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WORLD WOOL PROSPECTS

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Prices Trade and Consumption Supply

Summary

The strong upward movement in wool prices in foreign markets has resulted in a movement by domestic mills and cloth buyers to cover their requirements and calls for considerable quantities of wool on the Boston market were reported during March. Attempts to advance raw wool prices in the domestic market have met with slight success, however. The increased business in domestic wools in February resulted from the accumulation of delayed purchases caused by the sharp decline in the London market in January. Demand during February was confined largely to the finer grades of western grown wools but with the increase in activity the middle of March a good demand for 56's and 48's, 50's domestic wools became noticeable.

The present wool selling season is drawing to a close in the Southern Hemisphere markets with marketing conditions more favorable than they have been at any previous time during the season. Prices in all centers have continued firmly upward from the low levels reached in January. Heavy buying on the part of Japanese operators has been a feature at all recent sales in Australia and New Zealand but strong competition has been offered by French, German, Yorkshire and Italian buyers. The second series at London opened on March 10 with prices from 10 to 15 per cent above the closing prices on February 6. Prices increased slightly during the first two weeks of the series with Bradford taking the bulk of the offerings but during the final week prices eased off slightly due to the large supplies of greasy wools

available. Bradford sellers of tops and yarn have increased their quotations as a result of the considerable rise in raw wool prices at primary centers. Improvement in consumption is slow, however, and sales are just sufficient to keep prices firm. The improvement in market activity previously reported for continental Europe continued through March but machinery activity was only slightly higher than during the previous month.

Wool consumption in the United States showed an increase in February compared with January and was about equal to the consumption in February of last year. Imports of combing and clothing wools have increased since October but the increase has been much less than the normal seasonal increase for this period.

Clearances from Southern Hemisphere markets have been large and it seems likely that the bulk of the clip will be disposed of before the new Northern Hemisphere clip comes on the market. Apparent supplies in the five chief Southern Hemisphere countries about March 1 were approximately 3 per cent below those of the same date last year. Stocks of tops in combing establishments of continental Europe on March 1 were lower than on January 1 and February 1, but were larger than those held on March 1, 1930, while stocks of foreign and colonial wool in the United Kingdom on February 1 were unofficially estimated to be 517 million pounds or 91 million pounds above the stocks of February 1, 1930.

Present indications point to a probable slight decrease in the world clip for 1931 due to expected reductions in Southern Hemisphere countries. Production in Northern Hemisphere countries this spring may show some increase. However, Northern Hemisphere countries account for only 30 per cent of the world's production of combing and clothing wool.

Prices: Domestic

Sales of a few grades of domestic wools increased sharply during the first week in February. Demand, however, was confined quite largely to the finer grades of western grown wools. A moderate expansion took place in 56s and lower grades of both Fleece and Territory lines, but the increase in sales was not comparable with the greater activity of the finer wools.

Prices likewise showed irregular movements. On (Fine) 64s,70s,80s domestic wools, which received a very large proportion of the call, prices tended firmer and in isolated cases slight advances over January levels were realized. In the case of (1/2 blood) 58s,60s, the general trend continued downward in spite of the greater activity, but the rate of decline was retarded with average prices at the end of February only 1-2 cents, scoured basis, lower than at the opening of the month. On the lower grades, declines were greater with the largest declines on the coarsest grades.

The increased February business in domestic wools resulted from the accumulation of delayed purchases. The sharp decline in wool prices at London in January caused goods orders to be delayed. Rallying tendencies at London and primary foreign markets late in January gave cloth buyers confidence to go ahead with commitments to cover their requirements for the early spring trade. Mills immediately covered on raw materials. They bought heavy weights of wool during the first week in February but the requirements of most operators were quite closely limited to a few lines.

Western grown wools of 58s, 60s and finer qualities were the principal lines to receive the benefit of the heavy February buying, and 64s and finer wools were favored over the 58s, 60s. The demand for the past six months, heavier on 64s and finer than on 58s, 60s, had placed market supplies of 64s and finer wools in the better position to respond to an increased demand. As a result, the February demand was sufficient to hold prices of 64s and finer domestic wools at levels steady to firmer than the January close, while prices of 58s, 60s went lower, though only slightly so.

The February movement of 64s and finer wools included a broad selection of graded and original bag lines. Strictly combing offerings of graded 64s and finer territory wools sold in moderate quantities at 65-68 cents, scoured basis. Sales were fairly large on French Combing wools at 60-63 cents, and some graded Clothing wool sold at 58-63 cents, scoured basis. Choice original bag lines, containing mostly good French Combing and some Strictly Combing staple, sold mostly at 62-63 cents with an occasional lot bringing a slight advance over this range during the period of greatest activity. Average lines of bulk French Combing were steady to firm at 60-61 cents, while offerings of short French Combing and Clothing staple together brought 57-59 cents, scoured basis. These shorter staple wools showed a strengthening tendency as a result of a general demand by topmakers.

Strictly Combing 58s, 60s Territory wools shared quite largely in the increased February movement, although it was quite noticeable that this grade did not show the same firming tendencies manifested by the finer qualities. Prices on Strictly Combing Territory wools of this grade moved at 59-62 cents, scoured basis, as compared with 60-63 cents at the close of January. French Combing wools eased from 58-60 cents to 55-58 cents, scoured basis, and Clothing eased about 2 cents to 53-55 cents. This grade, however, was steadier toward the close of February.

The broader inquiry in January on 56s and 48s,50s domestic wools failed to materialize in actual business to the extent anticipated, or to the extent that sales developed on the finer grades. A moderate amount of Territory 56s, Strictly Combing wool, was sold, but demand was narrow and prices declined from the January close in the range 53-55 cents, scoured basis, to 50-53 cents at the end of February. Much less call was received on 48s, 50s Territory wools and prices on the limited volume of sales declined from 48-51 cents to 43-46 cents, scoured basis. Sales were similarly distributed over the corresponding grades of Ohio and similar Fleeces. Prices on Strictly Combing 56s declined from 48-50 cents to 45-48 cents, and on 48s, 50s from 44-47 cents to 40-43 cents, scoured basis.

The finer grades of Ohio and Similar Fleeces were mostly quiet, but owing to the scarcity of offerings of these grades, they were practically in a specialty class. Only small lots of Strictly Combing 64s and finer wools from these lines were sold and prices were firm in the range 70-75 cents, scoured basis. The margin in prices of these wools over the prices of good Strictly Combing 64s and finer Territory wools was maintained through the relatively smaller supply of the former and the need for them by a few manufacturers. Fleece 58s, 60s declined, however, in spite of the small supplies but prices were held nearer than usual to the level of prices on corresponding qualities of Territory wools.

Odd lots of coarse wools were sold during February at prices distinctly below the quotations prevailing at the close of January. Low 1/4 blood, 46s, Fleeces sold at 35-37 cents and Common and Braid, 36s to 44s, sold at 32-35 cents, scoured basis, as compared with the January closings of 40-42 cents and 38-41 cents respectively, on these two grades. Similar declines took place on these grades of Territory wools.

Interest in offerings of foreign wools was broader and was manifested by a fair volume of orders for import and a fairly active trade in spot offerings. Prices on some spot Australian wools were a little lower as the result of a readjustment of asking prices to the new levels prevailing after the close of the London sale, but even on the lines that declined, the low point was well above the low in London and primary markets. South American crossbreds also were more active than during the previous month. Prices on low grade; 40s and under, were held very firmly at levels to which they had been advanced by a spurt of buying in January and by continued strengthening in South American primary markets. New Zealand wools were slow but prices were firm.

Strengthening of woolen wools was a feature of the market during the past month, especially considering the increased slaughter of sheep and lambs. The volume of sales was quite large on B Grade Pulled wools and prices advanced on Choice White B wools from 43-46 cents to 47-52 cents, while B Super wools advanced from 40-43 cents to 44-47 cents. Prices on Choice AA wools advanced 1-2 cents and on Average AA's, 2-3 cents during February. Price advances may be largely accounted for by the longer staple of wools pulled during winter months, but apparently not wholly to this factor for fall pulled wools and scoured shorn Clothing wools were stronger in February than in January.

The Noil market shared with pulled wools the greater activity in raw materials for woolen manufacture. Prices were strong, particularly on 56s and 48s,50s grades which had become quite restricted in supply owing to the decreased rate at which these wools were combed during the past few months. Improvement, however, was general on all grades and 64s and finer Noils were firmer than during the previous month.

February was quite an active month in the Top market, the most active since last September. Spinners showed a willingness to cover ahead to a moderate extent, although a great deal of the February business in Tops was on immediate delivery orders. Yet, in spite of the firmer market on the finer grades of wool, top prices declined several cents a pound. Oil Combed 64s tops that will spin 50s yarn were selling at 87-91 cents in late January, but before the end of February 87-88 cents was the best price that could be obtained on this type of 64s. Dry Combed 64s tops of a shorter staple declined from 84-85 cents to 82-83 cents. The greater part of the tops demand was on 64s but a few spinners were in the market for 60s on which prices were only slightly easier at 80-82 cents, as compared with the previous month's close at 80-83 cents. Prices eased moderately on 58s with sales mostly in the range 73-75 cents. The outlet was rather narrow but steady with the few spinners using 56s and prices eased from 65-70 cents to 63-67 cents. Little call was received on 50s made entirely of shorn wool and prices dropped further to 55-60 cents as compared with 57-62 cents at the close of January. Deliveries of Tops on contracts and orders for immediate needs were quite large and the aggregate volume was well over that of January.

Wool: Price per pound at Boston on specified dates, 1930-31

Grade	1930			1931		
	Jan. 18	Feb. 15	Mar. 15	Jan. 17	Feb. 14	Mar. 14
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
64s, 70s, 80s (fine)						
Strictly combing						
Ohio and similar grease	34-35	33-34	32-33	29-30	29-31	29-31
Fleece scoured basis	82-84	78-81	78-80	70-73	70-75	70-75
Territory " "	82-84	78-80	78-80	68-71	65-68	65-68
58s, 60s (½ blood)						
Strictly combing						
Ohio and similar grease	38-39	36-37	34-35	28-29	28-29	26-27
Fleece scoured basis	79-82	75-78	73-75	61-63	61-63	57-60
Territory " "	79-82	75-78	73-78	62-65	60-63	59-62
56s (3/8 blood)						
Strictly combing						
grease	39-40	36-37	34-35	27-28	25-26	23-24
Fleece scoured basis	72-77	67-69	62-67	50-53	46-49	42-45
Territory	75-78	68-71	65-70	55-58	51-53	49-53
46s (low ¼ blood)						
Strictly combing						
Ohio and similar grease	35-36	31-32	31-32	24-25	21-22	19-20
Fleece scoured basis	57-60	53-55	53-55	40-42	35-38	33-35
Territory " "	60-62	55-57	55-57	42-45	35-40	35-40

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

Prices: Foreign

London wool sales

The opening of the second series of London wool sales for 1931 was an exciting one with prices well above the closing prices of the previous series on February 6. The rise was generally excepted, due to the firm tendency in the primary markets of the Southern Hemisphere through the month of February. Bradford buyers who took the major portion of the wool sold at the previous series were again the chief buyers.

During the second week of the series the market became even firmer due to greater competition from continental buyers and prices of most grades of wool showed a further advance of about a cent a pound (scoured basis). Competition eased off somewhat as the close of the sales drew near and prices on March 31, the final day of the sales were just below the best point of the series. Reports previous to the opening indicated an available supply of 171,500 bales, 146,900 bales of this being from Australia and New Zealand. At the second series of the 1930 sales 163,300 bales were available including 129,700 bales from Australia and New Zealand.

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 - 1930-31

United States grades	1930				1931			
	1st. series		2nd series		1st. series		2nd series	
	Open Jan.21	Close Feb. 6	Open Mar.18	Close Apr. 9	Open Jan.20	Close Feb. 6	Open Mar.10	Close Mar. 31
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
70s	49.7	52.7	48.7	47.7	31.4	35.5	43.6	43.6
64s	46.7	49.7	42.6	42.6	28.4	33.4	41.6	41.6
60s	43.6	43.6	37.5	37.5	25.3	29.4	37.5	38.5
58s	40.6	41.6	35.5	35.5	24.3	25.3	31.4	32.4
56s	36.5	36.5	33.4	32.9	20.3	21.3	26.4	28.4
50s	31.4	30.4	26.4	25.8	17.2	17.2	22.3	24.3
48s	29.4	28.4	23.8	24.8	15.2	17.2	21.8	22.8
46s	28.4	27.4	23.3	23.3	14.7	16.2	20.8	22.3
44s	27.9	27.4	23.3	23.3	14.2	15.2	19.8	20.3
40s	27.9	26.4	22.8	23.3	13.2	14.2	19.3	20.3
36s	27.9	26.4	22.3	22.3	13.2	14.2	18.2	20.3

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

Australia

The final sales of the regular season have already been held at several centers in Australia. In all cases the closing sales were marked by animated competition from all sections of the trade, firm or rising prices and excellent clearances. The close of the Victorian season came on March 25 with the final sale at Geelong. The Melbourne season closed on March 19. The last sale at Adelaide was held on March 13 and the sale at Perth on March 3 was reported to have closed that center.

Prices of merinos at the close of the 6th series of sales at Sydney on March 5 were 25 per cent above those at the opening of the series on January 27 while comebacks and greasy crossbreds were 15 per cent higher. When the 7th series opened on March 16 further advances were reported and prices continued to rise as the sales progressed. At the close of the series on March 26 prices were firm and all sections of the trade were operating freely. About 60,000 bales are reported to remain for the April series at Sydney.

The fifth series at Brisbane was held March 10-12. Trading at the sales was very keen and Japanese and French buyers were the principal operators. Prices at the close of the sales were 30 per cent above the prices at this center when the previous series closed on January 22.

New Zealand

March sales in New Zealand opened at Christchurch on March 3. Prices at this sale were about 25 per cent higher than those at the next previous sale which had been held at Wellington on February 13. The market was active but quite irregular with prices of similar lots reported to have varied considerably owing to instructions to many operators to buy at best possible prices. All sections of the trade offered good competition with Bradford making the fewest purchases.

Sales followed at Dunedin, Invercargill, Wellington, Wanganui, Auckland and Christchurch in the order named. Prices were firm at all sales except those at Auckland and Christchurch the end of the month at which wools were rather inferior and prices eased slightly. At these sales Germany and Japan purchased most of the offerings while Bradford and France bought sparingly. At the earlier sales in March, Bradford, France, Germany and Japan made good purchases and operations of American interests were reported to be larger than they had been for some time previous.

Improvement continues at Bradford

The firmness in raw wool prices is exercising a dominating influence on the market for tops and yarn at Bradford. Prices for 64s quality tops advanced 6 cents a pound between February 25 and March 25 while 50s tops advanced 5 cents a pound and yarns were 3 to 6 cents a pound dearer. A slight increase in orders from the English trade improved conditions in the piece goods section but merchants continue to maintain their hand-to-mouth buying policy. Inquiries have been received for export account but the rising prices and extended credits are obstacles to actual transactions.

Wool, tops and yarn: Price per pound at Bradford on specified dates, 1930-31

Date	64s 1/			50s 1/		
	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

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 have moved strongly upward since mid-February in the wool centers of Continental Europe and an optimistic attitude prevails at the present time. In France prices for Australian tops rose 6 cents a pound between February 12 and March 19 while prices for noils increased 5 to 7 cents a pound during that period.

The price of washed Cape wool of medium quality in Germany on March 1 was 38.5 cents a pound compared with 37.5 cents on February 1 and 58.5 cents on March 1, 1930. Australian A/AA tops, commercial fleeces, was 52.7 cents per pound on March 1 having advanced 2 cents a pound during the month while Buenos Aires medium quality tops were 27.4 cents per pound or a cent a pound above the price on February 1.

Tops, noils and yarn: Price per pound in France, specified dates 1930-31

Item	1930			1931		
	Jan. 2	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Jan.15	Feb.12	Mar.19
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Tops, Australian -						
Merino 64s warp	73.0	62.9	71.0	52.7	54.8	60.8
Crossbreds 56s	58.8	50.7	50.7	40.6	42.6	48.7
Tops, Argentine -						
Crossbreds 56s	-	48.7	48.7	38.5	38.5	45.1
Noils -						
Australian merino	62.2	56.9	56.9	28.8	30.2	35.5
Australian crossbred	43.5	39.1	37.3	20.0	17.8	24.9
Cape	67.5	56.9	53.3	33.1	35.5	32.0
Yarn -						
Merino	104.4	93.7	91.5	80.4	79.5	84.9
Cheviot	80.9	68.4	69.1	51.9	51.1	56.4

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

United States imports below last year

Imports of wool into the ports of Boston, New York and Philadelphia from January 1 to March 21 were below the small imports for the same period of 1930, according to figures compiled in the Boston office of the Livestock, Meats and Wool Division. Imports of combing and clothing wool into these three ports from January 1 to March 21, 1931 amounted to 12,437,000 pounds compared with 20,969,000 pounds of combing and clothing wool imported in the same period of 1930. Imports of carpet wool into these ports were 20,285,000 pounds to March 21, 1931 compared with 37,537,000 pounds in 1930.

Receipts of domestic wool at Boston for February amounted to 6,741,000 pounds compared with 3,800,000 pounds received in January and 5,012,000 pounds received in February, 1930. Receipts at this center are expected to be small until May.

Wool: Imports into the United States, specified periods, 1930-31

Wool	1930		1931		
	Jan.1-Feb.28	Feb.	Jan.1-Feb.28	Jan.	Feb.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Combing......	12,525	4,824	8,162	3,539	4,623
Clothing.....	5,683	2,672	1,230	842	388
Total.....	18,208	7,496	9,392	4,381	5,011
Carpet.......	26,342	10,730	15,914	9,313	6,601
Total all wools.....	44,550	18,226	25,306	13,694	11,612

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

Small seasonal increase in United States consumption

The consumption of combing and clothing wools in the United States by mills reporting to the Bureau of the Census increased slightly in December and January, but was still considerably below the corresponding figures for 1930, and far below normal consumption for these months. Carpet wool consumption also remained low in January, 1931. The total quantity of wool entering into manufacture as reported by 430 manufacturers during January 1931, reduced to a grease equivalent, was 33,856,000 pounds compared with 30,007,000 pounds reported by 431 manufacturers for December, 1930 and 43,627,000 pounds reported by 456 manufacturers for January, 1930. Consumption of combing and clothing wool as reported was 22,857,000 pounds in January, 1931 compared with 21,963,000 pounds in December, an increase of 4.1 per cent but was 16.9 per cent below the consumption reported in January, 1930. The increase in consumption in January, 1931 compared with December, 1930 occurred in grades 58s, 60s and coarser all of which were consumed in slightly larger quantities. The consumption of wools grading 64s and finer was smaller in January than in the previous month. Of the total quantity of wool used by manufacturers during January 1931, 63 per cent was domestic wool and 37 per cent was foreign wool. Combing and clothing wool formed 77.2 per cent of the total consumed in January while 22.8 per cent was carpet wool.

Wool: Consumption in the United States, by grades, for specified periods, 1930-31 1/

Grades (Official standards of the United States)	1930 Jan. 1-Dec. 31	1930 Jan.	1930 Dec.	1931 Jan.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Combing and clothing wool				
64s, 70s and 80s	135,212	11,461	11,265	10,804
58s, and 60s	54,725	5,862	3,900	4,695
56s	43,243	4,377	3,412	3,536
48s and 50s	39,733	3,837	2,366	2,746
36s, 40s, 44s and 46s	20,014	1,954	1,020	1,076
Total combing and clothing wools	292,928	27,491	21,963	22,857
Carpet wools	84,862	11,199	4,367	6,744
Total all wools	377,790	38,690	26,330	29,601

Compiled from data in the "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-January 1931, annual, 1929 and 1930

Year, month or period	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic and foreign: Combing	Clothing	Carpet	Total
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 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	3,819	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.	17,848	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	283,622	232,491	285,312	74,699	156,102	516,113
1931						
Jan.	18,640	10,961	18,671	4,186	6,744	29,601

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.

Foreign wool in bond at Boston below last year

Approximate stocks of foreign wool in bond at Boston on February 28, 1931 were 15,081,000 pounds according to a revised inventory. Stocks on January 31 were reported to be about 12,478,000 pounds and on February 28, 1930 there were 19,081,000 pounds reported in bond. The stocks on February 28 consisted of 7,760,000 pounds of combing and clothing wool and 7,321,000 pounds of carpet wool. On February 28, 1930 stocks consisted of 13,878,000 pounds of combing and clothing wool and 5,203,000 pounds of carpet wool.

Machinery activity improves slightly

Machinery activity in the wool industry of the United States improved slightly in January 1931 compared with the previous month but was below that of January 1930 which was below normal. The activity expressed as a percentage of the maximum single shift capacity was greater than in the previous month in all sections except the combs section. Woolen and worsted spindles were active for a total of 489,000,000 hours in January 1931 compared with 471,000,000 hours in December and 604,000,000 in January 1930. Looms were active 6.5 million hours in January compared with 6.4 million in December and 8.9 million in January 1930.

Wool machinery activity in the United States during January and December 1930 and January 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		1931	1930		1931	1930		1931
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.
	1,000 hours	1,000 hours	1,000 hours	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent	Per cent
Cards	933	614	653	62.6	50.2	50.1	63.4	43.2	46.7
Combs	436	373	368	66.7	57.3	56.0	77.8	67.4	66.8
Spindles:									
Woolen	303,367	212,388	227,647	61.1	50.6	51.1	61.7	44.5	48.3
Worsted	300,591	258,983	261,196	55.8	52.1	52.3	54.9	51.8	52.1
Looms:									
Wide 1/	6,344	5,158	5,187	47.7	42.6	43.0	52.7	46.1	48.6
Narrow 2/	1,418	668	698	53.7	31.6	28.9	50.1	25.9	27.7
Carpet and rug	1,140	614	624	57.3	42.2	39.8	50.7	28.9	29.2

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.

British wool exports decline

Exports of raw and manufactured wool from the United Kingdom in February 1931 were below those of January and were also below the exports for February 1930. The exports of woolen and worsted tissues in February were 8,587,000 square yards compared with 10,394,000 square yards in January and 13,050,000 square yards in February 1930. A seasonal decline in exports of tissues from the United Kingdom is generally to be expected from February to April. Only 1,913,000 pounds of woolen and worsted yarns were exported in February compared with 2,390,000 in January and 2,970,000 in February 1930.

Imports of raw wool declined in February compared with January but imports of manufactures of wool were greater.

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

Exports and imports	Unit	1930		1931	
		Feb.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Exports -					
Wool	pound	2,100	2,800	2,500	1,700
Tops	"	1,800	2,300	2,300	2,200
Yarns, woolen	"	420	365	389	276
Yarns, worsted	"	2,550	2,459	2,001	1,637
Tissues, woolen	sq.yd.	8,880	4,921	6,717	5,555
Tissues, worsted	" "	4,170	2,603	3,677	3,032
Flannels and delaines...	" "	320	249	242	227
Carpets and rugs	" "	540	219	290	225
Noils	pound	800	1,000	600	600
Waste	"	700	700	500	500
Woolen rags	"	2,350	1,460	1,680	1,460
Imports -					
Wool	"	81,900	75,100	103,200	82,200
Tops	"	100	300	100	100
Waste and noils.........	"	300	500	100	100
Yarns	"	1,720	2,174	1,631	1,623
Tissues, woolen	sq.yd.	2,120	2,064	2,263	2,654
Tissues, worsted	" "	860	432	538	577
Carpets and rugs	" "	720	744	574	635
Woolen rags	pound	3,770	3,580	2,240	3,580

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

Wool: Imports into Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, United Kingdom and United States, stated months 1929, 1930 and 1931

Country and item	1929 Nov.	1929 Dec.	1930 Jan.	1930 Nov.	1930 Dec.	1931 Jan.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Belgium -						
Wool, greasy	8,462	14,869	19,198	6,784	13,320	1/
Wool, scoured	371	390	372	338	439	1/
Total	8,833	15,259	19,570	7,122	13,759	1/
Czechoslovakia -	1,056	2,191	3,364	2,008	2,207	2,363
France, raw and on skins	33,718	52,713	82,282	35,368	41,336	1/
Germany -						
Wool, merino, greasy and washed	8,271	17,919	33,632	9,639	23,822	20,545
Wool, merino, scoured	776	1,073	845	1,383	1,538	797
Wool, crossbred, greasy and washed	2,244	3,791	7,873	3,006	1,151	6,574
Wool, crossbred, scoured	801	855	771	679	1,034	734
Total	12,092	23,638	43,121	14,707	27,545	28,650
Italy -						
Wool, greasy	1,978	5,228	9,307	2,280	14,497	1/
Wool, washed	1,232	1,127	1,257	1,054	652	1/
Total	3,210	6,355	10,564	3,334	15,149	1/
Japan -	4,475	8,567	11,671	6,550	12,873	1/
Poland -	2,125	2,965	5,549	1,457	1,815	3,924
United Kingdom -	48,724	77,800	95,400	40,200	75,100	103,200
United States -						
Wool, greasy and washed	14,089	13,743	21,103	6,032	7,518	9,848
Wool, scoured	5,234	6,494	5,220	2,501	3,337	3,846
Total	19,323	20,237	26,323	8,533	10,855	13,694

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

The improvement in activity in the market for wool, tops and noils which became noticeable in Continental Europe about the middle of February, continued throughout that month and into March with prices moving strongly upward and turnover large. The optimism in the markets for raw wool and semi-manufactures had some influence on sales of yarns and fabrics but improvement in this line was limited and machinery activity the middle of March was only slightly higher than in the previous month.

The quantity of wool, tops and yarn passing through conditioning houses at Bradford, Roubaix, Tourcoing and Verviers was greater in February than in January but was less than the amount conditioned in February 1930. Stocks of tops in commission combing establishments of Belgium, France and Germany on March 1 were below those held on February 1 while Italy reported a slight increase. Total stocks for the four countries were slightly larger than those held a year earlier due to increases in France and Germany. Stocks of merino tops in the four countries on March 1, 1931 were 29,901,000 pounds compared with 29,860,000 pounds on February 1 and 22,264,000 pounds on March 1, 1930. Stocks of crossbred tops were 21,965,000 pounds on March 1, 1931 compared with 25,553,000 pounds on February 1 and 27,254,000 pounds on March 1, 1930.

Wool, tops and yarn: Amount passing through conditioning houses at Bradford, Roubaix, Tourcoing and Verviers, specified months, 1929-30 and 1930-31

Location and class	1929-30 Dec.	1929-30 Jan.	1929-30 Feb.	1930-31 Dec.	1930-31 Jan.	1930-31 Feb.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Bradford -						
Wool	563	630	716	557	369	612
Tops	3,238	3,720	3,966	2,864	3,462	3,697
Yarn	236	242	157	111	104	101
Roubaix -						
Wool	203	265	185	262	236	260
Tops	3,404	4,226	4,775	3,922	3,472	4,923
Yarn	1,446	1,543	1,214	1,321	1,122	1,005
Tourcoing -						
Wool	2,496	2,690	2,350	2,198	2,377	2,520
Tops	5,797	6,347	7,297	5,461	5,908	7,077
Yarn	1,202	2,196	1,922	1,594	1,556	1,387
Verviers -						
Wool	2,251	2,399	2,403	1,453	1,552	1,997
Tops	203	187	317	139	174	348
Yarn	873	747	639	553	419	465

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

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

Location of establishment and description of wool	1930			1931		
	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Belgium -						
Merino	1,980	2,055	1,845	2,687	2,881	2,496
Crossbred	3,937	3,829	3,556	3,825	3,375	2,703
Total	5,917	5,884	5,401	6,512	6,256	5,199
Germany -						
Merino	4,339	4,885	5,004	6,440	8,201	7,800
Crossbred	7,039	7,641	6,312	5,844	5,335	4,813
Total	11,378	12,526	11,316	12,284	13,536	12,613
France -						
Merino	13,470	14,493	14,046	16,131	17,546	18,146
Crossbred	16,916	16,828	15,157	14,793	15,082	12,857
Total	30,386	31,321	29,203	30,924	32,628	31,003
Italy -						
Merino	946	1,054	1,369	891	1,232	1,459
Crossbred	2,114	2,187	2,229	1,845	1,761	1,592
Total	3,060	3,241	3,598	2,736	2,993	3,051

Compiled from cabled reports from Agricultural Attaché Steere at Berlin.

World wool supply situation

Despite the low prices received for the current wool clip, clearances from Southern Hemisphere countries have been good on the whole and have recently been greatly stimulated by an improvement in prices. The end of the season in the Southern Hemisphere is drawing near and it seems likely that the bulk of the clip will be cleared before the Northern Hemisphere clip comes on the market. Apparent supplies of wool in the five most important Southern Hemisphere countries at the beginning of March were in the neighborhood of 999,500,000 pounds, a decrease of 3 per cent compared with the same date of the preceding year. These figures include some wool which had already been sold but not yet shipped.

Present indications point to a probable slight decrease in the 1931 world clip due principally to expected reductions in Southern Hemisphere countries as the clip in Northern Hemisphere countries this spring may show some increase. However, the production of combing and clothing wools in Northern Hemisphere countries amounting to between 950,000,000 to 1,000,000,000 pounds constitutes only a little over 30 per cent of the world's output of that type of wool.

The clip from Northern Hemisphere countries coming on the market this spring will probably not differ radically from that of last year when production in thirteen 1/ countries was estimated at approximately 776,000,000 pounds, an increase of 5 per cent over 1929. This increase over 1929 and other recent years was due chiefly to the increased production in the United States. Production in ten 2/ European countries, excluding Russia amounted to 353,000,000 pounds in 1930, an increase of less than 1 per cent over 1929 and was considerably below 1927 and 1928. Production estimates are not yet available for Italy. However, sheep numbers in that country were only 9,896,000 in 1930, according to provisional census figures, compared with unofficial estimates of 12,500,000 in 1927 and 12,029,000 in present boundaries in 1918. Wool production in Italy appears to have been decreasing in recent years, falling from 56,000,000 pounds, the average for the years 1923-1925 to 37,500,000 in 1929. Sheep numbers in other European countries for which 1930 census figures have just become available are Czechoslovakia and the Netherlands, the number in Czechoslovakia being reported at 831,000 or 3 per cent below 1925 census figures and the number in the Netherlands at 485,000 or 27 per cent below 1921 the latest official figure available for that country.

French wool production in 1930 is unofficially estimated at approximately 46,300,000 pounds from 10,500,000 sheep or somewhat below the average of 47,000,000 pounds produced in 1928 and 1929. Imports into France for the year 1930 reached 686,000,000 pounds, an increase of about 2,000,000 pounds over 1929. All the increase was in imports of skin wools which amounted to 139,000,000 pounds this year, an increase of 5 per cent over 1929.

1/ United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Norway, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Rumania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Tunis, and France.
2/ United Kingdom, Norway, Spain, France, Germany, Hungary, Rumania, Latvia, Estonia, and Poland.

The increase in skin wool imports from Australia was 3 per cent, and Argentina 3 per cent, while those from the Union of South Africa were almost double the amount imported in 1929 or 12,000,000 pounds. On the other hand imports of raw wool other than on skins fell 1 per cent to 547,000,000 pounds. Imports were smaller from Australia and Argentina and larger from the United Kingdom, Uruguay, the Union of South Africa and Algeria. Exports during 1930 however, were considerably lower than in 1929 amounting to only 51,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 19 per cent. The apparent amount of foreign wool retained for consumption was 635,000,000 pounds in 1930, an increase of 2 per cent over 1929.

Wool production in seven 1/ Southern Hemisphere countries for 1930 is now estimated at approximately 1,988,000,000 pounds or about the same as in 1929 but about 3 per cent less than in 1928. Production in twenty Northern and Southern Hemisphere countries which produce in the neighborhood of 86 per cent of the world's output of wool exclusive of Russia and China, is now estimated at 2,764,000,000 pounds, an increase of 1 per cent over 1929 but still slightly under 1928. Russian production in 1930 was only 311,000,000 pounds or 21 per cent less than in 1929 owing to the heavy decrease in sheep numbers as a result of the collectivisation campaign of the winter of 1929-30.

Seasonal conditions in Northern Hemisphere countries

United States

The 1931 wool clip in the United States will probably not show as large an increase as that of 1930 as sheep numbers as of January 1 were only about 3 per cent above the same date of 1930 whereas last year the increase was 6 per cent. However, due to the mild winter in many important sheep areas the coming lamb crop may be a record one. Although at the beginning of last winter, sheepmen were faced with a shortage of feed and a shortage of funds, as a result of the unusually mild winter, March found supplies of hay and feed in many areas hardly touched and in most areas plentiful and very low priced. Winter losses instead of being above average have been below average and breeding flocks have come or will come to lambing time in above average condition.

By March 1 lambing had begun in most districts of England and Wales except in the northern counties, but was scarcely general except among low-land flocks in a few areas. The fall of lambs so far indicates that the result for the season may be about average. The condition of breeding ewes was generally satisfactory, notwithstanding somewhat unfavorable weather. The number of breeding ewes in June 1930 was estimated at 6,806,000 an increase of 1 per cent over 1929 but slightly under the number reported in 1927 and 1928. The number in the United Kingdom and Irish Free State in 1930 was 11,920,000, a decrease of 2 per cent compared with 1929, the decrease occurring in Scotland where about one-fifth of the wool is produced. At the beginning of March lambing prospects in Scotland were generally reported as satisfactory.

1/ Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Uruguay, British South Africa, Brazil and Chile.

Algeria

The drought in Algeria has caused enormous losses of sheep according to Le Bulletin des Halles. In 1930 the number of sheep in that country was 7,200,000 and by January 1, 1931 approximately half of that number had died. Owing to the continuation of the drought and the attendant mortality it was estimated that by the end of March, about one-fifth of the remaining 3,600,000 would have perished. The sheep which are still alive are so undernourished that they have lost almost half their market value. Algerian sheep raisers are making urgent demands on the Government for the adoption of a water policy, for at the present time water is being carried in barrels mounted on carts.

Seasonal conditions in Southern Hemisphere countries

Australia

Australia appears to be in better condition this year than for some time with pasturage excellent and stock in good condition. New Zealand on the contrary had no real summer weather up to the beginning of January while the high winds and low temperatures were hard on newly shorn sheep. The wet conditions during November, December and January delayed shearing to an almost unprecedented extent and by the middle of January it was estimated that less than half of the sheep had been shorn. As a result of the experience of a number of farmers who sheared their sheep early in the season and suffered fairly heavy losses through bad weather, the rest of the farmers were not anxious to take undue risks, considering the depressed state of the wool market, and the bulk of the shearing was late.

In the Union of South Africa seasonal conditions have been far from satisfactory and the lambing season in most of the large sheep farming areas was a bad one because of drought conditions prevailing and the poor condition of the animals. In most sections of the Transvaal and Orange Free State grazing has been very poor with the result that many lambs have been killed to save ewes. Indications are that the 1931-32 clip will be somewhat less than that of the current season in that country.

Seasonal conditions have been excellent in Argentina and lambing returns were very satisfactory in the northern part. In the southern province of Santa Cruz lamb marking varied from 85 per cent in coastal regions to 60-80 in the interior. The production of wool from the southern districts for the current season is reported as light in weight although much cleaner than last year. It appears that there may be a 30 per cent decline in current production in the Chubut and Santa Cruz districts. About one-fourth of the Argentine sheep were in these two provinces, according to the 1930 census. A decrease of 30 per cent in these two provinces, therefore, would tend to decrease the current Argentine clip to about 308,000,000 pounds or more than 5 per cent below last season's clip instead of 3 per cent above as originally estimated. However, as no official confirmation of this decrease has been received we have used the original estimate of 333,000,000 pounds in making our calculations.

Pasturage is reported as abundant in Uruguay with sheep in good condition. The prices paid for sheep in 1930 were considerably lower than in 1929 due largely to the reduced value of the pelt and to the poor condition of the animals, states an American Consular report from Uruguay. It is also said that the livestock wealth of Uruguay is decreasing because too many young animals are now being slaughtered. In the course of a few months complete figures showing the number of sheep in 1930 will be available. Sheep numbers are said to have doubled during the past fifteen years. At the beginning of that fifteen year period about 98,000,000 pounds of wool were obtained annually, whereas now over 132,000,000 pounds are obtained each year. In 1927 21.89 per cent of the sheep in Uruguay were stated to be merinos, 46.27 per cent Lincoln, and 20.05 per cent Romney Marsh.

Receipts, stocks and disposals

By the beginning of March apparent supplies of wool in the five principal Southern Hemisphere countries had been reduced to about 995,500,000 pounds, a decrease of 3 per cent compared with the same date of 1930. As stated previously, some wool already sold but not shipped out of the country is included in these totals. Exports up to March 1 for the same countries reached approximately 1,077,200,000 pounds for the current season and were 9 per cent above the same period of 1929-30. Stocks at selling centers in four countries, excluding New Zealand amounted to 180,000,000 pounds at the beginning of March and were only a little over half the quantity on hand at the same time a year earlier. Although no estimate is available of stocks at selling centers in New Zealand it is probable that they were considerably heavier than at the same time a year earlier, as the total apparent supply of wool in New Zealand on March 1 is estimated to have been about 40 per cent more than at the same time last season.

Receipts of the current clip at selling centers in Australia from July 1 to March 1 were estimated at 670,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 7 per cent compared with last season's total up to that date, according to information received in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by cable from Agricultural Commissioner Edward C. Paxton, stationed at Sydney. Disposals at selling centers, i.e., sales and shipments of this seasons wool up to the same date were 20 per cent above the same period a year earlier, amounting to 542,000,000 pounds, while shipments, including the carry-over from the preceding season, reached 592,000,000 pounds, an increase of 27 per cent over the same period last season. A significant volume of wool is reported as having been shipped directly overseas this season without first having been handled by brokers. Stocks of the current seasons wool still in store on March 1 were only 127,000,000 pounds or less than half the quantity on hand at the same date of 1930 and 25 per cent less than at the same date of 1929.

A rough estimate places offerings of wool up to the first of March in New Zealand at about 94,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 18 per cent compared with the same period of the preceding season. The recent improvement in prices has stimulated offerings and sales considerably. Shipments up to the first of March fell below last season's total by 10 per cent amounting to 113,000,000 pounds. During the first few months of the current season exports were above those of last season, i.e., during the months of July, August and September but since that date they have been under last year's totals.

Wool offerings in the Union of South Africa up to the first of March are unofficially estimated at approximately 144,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 28 per cent compared with the corresponding period last season. Shipments up to the same date were also below those of last season, amounting to only 187,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 19 per cent. On the other hand, stocks at ports on March 1 showed an increase of 17 per cent over the same date of 1930, being estimated at about 27,000,000 pounds.

Sales in South American countries up to February 1 are unofficially reported to have been considerably in excess of last season's sales. Exports from Uruguay, however, up to February 26 showed a decrease of 7 per cent to 50,200,000 pounds. Up to the end of January exports had exceeded the previous seasons shipments by 17 per cent. In Argentina receipts of wool at Central Produce Market, Buenos Aires up to February 25 amounted to 68,000,000 pounds, exceeding the same period last season by about 13 per cent. Shipments for the first five months of the season were 20 per cent above the same period last year while sales for the first four months were unofficially estimated at 130,000,000 pounds, an increase of over 60 per cent over the same period last season, while 148,000,000 pounds were reported as sold up to March 11. Sales in Uruguay for the same period were reported at 74,000,000 pounds, an increase of over 50 per cent over the preceding season, while by March 11, approximately 82,000,000 pounds were reported as sold. Stocks in Montevideo on March 4 were reported at about 20,000,000 pounds, and were considerably below the same date of 1930, but not greatly different from the amount on hand at the same date of 1929.

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

Country	Month of estimate	Average 1909-1913 1/	Average 1921-1925 1/	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
		Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions	Millions
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		
Union of South Africa	Aug.	30.7	32.6	40.3	42.7	8/ 45.2	9/ 49.2	
	June 30	-	-	39.6	40.7	43.1	47.1	
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	
France	Dec. 2/	16.2	9.8	10.8	10.7	10.4	7/ 10.5	
Spain		15.8	19.2	20.5	-	11/ 20.0	-	
Italy		11.6	12.0	7/ 12.5	-	-	12/ 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	-	-	12/ 0.8	
Norway	June	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.6	
Netherlands	May-June	0.8	0.7	-	-	-	12/ 0.5	
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	
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 12 N. Hemis. coun. excl.Russia 15/		111.1	96.1	105.9	107.5	109.5	112.3	
Total 13 N. Hemis. coun.rept.incl.Russia 15/		222.2	189.7	232.7	241.1	243.5	212.9	
Total 16 S.& N.Hemis. coun.rept.all periods incl.Russia 16/ . .		367.6	331.3	402.9	411.7	421.2	399.3	
Estimated world total incl. Russia . . .		692.2	647.1					

Compiled in Division of Statistical and Historical Research from official sources unless otherwise indicate. 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 five 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 1929.
12/ Census 1930.
13/ Census 1920.
14/ Census 1925.
15/ France, Spain and Italy not included in totals due to lack of estimates for all years listed.
16/ Argentina, Uruguay, France, Spain, and Italy, Czechoslovakia & Netherlands not included due to lack of estimates for all periods listed.

Breeding ewes: Numbers in specified countries, 1924-1931

Country	Date	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
United States 1/		-	25,769	26,459	27,704	29,591	31,646	33,615	35,425
New South Wales 1/	June 30	21,670	23,040	25,920	27,770	26,262	25,076		
South Australia 2/	Jan.		3,179	3,389	3,605	3,699			
Western Australia 2/	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 and 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 1/ 2/ . .	Jan.	6,115	6,256	6,496	6,635	6,610	6,473		
Germany 1/ 2/. .	Jan.			2,907	2,542	2,379	2,262	2,191	2,172
Hungary 1/. . . .	Apr.	995	1,084	1,037	963	925	919	880	
Rumania 2/	Jan.	9,273	9,894	9,461	10,019	9,780	3/9,764		
Spain 2/	Jan.		10,813				12,229		
Yugoslavia . . .	Jan.	4,356	5,080	5,032	5,094	5,196			
Argentina - Prov. of Buenos Aires 4/. . .	June	10,170	9,682	9,516	9,623	9,686			
Algeria 5/ . . .			3,570	3,939	2,984				
Japan 5/ . . .	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 tegs.
5/ Ewes and ewe lambs.

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

Country	Item and period	1929-30	1930-31
	Production 1/	Million lbs	Million lbs.
Australia	July 1 - June 30	910.0	875.0
New Zealand	" "	242.0	237.0
Argentina	Oct. 1 - Sept. 30	324.0	335.0
Uruguay	" "	150.0	154.0
Union of South Africa	July 1 - June 30	307.0	337.0
Total production above countries		1,933.0	1,936.0
	Receipts at selling centers		
Australia	At selling centers, July 1 to Mar. 1. 2/	717.6	3/ 669.6
New Zealand	Offered at selling centers, July 1 to Mar. 1	4/5/ 113.5	4/5/ 93.6
Argentina	At Central Produce Market 6/ July 1 to Feb. 25	59.9	67.5
Uruguay	At Montevideo, Oct. 1 to Jan. 1	67.0	79.0
Union of South Africa	Offerings at the Cape, Oct. 4 - Mar. 1	4/ 200.9	4/ 144.5
	Disposals at selling centers		
Australia	Sales and shipments, July 1 to Mar. 1. 2/	451.2	3/ 542.2
New Zealand	Sales at selling centers, July 1 - Mar. 1	7/ 97.5	7/ 80.8
Argentina	Sales at Central Produce Market 6/ July 1-Feb. 1	78.7	129.6
Uruguay	Sales at Montevideo, Oct. 1-Feb. 1	47.6	74.4
Union of South Africa	---	-	-
	Exports		
Australia	July 1 - Mar. 1	465.7	592.2
New Zealand	July 1 - Mar. 1	124.7	112.9
Argentina	Oct. 1 - Feb. 26	112.2	134.9
Uruguay	Oct. 1 - Feb. 26	54.0	50.2
Union of South Africa	July 1 - Mar. 1	229.5	187.0
Total exports		986.1	1077.2

Continued.

Wool: Movement in primary markets of the Southern Hemisphere, seasons 1929-30 and 1930-31 to March 1 (continued)

Country	Item and period	1929-30	1930-31
	Stocks at selling centers	Million lbs	Million lbs.
Australia	At selling centers, Mar. 1 2/	266.4	3/ 127.4
New Zealand	Old season wool, Oct. 15. . . .	-	39.2
Argentina	At Central Produce Market 7/ Feb. 26.	12.3	5.6
Uruguay	At Montevideo, Mar. 4.	(35.0)	19.8
Union of South Africa	At ports, Mar. 1	22.8	27.2
Stocks, 4 countries .		336.5	180.0

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, Cable from Agricultural Commissioner Paxton, Sydney, Australia. Argentina: Receipts and stocks at Central Produce Market - shipments - Review of the River Plate. Sales (disposals), Wool Record and Textile World, January 29, 1931. Uruguay: Receipts - Anglo South American Bank Ltd., February 7, 1931, p. 8. Shipments - Review of River Plate; Sales, Wool Record and Textile World, January 29, 1931 Stocks - Wool Record and Textile World, March 5, 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 Dewavrim Sons & Co., to Wool Record & Textile World.

1/ See Wool Production Table for sources.
2/ Clip of season designated only.
3/ Conversion to pounds from bales made by using average weight furnished by the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers.
4/ Offerings at selling centers have been used as no figures for receipts are available.
5/ These offerings have been compiled from The New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Company Ltd., reports of wool sales at the different centers and are only rough appropriations.
6/ 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.
7/ See note 5/ for source.

Australia: Receipts and disposals July 1 to March 1 seasons 1923-24 to 1930-31 and stocks on hand March 1, 1923-24 to 1930-31 1/

Season	Receipts from July 1-Mar. 1	Disposals July 1 - Mar. 1	Stocks Mar. 1
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1923-24	492.0	417.6	74.4
1924-25	607.1	397.3	209.8
1925-26	640.3	454.5	185.8
1926-27	725.4	583.8	2/ 144.7
1927-28	674.4	596.3	78.0
1928-29	769.2	599.4	169.9
1929-30	717.6	451.2	266.4
1930-31	669.6	542.2	127.4

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.

2/ In addition, 289,000 pounds still in store from preceding season.

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

Season	Receipts July 1 to Mar. 1 2/	Stocks Mar. 1 3/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1922-23	100,845	12,465
1923-24	81,965	6,283
1924-25	70,091	27,084
1925-26	78,338	15,858
1926-27	85,120	4,729
1927-28	74,363	3,139
1928-29	81,085	11,226
1929-30	60,031	12,258
1930-31	67,483	5,633

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.

Wool: Estimated production, in the grease, in specified countries, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1930

Country	Average 1909-1913 1/	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930 preliminary
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	727.7	833.7	924.4	888.1	968.2	910.0	2/875.0
New Zealand 3/	179.9	200.2	202.4	229.0	239.0	242.0	4/237.0
Argentina 5/	332.3	319.0	363.0	344.0	352.0	324.0	6/333.0
Uruguay 5/	133.1	116.0	129.0	131.0	139.0	2/150.0	2/154.0
British S. Africa 5/ 7/	157.7	235.1	249.2	273.0	283.0	307.0	337.0
Brazil	35.0	21.8	22.6	25.6	28.2	30.0	32.0
Chile	17.4	25.2	5/ 24.7	5/ 28.6	5/ 31.1	5/ 27.1	5/ 20.3
Total 7 S. Hemis. countries	1583.1	1751.0	1915.3	1919.3	2040.5	1990.1	1988.3
NORTHERN HEMISPHERE							
United States -							
Shorn	272.2	245.6	261.0	281.9	303.7	310.6	336.0
Pulled	41.4	46.8	49.6	50.1	51.9	54.5	61.9
Total	313.6	292.4	310.6	332.0	355.6	365.1	397.9
Canada 8/	13.2	15.6	18.0	18.7	19.6	20.3	21.0
United Kingdom	136.0	110.0	114.6	118.5	119.7	117.9	117.9
Norway	5.2	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.4	5.2	9/ 5.4
France	74.8	45.0	46.5	47.6	47.2	9/ 47.0	9/ 46.3
Spain	78.0	90.8	98.7	88.2	(80.0)	73.0	75.0
Germany	43.9	50.2	41.8	35.9	9/ 33.6	9/ 31.9	9/ 30.6
Hungary	16.8	13.2	13.2	11.8	11.5	(10.0)	13.0
Rumania	45.6	54.9	53.1	55.7	53.1	52.5	9/ 50.9
Latvia	2.7	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.3	2.9	2.6
Estonia	1.4	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.5	9/ 1.4
Poland	20.8	9.4	9.1	8.9	9.4	9.9	9.9
Tunis	2.4	4.7	5.7	2.8	3.2	3.8	9/ 4.3
Total 13 N. Hemis. coun. reporting all periods	754.4	697.5	722.7	731.9	743.6	741.0	776.2
Total 20 S. & N. Hemis. coun. rept. all periods	2337.5	2448.5	2638.0	2651.2	2784.1	2731.1	2764.5
Estimated world total excl. Russia & China 10/	2756.0	2899	3077	3079.0	3209.0	3164.0	
Russia	11/330.3	315.0	351.0	369.0	391.8	394.2	310.9
China 12/	37.3	56.8	27.8	48.0	64.8	50.0	13/

Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Includes wool shorn in the spring in the Northern Hemisphere and that shorn in the last few months of the same calendar year in the Southern Hemisphere. Includes small quantities of pulled wool in certain countries. For Table showing all countries up to 1930 see Foreign Crops and Markets March 23, 1931 page 358 - 360.

Continued -

Wool: Estimated production, in the grease, in specified countries, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1930-Continued

1/ Average for 5 years whenever available, otherwise for any year or years within this period for which estimates are available.
2/ Estimate furnished by cable from the International Institute of Agriculture.
3/ Estimates of Dalgety and Company.
4/ Estimate of total production based on an estimated decrease of 2 per cent in wool shorn on farms only, as furnished by the International Institute of Agriculture. In addition to the wool shorn on farms there is the wool pulled from slaughtered sheep to be considered as well as that exported on skins.
5/ Estimates based on export stocks and domestic consumption.
6/ Estimates of Buenos Aires Bank, First National Bank of Boston.
7/ Includes some wool imported from adjoining colonies.
8/ Estimates of the Yorkshire Observer which have been used instead of official estimates as a comparable series is available up to date.
9/ Estimate based on number of sheep at the date nearest shearing.
10/ Totals subject to revision. Few countries published official wool production estimates. In the absence of official figures for most countries, various estimates have been used. Some have been supplied by Government representatives abroad; others by multiplying official sheep numbers by an average weight per fleece. For some principal exporting countries, exports alone, or exports, stocks and domestic consumption have been used as representing production. In the case of some Asiatic countries, rough commercial estimates have been used while the figures of the United States Department of Commerce or the National Association of Wool Manufacturers have been used for some other countries.
11/ Year 1916.
12/ Exports sheep's wool only.
13/ Wool clip estimated to have been slightly below normal due to heavy slaughter of sheep in famine district of Kansu and other interior points.

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