

**IMPORT ORDERS
OUTSTANDING FOR
SELECTED COMMODITIES,
AUSTRALIA
CATALOGUE NO. 5417.0**

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INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics —

- ring Mr B. Donaghue, 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.

IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
AUGUST 1977

MAIN FEATURES

Commodities with <u>current orders in excess of recent clearances</u>	Import orders outstanding expected to be cleared during the 4 months ending December 1977	
	Quantity	
curtains	1,890,000	sq. m
air conditioners	60,500	units
<u>Commodities with current orders below level of recent clearances</u>		
vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film, etc.	1,154,000	kgs
acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, etc.	770,000	kgs (*)
tufted and axminster carpets in rolls	2,551,000	sq. m
coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics	845,000	sq. m
knitted net fabrics	706,000	sq. m
cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	35,200	tonnes
galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	26,100	tonnes
stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	2,150	tonnes
colour television receivers	132,000	units
assembled new passenger motor cars including station wagons	29,200	units
assembled new light commercial-type motor vehicles	13,600	units (*)

(*) Includes orders expected to be cleared after December 1977.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This bulletin provides, for selected commodities, preliminary estimates of the level of *import orders outstanding and not cleared* through Australian Customs at 31 August 1977. 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 bulletin 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. 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:

- new orders being placed and expected to be cleared within the particular time period;
- new orders having been placed by new or casual importers;
- 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 bulletin 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 1 standard error, and 19 chances in 20 that the difference would be less than 2 standard errors. The standard error

associated with the estimates of total import orders outstanding for each particular commodity is approximately 2 per cent. This means, for example, that for the August 1977 estimate of total import orders outstanding of 37,700 passenger motor cars there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range of approximately 36,900 cars to 38,500 cars and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range of 36,200 cars to 39,200 cars.

9. 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

10. The selected commodities for which statistics are shown in this bulletin are listed below, together with their definitions in terms of the Tariff Items/Statistical Keys of the Australian Customs Tariff.

ABS publications

11. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications, 1977* (Catalogue No. 1101.0, previously Ref. No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

COMMODITY

Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil

Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls

Coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics

Knitted net fabrics

Curtains

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates

Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates

Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates

Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type

Refrigerators for domestic use, over 200 litres internal capacity

Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled

Washing machines for domestic use; assembled

Precision ground steel ball bearings

Television receivers, colour; complete, screen not exceeding 49cm

Television receivers, colour; complete, screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm

Television receivers, colour; complete, screen exceeding 53 cm

Passenger motor cars including station wagons; new, assembled

Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight (excl. four-wheel drive vehicles); new, assembled

Four-wheel drive motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

39.02.400.017/.028/.039/.4X/.050/.12X/.130/.108/.119,
39.02.520.011/.022/.033/.317/.328/.339/.34X/.237/
.248/.18X/.190/.259/.26X/.215/.226

39.02.800.030/.041/.10X/.110

58.02.400, 58.02.500.023/034/045/056,

58.02.900.400

59.03.190.162/.173, 59.08.100.108/.119, 59.08.200.2D/7M/.8N/5J

60.01.910.107/.118/.151

60.05.900.12X/.130, 62.02.700.013/.024

73.13.100.113/.135/.157/.179

73.13.300.136/.17X/.180/.191/.205 and part of stat. keys .158 and .1

73.15.300

84.12.000.050/061

84.15.211.015/026, 84.15.219.014/.025, 84.15.221.1X,

84.15.229.019

84.40.211.015, 84.40.219.014

84.40.221.020/031/.042/.053, 84.40.229.2X/030/041/052

84.62.200.207/.218/.229

85.15.100.494

85.15.100.519

85.15.100.530

87.02.210.097

87.02.210.053, 87.02.310

87.02.390 part of stat. key .237

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 bulletin 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 1 standard error, and 19 chances in 20 that the difference would be less than 2 standard errors. The standard error

associated with the estimates of total import orders outstanding for each particular commodity is approximately 2 per cent. This means, for example, that for the August 1977 estimate of total import orders outstanding of 37,700 passenger motor cars there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range of approximately 36,900 cars to 38,500 cars and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range of 36,200 cars to 39,200 cars.

9. *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

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COMMODITY

Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil

Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil

Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls

Coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics

Knitted net fabrics

Curtains

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates

Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates

Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates

Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type

Refrigerators for domestic use, over 200 litres internal capacity

Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled

Washing machines for domestic use; assembled

Precision ground steel ball bearings

Television receivers, colour; complete, screen not exceeding 49cm

Television receivers, colour; complete, screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm

Television receivers, colour; complete, screen exceeding 53 cm

Passenger motor cars including station wagons; new, assembled

Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight (excl. four-wheel drive vehicles); new, assembled

Four-wheel drive motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

39.02.400.017/.028/.039/.4X/.050/.12X/.130/.108/.119,
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60.01.910.107/.118/.151

60.05.900.12X/.130, 62.02.700.013/.024

73.13.100.113/.135/.157/.179

73.13.300.136/.17X/.180/.191/.205 and part of stat. keys .158 and .169

73.15.300

84.12.000.050/.061

84.15.211.015/.026, 84.15.219.014/.025, 84.15.221.1X,
84.15.229.019

84.40.211.015, 84.40.219.014

84.40.221.020/.031/.042/.053, 84.40.229.2X/.030/.041/.052

84.62.200.207/.218/.229

85.15.100.494

85.15.100.519

85.15.100.530

87.02.210.097

87.02.210.053, 87.02.310

87.02.390 part of stat. key .237

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED AT 31 AUGUST 1977 (PRELIMINARY)

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding and not cleared at 31 August 1977			Imports cleared in recent periods	
		Expected by importers to be cleared		Total orders outstanding	June 1977	Four months ended June 1977
		Between 1 September and 31 December 1977	Beyond 31 December 1977			
Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	kg	1,154,000	152,000	1,306,000	285,000	1,432,000
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	kg	n.a.	n.a.	770,000	238,000	1,608,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b) (c)	sq.m	2,551,000	212,000	2,763,000	762,000	2,935,000
Coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics (b)	sq.m	845,000	62,000	907,000	363,000	1,107,000
Knitted net fabrics (b)	sq.m	706,000	120,000	826,000	221,000	791,000
Curtains (b)	sq.m	1,890,000	268,000	2,158,000	320,000	1,406,000
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	35,200	n.a.	n.a.	14,300	39,500
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	26,100	n.a.	n.a.	10,800	30,800
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	2,150	350	2,500	350	2,450
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	60,500	4,500	65,000	4,050	6,650
Television receivers, colour; complete	no.	81,000	16,000	97,000	32,500	103,000
screen not exceeding 49 cm	no.	42,000	14,000	56,000	14,200	34,000
screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm	no.	9,000	27,000	36,000	2,300	18,000
screen exceeding 53 cm	no.	132,000	57,000	189,000	49,000	155,000
Total						
Passenger motor cars including station wagons; new, assembled (b)(d)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	25,500	8,600	29,800
from Japan	no.	n.a.	n.a.	12,200	1,700	8,600
from other countries	no.	29,200	8,500	37,700	10,300	38,400
Total						
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (e)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	5,950	n.a.	n.a.
four-wheel drive	no.	n.a.	n.a.	7,650	2,550	8,450
other	no.	n.a.	n.a.	13,600	n.a.	n.a.
Total						

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Includes kitchen carpets. (d) At the end of August 1977 there were 8,800 cars held in Customs bond. (e) At the end of August 1977 there were 2,800 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

n.a. not available.

TABLE 2. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES — OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED AT 31 JULY 1977 (REVISED)

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding and not cleared at 31 July 1977			Imports cleared in recent periods	
		Expected by importers to be cleared		Total orders outstanding	June 1977	Four months ended June 1977
		Between 1 August and 30 November 1977	Beyond 30 November 1977			
Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	kg	n.a.	n.a.	1,183,000	285,000	1,432,000
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	kg	n.a.	n.a.	866,000	238,000	1,608,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b) (c)	sq.m	1,560,000	197,000	1,757,000	548,000	2,254,000
Coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics (b)	sq.m	868,000	48,000	916,000	363,000	1,107,000
Knitted net fabrics (b)	sq.m	809,000	174,000	983,000	221,000	791,000
Curtains (b)	sq.m	2,229,000	341,000	2,570,000	320,000	1,406,000
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	29,600	n.a.	n.a.	10,800	30,800
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	55,100	4,500	59,600	4,050	6,650
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	14,400	6,600	21,000	3,600	14,900
Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled	no.	n.a.	n.a.	39,200	6,300	38,400
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	39,000	11,900	50,900	10,800	53,100
Precision ground steel ball bearings (b)	no.	1,203,000	760,000	1,963,000	554,000	1,454,000
Television receivers, colour; complete						
screen not exceeding 49 cm	no.	70,000	17,000	87,000	32,500	103,000
screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm	no.	48,000	12,000	60,000	14,200	34,000
screen exceeding 53 cm	no.	11,000	27,000	38,000	2,300	18,000
Total	no.	129,000	56,000	185,000	49,000	155,000
Passenger motor cars including: station wagons; new, assembled (b)(d)						
from Japan	no.	n.a.	n.a.	26,800	8,600	29,800
from other countries	no.	n.a.	n.a.	12,200	1,700	8,600
Total	no.	30,400	8,600	39,000	10,300	38,400
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (e)						
four-wheel drive	no.	n.a.	n.a.	5,750	n.a.	n.a.
other	no.	n.a.	n.a.	8,400	2,550	8,450
Total	no.	n.a.	n.a.	14,150	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes paragraph 8. (c) Excludes kitchen carpets. (d) At the end of July 1977 there were 6,700 cars held in Customs bond. (e) At the end of July 1977 there were 2,250 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

n.a. not available.

TABLE 3. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED,
MARCH TO AUGUST 1977

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	1977					
		March	April	May	June	July r	August p
Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	kg	1,128,000	1,159,000	r1,050,000	r1,201,000	1,183,000	1,306,000
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	kg	915,000	1,021,000	855,000	r925,000	866,000	770,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b) (c)	sq.m	1,784,000	1,962,000	1,745,000	1,689,000	1,757,000	2,763,000
Coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics (b)	sq.m	803,000	796,000	737,000	900,000	916,000	907,000
Knitted net fabrics (b)	sq.m.			1,276,000	r1,248,000	983,000	826,000
Curtains (b)	sq.m.			2,838,000	3,076,000	2,570,000	2,158,000
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	(d)	(e)43,500	(d)	r41,200	(d)	(e)35,200
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	41,700	41,100	37,100	(e)35,000	(e)29,600	(e)26,100
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	(d)	r2,550	(d)	r3,100	(d)	2,500
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.			35,400	40,300	59,600	65,000
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	19,900	(d)	20,100	(d)	21,000	(d)
Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled	no.	43,900	(d)	34,800	(d)	39,200	(d)
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	62,500	(d)	50,600	(d)	50,900	(d)
Precision ground steel ball bearings (b)	no.	2,653,000	(d)	2,342,000	(d)	1,963,000	(d)
Television receivers, colour; complete							
screen not exceeding 49 cm	no.	95,000	93,000	101,000	91,000	87,000	97,000
screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm	no.	82,000	76,000	86,000	76,000	60,000	56,000
screen exceeding 53 cm	no.	63,000	55,000	51,000	49,000	38,000	36,000
Total	no.	240,000	224,000	238,000	216,000	185,000	189,000
Passenger motor cars including station wagons; new, assembled (b)							
from Japan	no.	28,300	31,400	33,100	32,100	26,800	25,500
from other countries	no.	15,200	14,400	13,600	12,600	12,200	12,200
Total	no.	43,500	45,800	46,700	44,700	39,000	37,700
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled							
four-wheel drive	no.	6,800	6,900	6,900	6,400	5,750	5,950
other	no.	10,500	9,400	9,800	8,900	8,400	7,650
Total	no.	17,300	16,300	16,700	15,300	14,150	13,600

(a) Tariff item/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Includes kitchen carpets as from August 1977. (d) This commodity is surveyed in alternate months. (e) Includes only orders expected to be cleared in the subsequent four months.

r - revised. p - preliminary.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician