

A black and white illustration of a hand holding a cotton ball. The cotton ball is tied with a dark ribbon. Several thin lines extend from the cotton ball down to a spool of thread, which is held by another hand. The background is dark and textured.

COTTON PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

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Sinclair Weeks, Secretary

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INTRODUCTION

Sources of Statistics.—The tables in this Bulletin are compiled from semi-monthly and monthly reports issued by the Bureau of the Census. These source publications are listed below:

Report on Cotton Ginning.—Number of bales ginned to the close of business July 31, August 15 and 31, September 15 and 30, October 17 and 31, November 13 and 30, December 12, January 15, and February 28. Issued on eighth day following end of period, or on first succeeding workday when the eighth day falls on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday.

Cotton and Linters: Consumption, Stocks, Imports and Exports, and Active Cotton Spindles (Facts for Industry series M-15-1).—Issued two weeks and a half after the close of the period. An annual supplement, Supply and Distribution of Cotton and Linters in the United States, is released about August 17.

Cotton System Spinning Activity (Facts for Industry series M-15-3).—Issued on or about the nineteenth of each month.

United States Imports for Consumption of Merchandise: Commodity by Country of Origin (Report No. FT 110).—Issued on or about the twenty-eighth of each month.

United States Exports of Domestic and Foreign Merchandise: Commodity by Country of Destination (Report No. FT 410).—Issued on or about the twenty-eighth of each month.

Fats and Oils: Production, Consumption, and Stocks (Facts for Industry series M-17-1).—Issued monthly.

Fats and Oils: Consumption by Use (Facts for Industry series M-17-2).—Issued monthly.

Data on world production, consumption, and stocks of cotton are taken from the quarterly statistical bulletin issued by the International Cotton Advisory Committee, Washington, D. C.

Some of the statistics appearing in this Bulletin are revisions of preliminary data previously published in the foregoing releases and reports.

Units of Measure.—American cotton is reported in these tables in running bales, except that production and consumption for 1870 and prior years are expressed in equivalent 500-pound gross bales. No round bales have been reported since 1941; prior to 1941, round bales were counted as half bales.

Foreign cotton is shown in equivalent 500-pound gross bales. Consumption and stocks of foreign cotton are reported to the Census Bureau in running bales; in converting these data to 500-pound bale equivalents, the average bale weight of Egyptian cotton is assumed to be 725 pounds; Sudanese cotton, 435 pounds; Indian cotton, 400 pounds; Peruvian cotton, 375 pounds in 1946 and prior years, 587 pounds thereafter; and other foreign cotton, 500 pounds.

Cottonseed is reported in tons of 2,000 pounds, and cottonseed products (except linters) are expressed in pounds or in tons. Linters are reported in running bales, except that imports of linters are shown in equivalent 500-pound gross bales.

The term "cotton" excludes linters except as noted.

The "Cotton Year."—Cotton grown in the northern hemisphere is ordinarily planted in March, April, and May, and the bulk of the crop is picked during

September, October, and November. Cotton production is reported in this Bulletin by "year of growth"—that is, the calendar year in which the crop is planted and picked.

Ginning of each cotton crop begins in mid-July, continues through the autumn and winter, and is substantially completed by the following February. The crop grown in any calendar year thus moves into consumption or into stocks during the 12 months beginning on August 1 of the year of growth. The 1945 crop, for instance, was ginned and passed into consumption during the year which began August 1, 1945.

To conform to this timetable, annual statistics on consumption and stocks of cotton and linters, and on cottonseed and cottonseed products, are shown in this Bulletin for the 12-month period ending with July, rather than for the calendar year. Data for 1914 and prior years relate to the year ending August 31.

Annual stocks data in the following tables relate to stocks at the end of July (prior to 1915, August 31). Monthly figures show stocks on the last day of the month specified.

Stocks of cotton or linters on hand at the end of July, are commonly called "carryover." Stocks are generally at their lowest level at this time; 12 months have elapsed since the previous harvest, and only an insignificant share of the new harvest has yet been ginned.

Prior to 1950, cotton and linters consumption and stocks data were collected on a calendar month basis. Beginning with January 1950, the monthly data are for 4- or 5-week periods closely corresponding with the calendar month period. This change was made as a result of a survey of mills, warehouses and compresses which indicated that the majority of these establishments kept their records on a weekly basis rather than on a calendar month basis.

The 1955-56 and 1954-55 periods are listed below:

Month	1955-56		1954-55	
	Weeks	Period covered	Weeks	Period covered
August.....	4	July 31-Aug. 27.	4	Aug. 1-Aug. 28.
September.....	5	Aug. 28-Oct. 1.	5	Aug. 29-Oct. 2.
October.....	4	Oct. 2-Oct. 29.	4	Oct. 3-Oct. 30.
November.....	4	Oct. 30-Nov. 26.	4	Oct. 31-Nov. 27.
December.....	5	Nov. 27-Dec. 31.	5	Nov. 28-Jan. 1.
January.....	4	Jan. 1-Jan. 28.	4	Jan. 2-Jan. 29.
February.....	4	Jan. 29-Feb. 25.	4	Jan. 30-Feb. 26.
March.....	5	Feb. 26-Mar. 31.	5	Feb. 27-Apr. 2.
April.....	4	Apr. 1-Apr. 28.	4	Apr. 3-Apr. 30.
May.....	4	Apr. 29-May 26.	4	May 1-May 28.
June.....	5	May 27-June 30.	5	May 29-July 2.
July.....	4	July 1-July 28.	4	July 3-July 30.

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