

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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A SUMMARY

of

THE DAIRYING INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA

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Prepared under instructions from the Honorable the Treasurer

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1. PRODUCTION OF MILK

The recorded production of milk in Australia during the past five years has averaged 1,117 million gallons per annum. Of this quantity, 913 million gallons (or 81.7 per cent.) was used in the manufacture of butter, 54 million gallons (or 4.9 per cent.) in the manufacture of cheese, condensed etc. and powdered milk, and the balance of 150 million gallons (or 13.4 per cent.) was used in its natural form for human consumption and for other purposes. The actual quantity directly consumed by the people of Australia cannot be determined with any degree of exactness. On the basis of the 150 million gallons shown above, this would give an average quantity of 22½ gallons consumed per head of population per annum or approximately ½ pint per diem.

2. PRODUCTION OF BUTTER

The production of butter in Australia reached its maximum in the year 1934-35 when it amounted to 4.2 million cwts. Due to less favourable seasonal conditions the output in 1935-36 declined to 3.9 million cwts. The 1936-37 production showed a further decline to 3.5 million cwts, due again to less favourable conditions, more particularly in Queensland. Table I below gives particulars of the output of factory butter and of the output of farm butter in Australia during each month of the past four years and the current production for 1937-38. It will be noted that farm butter has averaged only 200,000 cwt. per annum in recent years or about 5 per cent of the total output.

TABLE I
PRODUCTION OF BUTTER IN FACTORIES AND ON FARMS -
AUSTRALIA

Month	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
July	157,520	172,580	165,020	154,940	156,830
August	185,000	214,560	202,160	201,260	190,651
September	268,260	295,800	267,960	271,500	272,176
October	394,000	423,960	420,480	349,260	360,853
November	467,240	479,620	470,400	340,400	440,713
December	468,500	506,160	434,500	331,560	(445,000)
January	460,000	486,860	431,620	381,200	
February	369,880	397,820	356,320	320,620	
March	356,920	358,680	321,020	333,200	
April	276,340	277,620	256,860	275,000	
May	232,060	213,140	185,560	208,820	
June	194,940	163,920	155,840	157,660	
Factory Total:	3,830,660	3,990,720	3,667,740	3,325,420	
Made on Farms	203,634	204,759	204,786	196,420	
GRAND TOTAL:	4,034,294	4,195,479	3,872,526	3,521,840	

Production for Current Season

Table II below shows the monthly and annual figures for factory production of butter in the various States, for the two years 1935-36 and 1936-37, as well as the latest available figures for 1937-38.

During the first four months of the 1937-38 season, the New South Wales monthly factory output corresponded very closely to that of the previous season, but the November production figure of 119,104 cwts. considerably exceeded the 74,440 cwts. for the same month of last season. For the five months ended November, New South Wales butter production amounted to 345,419 cwts., representing a 10 per cent increase on last year's figure for the corresponding period. The indications point to a production season starting somewhat earlier than in 1936-37, and an increase in New South Wales butter output appears likely.

Victorian monthly production for the current season has followed the general trend of the 1936-37 season, for the period July to November, and the output for the five months totalled 603,721 cwts. This represents an increase of just under 1 per cent. on the corresponding figure for last season of 598,460 cwts.

Monthly figures for Queensland butter production from July to October also corresponded closely to those for the previous season, but November production in this State was more than 100 per cent. greater than last year's figure for this month. Compared with the previous season, Queensland's output from July to November of 284,626 cwts. represents a 17.7 per cent. increase.

No marked difference in monthly production, compared with last season, has been recorded in South Australia, Western Australia or Tasmania. For the five months ended November, butter production in these States amounted to 86,968 cwts., 72,064 cwts., and 28,425 cwts. respectively, and represented increases of 8.0 per cent., 24.6 per cent and 6.5 per cent compared with last year.

Commonwealth production for the five months ended November amounted to 1,421,223 cwts. compared with 1,317,360 cwts. last season. This represents an increase of 7.9 per cent. in factory output. New South Wales and Queensland were the chief States contributing to the increase.

TABLE II
MONTHLY FACTORY PRODUCTION OF BUTTER - STATES
1935-36 TO 1937-38

State	Year	July	August	Sept- ember	October	Nov- ember	Decem- ber	January	Feb- ruary	March	April	May	June	Total Year
		cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
New South Wales	1935-36	40,840	43,340	60,440	96,440	115,820	119,240	128,680	117,880	118,960	99,460	69,720	52,780	1,063,600
	1936-37	44,560	49,720	61,080	82,200	74,440	70,680	118,420	106,080	118,420	92,620	66,200	43,040	927,460
	1937-38	37,148	43,236	62,757	83,174	119,104	135,430							
Victoria ..	1935-36	61,280	86,480	118,000	187,720	204,600	170,940	134,720	93,040	72,520	57,500	48,120	43,320	1,278,240
	1936-37	49,020	73,960	121,880	171,300	182,300	176,900	157,400	117,100	101,360	74,860	56,680	43,060	1,325,820
	1937-38	46,712	71,153	120,000	174,910	190,946	(a)							
Queensland ..	1935-36	42,800	46,680	56,640	88,480	101,040	102,280	135,640	124,700	114,440	88,460	56,460	46,840	1,004,460
	1936-37	44,020	53,240	54,160	49,820	40,600	45,960	74,980	74,120	93,900	93,540	72,700	55,900	752,940
	1937-38	51,456	48,095	50,852	52,130	82,093	(a)							
South Australia	1935-36	11,400	14,540	17,000	22,580	19,380	15,080	13,200	9,560	8,080	6,740	6,980	7,400	151,940
	1936-37	9,700	13,600	17,640	22,040	17,520	14,320	12,740	10,680	9,280	6,760	6,940	8,280	149,500
	1937-38	11,233	14,418	19,484	23,774	18,059	16,052							
Western Australia	1935-36	6,980	8,880	10,940	15,360	15,900	12,900	8,580	5,240	3,460	2,580	2,960	4,140	97,920
	1936-37	6,220	8,380	12,500	16,100	14,660	11,440	7,400	4,680	3,640	2,640	3,800	6,100	97,560
	1937-38	9,015	11,818	14,897	18,147	18,187	(a)							
Tasmania ..	1935-36	1,720	2,240	4,940	9,900	13,660	14,060	10,800	5,900	3,560	2,120	1,320	1,360	71,580
	1936-37	1,420	2,360	4,240	7,800	10,880	12,260	10,260	7,960	6,600	4,580	2,500	1,280	72,140
	1937-38	1,266	1,931	4,186	8,718	12,324	12,777	-						
Commonwealth Total	1935-36	165,020	202,160	267,960	420,480	470,400	434,500	431,620	356,320	321,020	256,860	185,560	155,840	3,667,740
	1936-37	154,940	201,260	271,500	349,260	340,400	331,560	381,200	320,620	333,200	275,000	208,820	157,660	3,325,420
	1937-38	156,830	190,651	272,176	360,853	440,713	(b)445,000							

(a) Not yet available.

(b) Estimated.

3. EXPORTS OF BUTTER FROM AUSTRALIA

Particulars of the quantity of butter exported from Australia to principal countries for the five years ended 1936-37 were given in issue No.2, but consideration of space precludes their repetition.

In Table III below, particulars are given of Monthly and Annual exports of butter by each State for the years 1935-36 and 1936-37, with additional figures for the current season to date.

Shipments from New South Wales to the end of December, amounted to 90,180 cwts., representing an increase of 87.8 per cent on the corresponding figure for last year. The increase for the six months was due to increased shipments during November and December. In this connexion, the increase in New South Wales production should be noted and compared with the later start of the production season last year. (See October "Summary" Section 2 and Table II.).

Victorian butter exports for the six months ended December, amounted to 399,102 cwts. as compared with 466,148 cwts. to the corresponding date last year, the decline amounting to 14.4 per cent. Monthly export figures showed an increase of approximately 20,000 cwts. for November as compared with November last year, but in December exports were 38,000 cwts. less than in December 1936. The decline in Victorian shipments, as compared with the previous season, is in contrast with the Production figures, which were at least equal to the 1936 output. As suggested in the October "Summary", a decrease in exports from Victoria may have resulted from more active inter-State trading.

A marked increase in Queensland's butter exports has followed the greatly increased production by this State during the current season. November shipments were more than 100 per cent. in excess of those for November 1936, while shipments during December also showed a marked increase as compared with the corresponding month of last year. For the six months ended December, Queensland butter exports showed a considerable increase on last year's figures, the total amounting to 215,021 cwts. This represents an increase of 33.4 per cent. on last year's figure for the corresponding period of 161,193 cwts.

In South Australia and western Australia increased butter exports were recorded for the six months ended December; the increase amounting to 25.6 per cent. in the case of the former and to 140.5 per cent. in the case of the latter. However, the combined contribution by these two States to the Commonwealth Total for the six months, was only 10.3 per cent.

Shipments from the Commonwealth during the six months, July to December, amounted to 785,578 cwts. as compared with 708,733 cwts. for the corresponding period last year, an increase of 10.8 per cent. The increased shipments by New South Wales and Queensland, due to the improvement in output, contributed largely to the increase in the Commonwealth figure.

TABLE III.
MONTHLY EXPORTS OF BUTTER FROM AUSTRALIA - STATES
1935-36 TO 1937-38.

State	Year	July	August	Sep- tember	October	Nov- ember	Dec- ember	January	Feb- ruary	March	April	May	June	Total Year
		cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
New South Wales ..	1935-36	2,507	2,011	3,238	18,122	44,843	31,168	40,375	42,087	52,263	23,212	15,287	17,911	293,024
	1936-37	8,763	2,763	4,014	10,662	14,128	8,214	11,450	27,419	37,590	28,458	21,582	6,794	181,837
	1937-38	2,906	2,058	3,131	13,028	27,209	41,848							
Victoria ..	1935-36	37,582	31,576	59,922	115,320	136,974	157,171	73,477	76,730	81,470	27,257	12,543	8,857	818,879
	1936-37	7,238	17,559	48,172	92,787	154,592	125,800	97,508	87,486	60,130	57,465	47,432	13,811	809,980
	1937-38	5,155	4,251	32,827	94,267	175,004	87,598	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Queensland ..	1935-36	16,695	10,543	18,870	51,219	77,088	57,602	75,182	106,034	106,665	60,945	63,948	35,837	680,628
	1936-37	39,991	30,195	26,957	27,588	17,704	18,758	23,358	43,964	34,663	78,183	76,409	63,346	481,116
	1937-38	40,212	23,414	19,023	29,377	41,358	61,637							
South Australia ..	1935-36	5,666	6,770	9,705	13,238	10,487	6,871	3,528	2,767	3,710	4,867	2,200	1,200	71,009
	1936-37	1,720	4,149	10,086	9,207	6,887	7,862	6,662	5,672	3,954	3,781	4,535	589	65,104
	1937-38	1,584	5,996	9,001	12,682	13,683	7,021							
Western Australia	1935-36	35	220	1,581	4,652	6,049	4,277	2,598	690	66	5	138	-	20,311
	1936-37	-	32	2,889	3,241	4,408	2,367	1,062	420	57	-	10	47	14,533
	1937-38	134	2,327	5,705	6,911	10,676	5,355							
Tasmania ..	1935-36	-	-	-	1,656	2,616	3,608	3,009	1,698	1,547	642	-	-	14,776
	1936-37	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,932	1,830	-	-	-	-	3,762
	1937-38	-	-	-	-	-	-							
Commonwealth Total	1935-36	62,485	51,120	93,316	204,207	278,057	260,697	198,169	230,006	245,721	116,928	94,116	63,805	1,898,627
	1936-37	57,712	54,698	92,118	143,485	197,719	163,001	141,972	166,791	136,394	167,887	149,968	84,587	1,556,332
	1937-38	49,991	38,046	69,687	156,465	267,930	203,459							

Monthly Exports - Countries of Destination

Australian butter shipments, indicating countries of destination, are shown in Table IV below.

During the six months ended December, Commonwealth shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 740,000 cwts., or 13.2 per cent more than in the corresponding period of 1936. This represented 94.2 per cent. of Australia's total shipments for the six months which amounted to 785,579 cwts. Increased exports to the United Kingdom were recorded during November and amounted to 259,757 cwts., or an increase of 39.7 per cent. on the figures for November 1936. December shipments to the United Kingdom also showed a marked increase of 27 per cent. and amounted to 192,731 cwts.

Smaller shipments during October and November, as compared with these months last year, contributed to the 29.6 per cent. decline in Australian butter exports to the Netherlands East Indies for the six months ended December. Shipments amounted to 17,046 cwts., as compared with 24,225 cwts. recorded for the same period last year.

Butter exports to the Phillipines showed an increase during the current season as compared with last year, while the Egyptian trade remained about the same.

TABLE IV.
MONTHLY EXPORTS OF BUTTER FROM AUSTRALIA -
COUNTRIES OF DESTINATION

Country to which exported	1937			Total Six Months July - December	
	October	November	December	1936	1937
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
United Kingdom ..	148,830	259,757	192,731	653,544	740,000
Ceylon	548	954	416	3,312	3,322
Hong Kong	972	793	926	3,497	4,536
India	189	213	193	1,428	1,070
Malaya (British) ..	814	799	1,436	7,298	5,176
Mauritius	47	68	163	595	579
New Guinea	103	226	205	930	958
Other British ..	496	367	1,570	1,629	3,489
Total British:	151,999	263,177	197,640	672,233	759,130
Percentage of Total:	97.1%	98.2%	97.1%	94.8%	96.6%
China	24	53	112	3,761	587
Egypt	490	655	1,136	3,070	3,233
Japan	13	-	7	316	59
Netherlands East Indies	2,533	2,611	3,524	24,225	17,046
New Caledonia ..	73	102	45	570	492
Panama	70	-	-	57	83
Phillippines.. ..	1,071	1,151	857	3,469	4,058
Siam	2	31	36	242	119
Other Foreign ..	190	150	103	790	772
Total Foreign:	4,466	4,753	5,820	36,500	26,449
Percentage of Total:	2.9%	1.8%	2.9%	5.2%	3.4%
GRAND TOTAL:	156,465	267,930	203,460	708,733	785,579

4. IMPORTS OF BUTTER INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Particulars of the quantity of butter imported into the United Kingdom for the five years ended 1936, together with countries of origin, were given in issue No.2, but consideration of space precludes their repetition.

MONTHLY IMPORTS OF BUTTER INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

November imports of butter into the United Kingdom indicating countries of origin, are shown in Table V below, together with the total for the five months ended November, 1936 and 1937.

Butter imports from Australia, amounting to 396,000 cwt. for the five months ended November, were approximately equal to those for the corresponding period last year and represented 10.8 per cent. of the 3,669,889 cwt. imported into the United Kingdom during the five months. In the same period, New Zealand contributed 26.7 per cent., and Denmark, 25.3 per cent, of the total United Kingdom butter imports.

Total butter imports amounting to 3,669,889 cwt. show a 9 per cent. decline on the 4,032,191 cwt. imported into the United Kingdom for the five months ended November last year. Imports from Empire sources represented 44.2 per cent as compared with 43.1 per cent of the total butter imports for the same period in 1936.

TABLE V
MONTHLY IMPORTS OF BUTTER INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Country from which imported	Month of		Five Months ended	
	November 1937 cwt.	November 1936 cwt.	November 1937 cwt.	November 1936 cwt.
Australia	131,595	123,831	396,058	404,018
Irish Free State ..	5,571	28,204	203,460	302,616
South Africa	-	2,981	15	3,305
New Zealand	148,893	205,549	978,808	975,825
Other British	20,572	7,029	43,013	51,788
Total British	306,631	367,594	1,621,354	1,737,552
Percentage of Total	48.1%	51.6%	44.2%	43.1%
Soviet Union	14,182	43,694	219,158	328,661
Finland	7,374	10,317	58,962	71,194
Estonia	17,467	6,834	90,030	64,494
Latvia	18,713	19,014	112,097	107,930
Lithuania	16,402	14,214	129,962	128,329
Sweden	16,361	9,791	84,019	64,198
Denmark	165,664	158,541	929,321	938,981
Poland	18,857	14,173	70,392	107,746
Netherlands	36,580	54,081	303,771	361,892
Argentina	4,752	5,761	4,958	45,186
Other Foreign	12,631	8,695	45,865	76,028
Total Foreign	330,983	345,115	2,048,535	2,294,639
Percentage of Total	51.9%	48.4%	55.8%	56.9%
GRAND TOTAL:	637,614	712,709	3,669,889	4,032,191

5. STOCKS OF BUTTER IN COLD STORAGE

The importance of the United Kingdom as a market for Australian butter makes the amount of the stocks of butter held in cold storage by that country one of particular interest. The following table shows the quantities so held by the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Canada on or about 1st January and 1st July in each of the years shown:-

TABLE VI
STOCKS OF BUTTER IN COLD STORAGE
(in 1,000 cwt.)

Country	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
United Kingdom					
1st January	296	259	260	182	392
1st July ..	657	896	624	455	481
Australia					
1st January	(a)	(a)	213	170	140
1st July ..	(a)	52	53	73	64
New Zealand					
1st January	414	436	408	416	506
1st July ..	300	184	248	386	380
Canada					
1st January	194	197	289	286	321
1st July ..	183	223	207	250	236

(a) Not available.

NOTE: Stocks of butter in cold storage in Great Britain on the 18th December, 1937 amounted to 91,900 cwt. compared with 357,000 cwt. on the corresponding date in 1936, 169,000 cwt. in 1935 and 306,500 cwt. in 1934. These quantities account for approximately 95 per cent. of the total stored.

6. PRICE OF BUTTER

According to a statement prepared by the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee Ltd., the average prices realized for factory-made butter produced in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania, whether sold in Australia or abroad, were as shown in Table VII below.

TABLE VII
AVERAGE EQUALISATION RATE FOR BUTTER SOLD

Month	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38
	per cwt. s. d	per cwt. s. d	per cwt. s. d	per cwt. s. d
July ..	117. 6	134. 1	136. 1	146. 5
August ..	115.10	136.11	130. 2	148.11
September	106. 0	128. 4	129. 7	148.10
October..	96.10	114. 8	125. 1	135. 6
November.	101. 8	114. 0	118.10	116.10(a)
December.	102. 8	113. 2	115. 6	118. 7(a)
January..	92. 2	107. 7	120. 5	
February.	96. 1	112. 3	125. 6	
March ..	103. 8	124. 0	129. 2	
April ..	114.10	133. 4	131. 6	
May ..	124. 5	135. 9	133. 9	
June ..	132. 0	135. 7	136. 0	
Weighted Average	105. 0	120.11	126. 6	

(a) Interim Price.

Under the stabilization scheme the wholesale price of butter in Australia was fixed at 140s. per cwt., or 1s.3d. per lb. in May, 1934, and remained at that figure until 28th June, 1937, when it was increased to 149s.4d. per cwt. or 1s.4d. per lb. Fluctuations in prices in London during recent years are shown in Table VIII below. The prices quoted represent the mean of the top prices quoted weekly for choicest salted Australian butter, together with their f.o.b. equivalents in Sydney and Melbourne in terms of Australian currency. Pence have been omitted in each case.

TABLE VIII
AVERAGE PRICE PER CWT. OF AUSTRALIAN BUTTER IN LONDON
(WITH F.O.B. EQUIVALENTS IN AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY)

Month	1933-34		1934-35		1935-36		1936-37		1937-38	
	London	Aus- tralia (a)	London	Aus- tralia (a)	London	Aus- tralia (a)	London	Aus- tralia (a)	London	Aus- tralia (a)
	Shil- lings (Stg.)	Shil- lings (Aus.)	Shil- lings (Stg.)	Shil- lings (Aus.)	Shil- lings (Stg.)	Shil- lings (Aus.)	Shil- lings (Stg.)	Shil- lings (Aus.)	Shil- lings (Stg.)	Shil- lings (Aus.)
July ..	80	86	69	73	88	96	113	126	112	126
August ..	90	98	75	80	94	103	118	132	116	130
September	103	114	72	76	110	123	108	120	119	134
October..	99	109	68	72	117	131	100	111	139	158
November.	82	88	74	79	101	112	108	120	130	147
December.	69	73	71	75	89	97	98	108	111	124
January..	64	67	81	88	94	103	94	103	109	122
February.	66	69	86	94	93	102	86	94		
March ..	70	74	73	78	84	91	97	107		
April ..	69	73	74	79	87	95	104	116		
May ..	74	79	77	83	94	103	106	118		
June ..	74	79	85	92	106	118	108	120		

(a) Sydney and Melbourne.

7. PRODUCTION OF CHEESE

The production of cheese in Australia has not expanded comparably with butter production, although the increase has been substantial. Since 1891, when the output of cheese amounted to 90,000 cwts., there has been a gradual increase in production, until in 1935-36 the output reached 345,000 cwts. This represents a four-fold increase, compared with a ten-fold increase in butter during the same period. The wide disparity in the output of butter and cheese is the more striking when it is compared with the position recorded in New Zealand, as shown in Table IX below.

TABLE IX
PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE - 1935-36

Country	Butter	Cheese
	cwts.	cwts.
Australia	3,873,000	344,631
New Zealand	3,530,000	2,088,000

Complete details of the Australian production of cheese each month are not available. In the absence of monthly figures particulars of annual production are furnished for the years ended June in Table X below.

It will be noted that factory production of cheese increased by over 22 per cent. between the seasons of 1931-32 and 1934-35. The season 1935-36 saw a decline in production from 352,900 cwts. to 340,031 cwts. This decline corresponds to the decreased output of butter in that year and, as in the case of butter, was probably due to the less favourable season.

Farm production of cheese showed a considerable percentage increase between 1931-32 and 1935-36 but even in the latter year the quantity was negligible compared with the factory output. In 1935-36 cheese produced on farms amounted to 4,600 cwts., or only 1.3 per cent. of the total production.

TABLE X
FACTORY AND FARM PRODUCTION OF CHEESE, AUSTRALIA - 1931-32 TO 1935-36

State	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34	1934-35	1935-36
	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
New South Wales ..	57,828	62,978	79,144	73,395	63,037
Victoria ..	68,364	81,016	72,947	88,881	96,412
Queensland ..	98,363	116,786	123,959	108,806	81,689
South Australia ..	45,495	54,392	47,456	59,359	72,350
Western Australia.	-	1,209	2,537	5,725	7,708
Tasmania ..	7,812	9,884	12,981	16,734	18,835
Total Factory:	277,862	326,265	339,024	352,900	340,031
Farm Cheese ..	2,700	3,496	4,515	4,020	4,600
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	<u>280,562</u>	<u>329,761</u>	<u>343,539</u>	<u>356,920</u>	<u>344,631</u>

8. EXPORTS OF CHEESE FROM AUSTRALIA

Particulars of the quantity of cheese exported from Australia to principal countries for the five years ended 1936-37 were given in issue No.2, but consideration of space precludes their repetition. Particulars of monthly exports over a series of years were also shown in the same issue. These have been excluded for the same reason.

In Table XI below, particulars are given of Monthly and Annual exports of butter by each State for the years 1935-36 and 1936-37 with additional figures for the current season to date.

Cheese shipments from New South Wales to the end of December, amounted to 2,127 cwts., which represented an increase of 25.7 per cent. on the corresponding figure for last season. Victorian shipments were more than doubled with exports amounting to 36,662 cwts., compared with 15,633 cwts. for the six months ended December 1936.

Queensland exports of cheese amounted to 17,930 cwts. for the six months, compared with 4,135 cwts. last year, an increase of over 300 per cent. South Australia retained its position as the premier exporting State, with shipments totaling 45,794 cwts. as compared with 38,183 cwts. for the first six months of last season.

Shipments from the Commonwealth as a whole for the six months ended December amounted to 102,514 cwts., as compared with the 59,976 cwts. recorded for the same period last year. This represents an increase of 70.9 per cent. in Commonwealth cheese shipments, for the current half year. Monthly shipments were in each case higher than the corresponding figures for 1936. Comparative figures for the month of December were 33,988 cwts. and 22,290 cwts. for 1937 and 1936 respectively.

TABLE XI
MONTHLY EXPORTS OF CHEESE FROM AUSTRALIA - STATES
1935-36 TO 1937-38

State	Year	July	August	Sep- tember	Octo- ber	Nov- ember	Dec- ember	Jan- uary	Feb- ruary	March	April	May	June	Total Year
		cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
New South Wales ..	1935-36	193	134	92	92	115	132	699	593	1,409	414	93	123	4,089
	1936-37	100	131	199	320	608	334	190	262	427	114	156	218	3,059
	1937-38	219	156	134	202	563	853							
Victoria ..	1935-36	1,414	2,920	3,121	4,854	5,478	7,757	5,346	5,922	5,289	1,498	2,042	211	45,852
	1936-37	622	246	340	1,738	6,419	6,268	7,072	6,279	3,327	4,035	2,275	1,451	40,072
	1937-38	1,460	1,436	3,086	4,156	12,036	14,488							
Queensland ..	1935-36	340	943	1,597	1,870	6,981	3,414	4,357	5,831	4,636	2,635	2,064	552	35,220
	1936-37	197	124	376	681	1,985	772	591	1,874	2,618	2,710	1,606	2,244	15,778
	1937-38	756	1,938	4,049	2,697	4,098	4,392							
South Australia ..	1935-36	41	1,895	2,625	6,643	4,510	6,192	5,209	3,034	994	130	1,911	450	33,634
	1936-37	1,238	874	2	11,843	9,643	14,583	9,408	4,664	5,416	3,693	1,837	1,883	65,084
	1937-38	1,133	2,235	5,257	13,560	9,354	14,255							
Western Australia..	1935-36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1936-37	-	-	-	-	-	333	-	-	-	-	-	-	333
	1937-38	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tasmania ..	1935-36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1936-37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1937-38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Commonwealth Total	1935-36	1,988	5,892	7,435	13,459	17,084	17,495	15,611	15,380	12,328	4,677	6,110	1,336	118,795
	1936-37	2,157	1,375	917	14,582	18,655	22,290	17,261	13,079	11,788	10,552	5,874	5,796	124,326
	1937-38	3,568	5,765	12,527	20,615	26,051	33,988							

9. IMPORTS OF CHEESE INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Particulars of the quantity of cheese imported into the United Kingdom during the five years ended 1936, showing the countries of origin, were given in issue No.2.

Table XII below shows the imports of cheese into the United Kingdom for the month of November and also the five months total, for the years 1936 and 1937.

During the month of November, Australia supplied to the United Kingdom 10,591 cwts. of cheese out of a total import of 237,245 cwts., or 4.5 per cent. In the same month, imports of cheese into the United Kingdom from New Zealand, amounted to 76,947 cwts. or 32.4 per cent of the total, while Canada contributed 117,023 cwts. or 49.3 per cent. of the total. Compared with the corresponding month in 1936, November imports of cheese into the United Kingdom from Australia and New Zealand, showed an increase, but imports from Canada declined appreciably.

Total cheese imports into the United Kingdom, for the five months ended November, amounted to 1,353,200 cwts. as compared with 1,099,726 cwts. for the same period in 1936. Imports from Australia, New Zealand and Canada were above the 1936 level for the five months, with increases of 169.8 per cent., 19.7 per cent. and 26.5 per cent respectively.

Australia contributed 30,956 cwts. to the total United Kingdom cheese imports, for the five months ended November, as compared with 11,471 cwts. last season, but this increased quantity represented only 2.3 per cent. of the cheese imports of the United Kingdom for the period. Corresponding figures for imports of New Zealand and Canadian cheese were 42.8 per cent. and 44.5 per cent., respectively, of the total imports into the United Kingdom for the five months ended November.

TABLE XII
MONTHLY IMPORTS OF CHEESE INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Country from which imported	Month of		Five Months ended	
	November 1937 cwts.	November 1936 cwts.	November 1937 cwts.	November 1936 cwts.
Australia	10,591	8,484	30,956	11,471
New Zealand	76,947	74,412	578,857	486,033
Canada	117,023	142,599	601,783	475,857
Other British	2,254	2,449	12,111	14,922
Total British	206,815	227,944	1,223,707	988,283
Percentage of Total	87.2%	89.5%	90.4%	89.9%
Netherlands	20,479	18,621	80,738	73,114
Switzerland	1,307	1,203	9,611	8,683
Italy	5,712	3,968	24,632	7,369
Other Foreign	2,932	3,037	14,512	22,277
Total Foreign	30,430	26,829	129,493	111,443
Percentage of Total	12.8%	10.5%	9.6%	10.1%
GRAND TOTAL:	237,245	254,773	1,353,200	1,099,726

10. PRICE OF CHEESE

Under the stabilization scheme the wholesale price of cheese was fixed at 8d. per lb. in May, 1934. In January, 1935 the price was increased to 8½d. per lb., and to 9½d. per lb. in May, 1935, at which figure it still stands.

According to a statement prepared by the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Equalisation Committee Ltd., the average prices realized during the last three years for factory-made cheese produced in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania, whether sold in Australia or abroad, were as follows.

TABLE XIII
AVERAGE EQUALISATION RATE OF CHEESE SOLD
1934-35 TO 1936-37

Month	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38
	per lb. d.	per lb. d.	per lb. d.	per lb. d.
July ..	6.81	9.15	9.10	9.10
August ..	6.51	8.06	8.98	8.96
September	6.45	7.74	8.64	8.51
October..	5.89	7.48	8.14	8.01
November.	5.83	7.38	7.41	7.81(a)
December.	5.74	7.23	7.23	7.43(a)
January..	5.94	7.04	7.56	
February.	5.63	7.42	8.13	
March ..	6.08	7.75	8.55	
April ..	6.66	8.38	8.77	
May ..	7.68	8.48	8.69	
June ..	7.86	8.90	8.76	
Average:	6.29	7.80	8.22	

(a) Interim Price

11. PORK PRODUCTION AND EXPORT

A remarkable expansion in the production of pork in Australia has been recorded in recent years. Up to the year 1928-29 production was sufficient to meet local requirements and to provide a small exportable surplus which averaged about 200,000 lb. In 1929-30 the first indication of the subsequent expansion was recorded when exports increased to nearly 1 million lb. This increase was gained at the expense of local consumption. Commencing in the year 1930-31 production increased annually and has been sufficient to provide for a 50 per cent. increase in local consumption and an outstanding increase in the volume of exports, particularly since the year 1933-34 as shown in the following table.

TABLE XIV
PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT OF PORK, AUSTRALIA - 1928-29 TO 1935-36

Year	Production lb.	Consumption		Exports	
		Quantity lb.	per head lb.	Quantity lb.	Percentage on Production %
1928-29	32,721,871	39,562,896	6.24	199,336	0.50
1929-30	39,432,504	38,500,207	6.00	932,297	2.36
1930-31	50,297,146	41,673,495	6.44	8,629,901	17.16
1931-32	50,950,080	43,566,725	6.68	7,383,355	14.49
1932-33	59,334,671	52,631,437	7.97	6,703,234	11.30
1933-34	63,236,837	54,572,973	8.20	8,663,864	13.70
1934-35	78,063,364	62,427,232	9.31	15,636,132	20.03
1935-36	84,011,115	60,433,372	8.95	23,577,743	28.07
1936-37	(a)	(a)	(a)	26,816,453	(a)

(a) Not yet available.

All States participated in this expansion of trade, Queensland increased its production nearly three-fold whilst that of New South Wales and Victoria was doubled. Increased production was also recorded in the other States but their combined output was only 13.5 million lb. (or 16.0 per cent.) of the total production for Australia in the year 1935-36.

With the expansion of the dairying industry, previously referred to, greater activity in the subsidiary industry of pig-raising might be expected and, no doubt, the increased pig production can be mainly attributed to the increased output of the dairying industry. With the fall in prices of other farm products, during the depression years, it appears that other branches of farming may have extended their activities to include pig-raising. In a statistical analysis of wheat farms it was revealed that in 1935-36, 13 per cent. of the total number of pigs in New South Wales and Victoria were on farms on which wheat was grown for grain, while in South Australia and Western Australia the proportion was no less than 63 per cent.

In comparison with other countries, the consumption of pork in Australia is not very great. In 1935-36 this amounted to 8.95 lb. per head of population, while the consumption of bacon and ham was 11.50 lb. per head or a total of 20.45 lb. The latter figure may be compared with 70 lb. in Germany, 68 lb. in the United States and Canada, and 45 lb. in the United Kingdom.

As in the case of other dairy produce the United Kingdom is the chief market for pork exported from Australia. Particulars of the quantities exported to various countries in each of the last five years were given in issue No.2.

Exports for Current Season.

Monthly and Annual Exports of pork are shown by States in Table XV below, for the years 1935-36 and 1936-37, with additional figures for the first six months of the current export year.

Shipments of pork from New South Wales to the end of December totalled 238,427 lb. as compared with 773,190 lb. for the same period last year, decreased shipments being recorded for each month of the current season to date.

Victorian exports for the six months amounted to 5,350,329 lbs. compared with 5,186,781 lbs. for the corresponding period last year, and represented an increase of 3.2 per cent. Shipments from this State increased considerably in November, but this increase was more than off-set by decreased shipments in the following month, compared with December shipments in 1936.

Queensland pork exports showed a small decline on last year's figures for the six months under review, and totalled 5,230,351 lbs.

Commonwealth exports of pork, to which Victoria and Queensland made a combined contribution representing 88.4 per cent. amounted to 11,975,688 lbs. for the six months ended December. This represents a 7.4 per cent. decline on last year's figure for the corresponding period.

TABLE XV
MONTHLY EXPORTS OF PORK - STATES
1935-36 TO 1937-38

State	Year	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total Year
		lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
N.S.w.	1935-36	71,571	65,660	24,655	18,306	34,764	29,751	68,355	78,963	167,137	140,063	93,371	377,432	1,170,028
	1936-37	192,351	197,118	158,087	83,467	101,093	41,074	85,994	27,255	38,405	39,316	179,595	64,393	1,208,148
	1937-38	63,132	72,459	24,856	24,139	39,477	14,364							
Vic.	1935-36	553,564	214,510	139,758	171,547	314,542	1,037,692	485,741	1,134,091	1,003,876	647,531	853,017	756,291	7,312,160
	1936-37	956,870	262,059	213,100	658,117	1,369,365	1,727,270	1,193,277	1,464,514	765,872	1,511,551	1,906,083	406,809	12,454,887
	1937-38	1,318,980	402,514	411,716	386,736	1,738,502	1,091,881							
V'ld.	1935-36	752,216	654,313	433,286	363,933	452,698	1,383,204	869,875	946,255	1,543,127	1,740,342	1,249,911	1,291,096	11,680,256
	1936-37	1,214,547	521,957	740,565	535,048	1,515,569	850,700	782,703	330,886	639,156	657,097	736,532	1,228,863	9,753,623
	1937-38	1,268,356	745,744	1,347,787	853,107	602,523	412,834							
S.A.	1935-36	97,610	53,156	100,957	123,900	81,785	181,721	93,606	136,463	178,821	322,912	169,143	190,524	1,730,598
	1936-37	119,005	150,797	108,812	81,139	201,832	176,193	246,818	250,485	205,431	131,311	289,647	25,049	1,986,519
	1937-38	35,095	11,737	-	20,296	178,462	324,909							
W.A.	1935-36	37,004	60,133	43,939	118,488	168,377	149,534	151,599	211,176	134,245	133,449	342,341	-	1,550,285
	1936-37	179,586	50,336	107,850	111,777	128,554	169,588	187,023	83,839	70,483	67,841	50,797	59,175	1,266,849
	1937-38	26,744	36,847	30,703	69,375	130,186	171,475							
Tas.	1935-36	-	10,944	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,904	26,778	56,624	30,166	134,416
	1936-37	15,162	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,440	-	-	-	25,825	146,427
	1937-38	51,502	-	-	-	-	69,050							
AUS.	1935-36	1,511,965	1,058,716	742,595	796,174	1,052,166	2,781,902	1,669,176	2,506,948	3,037,110	3,011,075	2,764,407	2,645,509	23,577,743
	1936-37	2,677,521	1,182,267	1,328,414	1,469,548	3,316,413	2,964,825	2,495,615	2,282,419	1,719,347	2,407,116	3,162,654	1,810,114	26,816,453
	1937-38	2,763,809	1,269,301	1,815,062	1,353,653	2,689,150	2,084,713							

12. BACON AND HAM PRODUCTION AND EXPORT

During the past ten years the production of bacon and ham in Australia has fluctuated between 68 million and 78 million lb. This quantity is sufficient for local requirements and provides a small quantity for export. This has averaged slightly more than 1½ million lbs. annually and is consigned chiefly to the Pacific Islands and the East. Particulars of the production, consumption and exports of bacon and ham in recent years are shown in table XVI below.

TABLE XVI
PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS OF BACON AND HAM, AUSTRALIA
1931-32 TO 1935-36

Year	Production	Consumption		Exports	
		Quantity	per head	Quantity	Percentage on Production
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	%
1931-32	71,121,740	69,692,373	10.85	1,429,367	2.01
1932-33	68,365,534	66,767,428	10.35	1,598,106	2.34
1933-34	71,490,279	69,825,778	10.74	1,664,501	2.33
1934-35	71,004,663	69,442,165	10.59	1,562,498	2.21
1935-36	77,655,176	75,953,603	11.50	1,701,575	2.19
1936-37	(a)	(a)	(a)	1,736,118	(a)

(a) Not yet available.

13. EGGS - EXPORTS

Owing to the difficulties associated with the collection of statistics of poultry it is not possible to obtain particulars of the production of eggs in Australia. Efforts are being made to obtain more detailed information concerning the industry but at the present time statistics of the oversea trade in eggs are the only available indication of the output of the industry in Australia. These particulars are shown in Table XVII below.

TABLE XVII
EXPORT OF EGGS AND EGG-CONTENTS, AUSTRALIA
1932-33 TO 1936-37

Year	Eggs		Egg-Contents	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	dozen	£	lb.	£
1932-33	16,844,288	958,065	(a)	60,549
1933-34	19,617,032	1,058,164	(a)	8,484
1934-35	21,718,740	1,148,254	(a)	3,479
1935-36	17,365,132	910,892	290,612	7,170
1936-37	15,459,027	954,578	652,858	19,756

(a) Not available.

Table XVIII below shows the Monthly Exports of Eggs and Egg-Contents for 1935-36 and 1936-37 together with the available figures for 1937-38.

TABLE XVIII
MONTHLY EXPORTS OF EGGS IN SHELL AND EGG-CONTENTS, AUSTRALIA
1935-36 TO 1937-38

Month	EGGS			Egg-Contents		
	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38
	dozen	dozen	dozen	lb.	lb.	lb.
July ..	186,490	166,190	4,405	-	87,120	-
August ..	1,994,916	1,720,868	1,199,550	13,534	61,498	-
September	4,765,876	3,384,655	3,664,234	15,883	95,428	-
October..	5,591,770	5,531,656	3,282,414	44,870	213,820	-
November.	3,759,075	3,817,794	2,603,558	8,228	137,732	-
December.	989,921	801,304	514,339	21,409	9,043	-
January..	40,387	6,699	-	22,480	20,664	-
February.	6,498	3,021	-	22,400	22,625	-
March ..	10,251	5,324	-	4,480	4,928	-
April ..	8,247	5,682	-	71,680	-	-
May ..	7,030	8,305	-	38,080	-	-
June ..	5,151	7,529	-	38,080	-	-
TOTAL:	17,365,612	15,459,027		301,124	652,858	