

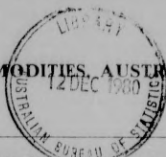


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IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA OCTOBER 1980

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Ashley Hedderley on Canberra (062) 52 5619 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 (062) 52 6627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Flannelette sheeting and stainless steel : orders outstanding decreased significantly.

Cold rolled iron or steel, galvanised iron or steel and light commercial type motor vehicles : orders outstanding expected to be cleared within four months increased significantly.

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 31 October 1980. 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:

- (a) new orders being placed and subsequently cleared within the particular time period;
- (b) imports being cleared by new or casual importers;
- (c) 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 one standard error, and 19 chances in 20 that the difference would be less than two 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 'flannelette sheeting'. The October estimate of total import orders outstanding is 16,841,000 sq m with a standard error of 294,000 sq m. This means that there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range 16,547,000 sq m to 17,135,000 sq m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range 16,253,000 sq m to 17,429,000 sq m. Similarly, the October estimate of percentage change from base month (May) of +10.6% has a standard error of 1.0%. In other words there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range +9.6% to +11.6% and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range +8.6% to +12.6%.

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. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publication* (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 rounded to zero

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Australian Statistician

COMMODITY

Tyres

Wool carpet yarns

Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width

Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex

and finer, not put up for retail sale

Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness

Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates,

4.75 mm and less in thickness

Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates

Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72

tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled

Four-wheel drive motor vehicles;

new, assembled

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

40.11.200.136/.147, 40.11.300

53.06.900.030/.052, 53.07.910.042/.064

55.09.590.501/.523, 614/.636 and part of .40X and .443

56.05.900.899

58.02.200.118/.129, 58.02.400.243/.254/.345/.356/.436/.469/.505/.516/.527, 58.02.900.819/.82X/.830/.841/.852/.863/.874/.885/.896

73.13.100.113/.135

73.13.300.17X/.180/.191

73.15.300

87.02.111.03X, 87.02.112.033, 87.02.119.039, 87.02.210

87.02.220.07X/.105, 87.02.290.049

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR MONTHS
MAY TO OCTOBER 1980

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of October estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of October % change
		1980							1980					
		May	June	July	August	September	October		June	July	August	September	October	
Tyres (b)	no.	667,000	621,000	556,000	579,000	583,000	562,000	13,600	-6.9	16.6	-13.2	12.6	-15.7	3.6
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	1,238	1,104	994	988	918	748	...	10.8	19.7	20.2	25.8	39.6	...
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width (b)	'000 sq m	7,720	8,633	7,300	10,026	12,439	10,566	163	+11.8	-5.4	+29.9	+61.1	+36.9	2.5
Polyester cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer(b) (c)	tonne	3,622	3,714	3,412	3,341	3,164	2,957	86	+2.5	-5.8	-7.8	12.6	-18.4	4.1
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	3,189	2,970	3,083	2,938	3,047	2,767	188	-6.9	-3.3	-7.9	4.5	-13.2	3.8
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness (d)	tonne	n.a.	24,700	r23,400	r24,400	21,100	23,600	...	...	5.3	1.2	14.6	-4.5	...
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness (d)	tonne	n.a.	22,300	r27,300	r24,900	27,200	29,500	...	...	+22.4	+11.6	+22.0	+32.3	...
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	2,800	3,600	3,500	3,750	4,050	3,550	...	+28.6	+25.0	+33.9	+44.6	+26.8	...
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	11,900	12,500	13,000	14,200	15,200	16,600	...	+5.0	+9.2	+19.3	+27.7	+39.5	...
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	8,700	8,900	9,050	9,050	9,000	8,650	...	+2.3	+4.0	+4.0	+3.4	-0.6	...

(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 tyres the base month is May, for galvanised iron or steel the base month is June. (b) Based on a sample - see explanatory notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) Statistics include goods that will be cleared duty-free under by-law. (d) This commodity was first surveyed in June 1980.

TABLE 2. TOTAL IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
MAY TO OCTOBER 1980

MONTH OF OCTOBER 1980														
Commodity	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding at end of month						% change from base month (a)						Standard error of October % change
		1980						1980						
		Standard error of October estimate						Standard error of October estimate						
		May	June	July	August	September	October	June	July	August	September	October		
Tyres (b)	no.	798,000	770,000	689,000	735,000	705,000	688,000	39,300	3.5	-13.7	-7.9	-11.7	-13.8	5.7
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	1,297	1,185	n.p.	1,130	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-8.6	-12.9	-	-	-	-
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width (b)	000 sq m	15,226	15,663	14,005	16,830	19,428	16,841	294	+2.9	8.0	+10.5	+27.6	+10.6	1.0
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b)(c)	tonne	4,691	4,790	4,208	4,275	3,841	3,868	136	+2.1	-10.3	-8.9	-18.1	-17.5	4.1
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	000 sq m	3,596	3,318	3,331	3,296	3,383	3,140	188	-7.7	7.4	8.3	5.9	-12.7	3.4
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness (d)	tonne	n.a.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	24,100	n.p.	n.p.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness (d)	tonne	n.a.	27,000	232,500	29,800	32,700	31,300	n.p.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,700	3,850	4,250	4,550	4,700	4,450	n.p.	+4.1	+14.9	+23.0	+27.0	+20.3	-
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (e)	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (f)	no.	9,050	9,250	9,300	9,350	9,150	8,800	n.p.	+2.2	+2.8	+3.3	+1.1	-2.8	-

(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 tyres the base month is May, for galvanised iron or steel the base month is June. (b) Based on a sample — see explanatory notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) Statistics include goods that will be cleared duty-free under by-law. (d) This commodity was first surveyed in June 1980. (e) At the end of October 1980 there were 800 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (f) At the end of October 1980 there were 500 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

TABLE 3. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)
NOVEMBER 1979 TO OCTOBER 1980 (c)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	1979		1980									
		November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Tyres	no.	159,000	143,000	208,000	224,000	177,000	246,000	178,000	198,000	226,000	165,000	198,000	197,000
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	296	178	119	212	288	326	354	335	323	298	295	355
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width	1000 sq m	3,590	2,384	3,317	3,585	2,309	1,645	3,638	1,561	1,824	1,022	1,930	2,326
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer(d)	tonne	796	506	696	912	749	746	839	859	1,140	982	993	1,073
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles	1000 sq m	1,206	955	876	898	860	898	864	842	848	665	831	859
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 2.2mm and less in thickness	tonne	4,900	4,250	8,200	18,000	1,650	2,150	12,800	1,000	6,400	2,550	11,600	10,700
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness	tonne	4,100	2,750	7,050	6,050	1,650	2,600	3,700	2,100	5,850	9,050	4,000	9,600
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	580	410	960	650	560	510	630	410	660	510	610	1,300
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	1,950	2,050	3,350	3,250	3,600	3,400	3,250	3,700	3,600	3,850	4,100	4,700
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	1,750	1,500	2,050	2,200	2,150	2,650	2,550	2,600	2,450	2,500	2,750	3,450

(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.

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 31 March 1980 expected to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 30 April 1980 expected to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 31 May 1980 expected to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 30 June 1980 expected to be cleared	
			Actual clearances	Between 1 April and 31 July 1980	Actual clearances	Between 1 May and 31 August 1980	Actual clearances	Between 1 June and 30 September 1980	Actual clearances	Between 1 July and 31 October 1980
Tyres (b)	no.	2.5	653,000	P	848,000	P	767,000	P	786,000	P
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	1.3	1,056	1,339	1,077	1,312	1,238	1,252	1,194	1,272
Flannelette sheeting, 132cm or more in width (b)	1000 sq m	5.8	10,597	8,667	10,581	8,045	7,720	6,337	8,633	7,102
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (d)	tonne	2.5	2,971	3,584	3,227	3,707	3,622	3,861	3,714	4,188
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	1000 sq m	2.4	3,189	3,452	2,917	3,220	3,189	3,186	2,970	3,203
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness (e)	tonne	2.4	n.a.	22,400	n.a.	22,700	n.a.	21,500	24,700	31,200
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness (e)	tonne	3.4	n.a.	14,200	n.a.	20,700	n.a.	21,000	22,300	28,500
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	4.5	3,000	2,200	2,850	2,200	2,800	2,200	3,600	3,050
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2.4	11,600	13,900	11,600	14,400	11,900	15,300	12,500	16,300
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	3.4	9,350	10,200	8,750	10,100	8,700	10,200	8,900	11,100

(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. (d) Statistics include goods entered duty-free under by-law. (e) This commodity was first surveyed in June 1980.