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IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA AUGUST 1979

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr A. Heddle on Canberra 526619 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

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MAIN FEATURES

- Light commercial and four-wheel drive motor vehicles: a continuing gradual decline in the level of orders outstanding.
- Air conditioners: whilst orders outstanding expected to be cleared in the subsequent four months have increased, the total level of orders outstanding has decreased for the first time since January 1979. This trend reflects the seasonality associated with this commodity.
- Hand knitting yarns and tufted and axminster carpets: a further increase in 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 31 August 1979. For comparative purposes, details of import orders outstanding for previous periods, together with import clearances during recent months, are also shown.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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

- 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.

- 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

- 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.

- 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 August estimate of total import orders outstanding is 3,326,000 sq m with a standard error of 191,000 sq m. This means that there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range 3,135,000 sq m to 3,517,000 sq m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range 2,944,000 sq m to 3,708,000 sq m. Similarly, the August estimate of percentage change from base month (March) of +34.3% has a standard error of 7.1%. In other words there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range

+27.2% to +41.4% and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range +20.1% to +48.5%.

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 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
- | break in continuity of series

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
Refrigerators for domestic use, over 200 litres
internal capacity
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled
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

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
84.15.290.120/.131
84.40.220.027/.038/.049/.05X
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

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

Commodity/Unit of quantity	Orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of August estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of August % change	
	1979							1979						
	March	April	May	June	July	August		April	May	June	July	August		
					r	p								
Wool carpet yarns (c) (tonne)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	r725	756	793	..	..	..	..	+4.3	+9.4	..	
Hand knitting yarns (b) (tonne)	371	368	240	193	368	387	2	-0.8	-35.3	-48.0	-0.8	+4.3	1.2	
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (c) (d) (tonne)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,234	2,387	2,530	128	..	..	..	+6.8	+13.2	2.6	
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b) (sq m)	2,403,000	2,468,000	2,714,000	r2,831,000	3,120,000	3,223,000	191,000	+2.7	+12.9	+17.8	+29.8	+34.1	7.3	
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates (tonne)	(e)	2,500	2,300	2,800	2,550	2,850	..	..	-8.0	+12.0	+2.0	+14.0	..	
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type (no.)	11,500	11,800	r29,700	r41,300	57,700	68,600	..	+2.6	+158.3	+259.1	+401.7	+496.5	..	
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity (f) (no.)	11,500	11,100	10,300	10,700	9,850	11,300	..	-3.5	-10.4	-7.0	-14.3	-1.7	..	
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled (no.)	17,300	12,900	12,200	12,300	11,400	12,900	..	-25.4	-29.5	-28.9	-34.1	-25.4	..	
Television receivers, colour; complete viewable screen less than 48cm (no.)	56,700	54,200	55,500	r54,300	58,300	67,100	..	-4.4	-2.1	-4.2	+2.8	+18.3	..	
viewable screen 48cm (no.)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
viewable screen exceeding 48cm (no.)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total (no.)	79,850	72,200	70,200	r68,050	71,900	81,300	..	-9.6	-12.1	-14.8	-10.0	+1.8	..	
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (no.)	8,400	8,950	8,550	8,000	7,050	6,600	..	+6.5	+1.8	-4.8	-16.1	-21.4	..	
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (no.)	7,700	8,550	8,250	8,600	7,700	7,450	..	+11.0	+7.1	+11.7	-	-3.2	..	

(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 March, for wool carpet yarns the base month is June. (b) Based on a sample - see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) This commodity was first surveyed in June 1979. (d) Statistics include goods that will be cleared under by-law. (e) Prior to April 1979, this commodity was surveyed in alternate months. (f) Statistics include goods that will be cleared under by-laws pertaining to the New Zealand - Australia Free Trade Agreement.

TABLE 2. TOTAL IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
MARCH TO AUGUST 1979

MARCH TO AUGUST 1979														
Commodity/Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of August estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of August % change	
	1979							1979						
	March	April	May	June	July	August		April	May	June	July	August		
					r	p								
Wool carpet yarns (c) (tonne)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	r817	809	839	..	..	..	..	-1.0	+2.7	..	
Hand knitting yarns (b) (tonne)	383	n.p.	240	193	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-37.3	-49.6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (c) (d) (tonne)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,965	3,014	3,160	133	..	..	..	+1.7	+6.6	1.3	
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b) (sq m)	2,477,000	2,589,000	2,814,000	r2,890,000	3,215,000	3,326,000	191,000	+4.5	+13.6	+16.7	+29.8	+34.3	7.1	
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates (tonne)	(e)	3,500	3,050	3,700	3,350	3,600	..	..	-12.9	+5.7	-4.3	+2.9	..	
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type (no.)	37,000	38,700	r53,600	r59,500	75,800	72,100	..	+4.6	+44.9	+60.8	+104.9	+94.9	..	
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity (f) (no.)	14,500	13,900	n.p.	13,600	n.p.	12,800	..	-4.1	n.p.	-6.2	n.p.	-11.7	..	
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled (no.)	n.p.	n.p.	12,200	12,300	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	+0.8	n.p.	n.p.	..	
Television receivers, colour; complete														
viewable screen less than 48cm (no.)	76,000	75,500	73,200	r73,400	76,400	81,700	..	-0.7	-3.7	-3.4	+0.5	+7.5	..	
viewable screen 48cm (no.)	29,600	21,900	18,800	18,400	16,500	13,000	..	-26.0	-36.5	-37.8	-44.3	-54.7	..	
viewable screen exceeding 48cm (no.)	3,500	3,250	3,300	2,750	2,750	2,700	..	-7.1	-5.7	-21.4	-21.4	-22.9	..	
Total (no.)	109,100	100,650	95,300	r94,550	95,650	97,800	..	-7.7	-12.6	-13.3	-12.3	-10.4	..	
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (g) (no.)	8,400	n.p.	8,550	8,000	7,050	6,600	..	n.p.	+1.8	-4.8	-16.1	-21.4	..	
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (h) (no.)	8,450	9,800	9,200	9,400	8,300	7,650	..	+16.0	+8.9	+11.2	-1.8	-9.5	..	

(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 March, for washing machines the base month is May. (b) Based on a sample - see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) This commodity was first surveyed in June 1979. (d) Statistics include goods that will be cleared under by-law. (e) Prior to April 1979, this commodity was surveyed in alternate months. (f) Statistics include goods that will be cleared under by-laws pertaining to the New Zealand - Australia Free Trade Agreement. (g) At the end of August 1979 there were 1,150 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (h) At the end of August 1979 there were 930 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

S/T 1980

TABLE 3. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)
SEPTEMBER 1978 TO AUGUST 1979 (c)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	1978				1979							
		September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	227	344	285	222	125	210	144	226	191	175	330	321
Hand knitting yarns	tonne	9	83	90	126	83	112	138	70	194	93	96	39
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (d)	tonne	567	718	579	527	395	371	534	872	673	776	435	605
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles	sq m	651,000	1,028,000	1,015,000	644,000	721,000	701,000	529,000	608,000	756,000	717,000	853,000	980,000
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	160	990	1,050	450	1,050	640	900	740	720	530	1,050	390
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	10,900	15,800	11,200	8,550	7,200	2,900	1,300	210	670	3,100	2,100	9,900
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity (e)	no.	4,100	8,050	7,950	5,400	3,800	4,000	2,600	800	3,800	2,800	3,100	2,250
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	5,500	4,150	4,350	4,150	5,900	4,150	4,250	7,100	5,500	3,200	2,850	3,200
Television receivers, colour; complete	no.	14,400	18,300	18,400	14,300	8,250	11,200	10,400	10,100	9,700	15,300	16,400	14,200
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	4,650	6,350	6,850	4,050	3,100	2,550	4,450	2,800	3,750	2,300	5,100	4,300
viewable screen 48cm	no.	1,500	450	750	1,200	350	650	250	400	130	1,100	450	230
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	20,550	25,100	26,000	19,550	11,700	14,400	15,100	13,300	13,580	18,700	21,950	18,730
Total	no.	20,550	25,100	26,000	19,550	11,700	14,400	15,100	13,300	13,580	18,700	21,950	18,730
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2,150	2,950	3,250	1,650	2,000	2,200	2,150	1,250	2,700	2,300	2,950	2,050
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	2,650	1,950	3,100	1,800	2,350	1,650	2,150	1,650	2,300	1,950	3,400	2,650

(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) Statistics include goods cleared under by-laws pertaining to the New Zealand - Australia Free Trade Agreement.

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 Jan. 1979 exp. to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 28 Feb. 1979 exp. to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 31 March 1979 exp. to be cleared		Orders outstanding at 30 April 1979 exp. to be cleared	
			Actual clearances		Actual clearances		Actual clearances		Actual clearances	
			Between 1 February and 31 May 1979	Between 1 March and 30 June 1979	Between 1 April and 31 July 1979	Between 1 May and 31 August 1979				
Hand knitting yarns (b)	tonne	3-5	358	p 513	389	p 494	371	p 453	368	p 422
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	sq m	2-4	2,155,000	2,593,000	2,061,000	2,609,000	2,403,000	2,934,000	2,468,000	3,307,000
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	4-5	(d)	3,000	3,300	2,900	(d)	3,050	2,500	2,700
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	3-4	14,600	5,100	10,000	5,300	11,500	6,050	11,800	15,700
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	3-4	13,400	10,400	(d)	(e)10,000	(e)11,500	(e)10,500	(e)11,100	(e)11,900
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	3-5	16,000	21,000	(d)	20,100	17,300	18,700	12,900	14,700
Television receivers, colour; complete										
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	4-5	57,400	41,400	64,600	45,500	56,700	51,400	54,200	55,500
viewable screen 48cm	no.	4-5	n.p.	13,500	n.p.	13,300	n.p.	13,900	n.p.	15,400
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	3-4	n.p.	1,450	n.p.	1,900	n.p.	2,100	n.p.	1,900
Total	no.	3-5	83,000	56,350	92,900	60,700	79,850	67,400	72,200	72,800
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2-4	8,300	8,350	8,300	8,400	8,400	9,200	8,950	10,000
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	3-4	7,250	7,800	7,700	8,100	7,700	9,300	8,550	10,300

(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. (d) This commodity was surveyed in alternate months. (e) Statistics include goods being imported under by-laws pertaining to the New Zealand - Australia Free Trade Agreement.