

Women's sweaters have enjoyed great popularity in recent years. Consumption has been increasing in the past decade. But under the competitive pressure of imports, the production of women's sweaters in the United States has not only failed to share in this growth, but has in fact declined. Domestic shipments of women's sweaters in 1966, the last year for which data have been published, was still below the level of 1957.

TABLE 8.—DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS OF WOMEN'S, MISSES' AND JUNIORS' SWEATERS OF ALL FIBERS

	Thousands of dozens	Index, 1957=100		Thousands of dozens	Index, 1957=100
Year:			Year:		
1957.....	7,537	100.0	1963.....	5,880	78.0
1958.....	7,314	97.0	1964.....	5,932	78.7
1959.....	7,299	96.8	1965.....	7,225	95.9
1960.....	6,533	86.7	1966.....	7,394	98.0
1961.....	6,464	85.8	1967.....	1 5,753	76.3
1962.....	6,125	83.7			

¹ Estimated.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census. Current industrial reports, apparel survey, series M23A and M23H.

Our estimate is that the 1967 total, based on monthly shipments of women's, misses' and juniors' sweaters for 1967 published by the Bureau of the Census, was well below 1966, and approximated 76% of the output of eleven years ago.

Imports of men's and boys' sweaters, though not yet of the proportions of women's sweater imports, are serious and have been rising. As shown in Table 9, they have increased in every year for which import data by dozens are available.

TABLE 9.—COMPARISON OF IMPORTS TO DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS OF MEN'S AND BOYS' SWEATERS OF ALL FIBERS
[Quantity in thousands of dozens]

Year	Imports	Domestic ship- ments	Apparent con- sumption	Ratio of imports to apparent con- sumption (per- cent)
1963.....	(1)	4,114	(1)	-----
1964.....	272	4,376	4,648	5.9
1965.....	440	4,633	5,073	9.5
1966.....	504	4,683	5,187	9.7
1967.....	656	2 4,200	4,856	13.5

¹ Not available.

² Estimated.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Industrial Reports, Apparel Survey, series M23A and M23B.

Another illustration of market penetration in depth is the case of knitted outerwear shirts (excluding T- and sweat shirts) of man-made fiber. The quantity was substantial in the first year for which data are available, 1964. The import total that year was 212,000 dozen. The 1967 total was, therefore, thirteen times the 1964 total, or 2,855,000 dozen.

TABLE 10.—U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF KNIT OUTERWEAR SHIRTS (EXCLUDING T AND SWEAT SHIRTS)
OF MANMADE FIBERS
[Quantity in dozens]

Type	1964	1965	1966	1967
Men's and boys'.....	148,773	878,722	1,190,232	1,391,719
Women's, girls' and infants'.....	63,040	131,762	909,795	1,462,987
Total knit outerwear shirts of manmade fibers.....	211,813	1,010,484	2,100,027	2,854,706

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, "U.S. Imports of Merchandise for Consumption," IM-146.