

Table 3, below, illustrates the major exporting countries supplying the U.S. importers surveyed, the number of respondents supplied by each country and the overall level of satisfaction of the importers for their suppliers. A more complete presentation of these results for all countries supplying products to the respondents is provided in Appendix 7.

Table 3

Country of Origin	No. of Respondents Being Supplied	Average Level of Satisfaction (Max.= 5.0)
Taiwan	34	4.1
Italy	26	3.9
Brazil	22	3.9
Korea	21	4.1
Spain	13	3.9
China	12	3.3

The results of the survey showed that although respondents were generally satisfied with their suppliers on the whole, almost half expressed some displeasure or dissatisfaction with one or more of the supplier countries. Reasons for dissatisfaction included poor delivery, problems with consistency of quality, high prices, and limited availability of certain styles. The reasons for purchasing from current suppliers included:

- lower prices (69.4% of respondents);
- not available in the United States (32.7% of respondents);
- superior quality (30.6% of respondents);
- supplement domestic supply (24.5% of respondents).

The devaluation of the United States dollar against many currencies was reported by an overwhelming majority of the importers surveyed (84%) to have increased the costs of their imports and to have decreased their profit levels. Consequently, a large proportion of these respondents expressed an interest in hearing more about Canadian sources of supply as a possible alternative to current sources. Less than a quarter of those interviewed had tried Canadian sources;