

The period covered by this survey is from 1st October, 1936, to February, 1937, inclusive. The grades suitable for the making of floor-coverings, approximating £4,500,000, have been admitted duty-free, and there appears to be great future possibilities in this direction.

Imports for Consumption of Unmanufactured Wool from New Zealand, Period from October, 1936, to February, 1937, inclusive.

					Dutiable (Actual Weight). lb.	Free (Actual Weight). lb.
Donskoi, Smyrna, &c., and similar wools without Merino or English blood (carpet wool)—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	132,389	3,710,829
Washed	..	..	..	..	1,958	..
Sorted, or matchings, if not scoured	..	..	..	..	..	20,238
Scoured	..	..	..	..	11,638	59,318
All other wools not finer than 40's—						
Woollen type—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	42,763	..
Scoured	..	..	..	..	275	8,219
Worsted type—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	1,103,260	653,794
On the skin	..	..	..	..	343,528	..
Sorted, or matchings, if not scoured	..	..	..	..	14,899	4,048
Wools n.s.p.f. (not specially provided for)—						
Woollen type (clothing wool) finer than 40's, but not finer than 44's—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	106,582	..
Sorted, or matchings, if not scoured	..	..	..	..	57,192	..
Finer than 44's, but not finer than 56's—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	526,602	..
On the skin	..	..	..	..	844	..
Finer than 56's—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	119,485	..
Worsted type (combing wool) finer than 40's, but not finer than 44's—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	752,954	..
On the skin	..	..	..	..	145,757	..
Washed	..	..	..	..	5,151	..
Sorted, or matchings, if not scoured	..	..	..	..	17,812	..
Finer than 44's, but not finer than 56's—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	1,228,907	..
On the skin	..	..	..	..	129,565	..
Sorted, or matchings, if not scoured	..	..	..	..	87,772	..
Scoured	..	..	..	..	7,416	..
Finer than 56's—						
In the grease	..	..	..	..	139,667	..
On the skin	..	..	..	..	197,090	..
					5,173,506	4,456,446
Total					9,629,952 lb.	

Consequent on floods and droughts and the loss or slaughter of vast herds of cattle in the United States of America the demand for hides and skins from overseas has considerably improved. The production of footwear, following better economic conditions, has reached record dimensions, some 415,000,000 pairs being manufactured during 1936, or more than 30,000,000 pairs greater than the average. Tanners' requirements for the current year are estimated at 20,000,000 hides, and of this quantity some 2,000,000 additional may be required to be imported over the quantity imported last year.

During 1936 quantities demanded by both Canada and the United States of America were not forthcoming, and the New Zealand Trade and Tourist Commissioner for the territory points out the desirability of paying particular attention to the requirements of these markets, which have been difficult to promote.

The export of sausage-casings showed a very marked decline in value over 1935 figures, as also did that of tallow. It should be remembered that in 1935 tallow imports were exceptionally high due to special taxes on imported vegetable oils being imposed, thus forcing soap-manufacturers to use tallow as a substitute therefor. An internal tax of 3 cents per pound operating from 1st August, 1936, had the effect of drastically curtailing shipments.

The value of seeds imported into the United States of America again shows a marked increase, being in 1936 almost treble that of 1933.

Inquiries for casein met with restricted offers and even then appeared out of line with those received from competing countries. The duty and charges amount to approximately 5½ cents per pound. While domestic supplies are likely to be in greater volume this year owing to factories switching over from the production of dried-milk powder to casein manufacture, it is felt by reliable importers that, due to the short stock position in the Argentine, the opening prices in October and November, 1937, may be encouraging.