

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

S.S.137

CONFIDENTIAL: To be treated as strictly confidential until released for publication as follows:-

EVENING PAPERS : MONDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1953

MORNING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1953

AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE : FEBRUARY, 1953

(Note : Values are in Australian Currency f.o.b.)

Preliminary total values of the Oversea Trade of Australia for the month of February, 1953 are shown below. This preliminary statement will be followed by the usual Monthly Bulletin containing details of items.

Total Imports in February, 1953 were valued at approximately £42.0 million compared with £106.6 million in February, 1952, a decrease of £64.6 million or 60.7 per cent.

Total Exports in February, 1953 amounted to approximately £65.7 million compared with £56.8 million in February, 1952, an increase of £8.9 million or 15.7 per cent.

In February 1953, exports exceeded imports by approximately £23.7 million, whereas in February, 1952 imports exceeded exports by £49.8 million.

For the first eight months of the year 1952-53, exports exceeded imports by approximately £203.1 million, whereas during the corresponding period of 1951-52 imports exceeded exports by £314.7 million.

The table below shows the preliminary total value of Oversea Trade (including Bullion and Specie) during each of the twenty months to February, 1953. Figures for 1952-53 are subject to revision.

SPECIAL NOTE: These statistics show details of overseas trade only and do not measure Australia's balance of payments transactions during the periods shown. Full particulars of "invisible" transactions entering into the balance of payments (in particular, freight and insurance charges on imports, current production of Australian gold, overseas payments of dividends, profits, interest and royalties, Government expenditure overseas, etc.) are shown in a printed bulletin published by the Commonwealth Statistician entitled "Australian Balance of Payments 1928-29 to 1949-50". Less detailed estimates in mimeographed form have been published subsequently showing particulars of Australia's balance of payments up to June, 1952 and similar estimates up to December, 1952 will be published within a few days.

(£A. million f.o.b.)

Period	1951-52			1952-53		
	Imports	Exports	Excess of Exports(a)	Imports	Exports	Excess of Exports(a)
July	80.8	58.3	- 22.5	49.9	57.8	7.9
August	80.3	45.9	- 34.4	40.2	43.5	3.3
September	94.7	39.1	- 55.6	42.5	53.7	11.2
October	111.3	57.0	- 54.3	45.3	85.2	39.9
November	97.7	66.9	- 30.8	35.9	86.7	50.8
December	68.4	49.6	- 18.8	38.6	82.7	44.1
January	114.4	65.9	- 48.5	44.8	67.0	22.2
February	106.6	56.8	- 49.8	42.0	65.7	23.7
Eight months ended February	754.2	439.5	- 314.7	339.2	542.3	203.1
March	85.5	67.7	- 17.8			
April	81.7	59.1	- 22.6			
May	76.4	51.9	- 24.5			
June	55.6	56.8	1.2			
Total twelve months:	1,053.4	675.0	- 378.4			

(a) Minus sign (-) denotes excess of imports.

K.M. ARCHER
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