

UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE
FOREIGN TRADE
OF
CHILE

One of a Series of Reports on
Recent Developments in the Foreign Trade
of the American Republics



Washington
1945

UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION

OSCAR B. RYDER, *Chairman*

LYNN R. EDMINSTER, *Vice Chairman*

EDGAR B. BROSSARD

E. DANA DURAND

GEORGE MCGILL

GEORGE Z. BARNES

E. M. WHITCOMB, *Acting Secretary*

FOREWORD

This is one of a series of reports on Recent Developments in the Foreign Trade of the Latin American Republics.

Other work in preparation by the Commission relating to trade problems of the American Republics includes a series of reports under each of the following headings: Economic Controls and Commercial Policies; Mining and Manufacturing Industries; and Agricultural, Pastoral, and Forest Industries.

In the preparation of this report the Commission had the services of Franklin W. Ryan, David Lynch, Allyn C. Loosley, and other members of its staff. The statistics were compiled by the Statistical Division of the Commission.

(24051)

CONTENTS

Introduction:	
Chile—a summary description	4
The Chilean economy	5
The foreign trade of Chile	5
Exports	7
Composition	12
Copper	13
Nitrate and iodine	16
Wool	16
Gold and silver	16
Leguminous products	17
Cereals	17
Iron ore	17
Other commodities	17
Destination	22
Exports to Latin American countries	23
Imports	24
Composition	25
Textiles and manufactures	25
Chemical products	34
Machinery, accessories, and tools	34
Metal products	35
Transport materials and accessories	35
Mineral products	36
Agricultural products	36
Processed foods	36
Animals and animal products	36
Sources of imports	38
Imports from Latin American countries	39
United States trade with Chile	41
Imports into the United States from Chile	41
Composition	59
Dutiable status of imports from Chile	59
Exports from the United States to Chile	59
Composition	69
Balance of trade and of payments between the United States and Chile	73
Post-war prospects and problems of Chilean trade	73
The export trade	74
Copper	74
Sodium nitrate	75
Agricultural and pastoral products	76
Other exports	76
The import trade	78
Appendix	78

APPENDIX

Table A.—Chile: Imports, exports, and trade balances, in gold pesos, by regions and principal countries, 1937, 1939, and 1941

(Value in thousands of pesos of 64. gold)

Region and country	1937					1939					1941				
	Exports		Imports		Balance of trade	Exports		Imports		Balance of trade	Exports		Imports		Balance of trade
	Value	Percent of total	Value	Percent of total		Value	Percent of total	Value	Percent of total		Value	Percent of total	Value	Percent of total	
Total, all countries	947,589	100.0	428,866	100.0	+518,723	672,355	100.0	410,745	100.0	+260,610	781,504	100.0	525,251	100.0	+256,253
Western Hemisphere	248,275	26.2	201,314	46.9	+ 46,961	235,389	35.1	199,890	48.7	+ 35,499	579,651	74.2	419,955	80.0	+159,696
UNITED STATES	213,402	22.5	124,748	29.1	+ 88,654	204,779	30.5	127,704	31.1	+ 77,075	500,772	64.1	296,436	56.4	+204,336
Canada	43	✓	2,633	.6	- 2,590	9	✓	2,620	.6	- 2,611	121	✓	2,313	.4	- 2,192
Latin America	33,812	3.6	70,266	16.4	- 36,523	29,913	4.5	63,783	15.5	- 33,870	77,869	9.9	111,379	21.2	- 33,710
Mexico	6	✓	2,283	.6	- 2,277	379	✓	145	✓	+ 234	156	✓	544	.1	- 388
West Indies	6,794	.7	1,024	.2	+ 5,701	3,191	.5	2,544	.6	+ 647	5,350	.7	1,143	.2	+ 4,207
Cuba	6,705	.7	1,021	.2	+ 5,684	3,142	.5	2,544	.6	+ 598	5,316	.7	1,143	.2	+ 4,173
Dominican Republic	69	✓	5	✓	+ 5	26	✓	—	✓	+ 26	6	✓	5	✓	+ 6
Haiti	20	✓	3	✓	+ 17	23	✓	—	✓	+ 23	28	✓	3	✓	+ 28
Central America	744	.1	566	.1	+ 178	709	.1	345	.1	+ 364	1,205	.1	1,028	.2	+ 177
Costa Rica	113	✓	89	✓	+ 24	221	✓	164	.1	+ 57	276	✓	186	✓	+ 90
El Salvador	5	✓	279	.1	- 279	9	✓	74	✓	- 65	22	✓	417	.1	- 395
Guatemala	36	✓	152	✓	- 116	8	✓	25	✓	- 17	52	✓	103	✓	- 51
Honduras	5	✓	5	✓	—	3	✓	7	✓	- 4	111	✓	—	✓	+ 111
Nicaragua	7	✓	6	✓	+ 1	3	✓	5	✓	+ 3	14	✓	5	✓	+ 14
Panama	588	.1	40	✓	+ 548	465	.1	75	✓	+ 390	730	.1	322	.1	+ 408
Northern South America	2,793	.3	8,536	2.0	- 5,743	2,099	.3	6,190	1.5	- 4,091	2,960	.4	4,497	.9	- 1,537
Colombia	886	.1	72	✓	+ 814	1,101	.2	253	✓	+ 848	1,068	.2	141	✓	+ 927
Ecuador	1,707	.2	2,793	.7	- 1,086	894	.1	2,899	.7	- 1,965	1,757	.2	3,639	.7	- 1,882
Venezuela	200	✓	5,671	1.3	- 5,471	104	✓	3,078	.7	- 2,974	135	✓	717	.2	- 582
Brazil	3,104	.3	4,347	1.0	- 1,243	2,668	.4	5,288	1.3	- 2,620	15,867	2.0	17,086	3.3	- 1,219
Andean Republics	8,078	0.9	34,895	8.2	- 26,817	7,394	1.1	31,104	7.6	- 23,710	17,081	2.2	48,094	9.1	- 31,013
Bolivia	3,277	.4	142	✓	+ 3,135	3,577	.5	138	✓	+ 3,439	7,750	1.0	74	✓	+ 7,676
Peru	4,801	.5	34,753	8.2	- 29,952	3,817	.6	30,966	7.6	- 27,149	9,331	1.2	48,020	9.1	- 36,689
River Plate Republics	12,293	1.3	18,615	4.3	- 6,322	13,473	2.0	18,167	4.4	- 4,694	34,950	4.5	38,987	7.4	- 4,037
Argentina	11,212	1.2	18,428	4.3	- 7,216	12,494	1.9	18,158	4.4	- 5,664	33,840	4.4	38,810	7.4	- 4,970
Paraguay	36	✓	1	✓	+ 35	58	✓	1	✓	+ 57	30	✓	1	✓	+ 29
Uruguay	1,045	.1	186	✓	+ 859	921	.1	8	✓	+ 913	1,080	.1	176	✓	+ 904
Caribbean Possessions	374	✓	3,373	.8	- 3,000	495	.1	5,591	1.4	- 5,096	284	✓	9,814	1.9	- 9,530
British possessions	330	✓	9	✓	+ 220	436	.1	1	✓	+ 435	299	✓	5	✓	+ 294
French possessions	15	✓	—	✓	+ 15	34	✓	—	✓	+ 34	5	✓	—	✓	+ 5
Netherlands possessions	29	✓	3,364	.8	- 3,335	25	✓	5,590	1.4	- 5,565	25	✓	9,809	1.9	- 9,784
Panama Canal Zone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Europe	465,002	49.1	200,041	46.7	+264,961	264,086	39.3	178,249	43.4	+ 85,837	40,335	5.2	65,087	12.4	- 24,752
Belgium and Luxemburg	56,817	6.0	9,335	2.2	+ 47,482	30,325	4.5	7,090	1.7	+ 23,235	—	—	465	.2	- 1,116
France	46,945	5.0	8,006	1.9	+ 38,939	31,666	4.7	9,354	2.3	+ 22,312	—	—	1,116	.2	- 1,879
Germany (including Austria)	90,316	9.5	111,787	26.0	- 21,471	56,625	8.4	93,361	22.7	- 36,736	5,802	—	3,923	.7	+ 1,272
Italy	43,241	4.6	8,189	1.9	+ 35,052	25,056	3.7	15,971	3.9	+ 9,085	—	—	1,272	.2	- 1,272
Netherlands	809	-.1	3,052	.7	- 2,243	218	—	3,930	1.0	- 3,712	—	—	570	.1	- 543
Portugal	19	—	722	.2	- 703	19	—	623	-.1	- 604	—	—	645	.1	- 486
Spain	24	—	1,343	.3	- 1,319	212	—	972	.2	- 760	—	—	2,786	.5	- 2,773
Sweden	35,930	3.8	5,120	1.2	+ 30,810	30,832	4.6	7,045	1.7	+ 23,787	—	—	2,232	.4	- 2,090
Switzerland	1,186	—	2,332	.5	- 1,156	2,332	—	3,029	.7	- 677	1,285	—	3,544	.7	- 2,259
Soviet Union ^{1/}	—	—	5/	—	—	5/	—	5/	—	+ 5/	—	—	15	—	- 15
United Kingdom	185,233	19.5	46,741	10.9	+138,492	82,500	12.3	33,884	8.2	+ 48,616	32,442	4.2	48,220	9.2	- 15,778
Asia	15,059	1.6	24,163	5.7	- 9,104	11,933	1.8	27,920	6.7	- 15,987	38,079	4.8	39,828	7.6	- 1,749
British India	162	—	5,134	1.2	- 5,032	—	—	4,850	1.2	- 4,850	—	—	6,895	1.3	- 6,895
China	4	—	186	—	—	45	—	311	-.1	- 266	—	—	1,041	.2	- 1,009
Japan	12,948	1.6	11,097	2.6	+ 3,851	11,885	1.8	15,311	3.7	- 3,426	37,989	4.8	24,635	4.7	+ 3,354
Netherlands Indies	5/	—	7,101	1.7	- 7,101	—	—	6,338	1.5	- 6,338	57	—	7,100	1.4	- 7,043
Other areas:	60	—	3,306	.7	- 3,246	82	—	4,660	1.2	- 4,578	130	—	336	—	- 206
Australia	59	—	2	—	+ 57	56	—	6	—	+ 50	119	—	5/	—	+ 119
New Zealand	5/	—	89	—	—	17	—	7	—	+ 10	—	—	13	—	+ 13
British South Africa	5/	—	41	—	—	—	—	3	—	- 3	—	—	3	—	+ 3
Nitrate and Iodine	189,582	20.0	—	—	+189,582	150,990	22.5	—	—	+150,990	123,309	15.8	—	—	+123,309
To order ^{2/}	29,611	3.1	—	—	+ 29,611	8,875	1.3	—	—	+ 8,875	—	—	—	—	—
Salvage	—	—	42	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	45	—	—

^{1/} Imports for consumption. Values are c.i.f., as declared by merchants. Exports of Chilean products and nationalized products. Values are f.o.b. frontier, excluding export duties. Bullion and specie are included.

^{2/} An export balance is marked (+) and an import balance (-).

^{3/} Excludes Puerto Rico.

^{4/} Less than 0.05 percent.

^{5/} Less than 500.

^{6/} Includes Panama Canal Zone.

^{7/} Included with Republic of Panama.

^{8/} Europe and Asia.

^{9/} All shipments of copper bars, the destination of which is not known at time of embarkation, are included under this heading and are not included with data for individual countries.

Sources: Compiled by the U. S. Tariff Commission from Chile, Anuario Estadístico de Comercio Exterior.

Table B.—Chile: Imports, exports, and trade balances, in United States dollars, by regions and principal countries, 1937, 1939, and 1941

(Value in thousands of U.S. dollars)

Region and country	1937					1939					1941					Bal- tr
	Exports \checkmark		Imports \checkmark		Balance of trade \checkmark	Exports \checkmark		Imports \checkmark		Balance of trade \checkmark	Exports \checkmark		Imports \checkmark			
	Value	Percent of total	Value	Percent of total		Value	Percent of total	Value	Percent of total		Value	Percent of total	Value	Percent of total		
Total, all countries	195,298	100.0	88,389	100.0	+106,909	138,766	100.0	84,652	100.0	+ 53,711	161,058	100.0	108,254	100.0	+ 52,804	
Western Hemisphere	51,169	26.2	41,491	46.9	+ 9,678	48,514	35.1	41,197	48.7	+ 7,717	119,466	74.2	86,553	80.0	+ 32,913	
UNITED STATES \checkmark	43,982	22.5	25,711	29.1	+ 18,271	42,205	30.5	26,320	31.1	+ 15,885	103,209	64.1	61,095	56.5	+ 42,114	
Canada	9	✓	543	6	- 534	2	✓	540	6	- 538	25	✓	477	4	- 469	
Latin America	6,968	3.6	14,481	16.4	- 7,527	6,165	4.5	13,146	15.3	- 6,981	15,987	9.9	24,981	23.1	- 17,499	
Mexico	1	✓	471	6	- 470	78	✓	30	✓	+ 48	32	✓	112	1	+ 80	
West Indies	1,400	7	211	2	+ 1,175	658	5	524	6	+ 134	1,103	7	236	2	+ 867	
Cuba	1,382	7	210	2	+ 1,172	648	5	524	6	+ 124	1,096	7	236	2	+ 860	
Dominican Republic	14	✓	5	✓	- 9	5	✓	—	✓	+ 5	1	✓	5	✓	+ 1	
Haiti	4	✓	1	✓	+ 3	5	✓	—	✓	+ 5	6	✓	—	✓	+ 6	
Central America	153	1	117	1	+ 37	146	1	71	1	+ 75	248	1	222	2	+ 26	
Costa Rica	23	✓	18	✓	+ 5	45	✓	34	✓	+ 11	57	✓	38	✓	+ 19	
El Salvador	3	✓	58	1	- 55	2	✓	15	✓	- 13	4	✓	86	✓	- 82	
Guatemala	7	✓	31	✓	- 24	2	✓	5	✓	- 3	11	✓	21	✓	- 10	
Honduras	3	✓	3	✓	—	1	✓	1	✓	—	23	✓	—	✓	+ 23	
Nicaragua	1	✓	1	✓	—	1	✓	3	✓	+ 1	3	✓	3	✓	+ 3	
Panama \checkmark	121	1	8	✓	+ 113	95	1	16	✓	+ 79	150	1	67	✓	+ 83	
Northern South America	576	3	1,759	2.0	- 1,184	433	3	1,276	1.5	- 843	610	4	927	9	- 317	
Colombia	183	1	15	✓	+ 168	227	2	52	✓	+ 175	220	2	79	✓	+ 191	
Ecuador	352	2	576	7	- 224	184	1	589	7	- 405	362	✓	750	7	- 388	
Venezuela	41	✓	1,169	1.3	- 1,128	22	✓	634	✓	+ 512	28	✓	148	✓	- 120	
Brazil	640	3	896	1.0	- 256	550	4	1,050	1.3	- 500	3,270	2.0	3,521	3.3	- 251	
Andean Republics	1,665	9	7,192	8.2	- 5,527	1,324	1.1	6,411	7.6	- 4,887	3,520	2.2	9,912	9.1	- 6,392	
Bolivia	678	4	79	✓	+ 646	777	5	28	✓	+ 708	1,597	1.0	15	✓	+ 1,582	
Peru	990	5	7,163	8.2	- 6,173	787	6	6,382	7.6	- 5,595	1,923	1.2	9,897	9.1	- 7,974	
River Plate Republics	2,534	1.3	3,837	4.3	- 1,303	2,777	2.0	3,744	4.4	- 967	7,203	4.5	8,035	7.4	- 832	
Argentina	2,311	1.2	3,758	4.3	- 1,487	2,575	1.9	3,742	4.4	- 1,167	6,974	4.4	7,999	7.4	- 1,025	
Paraguay	8	✓	3	✓	+ 5	12	✓	3	✓	+ 9	6	✓	—	✓	+ 6	
Uruguay	215	1	79	✓	+ 136	190	1	2	✓	+ 188	223	1	36	✓	+ 187	
Caribbean Possessions	77	✓	695	8	- 618	102	✓	1,152	1.4	- 1,050	79	✓	2,023	1.9	- 1,844	
British possessions	68	✓	2	✓	+ 66	90	✓	3	✓	+ 7	54	✓	1	✓	+ 53	
French possessions	3	✓	—	✓	+ 3	7	✓	—	✓	+ 7	—	✓	—	✓	+ 7	
Netherlands possessions	6	✓	695	8	- 687	5	✓	1,152	1.4	- 1,147	5	✓	2,022	1.9	- 2,017	
Panama Canal Zone \checkmark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Europe	95,837	49.1	41,228	46.7	+ 54,609	54,428	39.3	36,737	49.4	+ 17,691	8,313	9.2	13,414	12.4	- 5,101
Belgium and Luxembourg	11,710	6.0	1,924	2.2	+ 9,786	6,250	4.5	1,461	1.7	+ 4,789	-	-	96	.1	- 96
France	9,675	5.0	1,650	1.9	+ 8,025	6,526	4.7	1,928	2.3	+ 4,598	-	-	230	.2	- 230
Germany (including Austria)	18,614	9.5	23,039	26.0	- 4,425	11,670	8.4	19,241	22.7	- 7,571	1,196	-	809	.7	+ 387
Italy	8,912	4.6	1,688	1.9	+ 7,224	5,164	3.7	3,292	3.9	- 1,872	-	-	262	.2	- 262
Netherlands	167	.1	629	.7	- 462	45	✓	610	1.0	- 75	6	-	117	.1	- 111
Portugal	4	✓	149	.2	- 145	4	✓	128	.1	- 124	33	✓	139	.1	- 100
Spain	5	✓	277	.3	- 272	44	✓	200	.2	- 156	3	✓	574	.5	- 97
Sweden	7,405	3.8	1,055	1.2	+ 6,350	6,354	4.6	1,452	1.7	+ 4,902	29	✓	460	.4	- 451
Switzerland	244	.1	481	.5	- 237	485	✓	624	.7	- 139	265	✓	730	.7	- 465
Soviet Union ^{2/}	-	-	5/	✓	- 5/	5/	✓	5/	✓	-	-	-	3	✓	- 3
United Kingdom	38,177	19.5	9,639	10.9	+ 28,544	17,003	12.3	6,983	8.2	+ 10,020	6,646	4.2	9,938	9.2	- 3,232
Asia	3,104	1.6	4,980	5.7	- 1,876	2,459	1.8	5,754	6.7	- 3,295	7,848	4.8	8,208	7.6	- 360
British India	21	✓	1,038	1.2	- 1,037	-	✓	1,000	1.2	- 1,000	-	-	1,421	1.3	- 1,421
China	1	✓	38	✓	- 37	9	✓	64	.1	- 55	7	✓	215	.2	- 208
Japan	3,081	1.6	2,287	2.6	+ 794	2,449	1.8	3,156	3.7	- 707	7,830	4.8	5,077	4.7	+ 2,759
Netherlands Indies	5/	✓	1,464	1.7	- 1,464	-	✓	1,306	1.5	- 1,306	12	✓	1,463	1.4	- 1,451
Other areas	12	✓	681	.7	- 669	17	✓	961	1.2	- 944	27	✓	70	✓	- 43
Australia	12	✓	5/	✓	+ 12	12	✓	1	✓	+ 11	23	✓	5/	✓	+ 25
New Zealand	5/	✓	18	✓	- 18	4	✓	1	✓	- 3	-	✓	5/	✓	- 3
British South Africa	5/	✓	8	✓	- 8	-	✓	1	✓	- 1	-	✓	5/	✓	- 1
Nitrate and iodine	39,073	20.0	-	-	+ 39,073	31,119	22.5	-	-	+ 31,119	25,414	13.8	-	-	+ 25,414
To order ^{2/}	6,103	3.1	-	-	+ 6,103	1,829	1.3	-	-	+ 1,829	-	-	-	-	-
Salvage	-	-	9	✓	- 9	-	-	5	✓	- 5	-	-	9	✓	- 9

^{1/} Imports for consumption. Values are c.i.f., as declared by merchants. Exports of Chilean products and nationalised products. Values are f.o.b. frontier, excluding export duties. Bullion and specie are included.

^{2/} An export balance is marked (+) and an import balance (-). If exports of nitrate and iodine were included, the export balances would be larger (or the import balances smaller) for a number of countries, notably the United States and Germany (except in 1941).

^{3/} Excludes Puerto Rico.

^{4/} Less than 0.05 percent.

^{5/} Less than 500.

^{6/} Includes Panama Canal Zone.

^{7/} Included with Republic of Panama.

^{8/} Europe and Asia.

^{9/} All shipments of copper bars, the destination of which is not known at time of embarkation, are included under this heading and are not included with data for individual countries.

Sources: Compiled by the U. S. Tariff Commission from Chile, Anuario Estadístico de Comercio Exterior.