

Zeitschrift: Swiss textiles [English edition]
Herausgeber: Swiss office for the development of trade
Band: - (1952)
Heft: 1

Artikel: Switzerland's foreign trade and textiles in 1951
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-799003>

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Switzerland's Foreign Trade and Textiles in 1951

On the whole, Switzerland's economic situation was favourable during the course of last year. Imports showed an improvement on those of the previous year, amounting to 30 % in value and 20 % in quantity. Thus they constituted a new record. Exports also exceeded all previous figures in value while remaining slightly less in quantity than those of the record year 1948.

Here are the totals for Switzerland's foreign trade during the last two years compared with those of 1948, a year of great industrial activity, and 1938, the last year before the war :

| TOTAL EXPORTS | | | | TOTAL IMPORTS | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| <i>in millions of Swiss Francs</i> | | | | | | | |
| 1938 | 1948 | 1950 | 1951 | 1938 | 1948 | 1950 | 1951 |
| 1316.6 | 3435.5 | 3910.9 | 4690.9 | 1606.9 | 4998.9 | 4535.9 | 5915.5 |

Exports of the textile industries were satisfactory in 1951. The table below in fact shows increases in value for all items as compared with 1950.

SWISS EXPORTS OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS

| | <i>in millions of Swiss Francs</i> | | |
|--|------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| | 1938 | 1950 | 1951 |
| Cotton yarns | 23.6 | 45.2 | 62.4 |
| Cotton fabrics | 58.9 | 127.0 | 138.2 |
| Embroideries | 26.1 | 66.4 | 95.2 |
| Rayon and staple fibre yarns | 20.2 | 53.3 | 62.1 |
| Pure and artificial silk fabrics | 30.7 | 79.2 | 106.0 |
| Pure and artificial silk ribbons | 5.8 | 9.1 | 11.9 |
| Worsted yarns | 2.0 | 11.3 | 12.6 |
| Woollen fabrics | 3.2 | 18.2 | 20.1 |
| Hosiery, knitted wear | 8.0 | 28.6 | 35.8 |
| Clothing | 11.7 | 25.3 | 40.1 |
| Straw-braid for hats | 13.6 | 24.5 | 29.3 |