

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE

B. S. CUTLER, Chief

# STATISTICAL ABSTRACT

OF THE

# UNITED STATES



1917

FORTIETH NUMBER



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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE,  
*Washington, January 1, 1918.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for publication the fortieth issue of the Statistical Abstract of the United States. As during the past several previous years, the actual compilation of this material was done by Mr. Edward Whitney, of the Research Division.

Respectfully,

B. S. CUTLER,  
*Chief of Bureau.*

TO HON. WILLIAM C. REDFIELD,  
*Secretary of Commerce.*

## EXPLANATORY NOTES.

The condensed statistics contained in this volume, unless otherwise stated in connection with the individual tables, represent, or are based upon, official figures collated and published under the various laws of the United States or those of other countries to which they may relate. The sources to which the various tables are credited will indicate where application should be made for additional details, with the exception that certain tables for which no credit appears are derived from regular reports of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, and that Table No. 400 is derived largely from corresponding data presented for shorter periods in previous tables.

**General imports.**—Tables Nos. 258 and 259 embrace imported articles entered at the customhouses for immediate consumption and imported articles entered for warehouse. The statements of *imports entered for consumption*, Tables Nos. 265, 266, and 267 embrace imported articles entered for immediate consumption and imported articles withdrawn from warehouse for consumption. The statement of *general imports* and the statement of *imports entered for consumption* for any period should therefore differ to the extent that the value of *entries for warehouse* for the period differs from the value of *withdrawals from warehouse for consumption*. The term "entry for consumption" is the technical name of the import entry made at the customhouse, and does not imply that the goods have been actually consumed, but simply that they have been delivered into the custody of the importer and that the duties have been paid on the dutiable portion. Some of them may be afterwards exported.

**Import value.**—All invoices of imported merchandise shall be made out in the currency of the place or country from whence the importations shall be made, or, if purchased, or agreed to be purchased, in the currency actually paid, agreed upon, or to be paid therefor, shall contain a correct, complete, and detailed description of such merchandise and of the packages, wrappings, or other coverings containing it, and shall be made in triplicate or in quadruplicate in case of merchandise intended for immediate transportation without appraisement, and signed by the person owning or shipping the same, if the merchandise has been actually purchased, or price agreed upon, fixed, or determined, or by the manufacturer or owner thereof, if the same has been procured otherwise than by purchase, or agreement of purchase, or by the duly authorized agent of such purchaser, seller, manufacturer, or owner.

All such invoices shall, at or before the shipment of the merchandise, be produced to the consular officer of the United States of the consular district in which the merchandise was manufactured, or purchased, or contracted to be delivered from, or when purchases or agreements for purchase are made in several places, in the consular district where the merchandise is assembled for shipment, as the case may be, for export to the United States, and shall have indorsed thereon, when so produced, a declaration signed by the purchaser, seller, manufacturer, owner, or agent, setting forth that the invoice is in all respects correct and true and was made at the place from which the merchandise is to be exported to the United States; that it contains, if the merchandise was obtained by purchase, or agreement for purchase, a true and full statement of the time when, the place where, the person from whom the same was purchased, or agreed to be purchased, and the actual cost thereof, or price agreed upon, fixed, or determined, and of all charges thereon, as provided by the act of October 3, 1913; and that no discounts, rebates, or commissions are contained in the invoice but such as have been actually allowed thereon, and that all drawbacks or bounties received or to be received are shown therein; and when obtained in any other manner than by purchase, or agreement of purchase, the actual market value or wholesale price thereof, at the time of exportation to the United States, in the principal markets of the country from whence exported; that such actual market value is the price at which the merchandise described in the invoice is freely offered for sale to all purchasers in said markets, and that it is the price which the manufacturer or owner making the declaration would have received, and was willing to receive, for such merchandise sold in the ordinary course of trade in the usual wholesale quantities, and that it includes all charges thereon as provided by the act of October 3, 1913, and the actual quantity thereof; and that no different invoice of the merchandise mentioned in the invoice so produced has been or will be furnished to anyone. If the merchandise was actually purchased, or agreed to be purchased, the declaration shall also contain a statement that the currency in which such invoice is made out is that which was actually paid for the merchandise by the purchaser or agreed to be paid, fixed, or determined.

Whenever imported merchandise is subject to an ad valorem rate of duty, or to a duty based upon or regulated in any manner by the value thereof, the duty shall be assessed upon the actual market value

or wholesale price thereof, at the time of exportation to the United States, in the principal markets of the country from whence exported; such actual market value shall be held to be the price at which such merchandise is freely offered for sale to all purchasers in said markets, in the usual wholesale quantities; and the price which the seller, shipper, or owner would have received, and was willing to receive, or such merchandise when sold in the ordinary course of trade in the usual wholesale quantities, including the value of all cartons, cases, crates, boxes, sacks, casks, barrels, hogsheads, bottles, jars, demijohns, carboys, and other containers or coverings, whether holding liquids or solids, and all other costs, charges, and expenses incident to placing the merchandise in condition, packed ready for shipment to the United States; and if there be used for covering or holding imported merchandise, whether dutiable or free, any unusual article or form designed for use otherwise than in the bona fide transportation of such merchandise to the United States, additional duty shall be levied and collected upon such material or article at the rate to which the same would be subjected if separately imported. The words "value," or "actual market value," or "wholesale price," whenever used in the act of October 3, 1913, or in any law relating to the appraisal of imported merchandise, shall be construed to be the actual market value or wholesale price of such or similar merchandise comparable in value therewith, as defined in that act. [Rev. Stats., 339, secs. 18 and 11 of the act of June 10, 1890, or other laws or regulations, as amended by act of Oct. 3, 1913. For full details regarding methods provided for ascertaining the actual "import" or "market" value, in question (requirements and duties of sellers, purchasers, manufacturers, owners, agents, importors, shippers, consignors, consignees, consuls, collectors, appraisers, other persons, and production and consumption, fines, penalties, exactions, forfeitures, modifications, effect of decisions of courts of competent jurisdiction, etc.) see the complete act of 1913.]

**Domestic exports.**—Tables Nos. 260 and 261 exhibit the exports of domestic products or manufactures, also exports of commodities of foreign origin which have been changed from the form in which they were imported, or enhanced in value by further manufacture in the United States, such as sugar refined in this country from imported raw sugar, flour ground from imported wheat, and articles and utensils made from imported metals, etc. The value of exports of domestic merchandise is their value at the time of exportation in the ports of the United States whence they are exported. (Rev. Stat., 337, and act of Apr. 29, 1902.)

**Foreign exports.**—Table No. 262 called "foreign exports," or "reexports," exhibits exports of foreign merchandise which had been imported. The value of such commodities exported from "warehouse" is their import value. The value of such commodities exported "not from warehouse," comprising free goods mainly, is the value at the ports of the United States whence they are exported.

**Foreign merchandise in transit or transhipped.**—Table No. 270 exhibits foreign merchandise brought to the United States for immediate transit across the territory of the United States to a foreign country, or for transshipment in the ports of the United States to a foreign country. The value of the commodities returned in this table is determined in a similar manner to that of imports.

**Warehoused merchandise.**—Table No. 269 exhibits imported merchandise in warehouse. This merchandise has already appeared in the statements of *general imports*, Tables Nos. 258 and 259, for the year in which it was imported. The official values of the articles therein represented are the same as the *import values*.

**Weights and measures.**—The term "ton," as applied to weight, is specified "long" (2,240 pounds) or "short" (2,000 pounds). The term "ton," as applied to vessel measurement, is specified as "net," equal to 100 cubic feet of carrying capacity exclusive of deductions for space occupied by cabins, machinery, etc., or "gross," equal to 100 cubic feet of the entire carrying capacity inclusive of such space. The term "M feet" used in connection with the measure of lumber, etc., signifies 1,000 feet, board measure, a "foot" of such measure being 1 foot long, 1 foot wide, and 1 inch or less in thickness. "Cubic feet" or "cords," as applied to the measurement of lumber, pulp wood, etc., signifies cubic contents. According to section 3249, Revised Statutes, "Proof spirits shall be held to be that alcoholic liquor which contains one-half its volume of alcohol of a specific gravity of 0.7939 at 60° Fahrenheit." The official gallon prescribed is one containing 231 cubic inches, or 58,372.2 grains, equal to 8.3389 pounds of distilled water at its maximum density, weighed in air of a temperature of 62° Fahrenheit and barometric pressure of 30 inches. The taxable gallon differs from the proof gallon by reason of the fact that in computing taxable gallons under section 3251, Revised Statutes, all fractional parts of a gallon less than one-tenth are excluded.