

OTAGO DISTRICT

County	Breeding ewes (as at 1952)	Estimated percentage of lambs	Estimated number of lambs
Waitaki	462,194	95.0	439,084
Maniatoto	227,173	82.0	186,282
Vincent	230,425	84.0	193,557
Waihemo	106,848	85.0	90,821
Waikouaiti	72,890	90.0	65,601
Taieri	167,530	97.0	162,504
Peninsula	14,934	102.0	15,233
Clutha	486,870	109.0	530,688
Tuapeka	358,721	93.0	333,611
Bruce	258,102	100.0	258,102
Lake	134,537	76.0	102,248
Southland	2,061,617	114.0	2,350,243
Wallace	683,189	96.0	655,861
Stewart Island	2,243	81.0	1,817
Totals	5,267,273	102.25	5,385,652

DISTRICT ESTIMATES

Auckland	3,624,501	96.23	3,487,996
Gisborne - Hawkes Bay	4,475,725	88.34	3,954,257
Wellington - West Coast-Wairarapa	4,554,188	95.22	4,336,611
Marlborough - Nel- son-Westland	796,287	88.63	705,760
Canterbury-Kaikoura	4,115,468	95.06	3,747,362
Otago	5,267,273	102.25	5,385,652
Dominion	22,833,442	94.68	21,617,638

The following table shows the estimated lambing for the North and South Islands for the previous 5 years together with the actual number of lambs tailed:—

Year	Number of breeding ewes (*as at 1950)	Estimated percentage of lambs	Estimated number of lambs	Actual No. of lambs tailed
NORTH ISLAND				
1952	12,654,414	93.08	11,778,864	Not available
1951	*12,181,797	92.12	11,221,453	—
1950	12,181,797	94.04	11,454,372	11,722,316
1949	12,027,414	94.55	11,371,834	11,702,479
1948	11,821,596	89.43	10,572,444	10,830,868
1947	11,696,313	92.47	10,814,554	11,250,554
SOUTH ISLAND				
1952	10,179,028	96.66	9,838,774	—
1951	*9,699,670	97.59	9,465,829	Not available
1950	9,699,670	97.65	9,471,747	9,516,145
1949	9,472,289	98.93	9,370,665	9,467,367
1948	9,233,886	96.93	8,950,202	8,975,017
1947	9,047,469	93.94	8,498,971	8,584,492
DOMINION				
1952	22,833,442	94.68	21,617,638	—
1951	*21,881,467	94.54	20,687,282	Not available
1950	21,881,467	95.64	20,926,119	21,238,461
1949	21,499,703	96.48	20,742,499	21,169,846
1948	21,055,482	92.72	19,522,646	19,805,885
1947	20,743,782	93.11	19,313,525	19,835,046

A Survey of the Trade in Dairy Produce

"DAIRY PRODUCE, 1952"*, published recently by the Commonwealth Economic Committee, illustrates how the reversal in the upward trend in milk production in many countries in 1951 was reflected in a serious fall in butter supplies, which continued in 1952. The decline in exports of butter is also attributable to the high level of consumption in the exporting countries, not only of butter, but of fresh and processed milk and cheese. Other factors include the continued absence of supplies from the Baltic and other eastern European countries and the effects of very unfavourable weather in Australia in the 1951-52 season. The general decline in butter output has been accompanied by a marked increase in supplies of margarine and this trend has been accentuated by a fall in prices of vegetable oils while butter prices have continued to rise. Thus consumption of margarine per head in the United Kingdom reached the record figure of 18lb. in 1951, but butter consumption, at 15lb. per head, was 2lb. less than in 1950 and about 10lb. less than in 1938.

THE available figures for 1952 show that the trend toward lower milk and butter production has continued in Continental Europe, but in New Zealand, the world's largest exporter of butter and cheese, a steady increase in output has been maintained; higher milk production has also been evident last year in the United Kingdom and Canada and prospects are favourable

for the 1952-53 season in Australia. United Kingdom imports of butter and cheese have been well below the 1951 level, the decline for cheese resulting mainly from the lack of currency to make purchases in Canada or the United States, and rations have been correspondingly reduced. The fall in European production and exports has served to increase the United Kingdom's reliance on Commonwealth supplies, which account for a very large proportion of its imports of dairy produce.

After a steady improvement up to 1950 world production of butter declined sharply and exports in 1951 were 30 per cent. lower than in 1938. The most serious fall occurred in Australia, where drought reduced exports to little more than 10,000 tons in the 1951-52 season as against 55,000 tons in the previous season and 100,000 tons in 1938-39; butter supplies from the main European exporters also contracted in the face of falling milk production. A further factor was a rise in consumption in the exporting countries of Australia, New Zealand, and Denmark, though in New Zealand the increase in production was sufficient to provide for an expansion in exports also. The effects of these changes on United Kingdom imports has been accentuated by the strong import demand from many European countries which are normally either self-sufficient or themselves exporters.

World production of cheese in 1951 was about 30 per cent. above the pre-war level and little change has been evident in 1952, increases in the United Kingdom and Continental Europe off-

setting a decline in North America. Trade in cheese was also much larger than in pre-war years, partly because of the rise in supplies from New Zealand and Australia, but to a greater extent because of the expansion in exports of fancy cheese from Continental Europe. Much of this trade has been directed to the United Kingdom, where import restrictions were introduced earlier this year. Latest price movements for butter and cheese show a continued upward trend, which is exemplified by increases in contract prices paid by the United Kingdom to New Zealand, Australia, and Denmark. The upward trend is contrary to that for several other primary commodities, including vegetable oils, which are the main constituents of margarine.

Output of condensed milk and milk powder in most countries has remained much greater than before the war, with exports closely following the pattern of production. A rise in exports of evaporated milk (unsweetened condensed) in 1951, most of which came from the United States, was mainly attributable to defence requirements and stockpiling, while Far Eastern countries received greater quantities of sweetened condensed milk, mainly from the Netherlands. Commonwealth countries' share in production and trade in condensed milk is not large, but they are providing an increasing proportion of supplies of milk powder, which is used not only for baby food but also in the manufacture of many food products. A high percentage of United Kingdom imports of milk powder is of Commonwealth origin mainly because of the preponderance of New Zealand supplies of skimmed milk and buttermilk powders; Australia also is an important source of skimmed milk powder.

* "Dairy Produce, 1952", published for the Commonwealth Economic Committee, by H.M. Stationery Office, price 5s. net.