

United States Exports of Fats and Oils Decrease

Foodstuffs Division Reports Slight Increase in Lard Exports, but Declines in Other Important Fat Shipments

IN THESE days of consideration of greatly increased tariffs on oil and fat products, it is not entirely amiss to consider the trend of American exports of animal and vegetable oils and their developed products. The Foodstuffs Division of the Department of Commerce, in a recent issue of *Commerce Reports*, gives complete figures on the United States exports of all foodstuffs during the calendar years of 1927 and 1928.

The figures given for the fats and oils show material decreases for 1928 in the exports of all important fat and oil products with the sole exception of lard, which increased 11.5 per cent in quantity, but only 7.2 per cent in value, which indicates a decrease of about 4 per cent in the average value of our exported lard for 1928 as compared with 1927. Shipments of lard to the United Kingdom, our leading market, accounted for much of the year's gain, and there were also gains in the trade with Poland, Italy, France, and Finland. Lard shipments to Germany, however, declined considerably during the year, while there were increases in those to Mexico, Cuba, and Central America. Exports of other animal fats, with the exception of neutral lard, decreased considerably during the year, an example being the drop of 51.5 per cent in quantity and 49 per cent in value in shipments of tallow.

Shipments of cottonseed oil, both crude and refined, declined about 24 per cent in quantity and 22 per cent in value. The decrease occurred largely in exports to Canada and Cuba, while those to Mexico were increasing. Exports of lard compounds decreased 47.6 per cent in quantity and 43.4 per cent in value, and oleomargarine shipments declined 19.1 per cent in amount and 17.1 per cent in value. Exports of miscellaneous vegetable oils and fats, (representing small quantities of corn oil, cocoa butter and others), increased 32.5 per cent in quantity and 60.6 per cent in value, but the total volume of these miscellaneous oils and fats totalled only 1.3 per cent of the total quantity of oil and fat exports for 1928, and only 1.7 per cent of the total value.

Dairy butter, the product of our dairy farms and creameries, is also falling behind in the competition for the trade of the world, particularly of those South American and West

Indian countries whose lack of pasture lands prevents home production of milk and its products, for our exports of butter in 1928, (as compared with those in 1927), declined 10.3 per cent in quantity, and 7.5 per cent in value. Exports of cheese likewise fell off heavily, declining 23.8 per cent in quantity and 22.4 per cent in value.

Total exports of all vegetable oils decreased 17.3 per cent in quantity and 6.4 per cent in value during the year, as compared with the previous year. Total exports of animal oils and fats increased 6 per cent in quantity and 4 per cent in value, which increase was entirely attributable to the increase in lard exported, as noted above. Eliminating lard from consideration, total other animal oil exports decreased 20.3 per cent in quantity and 14.6 per cent in value during the year.

Exports of feeds and fodders composed of cottonseed cake or meal and of linseed cake or meal also fell off materially during the year 1928, the only increase in commodities of this character being recorded in 'other oil cake and meal,' a small percentage of the total. Shipments of cottonseed meal and cake declined 34.1 per cent in quantity and 19.2 per cent in value during the year, while those of linseed cake and meal decreased 15.4 per cent in quantity and 3.1 per cent in value.

Complete figures on the exports of animal and vegetable oils and fats and products and oil cake and meal for 1927 and 1928 follow:

Commodities	(Units and value in thousands, 000 omitted)			
	Quantity		Value	
	1927	1928	1927	1928
Animal fats and oils:				
Lard pounds..	681,303	759,722	92,035	98,700
Neutral lard do....	20,397	23,750	3,003	3,225
Lard compounds do....	8,988	4,713	1,084	614
Oleo and lard				
stearin do....	5,648	3,882	597	437
oleomargarine do....	796	644	129	107
Oleo oil do....	78,181	62,779	9,599	8,281
Oleo stock do....	11,913	6,778	1,378	802
Tallow do....	6,610	3,211	563	287
Vegetable oils:				
Cottonseed oil—				
Crude do....	51,407	41,127	4,184	3,456
Refined do....	16,575	10,576	1,754	1,201
Other vegetable				
oils and fats do....	9,159	12,144	1,355	2,177
Dairy products:				
Eggs in the				
shell dozen..	28,707	20,192	7,738	6,135
Butter pounds..	4,343	3,898	2,010	1,860
Cheese do....	3,410	2,600	1,028	798
Feeds and fodders:				
Cottonseed cake do....	623,371	409,621	11,498	9,106
Cottonseed meal do....	257,728	171,397	4,465	3,806
Linseed cake do....	645,356	547,475	13,480	13,085
Linseed meal do....	16,941	14,133	352	329
Other oil cake				
and meal do....	25,572	44,308	391	869