

Of the U.S. importers surveyed, the most popular imports of rubber products were components. These components included items such as weatherstripping, joiners, couplings, expansion joints, raising seals for containers, suction cups, conveyor parts and erasers.

Table 2, 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 fuller presentation of these results for all countries supplying products to the respondents is provided in Appendix 8.

Table 2

Country of Origin	No. of Respondents Being Supplied	Average Level of Satisfaction (Max. = 5.0)
Japan	17	4.59
United Kingdom	10	4.50
Taiwan	9	3.75
South Korea	8	3.71
Italy	6	4.67
West Germany	6	3.83

The results of the survey showed that the majority of the respondents were satisfied with their suppliers while a few expressed dissatisfaction with high prices, poor quality, language barriers and delivery delays. The reasons given for purchasing from current suppliers included:

- not available in the United States (51.1% of respondents);
- lower prices (31.1% of respondents);
- superior quality (13.3% of respondents);
- supplementary supply for domestic sources (11.1% of respondents).

An overwhelming majority of the respondents (83%) reported that the devaluation of the U.S. dollar against the Japanese and European currencies had increased the cost of their imports and many expressed interest in learning more about Canadian products as possible alternative