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IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA JANUARY 1981

[FINAL ISSUE]

INQUIRIES

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MAIN FEATURES

NOTE: *The monthly Survey of Import Orders has been discontinued and this January 1981 edition will be the last publication in the series.*

Tyres : orders outstanding decreased significantly.
Cold rolled iron or steel and galvanised iron or steel : level of orders outstanding continued to increase.
Stainless steel : orders outstanding decreased 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 January 1981. 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 January estimate of total import orders outstanding is 11,418,000 sq m with a standard error of 359,000 sq m. This means that there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection

would give an estimate in the range 11,059,000 sq m to 11,777,000 sq m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range 10,700,000 sq m to 12,136,000 sq m. Similarly, the January estimate of percentage change from base month (August) of -31.4% has a standard error of 2.8%. In other words there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range -34.2% to -28.6% and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range -37.0% to -25.8%.

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 the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (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

R. J. CAMERON
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
AUGUST 1980 TO JANUARY 1981

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of January estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of January % change
		1980					1981		1980				1981	
		August	September	October	November	December	January		September	October	November	December	January	
Tyres (b)	no.	579,000	598,000	581,000	606,000	597,000	572,000	22,900	+3.3	+0.3	+4.7	+3.1	-1.2	4.3
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	988	918	742	747	787	998	..	-7.1	-24.9	-24.4	-20.3	+1.0	..
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width (b)	'000 sq m	9,849	12,262	10,206	11,248	10,044	9,893	358	+24.5	+3.6	+14.2	+2.0	+0.4	3.8
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b)(c)	tonne	3,334	3,137	2,942	3,085	2,878	3,201	95	-5.9	-11.8	-7.5	-13.7	-4.0	4.4
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2,938	3,083	2,927	2,927	3,061	3,058	254	+4.9	-0.4	-0.4	+4.2	+4.1	5.2
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness	tonne	24,400	21,100	23,600	23,700	36,600	38,900	..	-13.5	-3.3	-2.9	+50.0	+59.4	..
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness	tonne	24,900	27,200	28,100	27,400	28,300	28,700	..	+9.2	+12.9	+10.0	+13.7	+15.3	..
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,750	4,050	3,550	4,150	4,650	4,200	..	+8.0	-5.3	+10.7	+24.0	+12.0	..
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	14,200	15,200	16,600	16,600	17,100	18,200	..	+7.0	+16.9	+16.9	+20.4	+28.2	..
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	9,050	9,000	8,650	9,300	9,250	9,350	..	-0.6	-4.4	+2.8	+2.2	+3.3	..

(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 August. (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.

TABLE 2. TOTAL IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
AUGUST 1980 TO JANUARY 1981

AUGUST 1980 TO JANUARY 1981

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of January estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of January % change
		1980					1981		1980				1981	
		August	September	October	November	December	January		September	October	November	December	January	
Tyres (b)	no.	735,000	720,000	707,000	746,000	723,000	638,000	35,300	-2.0	-3.8	+1.5	-1.6	-13.2	5.4
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	1,130	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	891	1,081	..	..	..	..	-21.2	-4.3	..
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width (b)	'000 sq m	16,653	19,251	16,481	15,585	12,745	11,418	359	+15.6	-1.0	-6.4	-23.5	-31.4	2.8
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b)(c)	tonne	4,268	3,813	3,852	4,139	3,836	3,892	95	-10.7	-9.7	-3.0	-10.1	-8.8	3.2
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	3,296	3,419	3,300	3,291	3,380	3,339	254	+3.7	+0.1	-0.2	+2.5	+1.3	4.7
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness	tonne	n.p.	24,100	n.p.	125,300	41,000	44,200	..	..	..	+5.0	+70.1	+83.4	..
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness	tonne	29,800	32,700	29,900	28,600	30,400	33,000	..	+9.7	+0.3	4.0	+2.0	+10.7	..
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	4,550	4,700	4,450	4,900	5,200	4,450	..	+3.3	-2.2	+7.7	+14.3	-2.2	..
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (d)	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new assembled (e)	no.	9,350	9,150	8,800	n.p.	n.p.	9,500	..	-2.1	-5.9	..	..	+1.6	..

(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 August, for cold rolled iron or steel 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 duty-free under by-law. (d) At the end of January 1981 there were 1,850 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (e) At the end of January 1981 there were 510 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

TABLE 3. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a),
FEBRUARY 1980 TO JANUARY 1981

Commodity	Unit of quantity	1980										1981	
		February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Tyres	no.	224,000	177,000	246,000	178,000	198,300	226,000	165,000	198,000	197,000	175,000	180,000	244,000
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	212	288	326	354	335	323	298	295	355	333	166	90
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width	'000 sq m	3,585	2,309	1,645	3,638	1,561	1,824	1,022	1,930	2,607	1,648	2,787	2,404
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (d)	tonne	912	749	746	839	859	1,140	977	1,014	1,073	757	1,024	639
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles	'000 sq m	898	860	898	864	842	848	665	878	877	878	839	676
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness	tonne	18,000	1,650	2,150	12,800	1,000	6,400	2,550	11,600	10,700	6,750	3,000	5,950
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness	tonne	6,050	1,650	2,600	3,700	2,100	5,850	9,050	4,000	10,600	6,400	5,550	5,950
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	650	560	510	630	410	660	510	610	1,300	710	680	960
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	3,250	3,600	3,400	3,250	3,700	3,600	3,850	4,100	4,700	14,450	14,950	4,250
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	2,200	2,150	2,650	2,550	2,600	2,450	2,500	2,750	3,450	2,600	2,900	2,900

(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 30 June 1980 expected to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 31 July 1980 expected to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 31 August 1980 expected to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 30 Sept. 1980 expected to be cleared	
			Actual clearances	Between 1 July and 31 October 1980	Actual clearances	Between 1 August and 30 November 1980	Actual clearances	Between 1 September and 31 December 1980	Actual clearances	Between 1 October 1980 and 31 January 1981
Tyres (b)	no.	2.5	621,000	P	556,000	P	579,000	P	598,000	P
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	1.3	1,104	1,272	994	1,282	988	1,149	918	944
Flannelette sheeting, 132cm. or more in width (b)	'000 sq m	5.8	8,456	7,383	7,123	7,207	9,849	9,027	12,262	9,447
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b)(d)	tonne	2.5	3,714	4,184	3,412	3,822	3,334	3,869	3,137	3,494
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2.4	2,970	3,268	3,083	3,298	2,938	3,471	3,083	3,269
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness	tonne	2.4	24,700	31,200	23,400	31,500	24,400	32,000	21,100	26,400
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness	tonne	3.1	22,300	29,500	27,300	30,000	24,900	26,500	27,200	28,400
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	4.5	3,600	3,050	3,500	3,100	3,750	3,250	4,050	3,650
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2.4	12,500	16,300	13,000	17,100	14,200	18,200	15,200	18,400
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	3.4	8,900	11,100	9,050	11,300	9,050	11,700	9,000	11,800

(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.