

It is obvious that in the area of man-made fibers the rise has been most swift and continues unabated. Imports of knitted outerwear of man-made fiber in 1964 were less than one-quarter of the total for wool. They amounted to about 4.6 million pounds, as against 19.3 million for wool. But last year the volume of imports of man-made fibers reached 27 million pounds, greater than the highest annual total ever achieved in wool and six times what the man-made total was in 1964.

But even these ratios by fiber type are generalizations and averages. Within these fiber groupings some classifications have been affected by imports even more severely than these averages indicate. Foreign producers do not invade on all fronts at the same time. They tend to concentrate on certain product areas because it is easier for them to do so. Sweaters, for example, represent a major classification of knitted outerwear imports. And in this classification, importers have thus far concentrated in women's sweaters.

In the case of women's sweaters of wool, imports in 1965 came close to 50% of the market, as will be seen in Table 6, and were not far from that point last year.

TABLE 6.—COMPARISON OF IMPORTS TO DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS OF WOMEN'S WOOL SWEATERS

[Quantity in thousands of dozens]

Year	Imports ¹	Domestic shipments ²	Apparent consumption	Ratio of imports to apparent consumption (percent)
1963.....	(³)	1,629	(³)	-----
1964.....	1,160	1,691	2,851	40.5
1965.....	1,849	2,140	3,989	46.7
1966.....	1,493	⁴ 2,200	⁴ 3,693	⁴ 40.4
1967.....	1,109	⁴ 1,700	⁴ 2,809	⁴ 39.4

¹ Includes women's and girls' sweaters and only infants' ornamented sweaters. All infants' outerwear, not ornamented, is separately classified as TSUSA No. 382.48-00 and amounted to only 84,000 lbs. in 1964 and 1965. The infants' sweaters here included are believed insignificantly small.

² No breakdown of wool sweaters is available for girls' and teenage girls' or children's. They are believed to amount to less than 50,000 dozen.

³ Not available.

⁴ Estimated.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. imports of merchandise for consumption, IM-146. Current industrial reports, apparel survey, series M23A.

The trend in women's sweaters of acrylic fiber reflects the sharp increase in the general total in all man-made knit-wear, though the extent of the market penetration is much deeper as seen in Table 7.

TABLE 7.—COMPARISON OF IMPORTS TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF WOMEN'S, GIRLS' AND INFANTS' ACRYLIC SWEATERS

[Quantity in thousands of dozens]

Year	Imports	Domestic shipments	Apparent consumption	Ratio of imports to apparent consumption (percent)
1963.....	(¹)	5,266	(¹)	-----
1964.....	208	4,771	4,979	4.2
1965.....	445	5,209	5,654	7.9
1966.....	1,226	² 5,200	² 6,426	² 19.1
1967.....	2,101	² 4,200	² 6,301	² 33.3

¹ Not available.

² Estimated.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Imports of Merchandise for Consumption, IM-146. Current Industrial Reports, apparel survey, series M23A.