

The table which follows classifies the values of importations into New Zealand during the past four years according to the countries of origin.

Value of New Zealand's Imports according to Country of Origin, 1928-31.

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£	£
British Possessions, Protectorates, &c.—				
United Kingdom	21,289,275	22,565,436	20,333,986	12,192,649
India	782,144	766,756	637,832	392,088
Ceylon	860,886	923,748	704,759	617,042
South African Union	104,043	100,988	92,006	69,978
Canada	3,258,828	4,792,820	3,802,925	1,224,569
Australia	3,499,151	3,258,727	3,308,915	2,437,955
Fiji	571,728	174,894	200,877	102,979
All other British countries	444,134	511,600	510,637	394,479
Totals, British countries	30,810,189	33,094,969	29,591,937	17,431,739
Foreign Countries and Possessions—				
United States	8,204,197	9,319,926	7,573,053	3,885,073
France	820,592	727,388	608,076	327,646
Germany	898,901	940,863	975,460	574,500
Belgium	498,162	587,463	448,762	289,478
Japan	576,495	625,714	565,264	304,532
Dutch East Indies	999,524	1,152,705	811,372	848,216
All other foreign countries	2,078,206	2,348,949	2,451,990	1,151,774
Totals, all foreign countries	14,076,077	15,703,008	13,433,977	7,381,219
Totals, all countries	44,886,266	48,797,977	43,025,914	24,812,958

Imports from British countries during 1931 declined by £12,160,198, whereas imports from foreign countries receded by £6,052,758. Imports from British countries in 1931 represented 70·3 per cent. of total imports, as compared with 68·8 per cent. in 1930, while imports from foreign sources represented 29·7 per cent. and 31·2 per cent. in 1931 and 1930 respectively.

In the table given below the percentages of total imports claimed by each of the principal countries trading with New Zealand are shown for the same four years.

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
United Kingdom	47·43	46·25	47·27	49·17
India	1·74	1·57	1·48	1·58
Ceylon	1·92	1·88	1·64	2·49
South African Union	0·23	0·21	0·21	0·28
Canada	7·26	9·81	8·84	4·94
Australia	7·79	6·68	7·69	9·80
Fiji	1·27	0·36	0·47	0·42
United States	18·28	19·10	17·60	15·65
France	1·83	1·49	1·41	1·32
Germany	2·00	1·93	2·27	2·32
Belgium	1·11	1·16	1·04	1·17
Japan	1·28	1·28	1·31	1·23
Dutch East Indies	2·23	2·36	1·88	3·42

The most noteworthy features in connection with the above table are increases in the proportion of imports from the United Kingdom and Australia, and decreases in the proportion obtained both from the United States and Canada.

BANKING RETURNS.

Although the returns of the six trading banks in New Zealand for the quarter ended 31st March, 1932, reflect in some directions the effects of the adverse economic conditions which prevailed throughout the whole of the year under review in this report, they nevertheless show a financial position that is sound and satisfactory. Indeed, in some respects there are noticeable improvements upon the position for the corresponding quarter of 1931.