

It is noteworthy, however, that developed countries' imports of labor-intensive manufactures from the less developed countries rose by almost 11 percent from 1964 to 1965 in contrast to an increase of less than 4 percent in all other products. This relative gain was achieved despite the fact that the defensive balance-of-payments measures taken by the United Kingdom toward the end of 1964 and, more particularly, the tightening of restrictions on textiles seem to have fallen with special severity on its imports of labor-intensive manufactures from some of the Commonwealth countries. Developed countries other than the United Kingdom raised their imports of labor-intensive manufactures from less developed countries by 17.5 percent in 1965.

Product Composition of the Trade

Textiles, clothing, and accessories made up about one-third of 1965 imports of labor-intensive manufactures by developed from less-developed countries. (If burlap and other coarse fiber products are also counted in the textile group, the latter accounted for some 44 percent of the total.) The concentration of the trade by product is therefore pronounced, but it is perhaps less extreme than sometimes suggested by the attention given to textile imports from low-wage countries. Comparison of the 1965 results with those for 1964 indicates, moreover, that the concentration may be diminishing, the textile items having increased by 10.4 percent compared with an overall increase close to 27 percent by a wide assortment of miscellaneous light manufactures (excluding food items and industrial materials). Both figures are strongly influenced by the British measures noted above. Developed countries other than the United Kingdom increased their imports of textiles, clothing, and accessories by about 25 percent and those of miscellaneous light manufactures by 37 percent from 1964 to 1965. The corresponding increases for the United States alone were 34 and 44 percent, respectively.

Distribution by Importing Countries

Of total imports of labor-intensive manufactures by developed from less-developed countries in 1965, the United States accounted for 41.4 percent. The United Kingdom was next with 17.6 percent, and West Germany third with 12.7 percent. Together, these three countries took almost 72 percent of the total. The United Kingdom's share had been as high as 22 percent in 1964, but was reduced in 1965 with the absolute decline in its imports from the less-developed countries, while those of the United States and West Germany continued to rise.

Rapid increases are also found for several countries—Sweden, Austria, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand—whose imports are relatively small. Others, including the European Common Market members except West Germany, show small shares in total imports of labor-intensive manufactures from the less-developed countries, small ratios to their own imports of like products from all sources, and low rates of increase.

There are considerable differences in the distribution of the main product groups among importing countries. The share of the United States is particularly high—more than half of the total—in the rapid-growth miscellaneous light manufactures. The Common Market countries take a relatively large part—twice as much as the United States—of the labor-intensive food products. The United States, the United Kingdom, and West Germany account for three-quarters of total im-