TABLE 4.—*Exports, by commodity classes, 1955, 1959, 1960 (1st 10 months)*

[Volume in millions]

	1955	1959	1960	Volume changes		Percentage changes	
				1955–60	1959–60	1955–60	1959–60
Increases by more than gross national product:[1]							
Machinery and vehicles	$4,428.4	$5,054.5	$5,901.3	+$1,472.9	+$846.8	+33.3	+16.8
Vegetable food products and beverages	1,183.1	1,714.7	1,872.0	+688.9	+157.3	+58.2	+9.2
Chemicals and related products	901.3	1,229.9	1,409.2	+507.9	+179.3	+56.4	+14.6
Metals and manufactures	1,280.8	1,097.7	1,725.5	+444.7	+627.8	+34.7	+57.1
Vegetable products, inedible	720.6	993.9	1,128.5	+407.9	+134.6	+56.6	+13.5
Textile fibers and manufactures	939.4	814.1	1,346.6	+407.2	+532.5	+43.3	+65.4
Wood and paper	363.5	415.7	509.8	+146.3	+94.1	+40.2	+22.6
Subtotal	9,817.1	11,320.5	13,892.9	+4,075.8	+2,572.4	+41.5	+22.7
Increases by less than gross national product:							
Miscellaneous	876.5	947.1	1,032.7	+156.2	+85.6	+17.8	+9.0
Animal products, edible	227.7	244.4	264.5	+36.8	+20.1	+16.2	+8.2
Animal products, inedible	261.9	273.5	282.7	+20.8	+9.2	+7.9	+3.0
Subtotal	1,366.1	1,465.0	1,579.9	+213.8	+114.9	+15.7	+7.8
Decreases: Nonmetalic minerals	1,177.3	989.8	980.7	−196.6	−9.1	−16.7	−1.0
Total	12,360.5	13,775.3	16,453.5	+4,093.0	+2,678.2	+33.1	+19.4

[1] The gross national product increased 26.5 percent between 1955 and the 3d quarter 1960.

Although it is essential that exports should increase, it is not true that the United States has an "unfavorable" balance of trade or that foreign producers are displacing American producers in foreign markets in any general sense.

Nevertheless, exports have not been increasing as rapidly as they should be increasing in view of the continuing unilateral export of dollars. Outgoing dollars have been returning to the United States but not enough of them in the form of intensified demand for American merchandise. When it will become profitable for foreigners to increase their purchases of U.S. merchandise to the extent necessary to bring the international accounts into balance remains to be seen. It will depend primarily on costs and prices in the United States relative to costs and prices abroad.

National agricultural policy with respect to cotton and other crops has impeded U.S. exports at a time when foreign manufacturing industry has been becoming increasingly competitive. As long as U.S. foreign policy calls for the unilateral outflow of $4 to $5 billion per annum for the support of American troops and bases abroad and for nonmilitary foreign aid it is essential that exports increase substantially.

Merchandise imports

The large number of imported automobiles that one sees on the highways, the Japanese and German cameras displayed in photographic shops, and the popularity of Japanese-made transistor radios tend to reinforce a growing feeling that import competition is becoming increasingly severe.

Here, as in so many other phases of economic life, it is not easy to visualize the entire picture. Generalization based on only a small