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IMPORTS BY COMMODITY DIVISIONS, AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER 1981 (PRELIMINARY)

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MAIN FEATURES

Imports for September 1981 rose by \$53m, to \$1,846m, an increase of 3%, compared with August 1981.

The major contributors to this increase were chemicals (+\$14m) and machinery (+\$14m). During the same period there was a decrease in transport equipment (-\$22m).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication predominantly contains monthly and year-to-date statistics of imports by Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the *Australian Import Commodity Classification* (AICC) (1204.0). Statistics for 1980-81 and 1981-82 are preliminary and subject to revision.

2. More detailed figures will be published in the monthly publication *Imports, Australia* (5406.0).

3. The publication also contains details of import orders for selected steel commodities, see paragraphs 17 to 23 below for details.

STATISTICS OF IMPORTS

Source of data

4. These statistics of imports in Tables 1, 2 and 3 are compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from information contained in import entries submitted by importers or their agents to the Bureau of Customs as required by the Customs Act.

Scope of statistics

5. The statistics of imports presented in Tables 1, 2 and 3 of this publication are recorded on a general trade basis, i.e. imports comprise goods entered directly for home consumption together with goods imported into Customs warehouses.

6. The following are excluded from recorded import statistics:

- (a) direct transit trade, i.e. goods being trans-shipped or moved through Australia for purposes of transport only;
- (b) bunkers and stores supplied to vessels and to aircraft prior to arrival in Australia;
- (c) migrants' and passengers' effects imported and parcels post imports of small value, for which Customs entries are not required;
- (d) certain materials under inter-governmental agreements for defence and similar projects for which Customs entries are not required;
- (e) vessels and aircraft engaged in the transport of passengers or goods between Australia and other countries;
- (f) the purchase of any vessel and/or aircraft intended for use on overseas routes;
- (g) fish and other sea products landed in Australia directly from the high seas by Australian vessels;
- (h) entries lodged on informal clearance documents (ICD) for values not exceeding \$250.

Statistical period

7. Imports are recorded statistically in the calendar month in which the import entries are both finalised by the Bureau of Customs and passed to the ABS for further processing. Import entries may be lodged early using the check-to-arrive system or the documents may be delayed because of various validation checks carried out by Customs prior to the entries being passed to the ABS.

8. Import statistics for a particular month do not necessarily represent entries lodged or commodities actually imported during the month in question. Analysis of past data has shown that in aggregate approximately 70% of import trade by value recorded for a particular month was actually imported during that month, 25% was actually imported during the previous month with the remaining 5% being imported in earlier months. For individual commodities the percentage by value representing actual imports in a month may vary considerably.

Valuation

9. The recorded value of imports is the value for duty for Customs purposes (VFD). On 1 July 1976, Australia adopted the internationally recognised Brussels Definition of Value (BDV) on a free-on-board (f.o.b.) basis (i.e. charges and expenses involved in delivering the goods from the place of exportation to the place of introduction in Australia, are excluded). The value for duty is based on the normal price, i.e. the price the goods would fetch at the time when duty becomes payable on a sale in the open market between a buyer and a seller independent of each other. In practice, the basis for valuation is generally taken to be the invoice price subject to certain safeguards and adjustments where necessary.

10. The recorded value of imports includes the value of the outside package, other than international containers used for containerised cargo.

Merchandise imports

11. In accordance with standards recommended by the United Nations merchandise imports are defined as all goods which add to the stock of material resources in Australia as a result of their movement into the country. Merchandise imports, therefore, exclude goods imported with the reasonable expectation of re-export within a limited time. A complete list of commodities not included in merchandise trade is shown under Section 9(b) of the AICC. These include, for example, coin being legal tender and goods for temporary exhibition in Australia. Goods excluded from merchandise trade are for convenience termed non-merchandise and non-merchandise trade is shown separately in Table 1. Total trade is the addition of merchandise and non-merchandise trade.

Commodity classification

12. Imports are classified according to the items of the AICC which, from 1 July 1978, has been based on the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 2. A detailed description of the commodity items included in this publication is contained in the AICC. Copies of or extracts from this classification may be obtained from offices of the ABS in Canberra and in each capital city.

Revisions to previous figures

13. Where revisions have been made to the previously published figures for earlier months of the current financial year, appropriate adjustments are made to the year-to-date figures shown in this publication. For this reason, monthly figures published in previous issues for the current financial year will not necessarily add to the year-to-date figures shown in the latest issue.

Other information available

14. *Special returns service:* Subscribers to this service can receive computer produced printout of overseas trade statistics at the commodity specific level in one or more of a limited number of formats, for a charge consistent with the level of detail required. This service is recommended where up to fifty specific commodity items are required on a regular basis.

15. *Microfiche service:* Overseas trade statistics are also available on microfiche in a variety of tabular formats. Each tabular format covers all commodities exported or imported at various levels of aggregation. This service is recommended where the subscriber wishes to obtain overseas trade details for a large number of commodities.

16. To meet subscribers' needs special returns and microfiche are available on a monthly, quarterly or less frequent basis. Payment in advance is required for both these services and relevant application forms and/or information papers are available from the ABS Overseas Trade Section in Canberra, or from each ABS State office.

IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING

17. This publication also provides in Tables 4 and 5, for selected steel commodities, preliminary estimates of the level of *import orders outstanding and not cleared* through Australian Customs at the end of month. Table 4 shows import orders outstanding expected to be cleared with the subsequent four months and Table 5 shows total import orders outstanding. *Import orders outstanding* are 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.

18. The selected commodities for which statistics are shown in this publication are defined by the relevant Tariff Items' Statistical Keys of the Australian Customs Tariff and are listed below Table 5.

19. These commodities were also included in the monthly Survey of Import Orders which was discontinued from January 1981 and published up to January 1981 in the discontinued publication *Import Orders Outstanding for Selected Commodities, Australia* (5417.0). No import orders statistics for the period February 1981 to May 1981, inclusive.

20. The import orders statistics provided in this publication have been compiled from monthly returns completed by importers of the selected commodities.

21. Unless otherwise stated the import orders statistics shown 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.

22. 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.

Related publications

23. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Imports of Assembled New Passenger Motor Cars, Australia (5416.0)—issued monthly

Imports, Australia (5406.0)—issued monthly

Exports by Commodity Divisions, Australia (Preliminary) (5402.0)—issued monthly

Exports, Australia (5404.0)—issued monthly

Exports and Imports of Merchandise at Constant Prices, Australia (5421.0)—issued quarterly

24. 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.e.s. not elsewhere specified

. . not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero

p preliminary—figure or series subject to revision

r figures or series revised since previous issue

25. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. IMPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN IMPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION (\$'000)

Section and division	July 1981	August 1981	September 1981	Three months ended September	
				1980	1981
0 FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD—					
00 Live animals chiefly for food	1,077	4,418	3,007	5,493	8,502
01 Meat and meat preparations	866	850	703	2,275	2,419
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	3,542	3,320	4,070	11,907	10,932
03 Fish, crustaceans and molluscs and preparations thereof	14,390	16,598	17,905	39,655	48,893
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	1,709	2,729	3,027	6,345	7,464
05 Vegetables and fruit	11,727	13,933	13,178	32,706	38,838
06 Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	1,216	1,109	1,339	2,587	3,664
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	14,584	18,735	14,029	57,453	47,348
08 Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	2,273	2,443	2,496	5,877	7,212
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	2,733	2,099	2,226	5,902	7,058
Total section 0	54,115	66,234	61,980	170,101	182,329
1 BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO—					
11 Beverages	8,536	8,215	7,768	23,039	24,520
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	5,673	4,188	4,776	17,802	14,637
Total section 1	14,209	12,404	12,544	40,841	39,157
2 CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS—					
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	445	210	163	650	818
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	686	279	925	2,284	1,891
23 Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	6,634	6,506	6,960	19,730	20,100
24 Cork and wood	19,929	15,629	19,619	48,334	55,178
25 Pulp and waste paper	8,249	8,445	7,327	30,808	24,021
26 Textile fibres (other than wool tops) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	7,210	8,360	7,268	20,760	22,839
27 Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum, precious stones)	14,433	21,198	32,275	62,742	67,906
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	1,291	6,826	4,049	11,701	12,166
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	3,193	3,181	3,430	10,403	9,804
Total section 2	62,071	70,635	82,016	207,412	214,722
3 MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS—					
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	82	265	122	1,147	470
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	256,736	186,990	198,573	700,799	642,300
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	3	44	26	49	73
Total section 3	256,821	187,300	198,722	701,995	642,842
4 ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES—					
41 Animal oils and fats	15	42	29	191	86
42 Fixed vegetable oils and fats	6,863	3,893	4,656	11,518	15,412
43 Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed, and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	1,396	2,414	2,678	3,685	6,487
Total section 4	8,274	6,348	7,363	15,394	21,985
5 CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.—					
50 Combined confidential items from 513 and 582	409	1,665	347	943	2,421
51 Organic chemicals	41,426	38,649	46,416	108,860	126,491
52 Inorganic chemicals	26,607	17,352	14,292	58,306	58,251
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	7,305	6,722	7,775	19,553	21,802
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	14,298	10,951	11,568	38,548	36,817
55 Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	9,355	8,716	9,325	22,915	27,396
56 Fertilisers, manufactured	4,620	4,997	5,780	10,541	15,397
57 Explosives and pyrotechnic products	591	499	1,722	781	2,812
58 Artificial resins and plastic materials, and cellulose esters and ethers	36,024	34,924	39,668	82,697	110,617
59 Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	15,341	17,011	19,071	52,612	51,424
Total section 5	155,977	141,485	155,965	395,757	427,427

TABLE 1. IMPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN
IMPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION—continued
(5' 000)

Section and division	July 1981	August 1981	September 1981	Three months ended September	
				1980	1981
6 MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL—					
60 Combined confidential items from 661, 694 and 695	350	441	432	1,268	1,223
61 Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins	3,938	3,450	3,703	10,460	11,091
62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	25,432	21,601	23,733	59,453	70,766
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	8,128	9,117	9,091	23,794	26,336
64 Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	41,554	40,261	42,349	121,308	124,164
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products	88,357	91,857	92,282	253,724	272,495
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	36,621	35,523	36,117	91,986	108,260
67 Iron and steel	50,920	40,831	48,124	108,118	139,875
68 Non-ferrous metals	7,700	15,997	14,986	28,686	38,683
69 Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.	43,972	44,326	45,970	120,724	134,268
Total section 6	306,972	303,403	316,788	819,521	927,162
7 MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT—					
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	53,702	47,081	42,349	126,894	143,132
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	118,620	123,549	117,820	310,419	359,989
73 Metalworking machinery	20,962	20,325	17,646	48,864	58,933
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.	95,319	94,932	100,013	229,471	290,265
75 Office machines and automatic data processing equipment	66,481	55,570	67,984	158,102	190,035
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	52,153	55,411	57,512	119,552	165,077
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s. and electrical parts thereof (including non-electrical counter-parts, n.e.s., of electrical household type equipment)	77,567	73,398	81,418	196,582	232,403
78 Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)	157,299	148,386	134,499	395,687	440,184
79 Other transport equipment	149,326	127,294	118,832	58,868	395,451
Total section 7	791,448	745,947	738,073	1,644,438	2,275,468
8 MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES—					
81 Sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	2,842	3,651	3,040	9,730	9,534
82 Furniture and parts thereof	10,251	11,177	12,852	22,605	34,280
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	6,341	7,878	7,923	17,281	22,142
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	31,586	35,905	32,088	79,289	99,579
85 Footwear	13,675	15,721	10,325	32,723	39,721
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	41,009	32,138	33,866	84,823	107,014
88 Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s., watches and clocks	33,746	31,893	35,676	85,145	101,315
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	90,391	87,387	100,220	248,700	277,998
Total section 8	229,841	225,751	235,990	580,296	691,582
9A Commodities and transactions of merchandise trade, not elsewhere classified	23,670	17,500	24,552	61,612	65,722
Total merchandise(a)	1,903,398	1,777,007	1,833,993	4,637,366	5,514,397
9B Non-merchandise(b)	19,031	15,836	12,298	34,407	47,165
Total imports	1,922,428	1,792,843	1,846,290	4,671,773	5,561,562

(a) The sum of Divisions 00 to 9A. (b) A complete description of non-merchandise items is contained in the Australian Imports Commodity Classification (1204 0)

TABLE 2. MOVEMENTS IN MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES(a)—PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN VALUE COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING PERIOD FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Commodity description	Three months ended			
	1980-81	July 1981	August 1981	September 1981
Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	—	-3.8	7.7	7.2
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	9.2	-2.1	-2.1	3.5
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	29.9	7.1	9.3	-8.3
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. (5)	0.6	11.4	13.9	14.6
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	9.1	12.2	9.8	2.4
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	3.0	0.7	6.4	7.4
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	21.5	28.3	17.5	21.5
Machinery (71-77)	27.0	22.3	24.7	21.0
Transport equipment (78-79)	18.2	74.7	95.3	83.8
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	12.9	13.6	17.3	19.2
Total imports	16.9	18.7	22.8	19.0

For footnotes see Table 3

TABLE 3. PERCENTAGE SHARE BY VALUE OF MAJOR COMMODITIES IMPORTED(a)

Commodity description	Three months ended				
	1980-81	July 1981	August 1981	September 1981	
	%	%	%	%	
Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	3.5	3.2	3.2	3.3	
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.9	
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	14.3	14.2	13.8	11.5	
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. (5)	8.4	8.2	8.1	8.2	
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.2	
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	5.2	4.8	4.7	4.9	
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	5.6	5.8	5.4	5.6	
Machinery (71-77)	26.3	26.1	25.5	25.9	
Transport equipment (78-79)	10.7	13.6	15.0	15.0	
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	11.9	11.2	11.6	12.4	
Total imports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	

(a) Imports of the 'major commodities' shown in these tables are significant imports by particular Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the Australian Import Commodity Classification (figures in brackets following commodity descriptions denote the relevant Sections and Divisions).

TABLE 4. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR MONTHS

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Orders outstanding at end of—			
		June 1981	July 1981	August 1981	September 1981
		t	t	t	p
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness	tonnes	26,322	31,332	32,276	41,554
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness	tonnes	34,235	31,521	28,646	24,763
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	2,627	3,321	3,221	2,851

TABLE 5. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding at end of—			
		June 1981	July 1981	August 1981	September 1981
		t	t	t	p
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness	tonnes	36,395	38,975	33,716	45,164
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness	tonnes	37,590	34,871	31,096	27,248
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	3,351	3,742	3,538	3,056

COMMODITY

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

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

7313.200.210/.221
 7313.200.298/.301/.312
 7315.190.729/.73x/.740/.751/.809/.81x/.820/.831/.842/.853/.864/.875/.886/.897