CHAPTER V

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND PRICES OF REFINED PRODUCTS

Section 1. Production, consumption, and stocks of principal refined products.

Gasoline is the most important of the products of the petroleum refineries because of its widespread use in internal-combustion engines. Its total value, measured in dollars and cents, is far greater than that for any other refined petroleum product. It ranks second to fuel and gas oil in percentage yield, but with the rapid extension of the use of pressure stills which increase the production of gasoline it bids fair soon to outrank gas and fuel oil even in quantity of production as well as in value. In 1926, when the percentage yield for gasoline was 34.5 per cent, 24.3 per cent was the product of "straight" distillation and 11.1 per cent came from pressure stills.

Despite the constantly increasing number of automobiles and the consequent increased demand for gasoline, the oil industry has kept pace with the demand. Even when a shortage seemed inevitable the industry has secured the necessary crude by raising prices, and a sufficient quantity of gasoline has been forthcoming.

The following table shows the annual supply (production, stocks, and imports) and the annual demand (exports and indicated consumption), by years, for the period 1920–June 30, 1927:

TABLE 42.—Gasoline production, imports, exports, stocks, and indicated consump-
tion, 1920-June 30, 19271

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Item	1920		192	1922			1923			1924			1925			1926			1927 (Jan- uary- June)			
Production Imports Stocks Jan. 1	4, 882, 542 40, 488 446, 796	5	, 153, 37, 462,	568 800 378	6, 2 5	202, 62, 586,	224 118 068	7,	555, 191, 883,	926 310 806	8, 1,	959, 145, 176,	692 026 588	10 1,	,903 160, 294,	,242 146 566	12 1,	,588 232, 632,	,828 680 750	6, 1,	755, 121, 638,	700 212 966
Gross supply	5, 369, 826	5	, 653,	746	6,8	850,	410	8,	631,	042	10),281,	306	12	,357	,954	14	,454	,258	8,	515,	878
Less: Exports Stocks Dec. 31	656, 754 462, 378		551, 586,	628 068	58	594, 583,	594 806	1,	870, 176,	912 588	1, 1,	216, 294,	614 566	1, 1,	322, 632,	874 750	1, 1,	819, 638,	146 966	1,	951, 838,	30 0 256
Total to deduct	1, 119, 132	1	, 137,	696	1,4	78,	400	2,	047,	500	2,	511,	180	2,	955,	624	3,	458,	112	2, '	789,	556
Indicated consumption	4, 250, 694	4	, 516,	050	5, 3	72,	010	6,	583,	542	7,	770,	126	9,	402,	330	10	,996	,146	5, '	726,	322
Excess of production over in- dicated consumption	631, 848		637,	518	8	30,	214		972,	384	1,	189,	566	1,	500,	912	1,	592,	682	1, ()29,	378
Net exports (excess over im- ports)	616, 266		513,	828	5	32,	476		679,	602	1,	071,	588	1,	162,	728	1,	586,	466	. 8	830,	088
Per cent of net exports to total supply	11. 5			9. 1			7.8			7.9		1	0.4			9.4		1	.1. 0			9.7

[In thousands of gallons]

¹ Compiled from reports of the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

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