4,292	: 6,106	: 33,212
Oct.	: 22,786	: 13,058	: 23,316	: 4,584	: 7,944	: 35,844
Nov.	: 16,616	: 10,667	: 17,124	: 3,703	: 6,456	: 27,283
Dec.	: 17,648	: 8,482	: 18,325	: 3,638	: 4,367	: 26,330
Total Jan-Dec. 1930 . .	: 233,759	: 144,031	: 239,759	: 53,169	: 84,862	: 377,790
Total Jan-Dec. 1929 . .	: 233,622	: 232,491	: 235,312	: 74,699	: 156,102	: 516,113
1931						
Jan.	: 18,640	: 10,961	: 18,671	: 4,136	: 6,744	: 29,601
Feb.	: 20,759	: 12,611	: 19,188	: 4,819	: 9,363	: 33,370
Mar.	: 22,041	: 13,656	: 21,681	: 4,713	: 9,303	: 35,697
Apr.	: 26,851	: 15,676	: 25,866	: 5,169	: 11,492	: 42,527

Compiled from monthly reports of the Bureau of the Census.

1/ These are totals of grease, scoured and pulled wools, as published by the Bureau of the Census and have not been reduced to a grease basis.

Stocks of foreign wool at Boston increase

Approximate stocks of foreign wool in bond at Boston on April 30, 1931 were 17,429,000 pounds, according to statistics compiled in the Boston office of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Stocks on March 31 were reported to be about 14,854,000 pounds and on April 30, 1930 there were 21,012,000 pounds reported in bond. The stocks on April 30 consisted of 9,588,000 pounds of combing and clothing wool and 7,841,000 pounds of carpet wool. On April 30, 1930 stocks consisted of 15,956,000 pounds of combing and clothing wool and 5,056,000 pounds of carpet wool.

Loom activity in April above last year

Machinery activity of looms other than carpet looms, was greater in the United States during April 1931 than in April 1930. Combs and worsted spindles also were more active than last year. Activity in April as compared with March was irregular. Improvement was reported for combs, narrow looms and carpet looms while other sections reported a smaller percentage of maximum single shift capacity in April than in March. Woolen and worsted

spindles were active for a total of 556 million hours in April 1931 compared with 562 million hours in March and 523 million in April 1930. Looms other than carpet and rug looms were active 6.8 million hours in April, 1931 compared with 7.1 million in March and 6.5 million in April 1930.

Wool machinery activity in the United States, April 1930 and March and April 1931

Wool machinery	Total number of hours machines were active			Percentage of total machinery active at some time during the month			Percentage of maximum single-shift capacity		
	1930 : Apr.	1931 : Mar.	1931 : Apr.	1930 : Apr.	1931 : Mar.	1931 : Apr.	1930 : Apr.	1931 : Mar.	1931 : Apr.
	: hours	: hours	: hours	: cent	: cent	: cent	: cent	: cent	: cent
Cards . . .	884:	917:	804:	62.4:	54.3:	55.6:	60.9:	66.0:	57.2
Combs . . .	355:	411:	452:	59.0:	59.7:	64.1:	60.3:	75.9:	81.5
Spindles:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Woolen . . .	285,001:	278,088:	265,441:	60.7:	55.7:	55.5:	58.0:	56.6:	55.0
Worsted . . .	237,520:	283,590:	290,121:	47.7:	56.0:	55.9:	43.0:	57.4:	56.7
Looms:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Wide 1/ . . .	5,407:	6,206:	5,816:	42.6:	47.5:	45.6:	45.3:	58.8:	53.5
Narrow 2/ . . .	1,104:	847:	1,025:	50.8:	33.2:	40.8:	40.7:	33.9:	41.9
Carpet and rug . . .	1,022:	939:	954:	56.0:	44.4:	47.0:	48.5:	43.9:	44.2

Compiled from the Reports of Active and Idle Wool Machinery, issued monthly by the Department of Commerce.

1/ Wider than 50-inch reed space.

2/ 50-inch reed space or less.

United Kingdom tissue exports lowest in post-war period

Exports of woolen and worsted tissues from the United Kingdom during the first four months of 1931 were smaller than during any similar period since 1920. The total for the four months was 30,809,000 square yards. Only 4,997,000 square yards of woolen and worsted tissues were exported in April 1931 compared with 6,986,000 square yards in April 1930 and an average April export of 10,607,000 pounds for the ten years 1921-1930. Other piece goods as well as noils and woolen rags were also exported in smaller quantities in April than in March while exports of wool, tops and yarns showed a slight increase. Imports of wool into the United Kingdom in April were considerably larger than the March imports, but reexports of wool also showed an increase, and the net imports for April were approximately equal to those of March, but were about 34 million pounds larger than the net imports in April 1930. Imports of piece goods and of woolen rags were greater in April than in March and were also greater than in April 1930.

United Kingdom: Trade in wool and wool manufactures for stated months, 1930 and 1931

Exports and imports	Unit	1930		1931	
		Apr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Exports -					
Wool	pound	2,665	1,746	2,880	3,000
Tops	"	2,411	2,271	2,424	2,700
Yarns, woolen	"	347	277	301	278
Yarns, worsted	"	2,676	1,638	1,874	2,140
Tissues, woolen	Sq.yd.	5,000	5,556	4,482	3,301
Tissues, worsted	" "	1,986	3,033	2,346	1,696
Flannels and delaines	" "	181	228	215	139
Carpets and rugs	" "	384	225	213	175
Noils	pound	1,167	605	1,086	900
Waste	"	844	511	686	900
Woolen rags	"	2,073	1,484	2,166	784
Imports -					
Wool	pound	85,617	82,245	99,767	131,500
Tops	"	196	148	195	100
Waste and noils	"	279	189	301	500
Yarns	"	1,336	1,623	1,679	1,615
Tissues, woolen	Sq.yd.	2,187	2,655	3,468	3,711
Tissues, worsted	" "	868	578	591	610
Carpets and rugs	" "	700	636	826	915
Woolen rags	pound	2,796	3,585	3,571	4,928

Compiled from Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom and cabled reports from Agricultural Attache' Foley at London.

Wool: Imports into Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy,
Japan, Poland, United Kingdom and United States, stated
months 1930 and 1931

Country and item	1930			1931		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Belgium -						
Wool, greasy	19,198	13,945	14,224	13,136	8,698	1/
Wool, scoured	372	366	306	273	246	1/
Total	19,570	14,311	14,530	13,409	8,944	1/
Czechoslovakia -	3,364	3,241	3,436	2,363	3,097	1,636
France, raw and on skins . .	82,282	77,167	54,244	62,125	86,793	1/
Germany -						
Wool, merino, greasy and washed	33,632	18,734	15,630	20,545	35,500	10,641
Wool, merino, scoured	845	662	683	797	1,194	1,092
Wool, crossbred, greasy and washed	7,873	8,547	9,413	6,574	14,505	11,303
Wool, crossbred, scoured . . .	771	711	635	734	922	1,142
Total	43,121	28,654	26,361	28,650	52,121	24,178
Italy -						
Wool, greasy	9,307	14,545	8,792	10,199	14,264	1/
Wool, washed	1,257	997	1,026	776	476	1/
Total	10,564	15,542	9,818	10,975	14,740	1/
Japan -	11,671	6,671	8,982	16,215	13,308	1/
Poland -	5,549	2,859	999	3,924	3,398	1,462
United Kingdom -	95,400	81,900	100,560	103,200	82,200	99,700
United States -						
Wool, greasy and washed . . .	21,103	15,670	18,167	9,848	9,174	10,546
Wool, scoured	5,220	2,556	1,817	3,846	2,438	4,675
Total	26,323	18,226	19,984	13,694	11,612	15,221

Compiled from reports cabled by the Agricultural Attaches at Berlin and London and reports from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

1/ Not reported.

Continental Europe

Mill activity in Continental European wool centers was still unsatisfactory in the early part of May. No change in activity was reported in France and Germany but Belgium reported some improvement at the beginning of the month and in Italy the woolen section and hat makers also showed some pick-up. New orders for the continental industry were on a somewhat improved level during April. Trading in tops and noils was quiet however and the tone of the market was somewhat dampened by the slowness of the economic recovery.

Conditioning houses in Bradford and on the Continent showed a seasonal decline in activity during April. In all centers the turnover in April was smaller than in April 1930 after having exceeded the turnover of the previous year during March. Stocks of tops in commission combing establishments of four Continental European countries increased during April. On May 1 total stocks in four countries amounted to 51,001,000 pounds compared with 48,127,000 pounds on April 1 and 46,300,000 pounds on May 1, 1930. The increase was due to the increase in stocks of merino tops compared with the previous month and year, as stocks of crossbred tops held on May 1 were smaller than those of April 1 and also smaller than on May 1, 1930. Stocks of merino tops in four countries on May 1 were 31,153,000 pounds compared with 27,952,000 pounds on April 1 and 23,897,000 pounds on May 1, 1930. Stocks of crossbred tops on May 1 were 19,848,000 pounds compared with 20,175,000 pounds on April 1 and 22,403,000 pounds on May 1, 1930.

Wool, tops and yarn: Amount passing through conditioning houses
at Bradford, Roubaix, Tourcoing and Verviers, specified
months, 1930 and 1931

Location and class	1930			1931		
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Bradford -						
Wool	716	754	602	612	836	826
Tops	3,966	4,353	3,782	3,697	4,659	3,508
Yarn	157	171	133	101	93	106
Roubaix -						
Wool	185	159	181	260	119	172
Tops	4,775	4,268	5,401	4,923	6,135	4,385
Yarn	1,214	1,237	1,199	1,005	1,153	1,093
Tourcoing -						
Wool	2,350	2,218	2,522	2,520	3,153	2,899
Tops	7,297	5,670	6,394	7,077	9,264	6,314
Yarn	1,922	1,916	1,973	1,387	1,744	1,682
Verviers -						
Wool	2,403	2,643	2,244	1,997	2,780	1,738
Tops	317	196	593	348	494	313
Yarn	639	705	454	465	492	511

Compiled from cabled reports from Agricultural Attache' Steere at Berlin and Consul Edwards at Bradford.

Tops: Stocks held by Continental European commission combing establishments, specified dates, 1930 and 1931

Location of establishment and description of wool	1930			1931		
	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Belgium-						
Merino	1,845	2,213	2,330	2,496	2,460	2,493
Crossbred	3,556	3,541	3,424	2,703	2,015	1,810
Total	5,401	5,754	5,754	5,199	4,475	4,303
Germany -						
Merino	5,004	5,642	5,040	7,800	7,595	8,770
Crossbred	6,312	6,060	5,734	4,813	5,071	4,861
Total	11,316	11,702	10,774	12,613	12,666	13,631
France -						
Merino	14,046	15,386	15,143	18,146	16,821	18,435
Crossbred	15,157	13,823	11,400	12,857	11,116	11,323
Total	29,203	29,209	26,543	31,003	27,937	29,758
Italy -						
Merino	1,369	1,490	1,384	1,459	1,076	1,455
Crossbred	2,229	2,052	1,845	1,592	1,973	1,854
Total	3,598	3,542	3,229	3,051	3,049	3,309

Compiled from cabled reports from Agricultural Attache' Steere at Berlin.

World wool supply situation

As the 1931-32 clip in the Southern Hemisphere countries will not be shorn until the last few months of the present calendar year it is too early to give a definite forecast of production. However, seasonal conditions in most countries have improved since our last report, especially in such important producing countries as Australia and the Union of South Africa. If the season continues good for the next four or five months the Southern Hemisphere clip may be about the same as it was for the current season.

Sheep numbers were large in most Southern Hemisphere countries in 1930. Recent census returns from countries in South America show that sheep numbers in Uruguay, Chile and Argentina are larger than at the time of the preceding census. However, during 1930 sheep slaughter for export was unusually heavy, due mainly to the low level of wool prices, and it is probable that a greater number than usual died from neglect especially in over-stocked regions. Most Southern Hemisphere countries report prospects of sufficient feed to carry flocks through the winter months (June-August). Although sheep numbers in New South Wales, the principal wool producing State of Australia, were considerably reduced by the drought of 1929 and early 1930, if the season continues to improve, there will probably be a heavier yield per sheep and lamb shorn than for the last two seasons. Sheep numbers in Australia were large at the beginning of 1930 reaching 106,500,000, the largest number in forty years.

It seems likely that the carry-over in Southern Hemisphere countries at the end of the current season will about approach normal, except in the case of New Zealand where it will probably be as large as it was last year.

A somewhat increased clip may be expected from Northern Hemisphere countries where shearing is now being carried on.

Northern HemisphereUnited States

Storms during April delayed shearing in southern Wyoming, north-western Colorado and Northeastern Utah, according to the Western Range and Livestock Report of the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates. The condition of sheep and lambs in the western range States on May 1, 1931 was generally fair to excellent. Texas sheep and lambs are in the best condition in years. In most of the range area east of the Continental Divide, sheep and lambs did well during April but storms prevented much gain. West of the Divide dry conditions generally resulted in a slight shrink.

The condition of sheep and lambs on May 1 in the seventeen western States where 260,416,000 pounds or 78 per cent of the shorn wool clip of the United States was produced last year, was 90 per cent of normal or the same as at the beginning of April, but 1 per cent below the condition in May 1930. Sheep numbers in these seventeen western States on January 1, 1931 were 4 per cent above the same date of 1930, as previously reported. Early lambing was generally favorable with a good crop of lambs. Weather during April, in most States west of the Rocky Mountains was reported as unfavorable to the development of the early lamb crop. It is reported,

however, that late lambing is starting under generally favorable conditions with ewes generally in good flesh. In Utah, Montana and parts of Wyoming lambing grounds carry only a fair supply of feed. Weather conditions in New Mexico, Utah and western Colorado were unfavorable late in April. Sheep conditions in California were not good due to lack of feed, range condition in that State on May 1 being only 58 per cent of normal compared with 77 per cent in April and 82 per cent in May 1930. The number of breeding ewes in the United States on January 1, 1931 was estimated at 35,425,000 or 5 per cent above 1930.

Southern Hemisphere

Australia

Seasonal conditions in Australia showed great improvement by the first of May as a result of splendid rains which are reported as improving the outlook for the coming wool clip which is to be sheared during the last few months of the current year. The rain received in the sheep country of Queensland has relieved anxiety in regard to winter feed to a great extent and it is now expected that there will be enough to carry the sheep through the winter (June-August), although some of the districts in central areas are overstocked. New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and most of South Australia report satisfactory autumn (March-April) rain and good grazing prospects. Plenty of feed should be available for ewes and lambs. Some of the agricultural districts of western Australia are dry but rain is expected soon.

Although wool production in New South Wales was fairly large in 1930-31 ^{1/} amounting to 430 million pounds, it was smaller than in the preceding four years and 7 per cent below production the preceding season. New South Wales furnishes over half of the total Australian clip. During the 1930-31 season only 48,840,000 sheep and lambs were shorn, a decrease of 8 per cent compared with 1929-30 and 7 per cent compared with the average for the seasons 1926-27 to 1929-30. The average yield of wool per sheep and lamb in 1930-31 was 7.8 pounds the same as in 1929-30. In 1926-27 and 1928-29 when the large clips of 499 million pounds and 483 million pounds were produced, the average yield was 8.8 pounds from 51,880,000 sheep shorn in 1926-27 and 50,300,000 in 1928-29. While the number shorn in 1929-30 was greater than in either of those two seasons or 53,260,000 the reduced yield per sheep resulted in a smaller total clip for that season.

Dry weather conditions prevailing during the year 1929 and the first half of 1930 were responsible for the diminished clip per sheep in the past two seasons and also for the decreased number shorn in 1930-31, states Mr. Waites, the Government Statistician for New South Wales. The number which died from drought during the last two seasons exceeded 9 per cent whereas the average sheep mortality in a normal season seldom exceeds 5 per cent. The estimated loss by death during 1930 was 4,750,000, an increase of 5 per cent over 1929. Losses during the last three years have been between 4,500,000 and 5,300,000 whereas during the years ended June 30, 1921 to 1927 they averaged only about 2,300,000. In 1919-20 and 1927-28, however, over 7,300,000 sheep were lost during each season. Fewer lambs were born during

^{1/} Includes shorn wool, wool derived from or exported on skins converted to a grease basis.

the year 1930 than during the two preceding ones, the number amounting to only 10,950,000 a decrease of 13 per cent compared with 1929.

Sheep numbers in New South Wales on January 1, 1931 were officially estimated at 49,870,000, a decrease of 2 per cent compared with 1930 and 1 per cent compared with 1929. The number at the beginning of 1931, however, was greater than at the beginning of 1928, when approximately 8 million perished as a result of drought during 1927. The largest number of sheep reported since 1894 was 55 million at the beginning of 1927.

A preliminary estimate of the Australian clip for the coming season is usually issued in June or July at the combined meeting of the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers and the Australian Wool Growers Council. Judging from the recent satisfactory seasonal conditions and other factors it seems probable that while the number of sheep to be shorn in New South Wales may be slightly smaller than in the 1930-31 season, the yield per sheep and lamb may be greater than during the past two seasons when it was below average. Wool production, therefore, from present indications may be about the same as for the current season or even slightly larger. The dry weather during the first few months of 1931 pointed to a reduced clip but the recent improvement, if continued, will tend to bring about a heavier yield per sheep and lamb than last year, fewer losses of sheep, probably heavier lambing and reduced slaughter.

Queensland

While wool production has been decreasing in New South Wales during the last few years, Queensland has shown an increase, production for 1929-30 reaching the record quantity of 161 million pounds or 13 per cent over 1928-29, according to The Queenslander of March 19, 1931. This is also an increase of 34 per cent over the drought year of 1926-27. The nearest approach to the amount shorn last season was 154 million pounds in 1913 and 155 million in 1914. It is estimated that approximately 430,000 bales will be received in Brisbane, the principal selling center during the current season and total production is expected to show an increase. Last year sales at Brisbane amounted to 411,000 bales compared with 376,000 in 1928-29 and only 316,000 in 1926-27. Sales will continue until June at Brisbane and wool was arriving from all sections of the State during most of April. The late shearing as a result of the strike has been of benefit to Queensland producers as they are getting better prices for their wool than growers of the southern States who marketed earlier in the season.

During the season ended June 30, 1930, 20,733,000 sheep were shorn in Queensland, an increase of 12 per cent over 1928-29. The total number of sheep on January 1, 1930 was 20,324,000, an increase of 2 per cent over 1929. During 1929, 4,257,000 lambs were marked which was over twice the number marked in 1926. Losses of sheep during 1929 were 1,851,000 compared with 1,694,000 in 1928. In 1926 losses reached 5,300,000. Queensland had an unusually good year in 1930 so that it is probable that sheep numbers at the beginning of 1931 were larger than the 20,300,000 reported at the beginning of 1930. Generally speaking, seasonal conditions in most of the grazing areas are now fair and it is expected that most graziers will be able to carry on for some months and perhaps even throughout the winter months (June-August).

Union of South Africa

Prospects for the coming season's clip which is expected to be smaller than the current one have been improved by soaking rains which were recorded practically all over the Union in April. Before that time rain was badly needed in the Karroo districts of Cape Province, an important sheep raising district. The drought resisting capacity of that part of the Union had been considerably reduced by the general overstocking of farms as a result of the poor prices for sheep.

On account of the late rains over most of the sheep country this season, lambing will be later than usual, according to The Farmers Advocate of South Africa. The best months for lambing in that country are the autumn months of March, April and May as internal parasites are not so troublesome as in the spring (September-November), therefore, the principal lambing season is at this time of year.

The total number of sheep to be shorn for the 1931-32 season will probably show some reduction. While the number of woolled sheep in the Union in June, 1930 was 41,652,000 an increase of 9 per cent over 1929, non-wooled sheep numbered 5,471,000 an increase of 13 per cent over 1929. These non-wooled sheep consist mainly of Blackhead Persians and are used exclusively for mutton. Woolled sheep have increased much more rapidly than non-wooled sheep, the latter showing the greatest increase in years of low wool prices. The increase in the breeding of a non-wooled or Black Persian type which occurred in 1922 and 1923 when they increased from 3,500,000 to over 5 million appears to be recurring this year, states Agricultural Attache Taylor. This type of sheep appears principally in the drier regions where they are preferred on account of their hardiness under adverse grazing conditions. The increase in number, however, is limited by the consuming capacity of the domestic market as they are not looked upon with favor in European markets.

In addition to the probable increase in Black Persian sheep at the expense of the non-wooled variety, drought caused death losses in Orange Free State during the last half of 1930 and it is probable that low wool prices will force some to cull their flocks more rigidly, and also cause a few not to breed ewes, particularly since ranges are now heavily overstocked and the market for slaughter stock is too low to permit profitable liquidation, states Agricultural Attache Taylor. In addition there will probably be less short staple wool shorn unless the need for ready money offsets the present Government propaganda for longer growths. The quality of the coming clip will depend on weather condition from now on until shearing time in September.

The main reasons for the reduction in the original estimate of the 1930-31 clip from 337 million pounds to 307 million pounds were the serious drought in Orange Free State during the last half of 1930 and the fact that last season there was an increase in the semi-annual shearing of short wools which increased the late season deliveries in March, April and May 1930 at the expense of deliveries in early months of the current season. Reports from various wool markets all reveal that there was a definite shortage in short wools received during the months of March, April and May of the current season. These short wools consist of lambs wool and short wools from sheep shorn with six or eight month's growth.

Argentina

Detailed figures of the recent Argentina livestock census are now available which show the shifts in sheep numbers from one part of the country to the other in comparison with censuses for 1922 and 1914. It appears that there has been a substantial increase in numbers in the merino and fine crossbred regions of the South and a decrease in the regions of the Central districts where medium and coarse crossbreds predominate. These latter types of wool, however, still constitute the bulk of the Argentine clip.

Of the 44,413,000 sheep reported by the June 1930 census, 21,380,000 or 48 per cent were in the Central provinces, which includes Buenos Aires province, compared with 52 per cent in 1922 and 63 per cent in 1914; 15,960,000 or 36 per cent were in the southern provinces compared with 35 per cent in 1922 and only 24 per cent in 1914; 4,724,000 or 11 per cent in the northern provinces compared with 8 per cent at the two preceding enumerations and only 2,343,000 or 5 per cent in the western region, the same as in 1922 and 1914. Since 1914 there has been an increase in sheep numbers in the southern territories of 54 per cent which represents considerably heavier production of merino and fine crossbred wool than formerly.

In Buenos Aires province where the bulk of the medium and coarse crossbred clip originates there has been a decrease in sheep numbers since 1914 of 25 per cent. Annual provincial estimates for that province, taken as of June 1, show that the number fell from 18,776,000 in 1914 to 15,350,000 in 1922. The latest census figure for the country gives the number at 14,087,000, a decrease of 8 per cent compared with the same time of year in 1922. ^{1/} According to provincial estimates the number was even lower in 1928, being reported at 12,446,000 and increasing to 12,587,000 in 1929. A good demand for breeding ewes, especially for young good class stock, was reported in the monthly circulars of Messrs. Gibson Bros. Company for January and February this year.

Sheep numbers in Chubut, one of the principal sheep raising provinces of the South reached over 5 million in 1930 compared with 3 million in 1922 and only 2 million in 1914. While in Santa Cruz 6,881,000 were reported in the 1930 census, compared with 4,804,000 in 1922 and 3,941,000 in 1914. It is stated that the law authorizing the last census provides that the returns of this census shall be used as a basis for annual livestock estimates in the future.

Wool production for 1930-31 is estimated at 333 million pounds according to estimates made by the Buenos Aires Branch of the First National Bank of Boston, an increase of 3 per cent over 1929-30. There have been unofficial reports to the effect that there was danger of a decrease of 30 per cent in production in the provinces of Santa Cruz and Chubut due to unfavorable weather. This report was given in detail in World Wool Prospects for April 11, 1931, p. 19 and May 9, 1931, p. 18.

^{1/} As most of the lambs are born in the month of March, May estimates as of June 1 are not comparable with December estimates.

Uruguay

The number of sheep in Uruguay in 1930 is reported at 20,558,000 according to the 1930 census, an increase of 42 per cent over the numbers reported at the time of the 1924 census, reports Assistant Agricultural Commissioner C. L. Luedtke. The current clip is still estimated at 154 million pounds, an increase of 3 per cent above 1929-30. This increase is borne out by a recent report to the effect that the current clip is several million pounds above the preceding clip and for the most part of excellent quality.

Pasturage is abundant and the conditions of sheep are improving rapidly. Earlier reports stated that they had been suffering from the effects of continued wet weather as the length of the grass was too great for them.

Chile

The 1930 livestock census figures have now become available for Chile. As annual estimates are not available for the last few years it is necessary to compare the 1930 figures with those for 1925. It is reported that sheep numbers reached 5,855,000 in 1930, an increase of over 40 per cent over 1925 and 27 per cent over 1914 the largest number reported previously. It is interesting to note the large increase that has occurred in the provinces from Santiago to Chiloe, states Ambassador Culbertson. A comparison of the number in the Magallanes Territory (formerly called Punta Arenas) shows that while the concentrated groupings of the large sheep farms in Chile's most southern territory numbered only 2,338,000, scattered holdings throughout the remainder of the country accounted for 3,517,000 sheep.

Receipts, stocks and disposals in primary markets of the
Southern Hemisphere

By the beginning of May apparent supplies of wool in five ^{1/}principal producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere showed further considerable reductions. It is estimated that by May 1 apparent supplies ^{2/} in those countries was approximately 515 million pounds compared with about 687 million at the same date of 1929-30 and 514 million at the same date of 1928-29. Supplies of the current clip in Southern Hemisphere countries appear to be about normal with the exception of New Zealand where the carry-over is expected to be about the same as it was last year.

Exports from the beginning of the season to about May 1 from the five principal Southern Hemisphere countries mentioned amounted to about 1,532 million pounds this season, an increase of 16 per cent over the same period a year earlier but approximately the same as in the same period of the 1929-30 season.

^{1/} Australia, New Zealand, Union of South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay.

^{2/} Carry-over plus estimated production minus exports up to date nearest May 1. No deduction made for comparatively small quantities used locally.

Receipts into store in Australia were estimated at 719 million pounds by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers. This is a decrease of 4 per cent, compared with the preceding season, but an increase over receipts for the same period in 1925-26 and in 1927-28. Disposals have been 16 per cent above the same period last season and stocks on the first of May were reduced to only 44 million pounds or only about one-fourth the quantity on hand at the same date of 1930. The average on May 1 for the four preceding seasons was approximately 38 million pounds.

Offerings at selling centers in New Zealand up to April 20, the end of the principal selling season, are roughly estimated at about 166 million pounds compared with about 153 million pounds up to the same date last season. Offerings for the whole season 1929-30 were estimated at 171 million pounds compared with 209 million in 1928-29. Sales so far this season amounted to roughly 148 million compared with 132 million a year earlier. For the season 1929-30 sales reached 144 million according to Dalgety and Company compared with 197 million in 1928-29. The unsold quantity on April 1 was estimated at 84 to 101 million pounds. Sales during April reduced the quantity but it is estimated that the carry-over at the end of the season will probably equal that of last season, i.e. 75 million pounds, compared with stocks ranging from 16,400,000 to 23,400,000 for the four preceding seasons.

It is reported that by April 25 stocks at Union of South African ports had been reduced to 9 million pounds, a decrease of 34 per cent compared with the preceding season. Offerings up to April 25 were unofficially estimated at 182 million pounds, a decrease of 28 per cent compared with the same period of the 1929-30 season. Shipments up to April 25 reached 234 million pounds and were 3 per cent below shipments for the same period of 1928-29. Sales in the Union were suspended from December 20, 1930 to January 5, 1931 and afterwards a system of rigid rationing of the market was carried out to prevent the market being over-loaded with more wool than could be absorbed at any one time. While stocks at ports are considerably under last year's total, stocks of wool held on farms are still an unknown factor, according to the Farmers Weekly of the Union.

It seems probable that supplies in South American markets are light. While production in Argentina and Uruguay is estimated at approximately 487 million pounds, an increase of 3 per cent compared with the 1929-30 season, exports have been unusually heavy amounting to 350 million pounds up to April 29, an increase of 25 per cent over 1929-30, and the season does not end until September 30. Stocks at Buenos Aires were unofficially estimated at 29 million pounds on April 29 or only a little over one-half what they were at the same time last year. In Montevideo stocks appear to be only about one-third of the quantity on hand at the same date last year.

Wool: Movement in primary markets of the Southern Hemisphere, seasons 1929-30, and 1930-31 up to date nearest May 1.

Country	Item and period	1929-30	1930-31
	: Receipts at selling centers	: Million lbs	: Million lbs
Australia	: At selling centers, July 1 to		
	: May 1 <u>1/</u>	: 748.8	: 718.8
New Zealand	: Offered at selling centers,		
	: July 1 to Apr. 20	: <u>2/3/</u> 153.0	: <u>2/3/</u> 166.0
Argentina	: At Central Produce Market <u>4/</u>		
	: July 1 to Apr. 16	: 67.4	: 85.8
Uruguay	: At Montevideo, Oct. 1 to Feb. 28:	-	: 121.3
Union of South Africa	: Offerings at the Cape,		
	: Oct. 4 - Apr 25	: <u>2/</u> 251.6	: <u>2/</u> 181.9
Total four countries		: 1220.8	: 1273.8
	: Disposals at selling centers		
Australia	: Sales and shipments, July 1		
	: to May 1 <u>1/</u>	: 531.8	: <u>5/</u> 675.5
New Zealand	: Sales at selling centers,		
	: July 1 - Apr. 20	: <u>6/</u> 132.0	: <u>6/</u> 148.0
Argentina	: Sales July 1- Apr. 29	: 199.0	: 252.8
Uruguay	: Sales at Montevideo, Oct. 1 -		
	: Apr. 29	: 114.1	: 130.9
Total four countries		: 1026.9	: 1207.2
	: Exports		
Australia	: July 1	: 602.5	: 739.0
New Zealand	: July 1	: 171.0	: 179.3
Argentina	: Oct. 1 - Apr. 29	: 178.7	: 226.9
Uruguay	: Oct. 1 - Apr. 29	: 101.2	: 123.0
Union of South Africa	: July 1 - Apr. 25	: 272.0	: 263.5
Total exports		: 1325.4	: 1532.2
	: Stocks at selling centers		
Australia	: At selling centers, May 1 <u>1/</u>	: 167.0	: <u>5/</u> 43.5
Argentina	: In Buenos Aires, Apr. 29	: 44.1	: 28.7
Uruguay	: At Montevideo, Apr. 29	: 14.9	: 3.0
Union of South Africa	: At ports, Apr. 25	: 13.3	: 8.8
Stocks, four countries			
at selling centers		: 239.3	: 84.0

Compiled in the Division of Statistical and Historical Research. In this table the object is to give comparable data for all countries at as near a given time or for a given period as possible. Later figures for some of the countries appear in the text. For similar data for the season 1928-29 and 1929-30 see Wool-34, pages 25 and 26, February 7, 1931. Figures in parenthesis interpolated. Australia: Estimates of National Council of Wool Selling Brokers, Yorkshire Observer, April 14, 1931. Argentina: Receipts at Central Produce Market, -Review of the River Plate, Shipments and Stocks and Sales (disposals),

Continued.

Wool: Movement in primary markets of the Southern Hemisphere, seasons 1929-30 and 1930-31 up to date nearest May 1 -continued

Wool Record and Textile World, April 30, 1931. Uruguay: Receipts - Anglo South American Bank Ltd., April 18, 1931. Shipments - Sales and stocks - Wool Record and Textile World, April 30, 1931. New Zealand: Offerings and sales, see note 5/. Exports - Dalgety and Co.- Daily News Record. Union of South Africa: Offerings, shipments - Stocks cable from Messrs. Anselme Dewavrin Sons & Co., to Wool Record & Textile World.

- 1/ Clip of season designated only.
- 2/ Offerings at selling centers have been used as no figures for receipts are available.
- 3/ These offerings have been compiled from The New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Company Ltd., current reports of wool sales at the different centers and are only rough appropriations.
- 4/ Season for this market, July 1-June 30 although shearing does not begin until about September 15. During recent years about one-third of the National Argentine clip has been disposed of at this market.
- 5/ Conversion to pounds from bales made by using average weight furnished by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers.
- 6/ See note 3/

Australia: Receipts and disposals July 1 to May 1 seasons 1925-26 to 1930-31 and stocks on hand May 1, 1925-26 to 1930-31 1/

Season	: Receipts from : July 1- May 1	: Disposals July : 1 - May 1	: Stocks : May 1
	: Million pounds	: Million pounds	: Million pounds
1925-26	: 673.0	: 617.8	: 55.1
1926-27	: 751.3	: 726.1	: 25.3
1927-28	: 715.9	: 684.9	: 30.6
1928-29	: 800.1	: 758.8	: 41.3
1929-30	: 748.8	: 581.8	: 167.0
1930-31	: 718.8	: 675.5	: 43.5

Estimates of Australian National Council of Wool Selling Brokers, Country Life and Stock and Station Journal and Agricultural Commissioner Paxton, Australia.

- 1/ Clip of season designated only, greasy and scoured added.

Sheep: Numbers in important wool producing countries, averages
1909-1913, 1921-1925, annual 1927-1931

Country	Month of estimate	Average 1909-1913	Average 1921-1925	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
Southern Hemisphere								
Australia	Dec. 2/	90.7	85.6	104.3	100.8	103.4	106.5	
New Zealand	Apr.	24.0	23.4	25.6	27.1	29.1	30.8	
Argentina	Dec. 2/3/	43.2:4/	36.2				3/44.4	
Uruguay		5/ 26.3:6/	14.4			7/ 19.4:3/	20.6	
Chile		3.5	4.3				3/ 5.9	
Union of South Africa	Aug. June 30	30.7	32.6	40.3	42.7:8/	45.2:9/	49.2	
Total 3 So. Hemis. coun. reporting all periods 10/		145.4	141.6	170.2	170.6	177.7	186.4	
Northern Hemisphere								
United States	Jan.	43.2	37.2	41.9	44.8	47.7	50.5	51.9
Canada	June	2.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.7	
England and Wales	June	18.3	14.4	17.1	16.4	16.1	16.3	
Scotland	June	7.0	6.8	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	
Northern Ireland	June	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	
Irish Free State	June	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.5	
Netherlands	May-June	0.8	0.7	-	-	-	11/0.5	
Norway	June	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	
France	Dec. 2/	16.2	9.8	10.8	10.7	10.4	10.5	
Spain		15.8	19.2	20.5	-	12/20.0	-	
Italy		11.6	12.0:7/	12.5	-	-	11/9.9	
Germany	Dec. 2/	5.0	5.9	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.5
Czechoslovakia	Dec. 2/	1.3:13/	1.0:14/	0.9	-	-	11/0.8	
Hungary	Apr.	2.4	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	
Rumania	Dec. 2/	11.1	11.7	13.6	12.9	12.8	12.4	
Poland	Nov.	4.5	2.2	1.9	-	2.5	2.5	
Latvia	June	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	
Estonia	July	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	
Russia	Summer	111.1	93.6	126.8	133.6	134.0	100.6	
Total 13 No. Hemis. coun. excl. Russia 15/		112.1	97.3	107.0	108.6	110.5	113.2	
Total 14 No. Hemis. coun. rept. including Russia 15/		223.2	190.9	233.8	242.2	244.5	213.8	
Total 17 S.&N. Hemis. coun. rept. all periods incl. Russia 16/		368.6	332.5	404.0	412.8	422.2	400.2	
Estimated world total incl. Russia		692.2	647.1					

Compiled in Division of Statistical and Historical Research from official source unless otherwise indicated. For table giving figures for all countries see Foreign Crops and Markets March 23, 1931 Pages 352 to 355.

Continued.

Sheep: Numbers in important wool producing countries, averages
1909-1913, 1921-1925, annual 1927-1931 - continued

- 1/ Average for 5-year period if available. Figures for European countries, are estimates for present boundaries.
- 2/ Estimates for countries reporting in December have been considered as of January 1 of the following year.
- 3/ Censuses June 1914 and 1930.
- 4/ Census December 1922.
- 5/ Census 1908.
- 6/ Census 1924.
- 7/ Unofficial.
- 8/ Number in towns assumed to be same as in 1927, i.e., 162,000 and added for purposes of comparison with preceding years.
- 9/ Estimate based on official report of increase in sheep as of June 1930 over same date of 1929.
- 10/ Argentina and Uruguay not included in totals due to lack of estimates for all years listed.
- 11/ Census 1930.
- 12/ Census 1929.
- 13/ Census 1920.
- 14/ Census 1925.
- 15/ Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Czechoslovakia and Poland not included in totals due to lack of estimates for all years listed.
- 16/ Argentina, Uruguay, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Czechoslovakia and Poland not included due to lack of estimates for all periods listed.

Argentina: Receipts and stocks of wool at Central Produce Market,
Buenos Aires, during current season up to May 1 with comparisons 1/

Season	Receipts July 1		Stocks	
	to May 1.	2/	May 1	3/
	1,000 pounds		1,000 pounds	
1921-22	172.8	:	15,871	:
1922-23	116.3	:	8,911	:
1923-24	92.7	:	8,675	:
1924-25	75.9	:	20,968	:
1925-26	91.4	:	7,407	:
1926-27	99.5	:	3,609	:
1927-28	86.5	:	5,082	:
1928-29	94.1	:	11,155	:
1929-30	69.7	:	7,524	:
1930-31	-	:	-	:

Compiled from weekly reports published in the Review of the River Plate.

- 1/ Season for this market reported as opening on July 1 although shearing season does not begin until about September 15. During recent years about one-third of Argentine clip is reported to have been disposed of at this market.
- 2/ From July 1 to date nearest end of month for which weekly report is furnished.
- 3/ Stocks at date nearest end of month.

Breeding ewes: Trend in numbers in specified countries, 1924-1931

Country	Date	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
		Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands	Thou- sands
United States <u>1/</u>	Jan. 1	-	25,769	26,459	27,704	29,591	31,646	33,615	35,425
New South Wales <u>1/</u>	June 30	21,670	23,040	25,920	27,770	26,262	25,076		
South Australia <u>2/</u>	Jan.		3,179	3,389	3,605	3,699			
Western Australia <u>2/</u>	Jan.	3,516	3,377	3,529	3,800	4,309	4,567	4,906	
New Zealand	Apr. 30	13,076	13,715	13,948	14,832	15,534	16,608	17,564	
England & Wales	June	5,994	6,397	6,755	6,962	6,847	6,717	6,806	
Isle of Man	June	34	36	39	40	40	41		
Scotland	June	2,992	3,056	3,115	3,239	3,275	3,281	3,314	
North Ireland	June	226	216	234	264	277	289	310	
Irish Free State	June	1,236	1,224	1,284	1,344	1,392	1,423	1,490	
France <u>1/2/</u>	Jan.	6,115	6,256	6,496	6,635	6,610	6,473	-	
Germany <u>1/2/</u>	Jan.		2,907	2,542	2,379	2,262	2,191	2,172	
Hungary <u>1/</u>	Apr.	995	1,034	1,037	963	925	919	880	
Rumania <u>2/</u>	Jan.	9,273	9,894	9,461	10,019	9,780	9,764		
Spain <u>2/</u>	Jan.		10,813				12,229		
Yugoslavia	Jan.	4,356	5,080	5,032	5,094	5,196			
Argentina	June							28,176	
Province of Buenos Aires <u>4/</u>	June	10,170	9,682	9,516	9,623	9,686			
Algeria <u>5/</u>			3,570	3,939	2,984				
Japan <u>5/</u>	June	11	12	13	13	14			

Compiled from official sources and the International Institute of Agriculture.

1/ Estimated number of breeding ewes 1 year and over.

2/ Estimates for countries reporting as of December have been considered as of January of the following year.

3/ Census May 1929.

4/ Ewes and tugs.

5/ Ewes and ewe lambs.

New South Wales, Australia: Number of sheep shorn and wool produced, seasons, 1923-24 - 1929-30

Season	Sheep on hand	Sheep on hand	Number of sheep	Average weight	Wool production		
	: 30 of July 1-	: Dec. 31 first named year	: and lambs shorn <u>1/</u>	: per sheep and lamb	Shorn, crutched and dead	: from or exported on skins	Total
	: Thousands	: Thousands	: Thousands	: Pounds	: pounds	: pounds	: pounds
1923-24	38,760	<u>2/</u>	38,371	7.1	273,687	29,345	303,032
1924-25	41,440	<u>2/</u>	41,320	8.2	341,711	27,407	369,118
1925-26	47,100	<u>2/</u>	45,550	8.1	369,500	32,990	402,490
1926-27	53,860	54,630	51,880	8.8	459,552	41,770	499,322
1927-28	55,930	48,920	53,730	7.5	406,080	37,780	443,860
1928-29	50,510	50,515	50,300	8.8	446,090	36,830	482,920
1929-30	50,185	50,740	53,260	7.8	417,730	42,240	459,970
1930-31	48,720	49,870	48,840	7.8	385,000	45,000	430,000

Quarterly Statistical Bulletin, New South Wales, March 1931.

- 1/ Shearing takes place principally in last few months of first named year.
- 2/ Not available.

New South Wales, Australia: Causes of increase or decrease in number of sheep in 1920-1930

Year ended	Lambs marked	Sheep and lambs slaughtered	Excess of imports (+) or exports (-)	Estimated number of deaths (balance) <u>1/</u>	Net increase (+) or decrease (-) for year	Sheep at end of year
June 30 -						
1920	5,230	5,540	(-) 1,380	7,330	(-) 9,020	35,150
1921	8,750	3,850	(+) 1,980	2,280	(+) 4,600	37,750
1922	10,860	5,230	(+) 150	2,460	(+) 3,320	41,070
1923	8,180	5,670	(-) 2,170	2,650	(-) 2,310	38,760
1924	9,080	3,440	(-) 140	2,820	(+) 2,680	41,440
1925	12,001	3,390	(-) 870	2,080	(+) 5,660	47,100
1926	13,100	4,250	(-) 610	1,480	(+) 6,760	53,860
1927	12,630	5,619	(-) 2,636	2,305	(+) 2,070	55,930
1928	9,219	5,010	(-) 2,036	7,593	(-) 5,420	50,510
1929	-	-	-	-	-	50,185
1930	-	-	-	-	-	48,720
Dec. 31 -						
1926	-	-	-	-	-	54,630
1927	10,830	5,580	(-) 3,170	7,790	(-) 5,710	48,920
1928	12,840	4,820	(-) 1,130	5,295	(+) 1,595	50,515
1929	12,560	5,380	(-) 2,410	4,540	(+) 225	50,740
1930	10,950	6,350	(-) 720	4,750	(-) 870	49,870

"Country Life and Stock and Station Journal", September 7, 1928, page 19. Also official Yearbook of New South Wales, 1927-28 and 1928-29. Quarterly Statistical Bulletin, New South Wales, June 1929, March 1931, page 58.

1/ Estimated by adding lambing to number on hand at end of preceding year - subtracting slaughterings and excess exports and subtracting result from number of sheep on hand at end of year. These are only rough approximations.

Queensland, Australia: Number of sheep shorn and wool produced, seasons 1924-25 - 1929-30

Season	Sheep on Dec. 31, first July - June 30 year <u>1</u> / ₁	Sheep named and lambs shorn	Grease	Scoured	Total express- ed in grease equivalent	Average weight of fleece in the grease	Total wool production including pulled, exported on skins, etc.
	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
			1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000
1924-25	19,028	18,519	123,078	7,099	137,277	7.41	152,132
1925-26	20,663	20,553	129,361	7,156	143,674	6.99	158,745
1926-27	16,861	17,601	104,308	5,964	116,237	6.60	129,436
1927-28	16,642	16,962	110,611	6,085	122,782	7.24	136,544
1928-29	18,509	18,439	121,219	6,235	134,727	7.31	150,108
1929-30	20,324	20,733	138,030	8,279	155,967	7.52	161,088

Quarterly Summary Australian Statistics, December 1930 and the Queensland March 19, 1931.

1/₁ Losses of sheep during years ending December 31 were as follows: 1925, 2,197,000; 1926, 5,335,000; 1927, 2,449,000; 1928, 1,694,000; and 1929, 1,851,000.

Queensland: Lambing, estimates, years ended December 31, 1924 to 1929

Year	Ewes mated	Lambs marked	Percentage lambing
	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Thousands</u>	<u>Per cent</u>
1924	8,481	4,833	56.99
1925	8,772	4,638	52.88
1926	6,557	2,246	34.25
1927	6,981	2,482	35.56
1928	7,820	3,995	51.09
1929	8,115	4,257	52.46

Pastoral Review December 16, 1930, p. 220, A B C Queensland, 1930, p. 194.

Argentina: Distribution of sheep numbers, censuses 1914, 1922 and 1930

Region and province	June 1914	Per- cent- age of total	Dec. 1922 esti- mate ^{1/}	Per- cent- age of total	July 1, 1930	Per- cent- age of total
	Thou- sands	Per cent	Thou- sands	Per cent	Thou- sands	Per cent
<u>Northern Region</u>						
Jujuy	576:	:	413:	:	742:	:
Los Andes	86:	:	87:	:	58:	:
Salta	323:	:	151:	:	384:	:
Formosa Territory	33:	:	29:	:	80:	:
Chaco Territory	30:	:	53:	:	151:	:
Misiones Territory	12:	:	9:	:	10:	:
Corrientes	2,349:	:	2,181:	:	3,299:	:
Total	3,409:	8	2,923:	8	4,724:	11
<u>Central Region</u>						
Buenos Aires ^{2/}	18,776:	:	12,902:	:	14,087:	:
La Pampa Territory	2,283:	:	2,003:	:	2,253:	:
Santa Fe	564:	:	581:	:	533:	:
Cordoba	1,410:	:	776:	:	1,110:	:
Entre Rios	4,304:	:	2,547:	:	3,397:	:
Total	27,337:	63	18,809:	52	21,380:	48
<u>Western Region</u>						
San Luis	592:	:	470:	:	530:	:
Mendoza	299:	:	139:	:	184:	:
Santiago del Estero	742:	:	595:	:	1,109:	:
Tucuman	129:	:	70:	:	137:	:
San Juan	65:	:	86:	:	81:	:
La Rioja	94:	:	128:	:	125:	:
Catamarca	182:	:	235:	:	177:	:
Total	2,103:	5	1,723:	5	2,343:	5
<u>Southern Region</u>						
Neuquen Territory	792:	:	743:	:	915:	:
Rio Negro Territory	2,802:	:	3,260:	:	2,316:	:
Chubut Territory	2,047:	:	3,129:	:	5,004:	:
Santa Cruz Territory	3,941:	:	4,804:	:	6,881:	:
Tierra del Fuego	784:	:	818:	:	844:	:
Total	10,376:	24	12,754:	35	15,960:	36
Grand total	43,225:		36,209:		44,413:	

^{1/} As the principal lambing season in Argentina is in the months March to May sheep numbers would be largest in the June and not comparable with December estimates.

^{2/} Provincial estimates for Province of Buenos Aires show that there were 18,776,000 sheep in that province in June 1914; 15,350,000 in June 1922; 12,446,000 in June 1928 and 12,587,000 in June 1929.