

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

INFORMATION FOR USE IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO REMOVE
CAST-IRON HOUSEHOLD STOVES AND CAST-IRON PARTS OF
HOUSEHOLD STOVES (INCLUDING FIREPLACE AND STOVE-
TOP GRATES) FROM THE LIST OF ARTICLES ELIGIBLE
FOR THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

Report to the President
on Investigation No. 332-79(2)
Under Section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930,
as Amended



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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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Note.--The whole of the Commission's report to the President may not be made public since it contains certain information that has been classified or would result in the disclosure of the operations of an individual concern. This published report is the same as the report to the President, except that the above-mentioned information has been omitted. Such omissions are indicated by asterisks.

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

U.S. International Trade Commission,
December 30, 1976

To the President:

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of September 14, 1976, the United States International Trade Commission reports herein the results of its investigation with respect to cast-iron household stoves and cast-iron parts of household stoves. The pertinent portions of the text of your letter are as follows:

In a recent executive branch review of the operation of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) considered several petitions from domestic producers to remove products from the list of articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP. It was necessary to postpone a decision on some of the petitions, however, because of the absence of data on the amount of imports and domestic production or because of inadequate information on recent developments in the industry. To assist the Administration in assembling the needed information, I hereby request the Commission, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 to conduct investigations and report the results, as follows:

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2. With respect to cast iron household stoves, cast iron parts of household stoves, and cast iron fireplace grates classifiable in item 653.50 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TPSC GSP case No. 76-25), an investigation and report on the conditions of competition between imported and domestically produced articles, with particular attention to the economic effect which the designation of these articles as eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP has had, or is likely to have, on domestic producers. The report should include information on the volume and trend of U.S. imports and domestic production in recent years, as well as the factors of competition affecting these articles.

I further request that the Commission make every effort to provide the reports as soon as possible but not later than 120 days of the receipt of this letter

The investigation (No. 332-79(2)) was conducted by the Commission under the authority of section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)). Interested parties were afforded an opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard at a public hearing. A transcript of the hearing and a copy of a brief submitted by an interested party are attached.

The information for this report was obtained from fieldwork, questionnaires sent to domestic manufacturers and importers, the Commission's files, other Government agencies, evidence presented at the hearings, a brief filed by an interested party, and other sources.

INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE INVESTIGATION

Introduction

Following receipt of a letter on September 14, 1976, from the President, the United States International Trade Commission on September 21, 1976, instituted an investigation under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)), to report on the conditions of competition between imported and domestically produced cast-iron household stoves and cast-iron parts of household stoves (including fireplace and stove-top grates), with particular attention to the economic effect which designation of these articles as eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) has had, or is likely to have, on domestic producers. The President also requested that the report include information on the volume and trend of U.S. imports and domestic production in recent years.

Notice of the institution of the investigation and of a public hearing to be held in connection with the investigation was posted at the Commission's offices in Washington, D.C., and in New York City and published in the Federal Register of September 24, 1976 (41 F.R. 41973). The public hearing was held in Washington, D.C., on November 16 and 17, 1976.

The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) of the Office of the Special Representative for Trade Negotiations (STR) received a petition from the Washington Stove Works, Everett, Wash., urging that certain cast-iron products be removed from the list of items eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP granted to designated developing countries.

Other domestic producers or importers--United States Stove Co., South
Pittsburg, Tenn.; The Atlanta Stove Works, Inc., Atlanta, Ga.; Vestal
Manufacturing Co., a Division of the Celotex Corp., Sweetwater, Tenn.;
Hearth Craft, Inc., Portland, Oreg.; and Jackburn Manufacturing, Inc.,
Girard, Pa.--either supported the petition of Washington Stove Works or
requested the TPSC to remove additional cast-iron products from the list
of eligible products.

Description and Uses

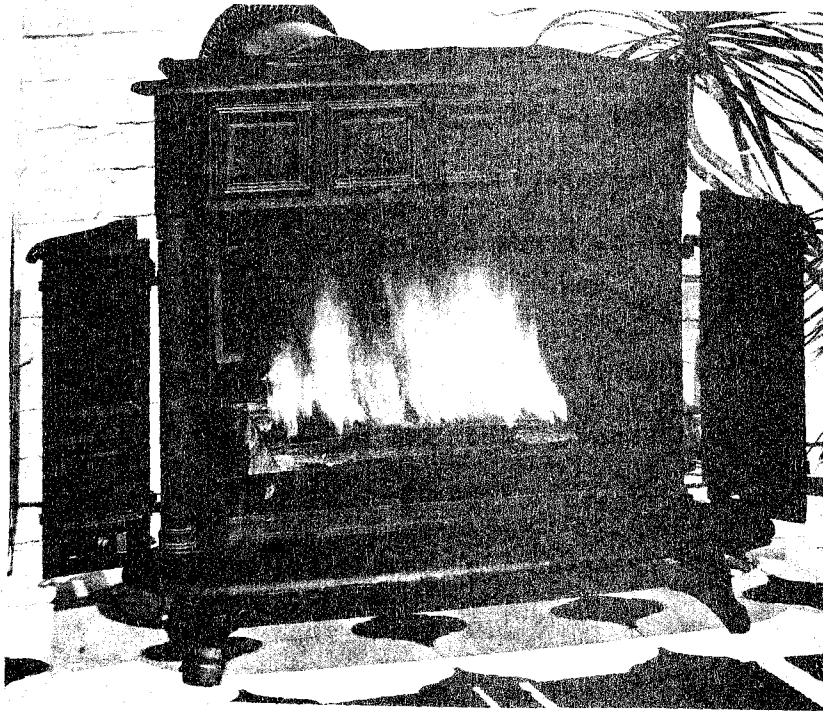
Cast-iron household stoves

Cast-iron household stoves are used almost entirely as space heaters or as a combination space heater and cooking stove. Hibachis and other cast-iron outdoor cooking grills are not included in this investigation. For this investigation, a "hybrid" stove combining cast-iron and sheet-metal parts is considered a cast-iron stove if partly constructed of cast iron.

Cast-iron household stoves include such popular types as Franklin fireplaces, box wood stoves, potbelly stoves, parlor stoves (figures 1 and 2), and cooking ranges. A Franklin fireplace (sometimes referred to as a stove) is a freestanding stove that provides more heat to a room than the built-in fireplace, which loses most of its heat up the chimney. A Franklin fireplace resembles the conventional built-in fireplace in shape and size, with the width of the hearth opening varying for most models from 18 inches to 34 inches. With its doors open, it resembles the traditional fireplace with the fire open to view. With its doors closed, it resembles and functions like other heating stoves. A potbelly stove, deriving its name from its shape, is generally designed to use coal. Box wood stoves are rectangular in shape, in part to facilitate the use of logs of a standard size. The box wood and the potbelly stoves both have small cooking surfaces. The parlor stove is a little larger than the box wood and the potbelly stoves and is designed solely for space heating; however, units equipped with chrome accessories are often purchased for their decorative effect rather than for their heating utility. A cast-iron cooking range may use either coal or wood.

Figure 1.--Two cast-iron household stoves: A Franklin fireplace and a box wood stove

A Franklin fireplace



A box wood stove

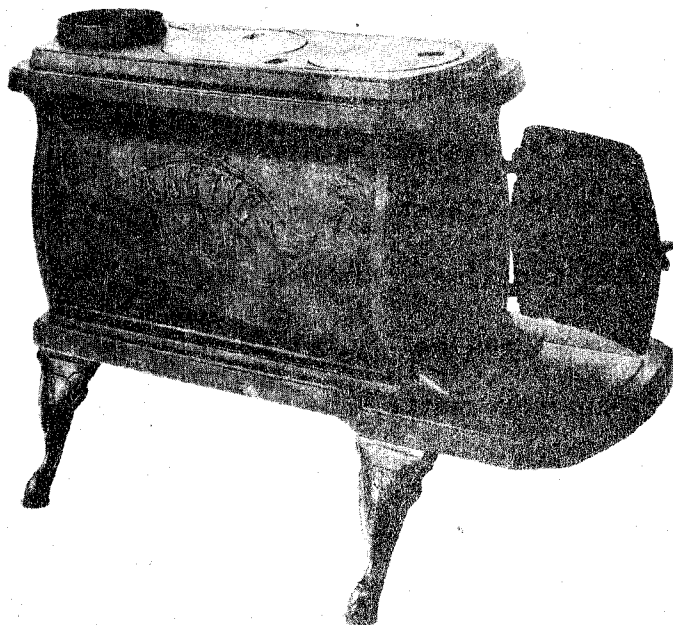
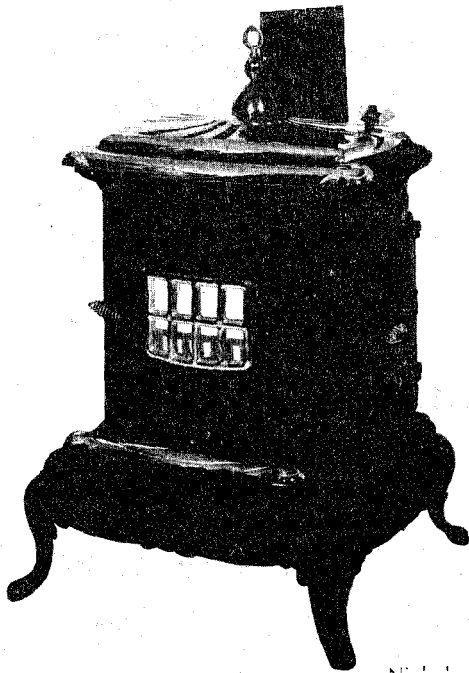
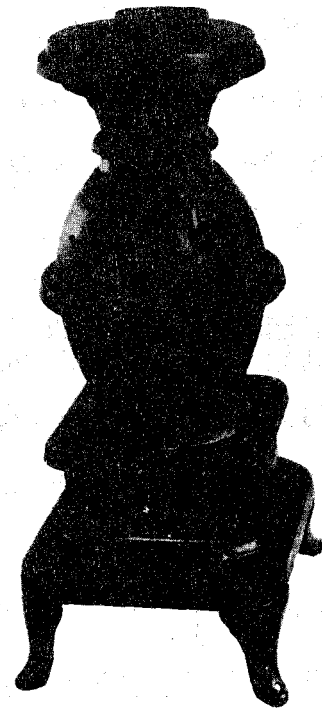


Figure 2.--Two cast-iron household stoves: A parlor stove and a
potbelly stove

A parlor stove



A potbelly stove



These stoves are used either as a primary or a supplementary source of heat, but they are also being used more and more for decorative purposes. As a primary source of heat, these stoves are frequently used in hunting cabins, cottages, and houses where heating with gas, oil, or electricity is too expensive or not practical. As a supplementary heat source, these stoves can be used in rooms hard to heat by the central or main heating system, in garages and other areas where central heating is normally not available, and in homes where the main heating system is especially vulnerable to frequent or prolonged electrical failures.

Cast-iron parts of household stoves (not including
fireplace and stove-top grates)

Cast-iron parts of household stoves (other than fireplace and stove-top grates, which are discussed below) consist almost exclusively of parts of the cast-iron household stoves discussed above. According to a survey of the industry, practically no cast-iron parts are used in other household stoves. Cast-iron parts include such stove parts as sides, backs, legs, hearths, baffles, boots or reducers (for connecting a flue to the stove), and doors. Some parts are especially susceptible to heat damage; thus, the availability of replacement parts may be an important factor in marketing stoves. Parts of stoves exclude flue pipes for venting smoke and toxic products, and such accessories as swingout barbecue grills and bean pots (for Franklin fireplaces), fireplace tools, and fireplace screens.

Cast-iron fireplace grates

Cast-iron fireplace grates are used for holding wood or coal in built-in or freestanding fireplaces. Fireplace grates come in a number of sizes, shapes, and qualities. Many grates can be interchanged between a Franklin or freestanding fireplace and a built-in fireplace, but some are built to fit only a certain model of freestanding fireplace. The life of a fireplace grate depends upon the degree of use as well as the quality of the casting. With heavy use, a cast-iron grate may burn out in as little as 3 to 5 years.

Stove-top grates (of cast iron and steel)

Stove-top grates are the grates or holders used on gas household cooking ranges to support pots and pans above the burner. They are not used on electric ranges; on such ranges the heating element itself supports the utensil. For many years all stove-top grates were made of cast iron, but by the late 1960's grates made from steel wire had also come into use. Available information suggests that rising foundry costs were an important factor that led to the change.

Like and competitive products

Despite obvious similarities in basic function, sheet-metal stoves and steel fireplace grates are generally not considered like or competitive with their cast-iron counterparts. Many producers, importers, and retailers feel that since the sheet-metal or steel articles are largely made by different companies, involve employment of dissimilar technologies, encompass different metallic properties or characteristics, and

sell in substantially different retail markets, they cannot be considered as truly competitive items. Although steel stove-top grates also differ from the cast-iron grates, the two types have been considered together in this investigation because a producer of the steel grates claims direct competition with and lost sales to the cast-iron grate.

The cast-iron products considered here have advantages as well as disadvantages in comparison with household heating stoves made from sheet metal or steel. Most important, the cast-iron product will withstand heat better--and therefore last longer--than the sheet-metal or the steel product, and retain heat longer. Moreover, cast-iron stoves generally fit an early American decor.

On the other hand, sheet-metal stoves, especially the freestanding fireplaces, are preferred for their aesthetic value. Sheet-metal stoves have a smooth finish and are offered in a variety of colors, whereas cast-iron stoves have a rougher finish and are generally painted black. Sheet-metal stoves also come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, usually to fit a modern decor. Steel is not as brittle or breakable as cast iron. Steel fireplace grates are less expensive than cast-iron grates, and steel stove-top grates can be porcelainized more easily than cast-iron grates. Steel grates weigh less than cast-iron grates and therefore incur lower transportation costs; however, some producers have begun to make cast-iron grates equally light in weight.

U.S. Tariff Treatment

Cast-iron household stoves and cast-iron parts of household stoves, including fireplace and stove-top grates, are classifiable with other nonelectric heating and cooking apparatus and parts under item 653.50 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS). Effective with the adoption of the TSUS on August 31, 1963, the rate of duty applicable to this item was 12.5 percent ad valorem. Subsequent staged reductions resulting from GATT concessions negotiated in the Kennedy round of trade negotiations brought the rate to its current level of 6 percent ad valorem, effective January 1, 1972. However, effective January 1, 1976, products classifiable under TSUS item 653.50 from countries designated as beneficiary developing countries for the purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) became eligible for duty-free treatment. A list of the countries entitled to GSP benefits appears in appendix A.

The Domestic Industry

Producers

Seven firms are known to be currently manufacturing cast-iron household stoves. Major producers include The Atlanta Stove Works, Inc., in Atlanta, Ga., and its subsidiary, Birmingham Stove and Range Co., Birmingham, Ala.; Washington Stove Works, in Everett, Wash.; Martin Industries, Inc., in Florence, Ala.; and the United States Stove Co., in Cleveland, Tenn. Hearth Craft, Inc., in Portland, Oreg., assembles stoves from imported parts on a major scale. Many of these companies make other cast-iron products, such as fireplace accessories and cookware.

Domestic stove producers generally make their own cast-iron parts. The Lodge Manufacturing Co., South Pittsburg, Tenn., does not make stoves but does supply cast-iron parts to a stove producer.

Fireplace grates are reportedly made by 10 U.S. companies. Most Franklin fireplace manufacturers make the grates for their Franklin fireplaces. Some also purchase additional grates which are either domestically manufactured or imported. Vestal Manufacturing Co., Sweetwater, Tenn., and Liberty Foundry Co., St. Louis, Mo., produce only fireplace grates among the products considered in this report. The Liberty Foundry Co. also imports fireplace grates.

Stove-top grates are reportedly made by at least 16 U.S. companies; 10 of them produce cast-iron grates and 6 produce steel grates. Four of the larger producers of gas ranges make their own stove-top grates. The foundry of one large producer, The Tappan Co., has been closed since 1974 because of a strike.

Production processes and technology

Producers generally concentrate on either a cast-iron or a steel product because of the total dissimilarity of the two production processes. Producers of cast-iron stoves may manufacture a relatively few sheet-metal stoves; however, producers of sheet-metal stoves may purchase, but apparently do not manufacture, cast-iron stoves. This limited diversification is dictated by the varied technology involved in making the two types. Production of cast-iron stoves and grates is essentially a casting process that uses such equipment and machinery as melting furnaces, coremaking machines, and molds to convert unfinished materials

into a final product. Production of sheet-metal stoves or steel grates is basically a metalworking process that starts with a semifinished product--sheet metal, steel bars, or steel wire.

Producers of the cast-iron products considered in this report require a foundry for melting the iron in combination with other raw materials, pouring the molten iron into molds, and finishing the resulting casting. The casting process essentially starts with the melting of appropriate quantities of pig iron, steel scrap, alloy metals, coke, and limestone. This is done mainly in cupolas, which are miniature blast furnaces, although electric furnaces are becoming increasingly popular. The quality and the finish of the casting, or final product, varies largely with the particular combination of raw materials, and the degree of sophistication of the patterns and the molds, as well as the quality of the sand used in packing the mold. Casting the large, thin plates for the Franklin fireplaces, for example, is technologically complex; this fact may have deterred some foundries from entering into the production of Franklins until market conditions had improved considerably. Castings are usually finished first by sandblasting and then by painting. Stove-top grates are further processed by the addition of a porcelain finish to both the cast-iron and the steel units; this is done either at the foundry or by a company that specializes in porcelainizing. A steel stove-top grate is made from wire, and then nodules are welded into place to fit into holes on the range top; the nodules keep the grate from moving about. The cast-iron grate is cast in one piece, including these nodules.

Traditionally, the foundry process has been technologically simple and labor intensive, although foundries in the household stove industries have been increasingly employing improved equipment, including semiautomatic units. However, foundry operations have been major sources of pollutants, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has required extensive and frequently expensive pollution controls.

Domestic manufacturers have reported capital outlays since the beginning of 1974 of more than \$2 million to bring their foundries into compliance with EPA's remission control standards. The majority of the expenditures went for the purchase of electric furnaces to replace open-hearth cupolas that generated air pollutants in excess of Government regulations. Other standard antipollution devices installed with the electric furnaces included gas afterburners and baghouses (dust collectors) to further trap and dispose of emissions. Reported expenditures for safety equipment, rewiring, and various structural alterations to working areas to comply with requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) totaled more than \$400,000 in the same period.

Owners of U.S. foundries contend that these expenditures, which add to operating costs, are not required of foreign exporters. These owners note that the burden of financing these improvements falls heavily on the domestic firms and their workers, since it makes their products less competitive with imports.

Channels of Distribution

U.S. producers sell their domestically manufactured cast-iron stoves and fireplace grates to wholesale distributors as well as to retail establishments. In addition, several domestic producers import these articles for resale through the same channels of distribution. Hearth Craft, Inc., as mentioned above, assembles stoves and fireplace grates from imported parts. Hearth Craft, Inc., operates as a wholesale distributor and also sells to other distributors. Importers of these articles include retail firms that sell directly through their own establishments and wholesale distributors that sell the articles to both retailers and other wholesale distributors. Some of the large department store and hardware store chains that import directly for resale through their own stores also purchase domestic and other imported stoves at wholesale from domestic producers, distributors, and other importers. In addition, cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates are sold at retail through various other outlets, including specialty stove or fireplace shops, antique stores, and decorator shops. Fireplace grates are also sold in large discount drugstores.

Stove-top grates, as indicated earlier, are either made by range manufacturers, purchased from independent producers, or imported. Replacement grates are normally distributed through the same channels as completed stoves.

Production, Shipments, Inventories, Foreign Trade,
and Consumption

Cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates

U.S. production.--

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Table 1.--Cast-iron household stoves, cast-iron fireplace grates, and stove-top grates: U.S. production, by types, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

(In units)						
Period	Household stoves			Fireplace: grates	Stove-top grates	
	Franklin	Other	Total			
	fireplaces					
1972-----	***	***	***	***	11,700,000	
1973-----	***	***	***	***	10,900,000	
1974-----	***	***	***	***	8,580,000	
1975-----	***	***	***	***	7,100,000	
Jan.-Sept.--						
1975-----	***	***	***	***	5,100,000	
1976-----	***	***	***	***	6,100,000	

Source: Data for household stoves and fireplace grates compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission; data for stove-top grates estimated from gas-range shipments reported by the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association.

* * * * *

Producers' shipments.--

* * * * *

Table 2.--Cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates: U.S. shipments, by types, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

Period	Household stoves				Fireplace		
	Franklin	Other	Total	fireplaces	grates		
	Quantity (units)						
1972-----							
1973-----							
1974-----	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1975-----							
January-September--							
1975-----							
1976-----							
	Value (1,000 dollars)						
1972-----							
1973-----							
1974-----							
1975-----	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
January-September--							
1975-----							
1976-----							

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

* * * * *

Inventories.--Between 1972 and 1974, the domestic producers of cast-iron household stoves, as a whole, carried relatively small inventories (table 3). The total yearend inventories for all producers ranged from less than * * * percent (1973) to nearly * * * percent (1972) of total shipments. However, large inventories accumulated in 1975 and 1976.

* * *

Table 3.--Cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates: U.S. producers' inventories of U.S.-made stoves and grates, by types, on Dec. 31 of 1972-75 and Sept. 30 of 1975 and 1976 1/

(In units)							
Commodity	Dec. 31--				Sept. 30--		
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975	1976	
Household stoves:							
Franklin fireplaces--							
Other stoves-----							
Total-----	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fireplace grates-----							

1/ 1 company reported inventories as of Aug. 31 of 1972-75.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

* * * * *

Exports.--

* * * * *

Imports.--Imports of cast-iron household stoves grew sharply in both quantity and value between 1972 and 1975, from * * * in 1972 to 233,000 units in 1975 (table 5). Imports during January-September 1976,

Table 4.--Cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates: U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by types, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

Period	Household stoves				Fireplace	
	Franklin fireplaces	Other	Total		grates	
	Quantity (units)					
1972-----						
1973-----						
1974-----	*	*	*	*	*	*
1975-----						
January-September--						
1975-----						
1976-----						
	Value (1,000 dollars)					
1972-----						
1973-----						
1974-----						
1975-----	*	*	*	*	*	*
January-September--						
1975-----						
1976-----						

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Table 5.--Cast-iron household stoves: U.S. imports for consumption, by types and by principal sources, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

Commodity and source	1972	1973	1974	1975	Jan.-Sept.--	
					1975	1976
	Quantity (units)					
Franklin fireplaces:						
GSP countries: <u>1/</u>						
Republic of China-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of Korea-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Yugoslavia-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	143,047	91,684	62,264
Other countries:						
West Germany-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Spain-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	13,955	10,200	3,195
Total, Franklin fireplaces--	***	***	***	157,002	101,884	65,459
Other stoves:						
GSP countries: <u>1/</u>						
Republic of China-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of Korea-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	28,391	8,283	37,233
Other countries:						
Denmark-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
West Germany-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	47,563	35,041	17,430
Total, other stoves-----	***	***	***	75,954	43,324	54,663
Total stoves:						
GSP countries: <u>1/</u>						
Republic of China-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of Korea-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Yugoslavia-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	171,438	99,967	99,497
Other countries:						
Denmark-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
West Germany-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Spain-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	61,518	45,241	20,625
Total, all stoves-----	***	***	***	232,956	145,208	120,122

See footnote at end of table.

Table 5.--Cast-iron household stoves: U.S. imports for consumption, by types and by principal sources, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976--Continued

Commodity and source	1972	1973	1974	1975	Jan.-Sept.--	
					1975	1976
Value (1,000 dollars)						
Franklin fireplaces:						
GSP countries: 1/						
Republic of China-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of Korea-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Yugoslavia-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	10,643	7,617	4,233
Other countries-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
West Germany-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Spain-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	1,227	910	269
Total, Franklin fireplaces-----	***	***	***	11,870	8,527	4,502
Other stoves:						
GSP countries: 1/						
Republic of China-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of Korea-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	1,305	212	1,446
Other countries-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Denmark-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
West Germany-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	3,628	2,442	1,413
Total, other stoves-----	***	***	***	4,933	2,654	2,859
Total stoves:						
GSP countries: 1/						
Republic of China-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of Korea-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Yugoslavia-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	11,948	7,829	5,679
Other countries-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Denmark-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
West Germany-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Spain-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	4,855	3,352	1,682
Total, all stoves-----	***	***	***	16,803	11,181	7,361

1/ Countries currently receiving duty-free treatment under the GSP.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

however, amounted to 120,000 units, down 17 percent from the corresponding period in 1975. In value, imports increased from * * * in 1972 to \$16.8 million in 1975, or by an average annual rate of *** percent. The value of imports in the first 9 months of 1976 was \$7.4 million, 34 percent less than in the corresponding period of 1975.

The order of importance of the overseas suppliers changed significantly during the period under review. * * *

During the period 1972-75, the quantity of imported cast-iron fireplace grates more than doubled, rising from 198,000 to 463,000 units, and the value of such imports more than tripled, increasing from \$872,000 to \$2.7 million (table 6). Imports of grates during the period January-September 1976 totaled 188,000 units, valued at \$976,000, representing reductions of about 38 percent in quantity and 42 percent in value from the corresponding months of 1975.

Table 6.--Cast-iron fireplace grates: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

Source	1972	1973	1974	1975	Jan.-Sept.--	
					1975	1976
Quantity (units)						
GSP countries: <u>1/</u>	***	***	***	***	***	***
India-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of China-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of Korea-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total, GSP countries-----	176,207	198,894	350,413	446,484	297,721	173,519
Other countries:						
Poland-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Spain-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total, other countries-----	21,400	31,082	26,042	16,302	6,102	14,455
Total-----	197,607	229,976	376,455	462,786	303,823	187,974
Value (1,000 dollars)						
GSP countries: <u>1/</u>						
India-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of China-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Republic of Korea-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total, GSP countries-----	801	865	1,567	2,300	1,569	904
Other countries:						
Poland-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Spain-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total, other countries-----	71	99	103	367	118	72
Total-----	872	964	1,670	2,667	1,687	976

1/ Countries currently receiving duty-free treatment under the GSP.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

* * * * *

It is noteworthy that the quantity of sales of imported stoves also rose rapidly during the periods considered; generally, however, sales were considerably lower than imports (for sales, see table 7). For example, in 1972, sales of imported stoves were about * * * percent less than the quantity imported; in 1975, sales were about 187,000 units, 20 percent less than the quantity imported. In January-September 1976, however, the pattern became more balanced--sales of imported stoves amounted to 113,000 units, about 6 percent less than had had been imported in the corresponding period. The generally higher rate of imports than of sales of imported stoves resulted in a considerable growth in the total inventory of imported units (table 8). From * * * units in 1973, the inventory of imported stoves grew to 70,000 units in 1975 and then to 80,000 units as of September 30, 1976. * * *

Table 7.--Cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates: U.S. sales of imported articles, by types, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

Period	Household stoves			Fire- place grates
	Franklin fireplaces:	Other	Total	
	Quantity (units)			
1972-----	***	***	***	195,351
1973-----	***	***	***	232,313
1974-----	***	***	***	304,921
1975-----	135,030	52,068	187,098	431,815
January-September--				
1975-----	82,868	28,282	111,150	258,449
1976-----	71,209	42,183	113,392	212,904
	Value (1,000 dollars)			
1972-----	***	***	***	1,114
1973-----	***	***	***	1,294
1974-----	***	***	***	2,164
1975-----	17,788	5,881	23,669	3,844
January-September--				
1975-----	11,733	2,838	14,571	2,398
1976-----	7,883	3,758	11,641	1,894

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Table 8.--Cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates: U.S. importers' inventories of imported articles, by types, on Dec. 31 of 1972-75, and Sept. 30 of 1975 and 1976

Type	(In units)						
	Dec. 31--				Sept. 30--		
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975	1976	
Household stoves:							
Franklin fire-							
places-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total-----	***	***	***	70,439	44,926	80,298	
Fireplace grates----	***	***	***	109,113	133,842	90,305	

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The pattern of sales of imported cast-iron grates is similar to that of the imports of grates. In 1972 and 1973, imports and sales were essentially equal (for sales, see table 7). Although sales in 1974 and 1975 lagged the rapidly growing imports, the quantity and value of sales in 1975--432,000 grates, valued at \$3.8 million--were more than double the volume and triple the value of sales in 1972. However, sales of grates did not fall as sharply as imports in 1976. Sales of imported grates in the first 9 months of 1976 totaled 213,000 units, valued at \$1.9 million--representing declines of 17 percent in volume and 20 percent in value, compared with the decline of 40 percent in both the quantity and value of imports.

Consumption.--

* * * * *

* * * * *

Table 9.--Cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates: U.S. producers' shipments, sales of imported articles, exports, and apparent consumption, by types, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

Commodity and period	Pro- ducers' ship- ments	Sales of: imported arti- cles	Exports	Apparent consump- tion 1/	Ratio of imports to con- sumption
Household stoves:					
Franklin fireplaces:	Units	Units	Units	Units	Percent
1972-----	***	***	***	***	***
1973-----	***	***	***	***	***
1974-----	***	***	***	***	***
1975-----	***	135,030	***	***	***
January-September--					
1975-----	***	82,868	***	***	***
1976-----	***	71,209	***	***	***
Other stoves:					
1972-----	***	***	***	***	***
1973-----	***	***	***	***	***
1974-----	***	***	***	***	***
1975-----	***	52,068	***	***	***
January-September--					
1975-----	***	28,282	***	***	***
1976-----	***	42,183	***	***	***
Total stoves:					
1972-----	***	***	***	***	***
1973-----	***	***	***	***	***
1974-----	***	***	***	***	***
1975-----	***	187,098	***	***	***
January-September--					
1975-----	***	111,150	***	***	***
1976-----	***	113,392	***	***	***
Fireplace grates:					
1972-----	***	195,351	***	***	***
1973-----	***	232,313	***	***	***
1974-----	***	304,921	***	***	***
1975-----	***	431,815	***	***	***
January-September--					
1975-----	***	258,449	***	***	***
1976-----	***	212,904	***	***	***

1/ Producers' shipments plus sales of imported articles less exports.

Source: Compiled from data presented in tables 2, 4, and 7.

* * * * *

Cast-iron parts of household stoves

Cast-iron parts are imported for various purposes, such as the repair of imported stoves damaged in transit, the replacement of worn-out parts, and the assembly of finished stoves. The value of parts imported for the first two purposes has been relatively small,

* * * . In addition,

Table 10.--Cast-iron parts of household stoves (excluding fireplace and stove-top grates): U.S. imports for consumption, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

(In thousands of dollars)							
Period	:	Parts for	:	Other	:	Total	:
	:	assembly into:	:	parts	:		:
	:	stoves	:		:		:
1972-----	:		:		:		:
1973-----	:		:		:		:
1974-----	:		:		:		:
1975-----	:	*	:	*	:	*	:
January-September--	:		:		:		:
1975-----	:		:		:		:
1976-----	:		:		:		:

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

some importers reported, parts were obtained by cannibalizing fully assembled imported stoves. Apparently, replacement parts are not offered by some importers.

Cast-iron parts imported for assembly into stoves by Hearth Craft apparently have been classified by the U.S. Customs Service and reported by Hearth Craft as complete units or knocked-down stoves. For this report, these imported parts are classified in table 5 as stoves and in table 10 as parts.

* * *

Stove-top grates

Because few producers returned questionnaires, the production of stove-top grates has been estimated on the basis of the production of gas ranges. Using a formula that each gas range requires 4 grates and that replacement grates account for another 10 percent of production, output of stove-top grates would have amounted to 11.7 million units in 1972, and would have declined thereafter down to 7.1 million units in 1975 (table 1). With a recovery in the sales of gas ranges in 1976, total grate production during the first 9 months of 1976 is estimated at 6.1 million units, 20 percent higher than in the same period of 1975.

Stove-top grates were made of cast iron until 7 to 10 years ago when steel grates were first introduced. A few range manufacturers continue to use cast-iron grates. However, the quantity of cast-iron grates cannot be estimated from the limited data made available to the Commission.

Stove-top grates apparently were first imported in 1976

* * * * *

Employment and Man-hours

Employment

* * * * *

Table 11.--Average number of persons employed in U.S. establishments producing and assembling cast-iron household stoves and parts of household stoves (including fireplace and stove-top grates), total and production and related workers, 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

Period	:	:	Production and related workers				
	:	:	producing--				
	:	All	Cast-iron	Cast-iron parts of			
	:	employees	household	household stoves			
	:		stoves	Fireplace	Stove-top	Other	
	:			grates	grates	parts	
1972-----	:						
1973-----	:						
1974-----	:						
1975-----	:	*	*	*	*	*	*
January-September--	:						
1975-----	:						
1976-----	:						
	:						

Source: Compiled from data submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic producers.

* * * * *

Man-hours

* * * * * *

Table 12.--Man-hours worked by production and related workers in the manufacture of cast-iron household stoves and cast-iron parts of household stoves (including fireplace and stove-top grates), 1972-75, January-September 1975, and January-September 1976

(In thousands of man-hours)							
Period	:Cast-iron:		Cast-iron parts of				
	:household:		household stoves				
	: stoves	:Fireplace:	Stove-top:	Other			
	:	: grates	:grates 1/	:parts 1/			
1972-----	:						
1973-----	:						
1974-----	:						
1975-----	:	*	*	*	*	*	*
January-September--	:						
1975-----	:						
1976-----	:						
	:						

1/ One domestic producer did not list man-hours separately for these products.

2/ * * * .

Source: Compiled from data submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic producers.

* * * * *

Prices

The wholesale prices of imported and domestic cast-iron stoves and fireplace and stove-top grates vary markedly with weight and design. For the analysis of overall price trends in the period January 1974-September 1976, the prices of more closely defined, representative items have been selected. These items are: Franklin fireplaces almost totally made of cast iron with hearth openings of 24 to 26 inches; cast-iron fireplace grates designed specifically for Franklin stoves, 19 to 25 inches wide, weighing from 19 to 24 pounds; other cast-iron fireplace grates, 23 to 27 inches wide, weighing from 19 to 30 pounds; and cast-iron and steel stove-top grates with a diameter of 7 inches. The prices used in this section are average wholesale prices of the period January 1974-September 1976. In addition, the import cost to retailers that import these items directly will be examined. The reported wholesale prices of Hearth Craft are included with those of the importers. Hearth Craft's products included in this investigation are domestically assembled from imported castings.

The average wholesale prices discussed in this section reflect reported lowest wholesale prices, net of discounts and allowances, f.o.b. point of shipment, representing an actual sale. Import costs reported were landed duty-paid costs, port of entry.

Cast-iron Franklin fireplaces

Four domestic producers reported their wholesale prices for Franklin fireplaces with a hearth opening of 24 to 26 inches, essentially constructed of cast iron. One domestic producer makes a Franklin fireplace

essentially of sheet metal but with some cast-iron parts, and another manufactures larger cast-iron Franklin fireplaces. The prices of these latter two firms are not considered in the discussion. Fourteen importers who sell Franklin fireplaces of the type described above also reported their wholesale prices. The reported prices of three companies were excluded because they had been selling these fireplaces for less than 1 year, a period too short for the purpose of establishing a price trend.

As indicated in table 13, the average price of domestically manufactured Franklin fireplaces of the type described above increased 42 percent between January 1974 and March 1976. Prices remained stable through June 1976 before falling slightly in the third quarter of this year. The total average price increase over the period was 38 percent. Wholesale prices of imported Franklins rose an average of 36 percent between January 1974 and June 1975. Import prices remained stable through March 1976 before beginning to decline in the second quarter of 1976. The average wholesale price of these imported fireplaces fell further in the third quarter, bringing the total average price increase of these items over the period from January 1974 to September 1976 to 31 percent.

Table 13.--Cast-iron Franklin fireplaces: Average wholesale prices and price indexes for U.S.-produced and imported fireplaces, by specified periods, January 1974-September 1976

Period	: Average wholesale		: Price index (January-	
	: price per unit		: June 1974 = 100)	
	: Domestic	: Imported	: Domestic	: Imported
	:fireplaces	:fireplaces	:fireplaces	:fireplaces
January-June 1974-----	\$98.41	\$78.54	100	100
July-December 1974-----	113.42	98.02	115	125
January-June 1975-----	120.17	107.15	122	136
July-December 1975-----	127.88	106.19	130	135
January-March 1976-----	139.91	106.20	142	135
April-June 1976-----	139.91	104.14	142	133
July-September 1976-----	135.99	102.77	138	131
	:	:	:	:

Source: Compiled from data submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic producers and importers.

Domestically produced Franklin fireplaces wholesaled at prices higher than the imported fireplaces in this period. In the first half of 1974, the difference between the average prices was \$19.87, or approximately 25 percent of the average wholesale price of an imported Franklin. In January-June 1975 this difference declined to \$13.02 or 12 percent of the average import price, but has increased steadily since then, reaching \$33.22--32 percent of the import price--in the third quarter of 1976. The average wholesale price of both domestic and imported Franklin fireplaces declined roughly 3 percent during January-September 1976.

Cast-iron fireplace grates

Four domestic producers reported wholesale prices for cast-iron fireplace grates made for use in Franklin fireplaces, measuring from 19 to 25 inches in width and weighing from 19 to 24 pounds.

The average width was 21 inches and the average weight 21.4 pounds.

Five importers of cast-iron fireplace grates also reported their wholesale prices. The weight of these imported grates averaged 21 pounds and their width 23.7 inches.

As indicated in table 14 the average wholesale price of domestically produced cast-iron fireplace grates made specifically for Franklin fireplaces has risen steadily over the period, from \$7.37 per grate in the first half of 1974 to \$10.35 in the third quarter of 1976, an increase of 40 percent. The average wholesale price of imported cast-iron fireplace grates of this type also rose in this period, with virtually all of the increase occurring in the first three quarters of 1976. In the same three quarters, the average wholesale price of similar domestically manufactured grates remained unchanged.

Table 14.--Cast-iron fireplace grates made for Franklin fireplaces:
Average wholesale prices and price indexes for U.S.-produced and imported grates, by specified periods, January 1974-September 1976

Period	Average wholesale price per unit		Price index (July-December 1974 = 100)	
	Domestic	Imported	Domestic	Imported
	grates	grates	grates	grates
January-June 1974-----	\$7.37	1/	83	1/
July-December 1974-----	8.93	\$6.10	100	100
January-June 1975-----	9.73	6.23	109	102
July-December 1975-----	9.85	6.09	110	100
January-March 1976-----	10.35	6.47	116	106
April-June 1976-----	10.35	7.05	116	116
July-September 1976-----	10.35	7.24	116	119
	:	:	:	:

1/ Data insufficient to give a representative average price.

Source: Compiled from data submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic producers and importers.

The average domestic wholesale price was 43 percent above the average price of the imported grates in the third quarter of 1976.

Four domestic producers reported wholesale prices for their best selling cast-iron fireplace grates that were not made specifically for use in Franklin fireplaces (table 15). These grates weighed from 19 to 30 pounds, and had a width of 23 to 27 inches. The average weight of these grates was 25 pounds, and their average width was 24.5 inches. Ten importers of cast-iron fireplace grates of the type described above also reported their wholesale prices. The average weight of these grates was 25 pounds, and their average width 24.3 inches.

Table 15.--Cast-iron fireplace grates not made specifically for Franklin fireplaces: Average wholesale prices and price indexes for U.S.-produced and imported grates, by specified periods, January 1974-September 1976

Period	: Average wholesale		: Price index (January-	
	: price per unit		: June 1974 = 100)	
	: Domestic	: Imported	: Domestic	: Imported
	: grates	: grates	: grates	: grates
January-June 1974-----	\$7.82	\$7.32	100	100
July-December 1974-----	9.23	7.38	118	101
January-June 1975-----	9.34	8.15	119	111
July-December 1975-----	10.25	7.91	131	108
January-March 1976-----	10.18	7.11	130	97
April-June 1976-----	10.18	7.27	130	99
July-September 1976-----	10.18	7.27	130	99
	:	:	:	:

Source: Compiled from data submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic producers and importers.

The average wholesale price of domestically produced cast-iron fireplace grates rose steadily through 1974 and 1975 from \$7.82 each to \$10.25 each, an increase of 31 percent.

The price dropped slightly in the first quarter of 1976 to \$10.18 per unit, and remained unchanged through the third quarter of 1976. The average price of similar imported grates rose 11 percent from the first half of 1974 to the first half of 1975, then fell slightly in the second half of 1975 to \$7.91 each; at this point, it was 23 percent less than the average wholesale price of the domestic unit. In 1976 the price of the imported grate fell to \$7.11 in the first quarter, rose to \$7.27 in the second, and remained unchanged in the third quarter of the year. The 11-percent drop in the average import wholesale price from its peak of \$8.15 per unit in the first half of 1975 to \$7.27 per unit in the third quarter of 1976 was largely due to the entry into the market for the first time in this period of some lower-priced grates from the Republic of China and the Republic of Korea. In the first three quarters of 1976, the average wholesale price of the domestically manufactured grate exceeded that of the imported grate by not less than 40 percent.

Cast-iron and steel stove-top grates

Two domestic producers reported wholesale prices on cast-iron stove-top grates. A single U.S. producer of steel stove-top grates responded. One importer reported wholesale prices, but has only been importing since January 1976. With so little questionnaire-response, no competent analysis of prices is possible.

Import cost to retailer-importers

Comparatively few firms have imported the articles included in this investigation for direct retail sale; however, in quantity terms they account for 60 percent of imports of cast-iron stoves and 17 percent of imports of cast-iron fireplace grates reported for the year 1975. For these firms, the landed, duty-paid value at the port of entry corresponds roughly to the wholesale price, f.o.b. point of shipment, offered by importer wholesalers. Three retail firms that import the articles included in this investigation reported import cost per unit for Franklin fireplaces and for fireplace grates not made specifically for Franklins. These data are reported in table 16 below for Franklin fireplaces with hearth-openings of between 24 and 26 inches and grates 20 to 24 inches wide weighing between 15 and 24 pounds. Average grate width is 22.3 and the average weight is 19 pounds.

Table 16.--Cast-iron Franklin fireplaces and fireplace grates: Average unit cost of imports, landed, duty-paid, at port of entry, by specified periods, January 1974-September 1976

Item	: Jan.- : June : 1974	: July- : Dec. : 1974	: Jan.- : June : 1975	: July- : Dec. : 1975	: Jan.- : Mar. : 1976	: Apr.- : June : 1976	: July- : Sept. : 1976
Franklin fire- places-----	: : -	: : ***	: : \$77.16	: : \$74.35	: : \$70.15	: : \$68.61	: : \$65.74
Fireplace grates-----	: :\$5.30	: : 5.33	: : 5.33	: : 4.74	: : 4.65	: : 4.68	: : 4.48

As shown in table 16, the average cost of an imported Franklin fireplace had declined steadily over the period reviewed, from * * * per unit in the last half of 1974 to \$65.74 per unit in the third quarter of 1976, a drop of nearly 20 percent. The average unit import cost of cast-iron fireplace grates has also declined, but irregularly, from \$5.30 in the first half of 1974 to \$4.48 in the third quarter of 1976, a drop of over 15 percent.

None of the retailer-importers imports cast-iron stove-top grates.

Profit-and-Loss Experience and Financial Condition
of U.S. Producers

Seven U.S. producers of cast-iron household stoves and/or cast-iron parts of household stoves of the type considered in this report submitted usable profit-and-loss data on their total company operations for the period 1972-75. Six of the seven producers furnished usable balance sheet data on their total company operations for the same period.

Three of the seven producers submitted estimated profit-and-loss data on their cast-iron household stove and household stove parts operation. However, the estimated profit-and-loss data do not meet the accounting standards of the Commission and, hence, the data are not included in this presentation.

The accounting year for one producer ended January 31, and the accounting year for another producer ended June 30. The accounting year for the other five producers ended on or about December 31.

One company considered here as a U.S. producer assembles stoves and grates from imported parts.

Overall company profit-and-loss experience

Total company net sales for the seven producers increased yearly during the period 1972-75--ranging from \$25.5 million in 1972 to \$54.0 million in 1975--representing an increase of \$28.4 million, or 111 percent (table 17). Net operating profit and net profit before income taxes also increased yearly during the 1972-75 period. Net operating profit ranged from \$2.1 million in 1972 to \$6.2 million in 1975 and net profit before income taxes ranged from \$2.0 million in 1972 to \$5.3 million in 1975.

Table 17.--Cast-iron household stoves, cast-iron parts of household stoves, and stove-top grates:
Profit-and-loss experience of 7 U.S. producers on their overall company operations, accounting
years 1972-75, 1/ and of 4 of these U.S. producers, Jan. 1-Sept. 30 of 1975 and 1976

Item	Accounting year				Jan. 1-Sept. 30--	
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1975	1976
Net sales-----1,000 dollars--	25,549	30,166	42,247	53,956	***	***
Cost of goods sold-----do----	18,328	22,329	32,204	39,265	***	***
Gross profit-----do----	7,221	7,837	10,043	14,691	***	***
Administrative, general, and selling ex- penses-----1,000 dollars--	5,121	5,745	7,190	8,445	***	***
Net operating profit or (loss)-----do----	2,100	2,092	2,853	6,246	***	***
Other (expense), net-----do----	(88)	(214)	(523)	(931)	***	***
Net profit or (loss) before income taxes-----1,000 dollars--	2,012	1,878	2,330	5,315	***	***
Ratio of net operating profit or (loss) to net sales-----percent--	8.2	6.9	6.8	11.6	***	***
Ratio of net profit or (loss) before income taxes to net sales-----percent--	7.9	6.2	5.5	9.9	***	***

1/ The accounting year for 1 producer ended June 30, and that for another producer ended Jan. 31.
The accounting year for the other 5 producers ends on or about Dec. 31.

Source: Compiled from data submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic producers.

The percentage of net operating profit to net sales in the 1972-75 period ranged (table 17) from a low of 6.8 percent (1974) to a high of 11.6 percent (1975).

Net profit to net sales, before income taxes, ranged from 5.5 percent (1974) to 9.9 percent (1975).

Four of the seven producers submitted total company profit-and-loss data for the 9-month periods ended Sept. 30, 1975 and 1976. As shown in table 19, the four producers as a whole operated profitably during the 9-month period ended Sept. 30, 1975, but sustained an operating and net loss for the corresponding period ending Sept. 30, 1976.

During the period 1972-75, one producer reported losses in both 1972 and 1973, another producer reported a loss in 1972, and another in 1974. Two of the 4 producers who submitted data for the 9-month period ended Sept. 30, 1976, sustained losses.

In the aggregate, net sales of cast-iron household stoves and parts of household stoves did not account for a major share of the seven producers' total company net sales in any one year during the period 1972-75. For 1975, net sales of household stoves and parts of household stoves comprised about 40 percent of the seven producers' total company net sales. By individual company, the range varied from less than 10 percent for one producer of household stove parts to 57 percent for a producer of household stoves.

Overall company financial condition

Overall company financial data for six U.S. producers of household stoves and/or parts of household stoves are presented in table 18.

Table 18.--Cast-iron household stoves, cast-iron parts of household stoves, and stove-top grates: Overall company financial condition of 6 U.S. producers, accounting years 1972-75 ^{1/}

Item	Accounting year			
	1972	1973	1974	1975
Current assets:				
Cash-----1,000 dollars--	1,726	1,192	1,482	3,389
Accounts receivable, net-----do----	3,331	3,632	5,587	5,849
Inventories-----do----	4,525	5,735	9,062	9,695
Other current assets-----do----	100	279	294	250
Total current assets-----do----	9,682	10,838	16,425	19,183
Property, plant, machinery, and equipment--net of				
reserve for depreciation-----1,000 dollars--	4,657	5,590	5,291	7,258
Other assets, including investments-----do----	128	120	167	295
Total assets-----do----	14,467	16,548	21,883	26,736
Current liabilities:				
Accounts payable-----1,000 dollars--	1,158	1,549	1,676	2,064
Notes and loans payable-----do----	724	1,990	5,054	5,203
Accrued expenses and taxes-----do----	673	518	1,489	1,960
Other current liabilities-----do----	492	566	691	1,158
Total current liabilities-----do----	3,047	4,623	8,910	10,385
Long-term debt-----do----	3,024	2,771	3,333	4,267
Stockholders' equity:				
Capital stock-----1,000 dollars--	939	1,028	1,156	1,138
Paid-in surplus-----do----	67	67	67	67
Retained earnings-----do----	7,390	8,059	8,417	10,879
Total stockholders' equity-----do----	8,396	9,154	9,640	12,084
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity--do----	14,467	16,548	21,883	26,736
Working-capital ratio-----do----	3.2 to 1	2.3 to 1	1.8 to 1	1.8 to 1
Total net sales-----1,000 dollars--	***	***	***	***
Net profit after income taxes-----do----	***	***	***	***
Ratio of net profit after income taxes to--				
Net sales-----percent--	***	***	***	***
Total assets-----do----	***	***	***	***
Investment in assets-----do----	***	***	***	***
Stockholders' equity-----do----	***	***	***	***
Net sales per dollar of total assets-----do----	***	***	***	***

^{1/} The accounting year for 1 producer ended June 30, and that for another producer ended Jan. 31. The accounting years for the other 4 producers ended on or about Dec. 31.

Source: Compiled from data submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic producers.

Table 19.--Cast-iron household stoves, cast-iron parts of household stoves, and stove-top grates: Profit-and-loss experience of 7 U.S. producers on their total company operations, accounting years 1972-75, 1 and of 4 of these U.S. producers, Jan. 1-Sept. 30 of 1975 and 1976

Accounting period and company	Net sales	Cost of goods sold	Gross profit	Administrative, general, and selling expenses	Net operating profit or (loss)	Other income or (expense), net	Net profit: or (loss): before income taxes	Ratio of net operating profit or (loss) to net sales	Ratio of net profit or (loss) before income taxes to net sales
	<u>1,000</u> <u>dollars</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>dollars</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>dollars</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>dollars</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>dollars</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>dollars</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>dollars</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>1972</u>									
The Atlanta Stove Works, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Hearth Craft, Inc. 2/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Portland Stove Foundry, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Virginia Metalcrafters, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Washington Stove Works-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal or average-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Archer Wire International Corp. 3/----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Lodge Manufacturing Co. 4/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total or average-----	25,549	18,328	7,221	5,121	2,100	(88)	2,102	8.2	7.9
<u>1973</u>									
The Atlanta Stove Works, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Hearth Craft, Inc. 2/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Portland Stove Foundry, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Virginia Metalcrafters, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Washington Stove Works-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal or average-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Archer Wire International Corp. 3/----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Lodge Manufacturing Co. 4/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total or average-----	30,166	22,329	7,837	5,745	2,092	(214)	1,878	6.9	6.2
<u>1974</u>									
The Atlanta Stove Works, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Hearth Craft, Inc. 2/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Portland Stove Foundry, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Virginia Metalcrafters, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Washington Stove Works-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal or average-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Archer Wire International Corp. 3/----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Lodge Manufacturing Co. 4/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total or average-----	42,247	32,204	10,043	7,190	2,853	(523)	2,330	6.8	5.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 19.--Cast-iron household stoves, cast-iron parts of household stoves, and stove-top grates: Profit-and-loss experience of 7 U.S. producers on their total company operations, accounting years 1972-75, 1/ and of 4 of these U.S. producers, Jan. 1-Sept. 30 of 1975 and 1976--Continued

Accounting period and company	Net sales	Cost of goods sold	Gross profit	Administrative, general, and selling expenses	Net operating profit or (loss)	Other income or (expense), net	Net profit: or (loss) before income taxes	Ratio of net operating profit or (loss) to net sales	Ratio of net profit or (loss) before income taxes to net sales
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	Percent	Percent
<u>1975</u>									
The Atlanta Stove Works, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Hearth Craft, Inc. 2/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Portland Stove Foundry, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Virginia Metalcrafters, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Washington Stove Works-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal or average-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Archer Wire International Corp. 3/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Lodge Manufacturing Co. 4/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total or average-----	53,956	39,265	14,691	8,445	6,246	(931)	5,315	11.6	9.9
<u>Jan. 1, 1975-Sept. 30, 1975</u>									
The Atlanta Stove Works, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Virginia Metalcrafters, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Washington Stove Works-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal or average-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Lodge Manufacturing Co. 4/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total or average-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
<u>Jan. 1, 1976-Sept. 30, 1976</u>									
The Atlanta Stove Works, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Virginia Metalcrafters, Inc-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Washington Stove Works-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal or average-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Lodge Manufacturing Co. 4/-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total or average-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

1/ The accounting year for * * * ended June 30, and the accounting year for * * * ended Jan. 31. The accounting year for the other 5 producers ended on or about Dec. 31.

2/ Assembles cast-iron stoves from imported parts.

3/ Produces steel stove-top grates but no cast-iron stoves.

4/ Produces cast-iron fireplace and stove-top grates but no cast-iron stoves.

Source: Compiled from data submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic producers.

Total assets of the six producers increased from \$14.5 million in 1972 to \$26.7 million in 1975--representing an increase of \$12.2 million, or 85 percent. Stockholders' equity increased from \$8.4 million in 1972 to \$12.1 million in 1975--representing an increase of \$3.7 million, or 44 percent. Net sales increased from \$22.8 million in 1972 to \$50.0 million in 1975 representing an increase of \$27.1 million, or 119 percent.

As a share of net sales, average net profit margins after income taxes ranged from a low of 1.9 percent in 1974 to a high of 5.4 percent in 1975. Profit margins after income taxes ranged from 3.2 percent of total assets in 1974 to 10.2 percent in 1975. As a return on investment in assets--net working capital plus fixed tangible assets--profit margins ranged from a low of 5.4 percent in 1972 to a high of 16.6 percent in 1975. The return on stockholders' equity ranged from 7.3 percent in 1974 to 22.5 percent in 1975.

Individual company profit-and-loss and financial data

Profit-and-loss data and financial data on an individual company basis are presented in tables 19 and 20 for the period 1972-75. Five of the 7 producers that reported profit-and-loss data on total company operations produce household stoves. Three of the 5 producers also produce cast-iron fireplace grates or stove-top grates. One of the 5 producers--Hearth Craft--assembles cast-iron household stoves and fireplace grates from imported parts.

Two of the seven companies produce only parts for household stoves (Archer Wire produces steel stove-top grates and Lodge Manufacturing produces cast-iron fireplace and stove-top grates.).

Table 20.--Cast-iron household stoves, cast-iron parts of household stoves, and stove-top grates: Overall company financial condition of 6 U.S. producers, accounting years 1972-75 1/

Accounting period and item	:Archer Wire: The Atlanta:	: Interna- : Stove : Hearth :	: tional : Works : Craft, Inc.:	: Lodge : Portland : Washington :	: Corp. : Inc. : Corp. :	: Manufac- : Stove Foun- : Stove :	: turing Co. : dry, Inc. : Works :	: Total
<u>1972</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Current assets:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Cash-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	1,726
Accounts receivable, net-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	3,331
Inventories-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	4,525
Other current assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	100
Total current assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	9,682
Property, plant, machinery, and equipment--net of	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
reserve for depreciation-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	4,657
Other assets, including investments-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	128
Total assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	14,467
Current liabilities:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Accounts payable-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	1,158
Notes and loans payable-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	724
Accrued expenses and taxes-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	673
Other current liabilities-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	492
Total current liabilities-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	3,047
Long-term debt-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	3,024
Stockholders' equity:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Capital stock-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	939
Paid-in surplus-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	67
Retained earnings-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	7,390
Total stockholders' equity-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	8,396
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	14,467
Working-capital ratio-----:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	3.2 to 1
Total net sales-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Net profit or (loss) after income taxes-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Ratio of net profit or (loss) after incomes taxes to--	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Net sales-----percent--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Total assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Investment in assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Stockholders' equity-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Net sales per dollar of total assets-----:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 20.--Cast-iron household stoves, cast-iron parts of household stoves, and stove-top grates: Overall company financial condition of 6 U.S. producers, accounting years 1972-75 1/--Continued

Accounting period and item	Archer Wire: Internat- ional Corp.	The Atlanta: Stove Works, Inc.	Hearth Craft, Inc.	Lodge Manufac- turing Co.	Portland Stove Foun- dry, Inc.	Washington: Stove Works	Total
<u>1973</u>							
Current assets:							
Cash-----1,000 dollars--	***	***	***	***	***	***	1,192
Accounts receivable, net-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	3,632
Inventories-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	5,735
Other current assets-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	279
Total current assets-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	10,838
Property, plant, machinery and equipment--net of reserve for depreciation-----1,000 dollars--	***	***	***	***	***	***	5,590
Other assets, including investments-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	120
Total assets-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	16,548
Current liabilities:							
Accounts payable-----1,000 dollars--	***	***	***	***	***	***	1,549
Notes and loans payable-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	1,990
Accrued expenses and taxes-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	518
Other current liabilities-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	566
Total current liabilities-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	4,623
Long-term debt-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	2,771
Stockholders' equity:							
Capital stock-----1,000 dollars--	***	***	***	***	***	***	1,028
Paid-in surplus-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	67
Retained earnings-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	8,059
Total stockholders' equity-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	9,154
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	16,548
Working-capital ratio-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	2.3 to 1
Total net sales-----1,000 dollars--	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Net profit or (loss) after income taxes-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Ratio of net profit or (loss) after income taxes to-- Net sales-----percent--	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total assets-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Investment in assets-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Stockholders' equity-----do-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Net sales per dollar of total assets-----	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 20.--Cast-iron household stoves, cast-iron parts of household stoves, and stove-top grates: Overall company financial condition of 6 U.S. producers, accounting years 1972-75 1/--Continued

Accounting period and item	:Archer Wire: The Atlanta:	: Interna- : Stove : Hearth :	: tional : Works, : Craft, Inc.:	: Lodge : Portland : Washington:	: Corp. : Inc. : Manufac- : Stove Foun- : Stove :	: turing Co. : dry, Inc. : Works :	Total
<u>1974</u>	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Current assets:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Cash-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	1,482
Accounts receivable, net-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	5,587
Inventories-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	9,062
Other current assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	294
Total current assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	16,425
Property, plant, machinery and equipment--net of reserve for depreciation-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	5,291
Other assets, including investments-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	167
Total assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	21,883
Current liabilities:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Accounts payable-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	1,676
Notes and loans payable-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	5,054
Accrued expenses and taxes-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	1,489
Other current liabilities-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	691
Total current liabilities-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	8,910
Long-term debt-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	3,333
Stockholders' equity:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Capital stock-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	1,156
Paid-in surplus-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	67
Retained earnings-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	8,417
Total stockholders' equity-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	9,640
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	21,883
Working-capital ratio-----percent--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	1.8 to 1
Total net sales-----1,000 dollars--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Net profit or (loss) after income taxes-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Ratio of net profit or (loss) after income taxes to--:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Net sales-----percent--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Total assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Investment in assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Stockholders' equity-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***
Net sales per dollar of total assets-----do--:	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	*** :	***

See footnotes at end of table.

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Total company profit-and-loss data for the five producers that manufacture or assemble cast-iron household stoves are shown in table 19 on the line "subtotal or average." * * *

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Appendix A: Countries and Territories Entitled to GSP Benefits

The following countries and territories are designated beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP, provided for in title V of the Trade Act of 1974:

Independent Countries

Afghanistan	Guinea	Papua New Guinea
Angola	Guinea Bissau	Paraguay
Argentina	Guyana	Peru
Bahamas	Haiti	Philippines
Bahrain	Honduras	Portugal
Bangladesh	India	Republic of China
Barbados	Israel	Romania
Benin	Ivory Coast	Rwanda
Bhutan	Jamaica	Sao Tome and Principe
Bolivia	Jordan	Senegal
Botswana	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Brazil	Korea, Republic of	Singapore
Burma	Lebanon	Somalia
Burundi	Lesotho	Sri Lanka
Cameroon	Liberia	Sudan
Cape Verde	Malagasy Republic	Surinam
Central African Republic	Malawi	Swaziland
Chad	Malaysia	Syria
Chile	Maldives Islands	Tanzania
Colombia	Mali	Thailand
Congo (Brazzaville)	Malta	Togo
Costa Rica	Mauritania	Tonga
Cyprus	Mauritius	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominican Republic	Mexico	Tunisia
Egypt	Morocco	Turkey
El Salvador	Mozambique	Upper Volta
Equatorial Guinea	Nauru	Uruguay
Ethiopia	Nepal	Western Samoa
Fiji	Nicaragua	Yemen Arab Republic
Gambia	Niger	Yugoslavia
Ghana	Oman	Zaire
Grenada	Pakistan	Zambia
Guatemala	Panama	

Non-Independent Countries and Territories

Afars and Issas, French Territory of the	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Dependencies	Pitcairn Island
Antigua	French Polynesia	Portuguese Timor
Belize	Gibraltar	Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla
Bermuda	Gilbert Islands	Saint Helena
British Indian Ocean Territory	Heard Island and McDonald Islands	Saint Lucia
British Solomon Islands	Hong Kong	Saint Vincent
Brunei	Macao	Seychelles
Cayman Islands	Montserrat	Spanish Sahara
Christmas Island (Australia)	Netherlands Antilles	Tokelau Islands
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	New Caledonia	Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Comoro Islands	New Hebrides Condominium	Turks and Caicos Islands
Cook Islands	Niue	Tuvalu
Dominica	Norfolk Island	Virgin Islands, British
		Wallis and Futuna Islands

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Library Cataloging Data

U.S. International Trade Commission.

Information for use in determining whether to remove cast-iron household stoves and cast-iron parts of household stoves (including fireplace and stove-top grates) from the list of articles eligible for the Generalized System of Preferences. Report to the President on investigation no. 332-79(2) under section 332(g) of the Tariff act of 1930, as amended.. Washington, 1976.

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UNITED STATES
INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20436

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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE
USE TO AVOID PAYMENT
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ADDRESS CHANGE

- ☐ Remove from List
 - ☐ Change as Shown
- Please detach address
label and mail to address
shown above.