



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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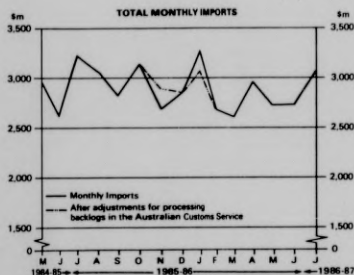
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IMPORTS BY COMMODITY DIVISIONS, AUSTRALIA JULY 1986

- PHONE INQUIRIES** . about these statistics - contact Mr Wayne Shippley on Canberra (062) 52 5403 or any ABS State office.
- . for specific queries about import orders statistics - contact Mr David Martyn on Canberra (062) 52 6241.
- MAIL INQUIRIES** . write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any ABS State office.
- ON VIATEL** . key *6560 for selected economic, social and demographic statistics on VIATEL.

MAIN FEATURES

Imports for July 1986 rose by \$329m to \$3,065m, an increase of 12% compared with June 1986.



The major contributors to this increase were miscellaneous manufactured articles (+\$111m), machinery (+\$93m), petroleum and petroleum products (+\$36m), chemicals (+\$29m) and textiles (+\$27m).

Imports for July 1986 compared with July 1985 fell by \$156m, a decrease of 5%. The major contributors to this decrease were petroleum and petroleum products (-\$135m) and road vehicles (-\$88m).

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 1985-86 and 1986-87 may be amended as a result of continuing quality checks on foreign trade data. Although these amendments usually have little effect on broad aggregate statistics, they may have a significant effect on individual commodity statistics. For this reason, statistics for 1985-86 and 1986-87 should be regarded as preliminary and subject to revision.

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

3. This publication also contains details of import orders for selected steel commodities, see paragraphs 23 to 29 below for details.

STATISTICS OF IMPORTS

Source of data

4. The 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 Australian Customs Service as required by the Customs Act.

Statistical concepts

5. The statistics of imports 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. Although items of non-merchandise trade are recorded, they are excluded from imports and imports cleared for home consumption. The value of non-merchandise trade is shown in Table 1 of publication 5406.0: Imports, Australia - issued monthly (see paragraphs 13 and 14).

7. 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 ships and 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) ships and aircraft engaged in the transport of passengers or goods between Australia and other countries;
- (f) the purchase of any ship 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 ships;
- (h) entries lodged on informal clearances documents (ICD) for values not exceeding \$250. In addition, from 21 October 1985 onwards, ICDs for postal articles valued between \$250 and \$1000 are excluded.

Statistical period

8. Imports are recorded statistically in the calendar month in which the import entries are both finalised by the Australian Customs Service and passed to the ABS for further processing. Import entries may be lodged early using the Customs 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.

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

Valuation

10. The recorded value of imports is the Customs value (formerly referred to as the value for duty). On 30 November 1981, Australia adopted the GATT Agreement on Customs Valuation. The Agreement reflects one of a number of trade related codes of conduct established during the round of Multi-lateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) concluded in 1979.

11. Under the Agreement the primary basis for establishing the customs value is the price actually paid or payable, provided a number of conditions are met. The most important condition is that the buyer and seller must be independent of each other. If the conditions are not met the practical rules are used to determine the customs value.

12. The recording of the value of imports remains 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 Australia are excluded). The recorded value also continues to include the value of the outside package, other than international containers used for containerised cargo.

Imports and non-merchandise trade

13. From July 1985, non-merchandise trade is excluded from import (and export) statistics. This is in accord with UN recommendations and practices adopted by Australia's major trading partners. Statistics prior to July 1985 included in this publication have been adjusted to be comparable with data from July 1985 onwards and, consequently, will not be directly comparable with previous publications.

14. Non-merchandise imports consist primarily of re-exports of goods which were originally exported on a temporary basis or for repair, alteration or renov-

ation, and imports of goods on a temporary basis (including goods for repair, alteration or renovation in Australia) and subsequent re-exportation. A complete list of commodities comprising non-merchandise trade is shown under section 9(b) of the AICC. The value of non-merchandise trade is shown in Table 1 of publication 5406.0: Imports Australia-issued monthly.

Commodity classification

15. 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 (United Nations, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 34, Revision 2, 1975). 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.

Treatment of confidential data

16. To ensure that information about the activities of particular businesses is not disclosed it is necessary to restrict the release of statistics of certain commodities. These restrictions do not affect total import figures but they affect statistics at all levels of the Australian Import Commodity Classification.

17. Reference to table footnotes should assist in the interpretation of these differences.

Revision to previous figures

18. 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 figure shown in the latest issue.

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

19. Special returns service: Subscribers can receive computer produced printout of foreign trade statistics at a particular commodity 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.

20. Microfiche service: Foreign trade statistics are also available on microfiche in a variety of tabular formats. Each tabular format covers all

commodities imported or exported, at various levels of aggregation. This service is recommended where the subscriber wishes to obtain foreign trade details for a large number of commodities.

21. Magnetic tape service: Statistics for imports, exports and import clearances are available on 9-track magnetic tape approximately 4 weeks after the end of the reference period. This service is recommended where the subscriber wishes to obtain trade data at the most detailed level. Documentation regarding the content and structure of these tapes is available from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra.

22. To meet subscribers' needs special returns, microfiche and magnetic tape are available on a monthly, quarterly or less frequent basis. Relevant application forms and information papers for these services are available from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra or any ABS State office. Payment in advance is required for each of these services.

IMPORT ORDERS

23. This publication also provides monthly statistics of import orders for selected steel commodities. Tables 4, 5 and 6 respectively show import orders outstanding, clearances, and net orders placed.

24. The import orders statistics provided in this publication have been compiled from monthly returns completed by importers of the selected commodities. The statistics defined by the relevant Tariff Items/Statistical Codes of the Australian Customs Tariff are listed below Table 6.

25. Table 4 shows "Import orders outstanding, expected to be cleared by the Australian Customs Service within the subsequent four months". The statistics shown are aggregates of firm orders placed overseas as at the end of the month after allowance for (i) cancellations and (ii) clearances during the month. Imports landed but not cleared (i.e. held in a Customs warehouse) are treated as import orders outstanding.

26. Clearance statistics shown in Table 5 are compiled from import entries submitted to the Australian Customs Service - see paragraph 4 for details.

27. Statistics of "net new import orders placed" are given in Table 6. These statistics are aggregates of new orders placed during the month, less any outstanding orders cancelled during the month.

28. Import orders statistics exclude all goods imported at concessional rates of duty under Customs by-law provisions, and imports by the Commonwealth.

29. When comparing import orders outstanding with actual import clearances over time, differences may occur 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

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

Balance of Payments, Australia (5301.0)
-issued monthly

Exports by Commodity Divisions, Australia (5402.0) -issued monthly

Exports, Australia (5404.0) -issued monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 incl. postage)

Imports, Australia (5406.0) -issued monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 incl. postage)

Exports and Imports (Balance of Payments Basis) at Constant Prices, Australia (5332.0) -issued quarterly

31. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications, Australia (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a Publications Advice (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

New ABS service: AUSSTATS

32. A wide range of economic, social and demographic statistics is now available on AUSSTATS, ABS' new on-line service through CSIRONET.

33. For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 526017.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.e.s. not elsewhere specified
- P preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- n.p. not available for publication

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

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

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

Section and Division	April 1986	May 1986	June 1986	July	
				1985	1986
0 FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS					
00 Live animals	6,395	9,073	5,600	2,109	4,333
01 Meat and meat preparations	946	1,160	2,131	1,047	2,303
02 Dairy products and birds eggs	7,684	7,487	5,980	6,993	8,197
03 Fish, crustaceans and molluscs, and preparations thereof	31,099	23,039	25,361	25,966	23,310
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	8,475	5,360	5,324	6,208	6,906
05 Vegetables and fruit	19,632	20,680	23,265	20,055	21,877
06 Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	2,265	1,960	1,500	2,106	2,284
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	49,129	47,125	41,858	34,442	33,630
08 Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	3,903	2,163	2,114	2,973	2,962
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	6,873	5,410	20,282	6,902	12,598
Total Section 0	134,402	123,558	133,414	109,401	118,400
1 BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO					
11 Beverages	17,861	15,915	13,429	17,846	17,308
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	9,614	7,623	8,020	3,488	7,733
Total Section 1	27,475	23,538	21,449	21,334	25,041
2 CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS					
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	518	244	645	345	244
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	874	607	657	603	877
23 Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	8,679	6,886	6,157	7,406	8,562
24 Cork and wood	27,892	23,305	22,648	32,063	30,980
25 Pulp and waste paper	11,197	13,080	6,800	5,169	9,751
26 Textile fibres (other than wool tops) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	13,807	11,292	10,454	11,733	12,886
27 Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	30,750	13,475	28,651	21,151	17,410
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	806	1,791	4,172	1,696	2,504
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	6,894	8,824	6,579	6,664	6,596
Total Section 2	101,418	79,806	86,763	86,830	89,809
3 MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	195	138	143	184	238
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	109,044	135,347	66,108	236,982	102,127
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	24	28	39	42	1,011
Total Section 3	109,263	135,513	66,290	237,208	103,376
4 ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES					
41 Animal oils and fats	150	55	143	67	626
42 Fixed vegetable oils and fats	5,738	2,745	1,561	5,206	3,409
43 Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed, and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	3,162	3,050	3,925	6,327	2,425
Total Section 4	9,050	5,850	5,629	11,600	6,459
5 CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.					
51 Organic chemicals(a)	67,772	62,124	55,982	72,125	62,955
52 Inorganic chemicals(a)	20,795	20,412	19,186	20,777	25,862
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	13,491	12,712	11,497	13,565	15,820
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	36,909	35,737	32,418	40,351	38,819
55 Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	18,374	18,585	17,799	18,521	21,299
56 Fertilisers, manufactured	26,082	15,728	13,057	7,185	10,958
57 Explosives and pyrotechnic products	2,424	543	432	1,046	859
58 Artificial resins and plastic materials, and cellulose esters and ethers(a)	56,549	58,689	56,907	55,316	62,243
59 Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	43,725	28,269	37,426	31,651	34,414
Total Section 5(a)	286,322	252,800	244,703	260,536	273,248

For footnotes see end of table.

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

Section and Division	April 1986	May 1986	June 1986	July	
				1985	1986
6 MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL					
61 Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins	10,826	10,841	11,634	12,829	13,984
62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	37,552	35,312	35,958	42,180	39,483
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	13,930	11,933	12,116	16,792	16,299
64 Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	75,742	68,252	65,235	72,394	79,331
65 Textile yarn, fabric, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products	150,852	141,992	136,925	156,849	164,148
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.(a)	60,423	52,599	53,330	56,201	66,852
67 Iron and steel	50,295	42,168	53,988	56,539	50,207
68 Non-ferrous metals	14,293	14,503	13,014	11,562	16,081
69 Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.(a)	83,313	86,945	75,645	81,469	83,926
Total Section 6(a)	497,226	464,546	457,844	506,825	530,110
7 MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT					
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	97,453	84,165	98,729	76,018	97,462
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries(a)	167,874	131,633	139,476	188,788	182,723
73 Metalworking machinery	25,138	36,379	30,787	34,573	38,005
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.(a)	161,228	152,754	143,281	149,626	168,398
75 Office machines and automatic data processing equipment	174,636	156,140	219,855	223,684	188,312
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	133,279	112,954	109,238	133,799	132,451
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s. and electrical parts thereof(a)	169,454	155,085	147,908	165,672	175,335
78 Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)	322,519	272,245	262,540	371,964	283,895
79 Other transport equipment	26,177	48,647	91,511	64,956	59,315
Total Section 7(a)	1,277,759	1,150,002	1,243,325	1,409,079	1,325,896
8 MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES					
81 Sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	7,995	6,278	6,172	6,687	6,420
82 Furniture and parts thereof	20,740	19,864	15,397	20,628	21,563
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	11,434	9,255	11,975	14,324	16,433
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	37,913	31,083	39,068	57,222	58,683
85 Footwear	12,021	12,276	13,337	28,381	31,493
86 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	79,845	68,644	67,717	74,185	79,214
87 Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks(a)	52,423	49,470	47,663	55,468	58,613
88 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.(a)	155,753	165,790	152,418	187,411	192,803
Total Section 8(a)	378,124	362,670	353,748	444,227	465,222
9A Commodities and transactions of merchandise trade, not elsewhere classified(b)	142,228	118,564	122,989	133,801	127,315
Total Trade	2,963,267	2,716,847	2,736,154	3,220,841	3,064,876

(a) Excludes commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. These are included in Division 9A. See Appendix A for details.

(b) Includes commodities subject to a confidentiality restriction. See Appendix A for details.

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

Commodity description	1985-86 %	Three months ended		
		May 1986 %	June 1986 %	July 1986 %
Food and live animals (0)	13.8	8.3	19.9	12.5
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	9.7	4.3	8.1	-2.3
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	-16.0	-35.5	-48.3	-55.1
Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	18.7	5.6	8.4	0.3
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	0.5	-6.8	-0.8	-3.1
Textile yarns, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	16.3	6.0	13.2	3.6
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	17.2	2.9	11.9	4.4
Machinery (71-77)	30.5	5.8	12.1	3.5
Transport equipment (78,79)	19.1	-5.4	-2.0	-12.9
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	20.8	1.6	10.5	4.0
Total all imports	19.3	0.9	5.4	-3.2

(a) Imports of 'major commodities' 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 3. SHARE BY VALUE OF MAJOR COMMODITIES IN TOTAL IMPORTS (a)

Commodity description	1985-86 %	Three months ended		
		May 1986 %	June 1986 %	July 1986 %
Food and live animals (0)	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.4
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.0
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	5.5	4.5	3.7	3.6
Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	8.7	9.4	9.3	9.0
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5
Textile yarns, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.2
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.1
Machinery (71-77)	31.1	30.7	31.5	31.7
Transport equipment (78,79)	12.6	12.0	12.2	12.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	13.5	13.0	13.0	13.9
Total all imports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Imports of 'major commodities' 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
EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR MONTHS (a)

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Orders outstanding at the end of -					
		Feb. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1986	May 1986	Jun. 1986	Jul. 1986 P
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	26,267	20,891	27,919	28,276	27,114	30,357
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	28,181	18,976	22,219	27,940	25,148	31,774

(a) See footnote to Table 6.

TABLE 5. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES (a)

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Total clearances during -					
		Feb. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1986	May 1986	Jun. 1986	Jul. 1986 P
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	6,174	9,840	4,504	6,507	8,387	4,763
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	8,398	13,039	8,295	4,285	5,940	3,662

(a) See footnote to Table 6.

TABLE 6. IMPORT ORDERS PLACED (LESS CANCELLATIONS)
FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES (a)

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Net orders placed during -					
		Feb. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1986	May 1986	Jun. 1986	Jul. 1986 P
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	8,687	5,057	11,516	7,126	7,864	6,392
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	6,046	5,813	10,851	10,531	5,801	7,336

(a) From April 1986, collection of information relating to the commodity 'stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates' ceased.

COMMODITY

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates,
3.2mm and less in thickness

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL CODE(S)

73.13.200/.210,.221

Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates,
4.75mm and less in thickness

73.13.200/.298,.301,.312

Appendix A : Confidential Commodity Listing

Restrictions are placed on the release of statistics for certain commodities for reasons of confidentiality. Commodities covered by the item codes listed below are subject to the 'No Commodity Details' restriction and are, therefore, COMPLETELY EXCLUDED from the relevant Sections and Divisions and INCLUDED in Division 9A in Table 1.

Import Commodity Classification			Restriction	
Section	Division	Item	Started	Finished
5	51	511.13.01	01.10.83	-
		511.39.01	01.06.86	-
		511.39.07	01.04.86	-
		511.40.01	01.08.84	-
		512.17.02	01.06.86	-
		512.17.15	01.06.86	-
		513.79.13	01.07.69	31.07.85
		513.90.01	01.04.86	-
		513.90.13	01.10.84	30.11.85
		513.90.15	01.08.82	-
		513.90.39	01.10.84	-
	52	522.13.00	01.03.84	-
	58	582.70.04	01.09.80	-
6	66	661.20.01	01.06.86	-
	69	691.10.05	01.05.83	-
		694.01.02	01.07.80	-
		695.39.60	01.03.82	-
7	72	723.30.01	01.09.81	-
	74	749.10.70	01.08.82	-
		749.10.76	01.08.82	-
	77	775.86.01	01.06.81	-
8	88	881.11.45	01.07.80	-
	89	899.31.09	01.12.85	-