



WOOLS OF NEW ZEALAND™

WOOL

2008 snapshot

New Zealand produces 14% of the world's wool and is the second largest exporter of wool in the world.

Did you know...

New Zealand produces about 45% of the world's carpet wool.

A wool carpet can absorb and release up to 20% of its weight in moisture from the air in the room, balancing humidity and temperature between night and day. That's about 250ml per sq m. For synthetic carpets, it is less than 2%.

A typical living room of carpet contains the wool from 6 sheep, which must first be spun into 100km of yarn.

The outside surface of wool is made up of hard scales, similar to finger nails. They repel dirt and water, and hide soil.

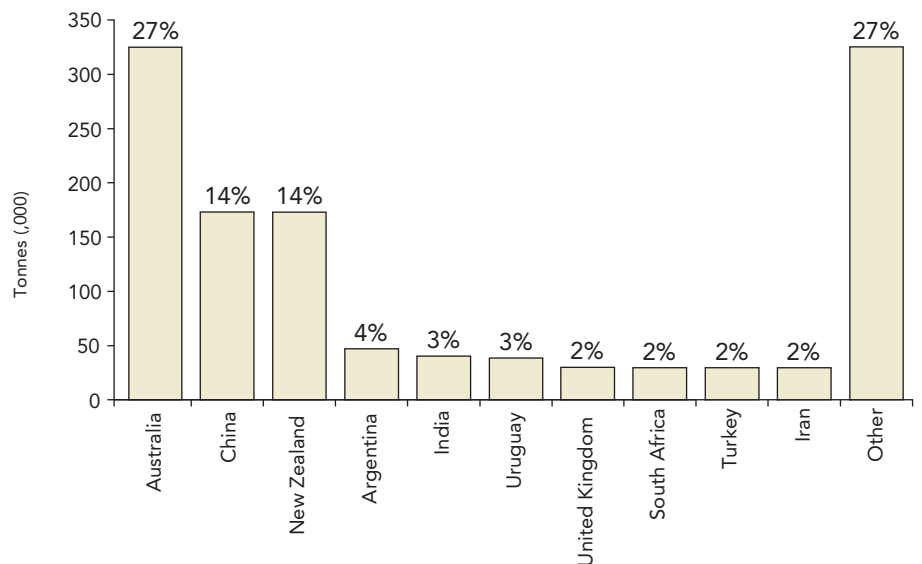
New Zealand sheep have the highest fleece weights in the world at 4.5-5kg clean. The global average is 1.2 kg. New Zealand's unique climate and geography, and the scientific development of sheep farming have achieved this.

Wool carpets rapidly and irreversibly remove common air contaminants from indoor air. Research estimates that they will continue purifying the air for up to 30 years.

Wool carpets will buffer indoor humidity reducing humidity peaks and inhibiting condensation on cold surfaces that can lead to mould growth.

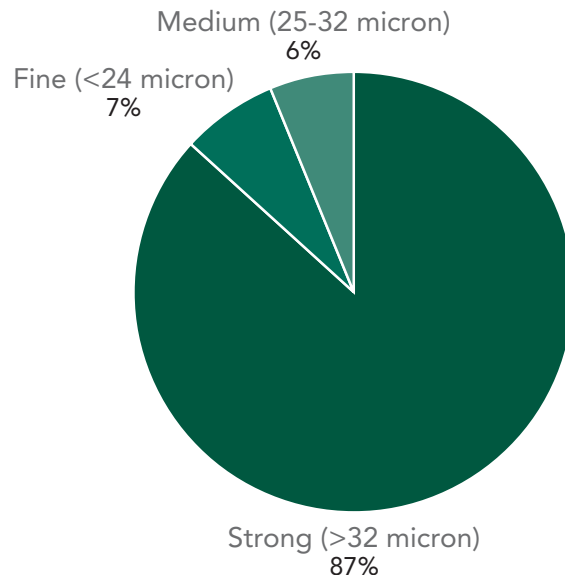
World Wool Production 2006

(Source: IWTO calendar year 2006, % tonnes, clean equivalent)



NZ Wool Categories Sold at Auction 2007

(Source: M&WNZ Economic Service, June-year 2006-07, % tonnes, clean)



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Did you know...

New Zealand's top five wool export markets (in value terms) are China, United Kingdom, Italy, India and Belgium.

While there is little in the way of direct exports of NZ wool to North America, a much larger proportion of finished product ends up in this market after processing in other countries.

89% of New Zealand's wool production is exported.

New Zealand wool is used by almost every wool carpet and rug manufacturer in the world, because of its uniformity, whiteness and strength. Other wools are also blended, in most cases to reduce price, and add 'character' such as hairiness, bulk, and handle.

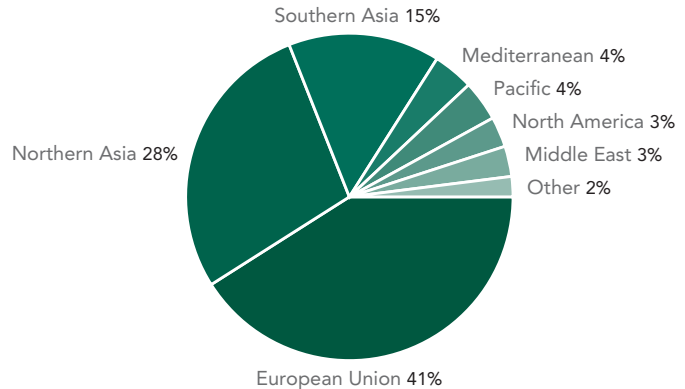
Most New Zealand wool is carpet wool. The fibres are coarse, around 37 microns. Wool for clothing, usually from merino sheep, is typically twice as fine, around 18 microns.



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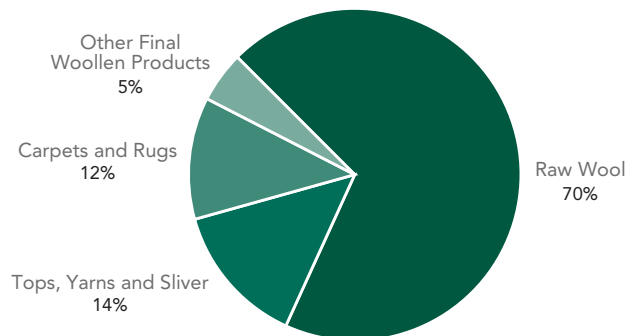
NZ Wool Exports (clean) 2007

(Source: M&WZNZ Economic Service, % tonnes, June year 2006-07)



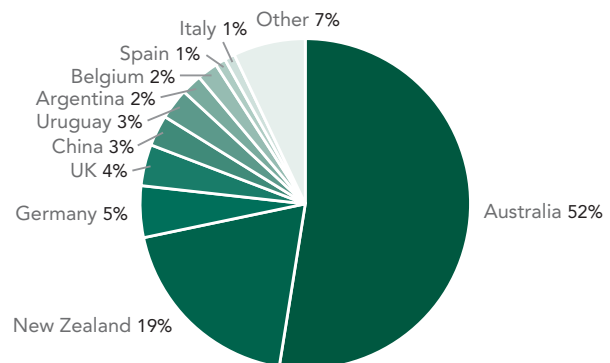
NZ Wool Export Products 2007

(Source: M&WZNZ Economic Service, % value NZ\$ FOB, June year 2006-07)



Global Wool Exporters 2007

(Source: Global Trade Atlas, % volume, greasy, May year 2006-07)



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