

Volume I
The Rise of the Gold Standard, 1660-1819

1674

Statement issued by the English Government in response to reports about large amounts of bullion exported from England by the East India Company. From the 1660s, the depreciation of silver in India from the traditional ratio of 1:11 between gold and silver to a ratio of 1:17 in 1674 drew increasing amounts of gold to the Subcontinent. By 1682, the ratio had stabilised around 1:14, with the result that much smaller, but still considerable, quantities of gold were exported from England by the Company. After 1685, the amount of gold exported to India diminished significantly. Suffice it to say that the aggregation of all bullion in this statement obscures the fact that considerable quantities of the exported bullion was in gold during the early 1670s.

In answer to exaggerated reports of the exportation of bullion by the East India Company, and of permission granted by them to others to send in their ships, and of all bullion (gold, silver, and pieces of eight) shipped by them from 1667-1668, to the present year 1674.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1667-1668	128,605	17	5
1668-1669	162,394	9	10
1669-1670	187,458	3	8
1670-1671	186,149	10	11
1671-1672	186,420	8	3
1672-1673	131,300	5	11
1673-1674	182,983	0	6

counting the real of 8 at 5s.

In lieu thereof and of several manufacturers sent out by the Company, they pay about 35,000*l.* a year for customs. They have built in that time and are building 24 ships from 350 to 600 tons burden, and have paid for freight and wages about 100,000*l.* per annum, and have furnished the three kingdoms with all sorts of East India commodities, except spices, which would otherwise have been supplied by other nations at far greater rates. They have besides exported East India goods to other countries worth at a moderate estimate double the value of what they have exported in bullion, and the proceeds of a great part thereof is returned in gold and silver. The Company, finding it not convenient for themselves to trade in diamonds, bezoar stones, ambergris, musk, pearls, and other fine goods, have given others leave to trade therein, paying only a small acknowledgement to the Company for freight.

Source: *Court Minutes of the East India Company: 1674-1676*, p. 134. See also Chaudhuri, 1978, pp. 176-180.