

U.S. IMPORTS 1982-87

A breakdown of 1987 U.S. imports of footwear by customs value and by net quantity is presented in Appendices 4 and 5 respectively. As Japanese exports of footwear are insignificant, Japan will be excluded from further discussions of this sector.

While Europe accounted for 23% of U.S. customs value of imports in 1986, only 9% of the 1.2 billion pairs of imported footwear were provided by European countries. European share of the U.S. import market has dropped both in value and in volume. In 1987, European imports reached \$1.4 billion (U.S.), 19% of total customs value of imports and 1.03 billion pairs. This represents 7% of total net quantity of imports. Canadian imports constitute less than 1% of the total U.S. import market. The largest foreign suppliers of footwear to the U.S. market are located in the Pacific Rim and South America, in countries such as Taiwan, South Korea and Brazil.

Footwear imports by subsector are illustrated in Chart 1, below. Footwear for women, misses and children are the most popular imported footwear, followed by footwear of rubber or plastics. Over the last five years, imports of footwear, misses and children have consistently outpaced other footwear imports. While annual growth for imported footwear has averaged 7.5% from 1982 to 1987, women's imported footwear has exceeded this by capturing 6.71% more of the total footwear import market in 1987 than in 1982.