

SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPORTS OF TEXTILES

Economic
Research



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SOUTH AFRICA'S
IMPORTS OF TEXTILES

compiled and produced
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A. INTRODUCTION

I. Scope of Investigation

This report is a quantitative analysis of imports of textiles, mainly fabrics, over the years 1966-1970. The analysis is based on the nomenclature of the Customs and Excise Act of 1964. It covers mainly the chapters

- 50 : Silk and waste silk
- 51 : Man-made Fibres (continuous)
- 53 : Wool & other animal hair
- 55 : Cotton
- 56 : Man-made fibres (discontinuous)
and parts of
- 58 : Carpets, mats, matting &
tapestries; pile & chenille
fabrics; narrow fabrics; trimmings;
tulle & other net fabrics; lace;
embroidery
- 60 : Knitted & crocheted goods
- 62 : Other made up textile articles
of Section XI of Schedule 1 and
3 of the Customs and Excise Act.

Because of the definitions used in the tariff¹⁾, it has sometimes been necessary to classify fabrics under certain headings, whereas they should perhaps have come under another.²⁾ A further breakdown of fabrics than that of the tariff would, however, be impossible without a detailed analysis of practically every set of import documents. As the textile tariff classification and nomenclature has changed over the years under review, the data presented are not strictly comparable; this is, however, not a serious problem.

The analysis is in three parts. First, imports are investigated according to the type of textiles they are made of and the country of origin. The countries or areas of origin are - as a rule - divided into five groups:

-
1. Classification in a particular category on the basis of the predominant fibre by weight.
 2. For instance, the definition of poplins is so wide that many items which are not strictly poplins are included as such.

- a) United Kingdom
- b) Continental Europe ¹⁾
- c) United States of America
- d) Eastern Countries ²⁾
- e) Other Countries ³⁾

Country of origin of goods is decided according to the name of the country in which they have been grown, produced or manufactured. Where these particulars are not available, the goods show the country whence shipped. The Republic of South Africa for the purpose of foreign trade statistics, does not coincide with its political boundaries, but includes Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and the territory of South West Africa. Second, research is done on imports under protective duties, to separate such items from others.

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1. Including such countries as Belgium, Netherlands, German Federal Republic, France, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Italy, East Germany, Poland, Sweden, Denmark and Portugal.
 2. Mainly Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan and Israel.
 3. Such as Canada, Australia and Brazil.

Third, the price aspects are taken into consideration as regards major types of textile piece-goods.

II. General Development of Textile Imports

To provide a first insight into the nature, extent and origin of textile imports, total imports will be listed, in advance, by broad categories.

TABLE 1: TOTAL VALUE OF TEXTILE IMPORTS (in 1,000 R)

ITEM	1966	1967	1968 ¹⁾
Yarns	21,747	24,280	16,366
Fabrics	70,311	83,735	54,199
TOTAL	92,058	108,015	70,565

1. 1968 only January - September.