

It will be readily understood that manufactured goods form the bulk of the imports from the United Kingdom. Many types of cotton, silk, and woollen cloths and goods are imported. In general these items show substantially reduced figures for 1938 when compared with the previous year's figures. Motor-vehicle imports have dropped £70,109, or 2 per cent., when compared with the 1937 figures. Increased imports of note over 1937 are shown for iron and steel bar, bolt, and rod; iron and steel manufactures; rails, wheels, and plant; toilet preparations; motor-vehicle tires; ordnance stores; miscellaneous electrical apparatus; and miscellaneous industrial machinery.

The principal items of export to the United Kingdom for the years 1937 and 1938 are shown in Table VII hereunder:—

Table VII.—Principal Exports to the United Kingdom.

Commodity.	1937.		1938.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		£(N.Z.)		£(N.Z.)
Chilled beef Cwt.	306,351	534,778	350,606	668,160
Frozen beef "	531,160	689,680	541,684	866,436
Mutton, frozen "	870,173	1,635,857	1,018,275	2,035,797
Lamb, frozen "	2,768,650	9,376,133	2,614,521	9,123,464
Pork, frozen "	599,402	1,733,575	519,801	1,720,656
Cheese "	1,644,241	5,361,490	1,608,437	5,926,973
Butter "	2,903,005	16,563,016	2,526,981	15,979,086
Apples lb.	28,889,350	362,937	39,167,460	489,093
Wool, raw, sheeps' and lambs' "	149,590,128	9,995,537	171,171,272	7,831,383
Tallow Tons	16,868	410,433	22,139	375,625
Hides and skins—				
Ox and cow No.	113,464	124,930	126,426	92,244
Sheep and lamb, woolled "	804,631	285,963	623,315	145,154
Other than woolled "	2,639,549	391,115	4,553,257	422,979
Sausage-casings lb.	1,139,364	172,605	1,637,887	289,105

Of greatest interest is the fall in the return for wool exported, although a greater quantity was sent abroad. Also, a comparison of the figures for hides and skins and tallow clearly shows the substantial decrease in the prices obtained. Increased returns of note are shown for beef and mutton, cheese, apples, and sausage-casings.

TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

Table VIII hereunder shows the continued growth of New Zealand import and export trade with Australia. Exports to Australia during 1938 were £367,875, or 20·2 per cent., greater than for 1937, while for the same periods imports from Australia rose by £561,047, or 8·5 per cent.

Table VIII.—Total Trade with Australia.

Year ended 31st December,	Total Trade.	Exports to Australia.	Imports from Australia.	Excess of Imports over Exports.
	£(N.Z.)	£(N.Z.)	£(N.Z.)	£(N.Z.)
1933	3,969,403	1,393,311	2,576,092	1,182,781
1934	5,120,640	1,882,516	3,238,124	1,356,608
1935	5,739,209	1,781,811	3,957,398	2,175,487
1936	6,784,788	1,843,475	4,941,313	3,097,838
1937	8,419,788	1,824,183	6,595,605	4,771,422
1938	9,348,710	2,192,058	7,156,652	4,964,594

Australia absorbed 3·76 per cent. of our total exports during 1938, as compared with 2·74 per cent. during 1937. Imports of Australian origin during 1938 made up 12·91 per cent. of our total imports, a considerable improvement on the 1937 figure of 11·74 per cent. New Zealand is continuing to take further advantage of the increasing industrial activity in Australia, which enables this country to obtain essential supplies close at hand and to avoid unnecessarily large freight bills from distant countries.

Imports comprise a fairly wide range, of which the following show decided increases (1937 figures are shown in parentheses): Oranges, £219,471 (£157,197); wheat, £766,310 (£426,850); tobacco, £144,441 (£105,031); silk, £73,602 (£59,219); iron and steel bar, bolt, and rod, £483,704 (£381,663); sawn timber, £244,731 (£171,872); cigarette-papers, £101,241 (£75,412); books, papers, and music, £138,745 (£95,108); canned fruits, £143,227 (£121,829).