

The sources of New Zealand's imports in 1936 are set out in the table hereunder, which includes, for comparative purposes, the two previous years. In addition to total figures, percentages of total imports are given.

Source of New Zealand's Imports (excluding Specie).

	1934.		1935.		1936.	
	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.	Value.	Per-centage.
British possessions, protectorates, &c.—	£(N.Z.)		£(N.Z.)		£(N.Z.)	
United Kingdom	15,789,761	50·38	18,283,884	50·39	21,852,347	49·51
India	667,552	2·13	571,627	1·58	554,102	1·26
Ceylon	585,689	1·87	633,594	1·75	750,982	1·70
South African Union	56,092	0·18	55,800	0·15	119,385	0·27
Canada	2,098,610	6·70	2,450,616	6·75	3,325,692	7·53
Australia	3,238,124	10·33	3,955,677	10·90	4,941,313	11·19
Fiji	103,166	0·33	80,084	0·22	95,802	0·22
Other British countries	600,619	1·92	571,401	1·57	558,435	1·26
Totals, British countries	23,139,613	73·84	26,602,683	73·31	32,198,058	72·95
Foreign countries and possessions—						
United States of America	3,749,559	11·96	4,534,086	12·50	5,525,431	12·52
France	240,813	0·77	221,982	0·61	215,115	0·49
Germany	482,644	1·54	534,442	1·47	748,374	1·70
Belgium	137,139	0·44	217,516	0·60	409,102	0·91
Japan	836,595	2·67	1,100,177	3·03	1,328,199	3·01
Dutch East Indies	1,381,974	4·41	1,437,379	3·96	1,722,802	3·90
All other foreign countries	1,371,215	4·37	1,639,279	4·52	1,987,245	4·52
Totals, all foreign countries	8,199,939	26·16	9,684,861	26·69	11,936,268	27·05
Totals, all countries	31,339,552	100·00	36,287,544	100·00	44,134,326	100·00

The 1936 figures show that practically all countries participated in the general rise in the value of imports, the most outstanding increases being those of the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and the United States of America. A decrease in the actual proportion of total imports was experienced in the case of the United Kingdom, while both Canada and Australia improved their positions.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM.

With exports from New Zealand to the United Kingdom at £45,492,989 and imports from the United Kingdom amounting to £21,852,347 during the calendar year 1936, increases of £6,571,421 and £1,379,854 respectively are recorded over 1935 figures.

Notwithstanding these marked increases in value, exports to the United Kingdom represented 80·15 per cent. of total exports in 1936, as compared with 83·63 per cent. in 1935. Imports from the United Kingdom in the same two years represented 49·51 per cent. and 50·39 per cent. of total imports respectively.

In considering the importance of the United Kingdom as a market for our produce due regard must be paid to the fact that, owing to the lack of direct shipping facilities to the Continent, a considerable entrepôt trade in New Zealand produce has developed between the United Kingdom and Continental countries. Wool is the chief commodity entering into this entrepôt trade accounting for as much as 80 per cent., while hides and skins account for a great portion of the remainder. Dairy-produce was at one time an important item, but with the development of agrarian policies of self-sufficiency by Continental countries re-exports of these commodities have fallen off considerably, except to Northern America. This entrepôt trade in 1934 was valued at £5,354,425 sterling, while in 1935 the amount was £3,885,986 sterling, there being a fall in the value of New Zealand wool re-exported of approximately £2,000,000 from £4,500,000 to £2,500,000.

The imports from the United Kingdom comprise mostly manufactured goods, the most important item of which is motor-vehicles, which has shown a remarkable and progressive growth in value since 1932, from £517,408 in that year to £2,674,155 in 1936. Cotton piece-goods and machinery are other very important items.

The table below sets out the more important of our exports to the United Kingdom over the past two years, together with the percentage quantity of the United Kingdom's total requirements supplied by New Zealand.