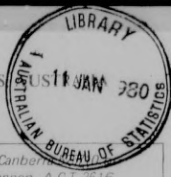


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IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
NOVEMBER 1979

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr M. Ferguson on Canberra or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Colour televisions, stainless steel and carpets all showed a significant decrease in the level of orders outstanding.

Carpet yarns and leather footballs showed an increase in the level of orders outstanding.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication provides, for selected commodities, preliminary estimates of the level of import orders outstanding and not cleared through Australian Customs at 30 November 1979. For comparative purposes, details of import orders outstanding for previous periods together with import clearances during recent months, are also shown.

2. The estimates of import orders outstanding and not cleared have been derived from the monthly Survey of Import Orders, through which information is supplied by either complete collections or stratified random samples of enterprises engaged in importing the selected commodities. The Survey is designed to facilitate short term predictions of significant changes in the level of future imports for selected commodities. The individual commodities covered in this publication were chosen in consultation with appropriate Government authorities and are subject to change from time to time, as circumstances change.

3. The selected commodities listed are NOT intended to represent all commodities imported; consequently, movements in the figures for these commodities should not be taken as being indicative of the general trend of imports.

4. Unless otherwise stated these statistics exclude all goods imported duty-free under Customs by-law provisions, including government imports, and certain other goods such as goods entered under security for re-export or re-imported after repair overseas.

5. Estimates of import orders outstanding and not cleared will probably differ from future actual import clearances, due to:

- new orders being placed and subsequently cleared within the particular time period;
- imports being cleared by new or casual importers;
- orders being cancelled or revised at any stage.

Description of terms

6. *Imports cleared* - Goods cleared through Australian Customs for home consumption (either directly on arrival in Australia or from Customs bond). Details of clearances shown in this publication may differ from the ABS's official statistics on imports cleared for home consumption because they have been adjusted to exclude various categories of imports as listed in paragraph 4 above.

7. *Import orders outstanding and not cleared* - The aggregate of firm orders placed overseas for goods that are expected to be cleared through Australian Customs any time after the date specified; after allowance for cancellations, and including imports landed but held in Customs bond.

Precision of the estimates

8. Estimates for those commodities denoted in the tables by (b) have been derived from information supplied by a sample of enterprises; consequently they may differ from the results which would have been obtained by a complete collection. A measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error of each estimate. There are about 2 chances in 3 that a sample estimate will differ from the results which would be obtained from a complete collection by less than 1 standard error, and 19 chances in 20 that the difference would be less than 2 standard errors.

9. Both estimates of level and estimates of percentage change from base month are subject to sampling variability. For example, consider the commodity 'carpets and carpet tiles'. The November estimate of total import orders outstanding is 2,971,000 sq m with a standard error of 178,000 sq m. This means

that there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range 2,793,000 sq m to 3,149,000 sq m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range 2,615,000 sq m to 3,327,000 sq m. Similarly, the November estimate of percentage change from base month (June) of +2.8% has a standard error of 2.7%. In other words there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range +0.1% to +5.5% and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range -2.6% to +8.2%.

10. Sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by businesses. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they can occur in any enumeration whether it is a complete collection or a sample.

Commodities

11. The selected commodities for which statistics

are shown in this publication are listed below, together with their definitions in terms of the Tariff Items/Statistical Keys of the Australian Customs Tariff.

Related publications

12. All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- n.a. not available
- n.p. not available for separate publication (but included in totals where applicable)
- .. not applicable
- p preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- nil or less than half the final digit shown

R.J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

COMMODITY

Wool carpet yarns
Hand knitting yarns
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex
and finer, not put up for retail sale
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and
carpet tiles
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable
screen less than 48cm
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable
screen 48cm
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable
screen exceeding 48cm
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72
tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles;
new, assembled
Battery operated works trucks
Oval shaped leather footballs

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

53.06.900.030/052, 53.07.910.042/064
53.07.910.086/097, 53.10.900.56.06.300, part of 56.06.900
56.05.900.695
58.02.400
73.15.300
84.12.190.013/024
85.15.100.891
85.15.100.916
85.15.100.938
87.02.210.053, 87.02.310
87.02.320.064, 87.02.390.317
87.07.110.038/060/071/118/129/13X/140/151
97.06.100.171

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR MONTHS
JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1979

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Orders outstanding at end of month							Standard error of November estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of November % change
		1979								1979					
		June	July	August	September	October	November	July		August	September	October	November		
						i	p								
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	725	756	1809	1690	778	987	..	+4.3	+11.6	-4.8	+7.3	+36.1	..	
Hand knitting yarns (b)	tonne	193	373	404	393	380	476	4	+93.3	+109.3	+103.6	+96.9	+146.6	3.1	
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (c)	tonne	12,236	12,296	12,498	12,723	2,633	2,695	24	+2.7	+11.7	+21.8	+17.8	+20.5	4.9	
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2,831	3,135	3,320	3,277	3,012	2,705	128	+10.7	+17.3	+15.8	+6.4	-4.5	3.0	
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	2,800	2,600	2,950	12,800	2,650	2,200	..	-7.1	+5.4	-	-5.4	-21.4	..	
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	39,200	157,000	176,600	170,400	57,300	45,800	..	+45.4	+95.4	+79.6	+46.2	+16.8	..	
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	55,100	59,100	68,700	78,900	79,900	70,700	..	+7.3	+24.7	+43.2	+45.0	+28.3	..	
viewable screen 48cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
viewable screen exceeding 48 cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total	no.	68,850	72,750	82,950	92,500	91,300	78,700	..	+5.7	+20.5	+34.4	+32.6	+14.3	..	
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	8,000	7,050	6,600	8,250	8,600	9,800	..	-11.9	-17.5	+3.1	+7.5	+22.5	..	
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	8,600	7,700	7,450	9,050	8,650	9,500	..	-10.5	-13.4	+5.2	+0.6	+10.5	..	
Battery operated works trucks (d)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1370	340	340	..	..	..	..	-8.1	-8.1	..	
Oval shaped leather footballs (d)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	47,000	72,000	111,000	..	..	..	..	+53.2	+136.2	..	

(a) For each of the selected commodities, the base month is the month to which the first published figure in the current orders outstanding series relates, e.g. for hand knitting yarns the base month is June, for battery operated works trucks the base month is September. (b) Based on a sample - see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) Statistics include goods that will be cleared under by-law. (d) This commodity was first surveyed in September 1979.

TABLE 2. TOTAL IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1979

JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1979

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of November estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of November % change
		1979							1979					
		June	July	August	September	October	November		July	August	September	October	November	
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	817	809	r855	r747	r	p	..	-1.0	+4.7	-8.6	+6.4	+33.9	..
Hand knitting yarns (b)	tonne	193	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (c)	tonne	r2,887	r2,922	r3,074	r3,395	3,657	3,816	24	+1.2	+6.5	+17.6	+26.7	+32.2	4.6
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2,890	3,229	3,409	3,415	3,294	2,971	178	+11.7	+18.0	+18.2	+14.0	+2.8	2.7
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,700	3,450	3,700	r3,650	3,600	3,000	..	-6.8	-	-1.4	-2.7	-18.9	..
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	58,200	r76,000	r79,700	r74,100	n.p.	n.p.	..	+30.6	+36.9	+27.3	n.p.	n.p.	..
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	74,200	77,200	83,300	87,400	88,700	75,500	..	+4.0	+12.3	+17.8	+19.5	+1.8	..
viewable screen 48cm	no.	18,400	16,500	13,500	12,000	10,600	9,550	..	-10.3	-26.6	-34.8	-42.4	-48.1	..
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,250	1,450	1,300	..	-	-	-18.2	-47.3	-52.7	..
Total	no.	95,350	96,450	99,550	101,650	100,750	86,350	..	+1.2	+4.4	+6.6	+5.7	-9.4	..
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (d)	no.	8,000	7,050	6,600	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	-11.9	-17.5	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (e)	no.	9,400	8,300	7,700	n.p.	n.p.	9,800	..	-11.7	-18.1	n.p.	n.p.	+4.3	..
Battery operated works trucks (f)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	r570	550	610	..	..	..	..	-3.5	+7.0	..
Oval shaped leather footballs (f)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	76,300	97,900	126,000	..	..	..	..	+28.3	+65.1	..

(a) For each of the selected commodities, the base month is the month to which the first published figure in the current orders outstanding series relates, e.g. for carpets the base month is June, for oval shaped leather footballs the base month is September. (b) Based on a sample - see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) Statistics include goods that will be cleared under by-law. (d) At the end of November 1979 there were 1,150 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (e) At the end of November 1979 there were 2,100 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (f) This commodity was first surveyed in September 1979.

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TABLE 3. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)
DECEMBER 1978 TO NOVEMBER 1979 (c)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	1978				1979							
		December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	222	125	210	144	226	191	175	330	321	236	274	296
Hand knitting yarns	tonne	126	83	112	138	70	194	93	96	39	124	108	173
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (d)	tonne	527	395	371	534	872	673	776	526	712	691	844	804
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles	'000 sq m	644	721	701	529	608	756	717	853	980	739	1,356	1,194
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	450	1,050	540	900	740	720	530	1,050	390	560	710	580
Air conditioners: portable or fixed window type	no.	8,550	7,200	2,900	1,300	210	670	3,100	2,100	9,900	9,900	17,200	19,200
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	14,300	8,250	11,200	10,400	10,100	9,700	15,300	16,400	14,200	13,700	16,100	21,900
viewable screen 48cm	no.	4,050	3,100	2,550	4,450	2,800	3,750	2,300	5,100	4,300	3,150	1,750	3,850
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	1,200	350	650	250	400	130	1,100	450	230	250	190	140
Total	no.	19,550	11,700	14,400	15,100	13,300	13,580	18,700	21,950	18,730	17,100	18,040	25,890
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	1,650	2,000	2,200	2,150	1,250	2,700	2,300	2,950	2,050	1,500	2,450	2,000
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	1,800	2,350	1,650	2,150	1,650	2,300	1,950	3,400	2,650	1,900	2,000	1,700
Battery operated works trucks	no.	70	80	40	70	30	40	40	30	50	30	70	50
Oval shaped leather footballs (e)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,050	9,950	2,450	6,450	6,200

(a) Unless otherwise stated, statistics exclude goods entered duty-free under Customs by-law provisions. (c) Statistics are preliminary and subject to revision.
(d) Statistics include by-law clearances. (e) Prior to July 1979, statistics were not separately recorded.

TABLE 4. COMPARISON OF IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING AND SUBSEQUENT CLEARANCES, FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Order-clearance lag (c) (months)	Orders outstanding at 30 April 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 31 May 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 30 June 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 31 July 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances
			Between 1 May and 31 August 1979		Between 1 June and 30 September 1979		Between 1 July and 31 October 1979		Between 1 August and 30 November 1979	
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	2-4	n.a.	p 1,016	n.a.	p 1,062	725	p 1,161	756	p 1,127
Hand knitting yarns (b)	tonne	3-5	36 ^a	422	240	352	193	367	373	443
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b)	tonne	2-5	n.a.	2,687	n.a.	2,705	12,236	2,773	12,296	3,051
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2-4	2,468	3,307	2,714	3,289	2,831	3,929	3,135	4,269
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	4-5	2,500	2,700	2,300	2,500	2,800	2,700	2,600	2,250
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	3-4	11,800	15,700	29,700	25,000	39,200	39,200	157,000	56,300
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	4-5	54,200	55,500	55,500	55,500	55,100	60,300	59,100	65,800
viewable screen 48cm	no.	4-5	n.p.	15,400	n.p.	14,800	n.p.	14,300	n.p.	13,000
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	3-4	n.p.	1,900	n.p.	2,000	n.p.	1,100	n.p.	810
Total	no.	3-5	72,200	72,800	70,200	76,300	68,850	75,700	72,750	79,610
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2-4	8,950	10,000	8,550	8,850	8,000	8,950	7,050	8,000
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	3-4	8,550	10,300	8,250	9,950	8,600	9,950	7,700	8,300

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 5. (b) Based on a sample - see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) Order-clearance lag is the expected time lag between placement of a firm order and the subsequent Customs clearance.