



EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE AT CONSTANT PRICES, AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1980

INQUIRIES

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MAIN FEATURES

	Percentage change	
	June qtr 1980 to Sept. qtr 1980	Sept. qtr 1979 to Sept. qtr 1980
Exports of merchandise at constant prices—		
Rural origin—		
Original	-11.1	-1.3
Seasonally adjusted	-9.4	-1.1
Non-rural origin—		
Original	-8.3	-4.4
Seasonally adjusted	-8.4	-4.3
Total—		
Original	-9.6	-3.0
Seasonally adjusted	-8.8	-2.8
Imports of merchandise at constant prices—		
Original	8.7	8.7
Seasonally adjusted	7.1	8.9

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This issue contains estimates of exports and imports of merchandise at current prices and average 1974-75 prices for the period September quarter 1977 to September quarter 1980.

Nature of measures

2. The estimates contained in this publication are compiled on the basis of recorded statistics of merchandise trade within the framework of the Australian Export Commodity Classification (AECC) and the Australian Import Commodity Classification (AICC).

3. In concept, constant price estimates may be thought of as being derived by expressing the value of each component transaction as the product of a quantity and a price, and then substituting for each current period price,

the average price of the corresponding item in the base year. There are, however, many transactions recorded in statistics of overseas trade for which it is not possible to apply such an approach. Some common examples of such transactions are those where quantity data are not recorded or where there is some doubt as to whether the commodity involved corresponds sufficiently to that for which a base year price has been calculated. In these cases it is necessary to make assumptions and approximations (e.g. revaluing by means of the price index which is considered to be most closely related to the commodity involved). The published estimates at constant prices should be viewed in the light of these approximations and should not be interpreted as precise quantitative measures.

4. Estimates at current prices are often divided by their corresponding estimates at constant prices to give measures of price change (generally referred to as implicit price deflators). Such measures of implied price change have current (and not fixed) quantity weights; they are affected by changes in the physical composition of an aggregate as well as by item price changes. Changes in item composition may have a particularly distorting effect on quarter-to-quarter comparisons. A more detailed description of the nature and limitations of implicit price deflators is contained in the December 1977 issue of *Quarterly Estimates of National Income and Expenditure* (5206.0).

Commodity classification

5. From 1 July 1978, exports and imports have been classified according to the new AECC and the new AICC respectively. These are based on the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 2, and copies of, or extracts from, these new classifications may be obtained from offices of the ABS in Canberra and in each capital city.

Comparability of commodity statistics

6. The changes in the commodity classification mentioned above have caused only two significant discontinuities in the published aggregates between June quarter 1978 and September quarter 1978, both being due to the reclassification of exports of alumina from division 51 of the superseded AECC to division 28 of the current AECC. The other published aggregates have not been significantly affected by the adoption of the new commodity classification.

7. Estimates for all quarters from September 1979 are preliminary and subject to revision.

Seasonal adjustment

8. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting the series in this publication are given in the 1980 issue of *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, Australia* (1308.0). Quarterly data back to September quarter 1966 are available on request.

Related publications

9. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Exports, Australia (5404.0)—issued monthly
Imports, Australia (5406.0)—issued monthly
Exports by Commodity Division, Australia (Preliminary) (5402.0)—issued monthly
Imports by Commodity Division, Australia (Preliminary) (5405.0)—issued monthly
Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)—issued monthly.

10. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- p preliminary—figure or series subject to revision
 r figure or series revised since previous issue.
11. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
 Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. VALUE OF EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE AT CURRENT PRICES AND AVERAGE 1974-75 PRICES
(\$ million)

		Quarters ended—															
Section or division of AECC	Year	1977-78														1980- 81p	
		1977- 78	1978- 79	1979- 80	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.
AT CURRENT PRICES																	
Principal exports of rural origin (a)—																	
Meat and meat preparations	01	1,119	1,711	1,729	265	264	284	306	333	358	479	542	r403	r505	r442	r379	425
Cereal grains and cereal preparations	04	1,350	1,175	2,891	351	328	343	328	212	190	353	420	486	r760	r837	809	552
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	06	548	464	700	198	193	76	81	135	204	60	65	194	164	162	180	323
Wool and sheep skins	Parts of 21, 26 and 65	1,289	1,593	1,744	230	318	367	373	297	404	430	462	317	534	449	444	384
Other rural (dairy produce, fruit, etc.)	00,02,03,05,07 to 09	654	774	989	166	151	153	183	151	167	186	270	245	r221	r242	280	257
Total		4,960	5,717	8,054	1,210	1,255	1,223	1,271	1,127	1,324	1,507	1,759	r1,645	r2,184	r2,133	r2,092	1,942
Other exports—																	
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (b)	28	1,663	2,479	3,245	438	424	381	420	579	615	623	662	674	806	851	913	846
Coal, coke and briquettes	32	1,490	1,533	1,688	347	376	365	402	331	393	386	423	373	435	435	r445	316
Metals, metal manufactures, machinery and transport equipment	67 to 79	1,685	2,178	2,871	454	430	369	432	499	535	523	621	690	695	r764	r721	668
Other (c)	1,2(d),3(e),4,5, 61 to 66(f),8,9A	2,252	2,167	2,747	546	552	543	611	476	530	533	628	653	r704	r667	r722	745
Total		7,090	8,356	10,550	1,785	1,783	1,657	1,865	1,884	2,073	2,065	2,334	2,391	r2,640	r2,718	r2,801	2,575
Total exports of merchandise	0 to 9A	12,049	14,073	18,604	2,995	3,038	2,881	3,135	3,011	3,397	3,572	4,093	r4,036	r4,824	r4,852	r4,893	4,517
AT AVERAGE 1974-75 PRICES																	
Principal exports of rural origin (a)—																	
Meat and meat preparations	01	799	834	653	202	202	197	198	218	192	215	209	155	185	r163	r150	165
Cereal grains and cereal preparations	04	1,794	1,277	2,547	460	461	463	410	241	202	391	443	r483	r704	r711	r649	443
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	06	813	613	745	263	313	130	107	184	265	78	86	239	188	165	153	244
Wool and sheep skins	Parts of 21, 26 and 65	900	1,035	959	162	225	257	256	203	273	279	280	187	293	245	234	205
Other rural (dairy produce, fruit, etc.)	00,02,03,05,07 to 09	460	498	550	109	110	116	125	98	113	125	162	138	r124	r140	r148	129
Total		4,768	4,256	5,434	1,196	1,311	1,164	1,097	944	1,044	1,088	1,180	r1,202	r1,494	1,424	r1,334	1,186
Other exports—																	
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (b)	28	1,207	1,633	1,749	316	299	281	311	398	415	411	409	r394	454	440	r461	413
Coal, coke and briquettes	32	827	822	905	197	208	202	220	172	216	203	204	204	235	r231	235	165
Metals, metal manufactures, machinery and transport equipment	67 to 79	1,486	1,749	1,861	405	376	327	378	439	453	409	448	r471	473	r465	r452	418
Other (c)	1,2(d),3(e),4,5, 61 to 66(f),8,9A	1,545	1,370	1,373	366	383	372	424	319	369	337	345	r354	r349	334	r336	365
Total		5,066	5,573	5,888	1,283	1,266	1,183	1,333	1,328	1,453	1,360	1,432	r1,423	r1,511	r1,470	r1,484	1,361
Total exports of merchandise	0 to 9A	9,835	9,829	11,342	2,480	2,578	2,347	2,428	2,272	2,497	2,448	2,612	r2,625	r3,005	r2,894	r2,818	2,547

(a) Excludes some commodities of rural origin with small export values such as beverages, tobacco, oil seeds, rubber, animal oils and fats. The export values of these commodities are included in the value of 'Other'. (b) Includes alumina from 1 July 1978. See paragraphs 5 and 6 of explanatory notes. (c) Includes alumina to 30 June 1978. See paragraphs 5 and 6 of explanatory notes. (d) Excludes wool and sheep skins and metalliferous ores and metal scrap. (e) Excludes coal, coke and briquettes. (f) Excludes part of 65.

TABLE 2. VALUE OF IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE AT CURRENT PRICES AND AVERAGE 1974-75 PRICES
(\$ million)

Section or division of AICC		Quarters ended—																1980- 81p
		Year			1977-78				1978-79				1979-80p					
		1977- 78	1978- 79	1979- 80p	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June		
AT CURRENT PRICES																		
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,1	654	664	797	192	138	165	159	153	178	166	167	183	200	214	r200	209	
Fuels	3	1,157	1,140	2,098	275	285	325	272	267	251	327	295	470	471	r597	560	700	
Basic materials	2,4	543	628	781	148	125	124	147	149	150	142	187	184	199	206	192	223	
Chemicals (inc. plastics)	5	1,009	1,201	1,579	245	242	255	267	271	286	303	340	353	405	436	384	392	
Textiles, fabrics, etc.	65	677	831	953	173	161	166	177	187	218	211	215	216	247	r250	r240	251	
Metals, metal manufactures, machinery and transport equipment	67 to 79	4,686	6,431	6,525	1,165	1,111	1,120	1,290	1,449	1,633	1,547	1,802	1,456	r1,588	1,777	1,704	1,873	
Other imports	61 to 64,66,8,9A	2,355	2,743	3,309	611	547	621	577	682	693	685	683	758	r827	r888	r836	931	
Total imports of merchandise	0 to 9A	11,890	13,839	16,041	2,808	2,608	2,776	2,887	3,158	3,410	3,381	3,690	3,620	r3,937	r4,368	r4,116	4,580	
AT AVERAGE 1974-75 PRICES																		
Food, beverages and tobacco	0,1	372	369	402	97	84	97	94	87	100	92	90	r94	r103	r106	99	103	
Fuels	3	797	759	812	190	191	226	190	187	179	217	176	r227	r200	r209	r176	205	
Basic materials	2,4	426	450	464	113	99	100	114	116	111	103	120	117	121	r121	r105	120	
Chemicals (incl. plastics)	5	832	962	1,057	195	197	226	213	234	233	237	268	r252	r269	r291	r245	244	
Textiles, fabrics, etc.	65	516	593	549	131	123	126	136	142	160	147	144	r131	r146	r142	r130	138	
Metals, metal manufactures, machinery and transport equipment	67 to 79	3,108	3,657	3,364	810	749	729	820	875	954	866	962	r772	r850	r901	r841	912	
Other imports	61 to 64,66,8,9A	1,682	1,825	1,901	433	394	443	412	472	473	449	431	r455	r486	r505	r452	504	
Total imports of merchandise	0 to 9A	7,732	8,615	8,549	1,969	1,837	1,947	1,979	2,103	2,210	2,111	2,191	r2,048	r2,175	r2,278	r2,048	2,226	

TABLE 3. VALUE OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE AT CURRENT PRICES AND AVERAGE 1974-75 PRICES, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(\$ million)

	Quarters ended—												1980-81p
	1977-78				1978-79				1979-80				
	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept.
AT CURRENT PRICES													
Exports of merchandise—													
Principal exports of rural origin (a)	1,250	1,261	1,225	1,219	1,177	1,321	1,509	1,687	r1,725	r2,169	r2,135	r2,006	2,042
Other exports	1,770	1,736	1,763	1,818	1,870	2,020	2,194	2,277	2,374	r2,572	r2,886	r2,733	2,556
Total	3,020	2,997	2,988	3,037	3,047	3,341	3,703	3,964	r4,099	r4,741	r5,021	r4,739	4,598
Imports of merchandise	2,760	2,608	2,785	2,913	3,128	3,408	3,384	3,715	3,598	r3,930	r4,367	4,140	4,559
AT AVERAGE 1974-75 PRICES													
Exports of merchandise—													
Principal exports of rural origin (a)	1,207	1,263	1,188	1,103	964	995	1,110	1,189	r1,233	r1,415	1,452	r1,346	1,220
Other exports	1,254	1,233	1,269	1,306	1,302	1,412	1,457	1,406	r1,396	r1,467	r1,575	r1,458	1,336
Total	2,461	2,496	2,457	2,409	2,266	2,407	2,567	2,595	r2,629	r2,882	r3,027	r2,804	2,556
Imports of merchandise	1,928	1,838	1,952	2,063	2,078	2,209	2,111	2,213	r2,032	r2,171	r2,275	r2,066	2,213

(a) For a description of items included in this category see Table 1.