

374. The United Kingdom is the largest importer of wheat, and the British demand has a most important effect on the price of wheat almost all over the world. The following table, taken from the report on the Foreign Commerce of the United States, 1890, shows the share of the principal countries in the import of wheat into the United Kingdom, during the years 1871 to 1889, inclusive:—

Share of principal countries in import of wheat into the United Kingdom, 1871-1889.

TABLE SHOWING THE PROPORTIONATE QUANTITIES OF WHEAT IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM THE PRINCIPAL WHEAT-EXPORTING COUNTRIES, 1871-1889.

YEAR.	IMPORTED FROM.							
	Russia.	Germany	British North America.	United States.	Chili.	British India.	Australia.	Other Countries.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1871 . . .	35·37	9·60	8·52	35·22	1·33	0·50	0·84	8·62
1872 . . .	37·70	10·87	4·53	20·23	3·52	0·34	1·17	21·64
1873 . . .	18·78	5·85	8·36	42·17	3·56	1·43	4·05	15·80
1874 . . .	11·76	8·13	8·71	55·16	4·47	2·18	2·35	7·24
1875 . . .	17·06	11·11	6·83	44·29	1·51	2·24	2·13	14·83
1876 . . .	17·17	6·72	5·35	42·81	1·95	6·35	5·48	14·17
1877 . . .	17·33	11·03	5·14	37·16	1·28	9·62	0·71	17·73
1878 . . .	15·32	10·91	5·03	56·27	0·09	3·04	2·62	6·72
1879 . . .	11·12	6·52	7·33	61·12	2·04	1·22	3·15	7·50
1880 . . .	4·33	4·12	6·63	65·42	2·12	4·72	6·74	5·92
1881 . . .	4·75	4·34	4·49	64·05	1·64	10·29	4·64	4·80
1882 . . .	12·01	6·91	3·87	55·72	2·13	10·51	3·83	5·02
1883 . . .	15·91	6·25	2·87	47·57	2·72	13·30	3·30	8·08
1884 . . .	8·34	4·95	3·96	53·74	1·60	12·06	8·11	7·24
1885 . . .	14·86	4·61	2·58	47·90	2·00	14·98	6·69	6·38
1886 . . .	6·03	4·43	6·20	58·05	2·74	17·75	1·31	4·49
1887 . . .	7·51	2·90	6·67	61·45	2·99	11·52	1·83	5·13
1888 . . .	29·22	5·91	2·53	36·69	2·00	11·01	3·15	9·49
1889 . . .	28·09	5·18	3·42	38·45	0·75	11·99	1·88	10·24

375. The United States share of exports, which had averaged 57·12 per cent. during the ten years, 1878-1887, fell to an average of 37·57 during 1888 and 1889, while that of Russia, which during the same ten years had only averaged 10·11 per cent., rose during the last two years to an average of 28·65 per cent.

Proportion of exports from United States and Russia