

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

CATALOGUE NO. 5417.0

DEPOSIT COPY
CAN NOT
BE BORROWED

NOON 4 DECEMBER 1979

DEPOSIT
CS

382.505
AUS

IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES AUSTRALIA OCTOBER 1979

5 DEC 1979
AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr M. Ferguson on Canberra 525710 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

- Light commercial motor vehicles : an increase in orders outstanding expected to be cleared in the subsequent four months.
- Polyester/cotton blend yarns : a continuing increase in the level of orders outstanding.
- Tufted and axminster carpets : for the first time since February 1979, the level of orders outstanding has decreased.

- 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 October estimate of total import orders outstanding is 3,292,000 sq m with a standard error of 107,000 sq m. This means that there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range 3,185,000 sq m to 3,399,000 sq m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range 3,078,000 sq m to 3,506,000 sq m. Similarly, the October estimate of percentage change

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 October 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.

from base month (May) of +17.0% has a standard error of 2.9%. In other words there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range +14.1% to +19.9% and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range +11.2% to +22.8%.

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. All current 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

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
Battery operated works trucks
Oval shaped leather footballs

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
87.07.110.038/.060/.071/.118/.129/.13X/.140/.151
97.06.100.171, 97.06.900.437

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

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of October estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of October % change
		1979							1979					
		May	June	July	August	September	October		June	July	August	September	October	
Wool carpet yarns (c)	tonne	n.a.	725	756	789	683	753	..	..	+4.3	+8.8	-5.8	+3.9	..
Hand knitting yarns (b)	tonne	240	193	373	404	393	355	3	-19.6	+55.4	+68.3	+63.8	+47.9	1.4
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (c) (d)	tonne	n.a.	12,295	12,346	12,542	2,766	2,719	102	..	+2.2	+10.8	+20.5	+18.5	3.8
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2,714	2,831	3,135	13,320	3,277	3,034	107	+4.3	+15.5	+22.3	+20.7	+11.8	2.8
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	2,300	2,800	12,600	12,950	2,850	2,550	..	+21.7	+13.0	+28.3	+23.9	+10.9	..
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	29,700	39,200	55,500	169,100	62,700	52,200	..	+32.0	+86.9	+132.7	+111.1	+75.8	..
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity (e)	no.	10,300	10,700	9,850	11,400	9,150	(f)	..	+3.9	-4.4	+10.7	-11.2	(f)	..
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	12,200	12,300	11,400	12,800	12,000	(f)	..	+0.8	-6.6	+4.9	-1.6	(f)	..
Television receivers, colour; complete	no.	55,500	55,100	59,100	68,700	78,900	82,500	..	-0.7	+6.5	+23.8	+42.2	+48.6	..
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
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.	70,200	68,850	72,750	82,950	92,500	94,650	..	-1.9	+3.6	+18.2	+31.8	+34.8	..
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	8,550	8,000	7,050	6,600	8,250	9,050	..	-6.4	-17.5	-22.8	-3.5	+5.8	..
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	8,250	8,600	7,700	7,450	9,050	8,600	..	+4.2	-6.7	-9.7	+9.7	+4.2	..
Battery operated works trucks (g)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	380	350	..	..	..	..	..	-7.9	..
Oval shaped leather footballs (g)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	47,000	71,700	..	..	..	..	..	+52.6	..

(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 hand knitting yarns the base month is May, 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) Statistics include goods that will be cleared under by-laws pertaining to the New Zealand - Australia Free Trade Agreement. (f) This commodity has been deleted from the survey. (g) This commodity was first surveyed in September 1979.

TABLE 2. TOTAL IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
MAY TO OCTOBER 1979

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of October estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of October % change
		1979							1979					
		May	June	July	August	September	October		June	July	August	September	October	
Wool carpet yarns (c)	tonne	n.a.	817	809	835	728	844	..	..	-1.0	+2.2	-10.9	+3.3	..
Hand knitting yarns (b)	tonne	240	193	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-19.6	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (c) (d)	tonne	n.a.	12,946	12,972	13,118	13,439	13,743	102	..	+0.9	+5.8	+16.7	+27.1	3.6
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2,814	2,890	3,229	13,409	3,415	3,292	107	+2.7	+14.7	+21.1	+21.4	+17.0	2.9
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,050	3,700	13,450	13,700	3,550	3,400	..	+21.3	+13.1	+21.3	+16.4	+11.5	..
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	53,600	58,200	74,500	172,200	66,600	65,500	..	+8.6	+39.0	+34.7	+24.3	+22.2	..
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity (e)	no.	n.p.	13,600	n.p.	12,800	11,000	(f)	..	..	n.p.	-5.9	-19.1	(f)	..
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	12,200	12,300	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	(f)	..	+0.8	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	(f)	..
Television receivers, colour; complete	no.	73,200	74,200	77,200	83,300	87,400	91,300	..	+1.4	+5.5	+13.8	+19.4	+24.7	..
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	18,800	18,400	16,500	13,500	12,000	11,200	..	-2.1	-12.2	-28.2	-36.2	-40.4	..
viewable screen 48cm	no.	3,300	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,250	1,600	..	-16.7	-16.7	-16.7	-31.8	-51.5	..
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	95,300	95,350	96,450	99,550	101,650	104,100	..	+0.1	+1.2	+4.5	+6.7	+9.2	..
Total	no.	95,300	95,350	96,450	99,550	101,650	104,100	..	+0.1	+1.2	+4.5	+6.7	+9.2	..
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (g)	no.	8,550	8,000	7,050	6,600	n.p.	n.p.	..	-6.4	-17.5	-22.8	n.p.	n.p.	..
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (h)	no.	9,200	9,400	8,300	7,700	n.p.	n.p.	..	+2.2	-9.8	-16.3	n.p.	n.p.	..
Battery operated works trucks (i)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	580	560	..	..	..	..	..	-3.4	..
Oval shaped leather footballs (i)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	76,300	97,600	..	..	..	..	..	+27.9	..

(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 May, for oval shaped leather footballs the base month is September. (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) Statistics include goods that will be cleared under by-laws pertaining to the New Zealand - Australia Free Trade Agreement. (f) This commodity has been deleted from the survey. (g) At the end of October 1979 there were 1,500 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (h) At the end of October 1979 there were 1,850 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (i) This commodity was first surveyed in September 1979.

S/T 1980

TABLE 3. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)
NOVEMBER 1978 TO OCTOBER 1979 (c)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	1978		1979									
		November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	285	222	125	210	144	226	191	175	330	321	236	274
Hand knitting yarns	tonne	90	126	83	112	138	70	194	93	96	39	124	108
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (d)	tonne	579	527	395	371	534	872	673	76	549	719	710	864
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles	'000 sq m	1,015	644	721	701	529	608	756	717	853	980	739	1,296
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	1,050	450	1,050	640	900	740	720	530	1,050	390	560	710
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	11,200	8,550	7,200	2,900	1,300	210	670	3,100	2,100	9,900	9,900	14,900
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity (e)	no.	7,950	5,400	3,800	4,000	2,600	800	3,800	2,800	3,100	2,250	1,100	1,750
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	4,350	4,150	5,900	4,150	4,250	7,100	5,500	3,200	2,850	3,200	4,300	3,650
Television receivers, colour; complete	no.	18,400	14,300	8,250	11,200	10,400	10,100	9,700	15,300	16,400	14,200	13,700	14,300
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	6,850	4,050	3,100	2,550	4,450	2,800	3,750	2,300	5,100	4,300	3,150	1,100
viewable screen 48cm	no.	750	1,200	350	650	250	400	130	1,100	450	230	250	50
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	26,000	19,550	11,700	14,400	15,100	13,300	13,580	18,700	21,950	18,730	17,100	15,450
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>26,000</i>	<i>19,550</i>	<i>11,700</i>	<i>14,400</i>	<i>15,100</i>	<i>13,300</i>	<i>13,580</i>	<i>18,700</i>	<i>21,950</i>	<i>18,730</i>	<i>17,100</i>	<i>15,450</i>
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	3,250	1,650	2,000	2,200	2,150	1,250	2,700	2,300	2,950	2,050	1,500	1,950
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	3,100	1,800	2,350	1,650	2,150	1,650	2,300	1,950	3,400	2,650	1,900	1,800
Battery operated works trucks	no.	140	70	80	40	70	30	40	40	30	50	30	70
Oval shaped leather footballs (f)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,050	9,950	2,450	6,450

(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. (f)
Prior to July 1979, statistics were not separately recorded.

TABLE 4. COMPARISON OF IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING AND SUBSEQUENT CLEARANCES, FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Order-clearance lag (c) (months)	Orders out-standing at 31 March 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders out-standing at 30 April 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders out-standing at 31 May 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders out-standing at 30 June 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances
			Between 1 April and 31 July 1979		Between 1 May and 31 August 1979		Between 1 June and 30 September 1979		Between 1 July and 31 October 1979	
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	2.4	n.a.	p 922	n.a.	p 1,016	n.a.	p 1,062	725	p 1,161
Hand knitting yarns (b)	tonne	3.5	371	453	368	422	246	352	193	367
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b)	tonne	2.5	n.a.	2,870	n.a.	2,717	n.a.	2,754	12,295	2,843
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2.4	2,403	2,934	2,468	3,307	2,714	3,289	2,831	3,868
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	4.5	(d)	3,050	2,500	2,700	2,300	2,500	2,800	2,700
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	3.4	11,500	6,050	11,800	15,700	29,700	25,000	39,200	36,800
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity (e)	no.	3.4	11,500	10,500	11,100	11,900	10,300	9,200	10,700	8,150
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	3.5	17,300	18,700	12,900	14,700	12,200	13,500	12,300	14,000
Television receivers, colour; complete										
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	4.5	56,700	51,400	54,200	55,500	55,500	59,500	55,100	58,500
viewable screen 48cm	no.	4.5	n.p.	13,900	n.p.	15,400	n.p.	14,800	n.p.	13,600
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	3.4	n.p.	2,100	n.p.	1,900	n.p.	2,000	n.p.	970
Total	no.	3.5	79,850	67,400	72,200	72,800	70,200	76,300	68,850	73,070
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2.4	8,400	9,200	8,950	10,000	8,550	8,850	8,000	8,500
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	3.4	7,700	9,300	8,550	10,300	8,250	9,950	8,600	9,750

(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.