

WORLD APPLE PRODUCTION (DESSERT AND COOKING VARIETIES)

[Million bushels]

	Average crop		
	1935-39	1956-60	1962-66
North America.....	143.1	134.8	156.5
Europe.....	124.6	288.1	338.3
Asia.....	12.8	48.3	70.9
South America.....	2.4	20.7	23.8
South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.....	14.5	16.9	29.4
Total.....	297.4	508.8	618.9
U.S. share (percent).....	48.1	26.5	25.3

WORLD PEAR PRODUCTION

North America.....	29.6	31.4	28.8
Europe.....	43.1	82.8	105.5
Asia.....	10.9	13.8	21.8
South America.....	2.5	4.6	4.7
South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.....	3.6	6.8	10.3
Total.....	89.7	139.4	171.1
U.S. share (percent).....	33.0	22.5	16.8

Source: USDA.

It is worthy to emphasize that—

(a) In 1935-39 North America produced about 50% of the total world apple production vs. only about 25% in 1962-66;

(b) By 1962-66 European apple production had nearly tripled and accounted for 55% of the total;

(c) For apples Asia is over 5 times larger; South America nearly 10 times larger; and Elsewhere double.

(d) For pear production the picture is similar.

Historically, the United States has been the recognized leader in World apple and pear production. Over the years the U.S. Industry pioneered and developed countless innovations involving better technical know-how, new and better varieties, new packages, new packing equipment, new and improved equipment of all kinds, storage facilities, transportation, etc.

We grew, packed, stored and sold the best apples and pears in the World and enjoyed a distinct comparative advantage (and still do, all things being equal) in the world markets, and especially in Europe—our most important export market.

However, at the close of World War II many other countries, notably European, imposed nearly insurmountable trade barriers—both tariff and non-tariff—against the import of U.S. apples and pears. At the same time the European countries, and others, copied and were “loaned” our technical know-how and innovations. With this help, and behind a complete protective wall of excessive tariffs and unreasonable and arbitrary non-tariff barriers, the increased production picture evident today developed. Many of these barriers, tariff and non-tariff, or new ones, exist today for the prime purpose of protecting the tremendously increased domestic production, much of which is reportedly economically “marginal”; and without the “wall” could not exist nor could not have developed. We would emphasize that the increased production did not precede the imposition of the barriers, rather the reverse.

Contrast that with the situation in the U.S. Over the years, through hard work and private money, and without subsidy of any kind, we developed an apple and pear industry second to none. On the same basis, we expanded our exports so that they became an integral and significant part of our overall marketing program. Our industry and our export program were developed without the imposition of a protective wall or other devices. In fact, there are no restrictions on the import of apples and pears into the U.S. Our duty on apples and pears has always been very low and with the “Kennedy Round” the duty on apples was eliminated and the pear duty reduced.