

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, CANBERRAAUSTRALIA

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

EVENING PAPERS: WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH, 1952.
MORNING PAPERS: THURSDAY 20th MARCH, 1952.

AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE: FEBRUARY, 1952.

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

Preliminary totals of the Oversea Trade of Australia for the month of February, 1952 are shown below. This preliminary statement will be followed shortly by the usual Monthly Bulletin.

Total Imports in February, 1952 were valued at approximately £105.0 million as compared with £67.5 million in February, 1951, an increase of £37.5 million or 55.6 per cent.

Total Exports in February, 1952, amounted to approximately £58.3 million as compared with £85.1 million in February, 1951, a decrease of £26.8 million or 31.5 per cent.

Balance of Trade: In February, 1952, the unfavourable balance of trade was approximately £46.7 million compared with a favourable balance of £17.6 million in February, 1951.

For the first eight months of the year 1951-52, an unfavourable balance of approximately £315.4 million was recorded compared with a favourable balance of £107.8 million for the corresponding months of 1950-51.

The following table shows the totals of Oversea Trade (including Bullion and Specie) in the periods under review.

(£A. millions f.o.b.)

Item	February		Eight Months Ended February	
	1951	1952 (a)	1951	1952 (a)
Total Trade - Exports ..	85.1	58.3	572.7	441.2
Imports ..	67.5	105.0	464.9	756.6
Excess of Exports	17.6	-46.7	107.8	-315.4

(a) Preliminary figures subject to revision.
 Minus sign (-) denotes excess of imports.

S. R. CARVER
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

19th March, 1952