

The proportion of imported footwear with leather uppers to total non-rubber footwear imports dropped to 46% in 1987 from the 52% level of 1986. U.S. imports of men's leather footwear, which make up approximately 60% of the U.S. men's footwear market, come principally from South Korea and Taiwan; women's leather footwear, which composes 64% of the women's footwear market, originates mainly from Brazil, Italy, and Taiwan. Juvenile leather shoe imports are principally from Taiwan and Brazil.

The prospects for 1988 in the non-rubber footwear industry are for a slight decline in U.S. imports for the first time since 1981. Imports in 1988 should account for 80% of all U.S. consumption of footwear products.

This chapter has provided a definition of the products included within the scope of this report, the criteria used for their selection and a summary of U.S. imports of those products for 1982-87. Where available, a short-term outlook for the corresponding U.S. industry has also been provided. As this report is intended only to provide a sectoral overview and an indication of the opportunities that may exist for increased Canadian exports, individual readers are strongly encouraged to conduct more in-depth research on any potential opportunities identified.

Users of this report who are interested in undertaking further research into specific markets are also encouraged to contact any of the Canadian Government Trade Development offices listed in the final Appendix to this report to determine what assistance may be available to them.