

This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: Textile Markets: Their Structure in Relation to Price Research

Volume Author/Editor: Committee on Price Research

Volume Publisher: NBER

Volume ISBN: 0-87014-188-0

Volume URL: <http://www.nber.org/books/unkn39-2>

Publication Date: 1939

Chapter Title: Appendix V: Textile Data in Cost Investigations made by the United States Tariff Commission

Chapter Author: Committee on Textile Price Research, Stephen J. Kennedy, chairman

Chapter URL: <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c5770>

Chapter pages in book: (p. 255 - 261)

APPENDIX V

Textile Data in Cost Investigations  
Made by the  
United States Tariff Commission

---



THE United States Tariff Commission has been engaged in the investigation of production costs on various products of the textile industry since 1922, primarily under the flexible provisions of the tariff acts. Such a provision was first contained in the Tariff Act of 1922 and was known in that Act as Section 315. A similar provision, more precisely worded, constitutes Section 336 of the Tariff Act of 1930, still in force. The principle of the flexible provision is that the tariff applying to imports of specified articles from foreign countries should equalize the differences in production costs in the United States and the principal competing foreign country.

Investigations are made by the Tariff Commission upon request of the President, upon resolution of either or both Houses of Congress, upon the Commission's own motion, or upon application of interested parties, approved by the Commission. The work remains entirely within the hands of the Commission during the course of the investigation.

Upon completion of the investigation the Commission reports its findings to the President. These findings relate primarily to the ascertainment of differences in production costs and may indicate the advisability of an increase in duty, a decrease in duty, or no change. The information collected by the Commission in its cost inquiries is ultimately summarized in a report.

Inasmuch as the Act requires that the cost comparison shall relate to like and similar articles, precise specifications are needed in the establishment of definite costs. In other words, it is not sufficient to compare random average costs of domestic knit gloves made of woolen and worsted for men, women, and children, etc. The cost data tabulated in the wool-knit glove investigation, for example, concerned women's and misses' sizes of wool-knit gloves of a ribbed wristlet length cuff type made of worsted yarn. Even this is only an approximate specification and costs were actually established for eight domestic samples and six foreign samples, which were further identified in terms of the number of courses and the number of needles used in the cuff, hand, and second finger, the number of courses and wales per square inch, and the finished weight per dozen pairs.

This instance is cited to show the detail to which these investigations go in arriving at the cost of specific products. The reports covering textile products, which include important data on production costs, are summarized in the accompanying table. Copies of these reports can be obtained from the Superintendent of Public Documents, at a cost of 5 or 10 cents each.

Reports Published by the Tariff Commission That Contain Information Relating to the Cost of Production of Textile Products

NAME OF INVESTIGATION	TARIFF COMMISSION REPORT NO.	DATE OF REPORT	TARIFF PARAGRAPH	COST PERIOD	NO. OF DOMESTIC MILLS	NO. OF FOREIGN MILLS	REMARKS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CLASSES AND SPECIFICATIONS OF COMMODITIES COVERED BY REPORTS
Investigations under Sec. 315 of the Act of 1922:							
Cotton hosiery		1926	916	1923	32	7	Full-fashioned, seamless and cut
Cotton warp-knit fabrics		1926	914	1923	5	6	Warp-knit fabrics made of 78s to 80s yarn
Cotton warp - knit fabric gloves		1926	915 & 1430	1923	5	6	Single fold and duplex; shrunk and unshrunk; embroidered, tamboured, ap- pliqued, or not
Laces and lace articles 1	83	1934	920	1923	9	18	Nottingham lace curtains and nets
Rag rugs		1928	1430	1923	18	11	Lovers lace
Handkerchiefs			1430	1923	7	5	Bibbinets
			1430	1923	4	11	Barmen lace
			1430	1923	1	7	Swiss embroidered curtains
			1022	1924	14	2	Investigation interrupted by passage of the Act of 1930
Investigations under Sec. 336 of the Act of 1930							
Wool felt hat bodies and hats	15	1931	1115 (b)	1929	7	2	
Hemp cordage	26	1931	1004 and 1005 (a)	1930	3	2	

Wool felt hat bodies	1115 (b)	1931	6	3	Investigation not completed but merged in investigation under Sec. 3 (e) of NIRA shown hereafter.
Flax upholstery tow and crin vegetal	1001	1930	4	2	Embroidered and unembroidered
Infants' wool knit outerwear	1114 (d) & 1529 (a)	1930	18	7	Pile mats and floor coverings of cocoa fiber. Costs confidential and not published
Cocoa-fiber mats	1022	1931-32	2	2	Plain-back and twill-back velveteens and cotton velvets
Cotton velveteens and velvets	924	1930-31	7	5	Cotton print cloth, in the gray and finished
Cotton cloth	904	1933-34	21	2	Women's and misses' ribbed, wrist length, cuff type gloves and mittens made of worsted yarn
Wool knit gloves and mittens	1114 (b)	1935	8	2	
Investigations under Sec. 3 (e) of the National Industrial Recovery Act					
Wool felt hat bodies	1115 (b)	1933	5	2	Chenille, hit-and-miss rag, imitation oriental and other cotton rugs
Cotton rugs	921		8	2	

1 Costs were obtained in connection with an investigation ordered under Sec. 315 of the Act of 1922. This investigation was not completed but some of the cost data are published in the survey 'Laces and Lace Articles' prepared under the general powers of the Commission.

2 Foreign costs not being readily ascertainable, invoice prices were used in lieu thereof.

# Index

---

- Abaca*, 34, 35-6, 86  
  market, 44  
  price, 12
- Acele*, 24
- Acetate rayon, cellulose*, 24
- Advertising  
  allowances, 176  
  consumer, 175-6
- Alpaca*, 19, 21  
  price, 12
- Angora*, 22
- Anti-crease, 188
- Apparel markets, 130-2
- Areas of study, xii, 144
- Artificial leather*, 9, 112
- Auto cloths*, 184
- Automobile tires*, 112, 118
- Awnings, tents, etc.*, 10
- Axminster*, 135-8
- Bags*, 10, 39  
  cement, 157  
  used, 57, 67
- Basis, pricing on, 91
- Bathing suits*, 209
- Bathrobes*, 209, 232
- Bemberg*, 24
- Binder twine*, 33, 87, 88
- Blanket orders, 115, 147
- Blankets*, 132, 147, 157, 175, 233
- Bleached goods*, 106, 205, 255
- Blending of fibers, 56, 70, 111
- Blouses, women's*, 9
- Bradford spun yarn*, 55, 69, 77
- Brand  
  frequency of change in, 173  
  names, 84, 108  
  promotion, 162, 171, 175
- Branded products, price behavior,  
  174-7
- Broadloom*, 137
- Brokers, 6, 98, 179
- Bundle system, 128
- Burlap*, 40
- Business cycle, 144, 180-2
- Buying movements, 143, 145-50
- Byproducts, 56
- Camel hair*, 19, 21  
  price, 12
- Cantala*, 35
- Capacity, 144, 163, 164-71
- Capital flow and prices, 165, 169-71
- Caps*, 210
- Carpet yarn*, 184
- Carpets and rugs*, 10, 39, 74, 133-9,  
  233
- Casein fiber*, 27
- Cashmere*, 19, 21
- Cebu*, 36
- Celanese*, 24