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ISSUES

# THE EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN 1932



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## FOREWORD

Recovery of world conditions is intimately associated with recovery in foreign trade. Because of this fact and because the chemical industry is a basic industry, a review of the chemical situation in Europe is particularly appropriate at this time.

European countries account for two thirds of the world's export trade in chemicals and allied products; their share of the world's imports, however, is somewhat smaller. Germany, England, and France, the "big three" in chemical matters, are the chief competitors of the United States in world markets. They account for approximately two thirds of all European chemical exports. In 1932 their combined exports of \$316,000,000 were 28 percent less than in 1931. Imports of these same three countries, however, were only \$169,000,000 in 1932, 34 percent below the 1931 figure.

Germany, although retaining its position as the world's largest chemical exporting country, recorded the largest loss in exports in 1932, and shipped to foreign countries only \$172,300,000 worth compared with \$244,000,000 worth in 1931. These figures compare with \$95,100,000 worth of chemicals and allied products exported by the United States, the second largest world exporter, in 1932, and \$130,600,000 worth shipped in 1931. Germany is less important in the import trade and falls considerably behind the United States, which country imports more chemicals than any other country in the world.

Belgium and the Netherlands are becoming important from a chemical producing and exporting standpoint and also because much of the goods shipped there is later sold elsewhere. In 1932 exports of chemicals and allied products from Belgium were valued at \$38,000,000 and from the Netherlands \$33,300,000.

The cartel movement has had great impetus during the past year, particularly in the dye and nitrogen fields, but the effect is not so far evident.

This bulletin reviews the chemical industries of 22 European countries and is published in lieu of separate bulletins on individual countries as has been the practice in other years. More complete information on practically all countries is available upon application to the Chemical Division.

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