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Switzerland's Foreign Trade and Textiles in 1954

During the past year, economic activity in Western Europe was very intense and the development of the Swiss economy was also satisfactory. Swiss trade, which was favourable in many sectors of industry, owed its increased activity in part to wider measures of liberalisation. **Imports** increased by about one tenth in value and 16.4 % in volume. **Exports** reached a new height. The increase in the figures for exports over those of 1953 is more appreciable from the point of view of volume (+17 %) than of value (+2.1 %); this trend is due

above all to an increase in Swiss sales of heavy consumer goods abroad.

The increase in imports in 1954 being greater than that of exports, the favourable balance shown by Switzerland in 1953 became a slightly adverse one of 320 million francs in 1954. Below are shown the figures for Switzerland's trade in 1954, compared with the same figures for the previous year, the last year before the war and the first year of prosperity after the war (1948) :

	1938	1948	1953	1954
Total imports	1606.9	4998.9	5070.7	5591.6
in millions of Swiss francs				
Total exports	1316.6	3434.6	5164.6	5271.5
in millions of Swiss francs				

If the figures for **exports** of the three main classes of goods are examined, that is to say *raw materials, food-stuffs, beverages and feeding stuffs* and *manufactured products*, it will be seen that the only falling off in 1954 as compared with 1953 was in the value of exports of raw materials, whereas the volume increased in all three categories. The value of the exports of manufactured products remained the same in 1954 as during the previous year. Let us now examine Swiss exports in the field of textiles. Sales of embroidery abroad increased con-

siderably ; exports of rayon and staple fibre yarns also advanced appreciably, as well as those of ready-to-wear clothes. In fabrics, those of cotton once again head the field with the highest figures for value, accompanied by a slight increase in output as compared with 1953. On the other hand, exports of natural silk and rayon fell off, as well as those of cotton yarns, hosiery and knitwear. Exports of millinery braid from Aargau decreased while those of footwear increased. Below we give the figures for the various textile exports.

SWISS EXPORTS OF THE MAIN TEXTILE PRODUCTS

	in millions of Swiss francs		
	1938	1953	1954
Cotton yarns	23.6	53.9	48.6
Cotton fabrics	58.9	162.3	164.4
Embroideries	26.1	98.7	113.7
Spun silk yarn	4.1	4.6	2.7
Rayon and staple fibre yarns	20.2	73.4	78.6
Silk and rayon fabrics	30.7	104.6	97.3
Silk and rayon ribbons	5.8	10.7	12.2
Worsted yarns	2.0	12.5	12.2
Woollen fabrics	3.2	31.3	30.9
Hosiery and knitwear	8.0	43.2	40.5
Ready-to-wear clothing	11.7	49.7	54.6
Millinery braid	13.6	38.5	35.2
Footwear	19.3	30.0	34.1