

U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION—LUGGAGE, BILLFOLDS, LETTER CASES, AND OTHER FLAT GOODS

Commodity, code and description, and country of origin	1967		1966		1965	
	Percent	dollar value	Percent	dollar value	Percent	dollar value
831.0020—Luggage, bags and cases, necessary leather.....	100	\$3,030,035	100	\$3,269,564	100	\$4,754,091
Japan.....	13	396,088	13	434,879	40	1,906,620
West Germany.....	28	843,235	30	991,305	20	936,137
Italy.....	21	637,398	22	711,011	12	570,268
United Kingdom.....	13	395,651	15	493,120	10	466,165
Other countries.....	25	757,663	20	639,249	18	874,901
831.005—Billfolds, letter cases and other flat goods, leather.....	100	4,391,762	100	3,946,814	100	2,714,304
West Germany.....	21	916,820	20	775,721	20	539,720
Italy.....	26	1,120,785	35	1,128,466	31	848,084
United Kingdom.....	9	408,748	10	391,217	15	409,408
Other countries.....	44	1,945,409	35	1,651,410	34	917,092
831.0025—Flat goods, luggage, and so forth, textile materials.....	100	7,072,133	100	4,476,159	100	3,816,701
Japan.....	83	5,869,452	78	5,458,112	78	2,959,739
Other countries.....	17	1,202,681	22	1,018,047	22	856,962
831.0050—Flatgoods, luggage, bags and cases, necessary of materials n.s.p.f.....	100	9,834,558	100	7,768,635	100	5,173,891
Japan.....	54	5,343,140	53	4,144,339	48	2,457,260
Hona Kong.....	22	2,218,222	23	1,758,568	35	1,832,550
Other countries.....	24	2,273,196	24	1,865,728	17	884,081

Source: FT 125, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Imports for Consumption.

Definitions (From Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated)

Luggage—covers (I) travel goods, such as trunks, hand trunks, lockers, valises, satchels, suitcases, wardrobe cases, overnight bags, pullman bags, gladstone bags, traveling bags, knapsacks, kitbags, haversacks, duffie bags, and like articles designed to contain clothing or other personal effects during travel; and

(II) brief cases, portfolios, school bags, photographic equipment bags, golf bags, camera cases, binocular cases, gun cases, occupational luggage cases (physicians', sample, etc.), and like containers and cases designed to be carried with the person, except handbags.

Flatgoods—covers small flatwares designed to be carried on the person, such as banknote cases, bill cases, billfolds, bill purses, bill rolls, card cases, change purses, cigarette cases, coin purses, coin holders, compacts, currency cases, key cases, letter cases, license cases, money cases, pass cases, passport cases, powder cases, spectacle cases, stamp cases, vanity cases, tobacco pouches, and similar articles.

POINT II.—THESE INCREASED IMPORTS HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE LUGGAGE AND LEATHER GOODS INDUSTRY

The luggage and leather goods industry is a small and highly competitive industry. Price is a predominant factor in determining the sale of its products. The raw materials used in the manufacture of these products—leather, vinyls, wood, steel, brass, paper, silks, rayons, nylons, cottons, fiberglass, aluminum—are American-made products, produced under the high wage standards and costs prevalent in American industry. This results in the payment of the highest possible prices for these raw materials which represent approximately 45% of the eventual cost price of the articles made. Add to this factor the high wages paid in these industries, wages which represent approximately 20%–25% of the ultimate cost price of the articles produced, and there is every reason to fear and be concerned about the rise in imports. These imports are manufactured under drastically different labor conditions from those which exist in the United States. The prevailing wages paid in the leather and leather products industries in the countries which are the chief exporters of luggage and leather goods, translated into United States dollars, are set forth in the following schedule.