

County is the major source in this country. Because of emphasis on women's gloves, imports also appear to affect Fulton County more than midwestern glove centers.

There seems to be no technical or economic reason why Fulton County producers could not broaden their operation into fields of glove production where domestic producers can meet foreign competition at existing wage rates, utilizing mass production methods or more highly mechanized operations. Domestic producers of men's leather gloves can compete successfully with imports because men's gloves are more standardized than women's gloves. Domestic producers also compete successfully in block-and-pattern cut gloves, which are lower priced and produced with less hand labor than table-cut gloves.

Imports in men's gloves come traditionally in the high-quality and high-price brackets, leaving lower price ranges for domestic gloves. There have been no changes in tariff rates on men's leather gloves since 1948.¹⁸

Competition is substantially greater in women's leather gloves, as noted. Duties on these have not been raised either since 1948, except for an adjustment in the rate schedule for unlined gloves at Torquay in 1950.¹⁹

Cut and sewn fabric gloves

Germany was the main source of imports of cotton fabric gloves before 1933. Thereafter imports decreased, and domestic production began to rise, chiefly of fabric knitted on thread machines.²⁰ There was an insufficient number of so-called Simplex machines in this country to manufacture a fabric that can be treated on both sides so as to look like suede, and which accounted for most of the imports. Gradually more Simplex machines were introduced in this country, and after the war the domestic industry appeared to be in a comparatively favorable position. But West Germany regained its position as major foreign supplier, and Italian and British importers likewise were coming up. By 1954 imports of cut and sewn fabric gloves had surpassed the 1939 level.

The domestic industry has endeavored to counter this competition by introducing nylon and "stretch" gloves. But these were rapidly copied abroad and are now being imported into this country. Japan has shown signs of being able to step up its exports markedly during the past several years by introducing a cheap fabric glove which retails here at a substantially lower price than domestic gloves. As the quality of the Japanese product improves, difficulties are expected to be created for the domestic industry, paralleling developments in the seamless glove industry (see below). Japan has been the major foreign supplier since 1950, with about half its imports coming in in the cheaper price brackets.

Seamless knit gloves

Consumption of wool gloves in this country showed a steady increase in 1933. Imports from various sources began to increase also,

¹⁸ The most recent reductions were made in 1945 and 1948.

¹⁹ See U.S. Tariff Commission, *op. cit.*

²⁰ U.S. Tariff Commission, "Summaries of Tariff Information" (Washington, D.C., 1948), vol. 9, p. 151.