

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

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr A. Smart on Canberra 525710 or write to Information Services, Australian Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES FEBRUARY 1977

MAIN FEATURES

Import orders outstanding expected
to be cleared during the 4 months
ending June 1977

Quantity

Commodities with current orders in excess of recent clearances

- acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film etc.
- galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates
- stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets, plates
- colour television receivers
- assembled new passenger motor cars including station wagons
- assembled new light commercial-type motor vehicles

1,283,000	kgs
29,900	tonnes (*)
2,250	tonnes (*)
217,000	units
37,600	units
17,900	units

Commodities with current orders below level of recent clearances

- vegetable oils
- vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film etc.
- tufted and axminster carpets in rolls
- coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics
- cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates

11,800	tonnes (*)
1,021,000	kgs
1,557,000	sq. m
651,000	sq. m
30,700	tonnes (*)

(*) Includes orders expected to be cleared after June 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 28 February 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 February 1977 estimate of total import orders outstanding of 44,200 passenger motor cars there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range of approximately 43,300 cars to 45,100 cars and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range of 42,400 cars to 46,000 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 Tariff Item/Statistical Key numbers of the Australian Customs Tariff.

ABS publications

11. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

COMMODITY	TARIFF ITEM/STATISTICAL KEY(S)
Vegetable oils	15.07.100.055, 15.07.200, 15.07.900.015/026/048/059, 15.08.100, 15.08.200, 15.08.300, 15.08.400, 15.08.900.033
Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film and roll film	39.02.400.017/028/039/04X/050/12X/130/108/119, 39.02.520.01U/022/033/317/328/339/34X/237/248/18X/190/259/26X/215/22
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film and roll film	39.02.800.030/041/10X/110
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls	58.02.510, 58.02.590, 58.02.610, 58.02.690
Coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics	59.03.190.162/173, 59.08.100.108/119, 59.08.200.2D/7M/8N/5I/4K
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	73.13.100.113/135/157/179
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	73.13.300.136/17X/180/191/205 and part of stat. keys 158 and 169
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets, plates	73.15.300
Aluminium foil	76.04.000
Refrigerators attracting duty at rates in excess of present quotas; for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	84.15.219.014/025, 84.15.229.019
Washing machines attracting duty at rates in excess of present quotas; assembled, for domestic use	84.40.229.02X/030/041/052
Precision ground steel ball bearings	84.62.200.207/218/229
Television receivers, colour; complete, screen not exceeding 49cm	85.15.100.494
Television receivers, colour; complete, screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm	85.15.100.519
Television receivers, colour; complete, screen exceeding 53 cm	85.15.100.530
Assembled, new passenger motor cars, including station wagons	87.02.210.097
Assembled, new commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight (excl. four-wheel drive vehicles)	87.02.210.053, 87.02.310.015/026
Assembled, new four-wheel drive motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight	87.02.390 part of stat. key 237

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED AT 28 FEBRUARY 1977 (PRELIMINARY)

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding and not cleared at 28 February 1977			Imports cleared in recent periods	
		Expected by importers to be cleared		Total orders outstanding	December 1976	Four months ended December 1976
		Between 1 March and 30 June 1977	Beyond 30 June 1977			
Vegetable oils (b)	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	(c)11,800	2,200	16,900
Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film and roll film (b)(d)	kg	1,021,000	113,000	1,134,000	398,000	1,614,000
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film and roll film (b)	kg	1,283,000	..	1,283,000	114,000	682,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b)	sq.m	1,557,000	201,000	1,758,000	751,000	2,688,000
Coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics (b)	sq.m	651,000	85,000	736,000	332,000	1,335,000
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	30,700	1,650	50,800
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	29,900	3,100	22,900
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets, plates	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	2,250	550	1,800
Television receivers, colour; complete						
screen not exceeding 49 cm	no.	104,000	28,000	132,000	35,000	137,000
screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm	no.	67,000	14,000	81,000	5,000	35,000
screen exceeding 53 cm	no.	46,000	27,000	73,000	7,000	38,000
Total	na.	217,000	69,000	286,000	47,000	210,000
Assembled, new passenger motor cars, including station wagons (b) (e)						
from Japan	no.	27,400	..	27,400	12,100	31,300
from other countries	no.	10,200	6,600	16,800	2,000	4,400
Total	na.	37,600	6,600	44,200	14,100	35,700
Assembled, new commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight						
four-wheel drive	no.	n.a.	n.a.	7,400	n.a.	n.a.
other	no.	n.a.	n.a.	11,000	2,600	9,900
Total	na.	17,900	500	18,400	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 5,800 tonnes expected to be cleared under Customs short fall by-law provisions. (d) Tariff items/statistical keys for this commodity have been changed in February 1977 by the inclusion of 39.02.520.317/.328/.339/.34 X and the exclusion of 39.02.400.083/.094. (e) At the end of February 1977 there were 3,200 cars held in Customs bond.

.. nil n.a. not available.

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

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding and not cleared at 31 January 1977			Imports cleared in recent periods	
		Expected by importers to be cleared			December 1976	Four months ended December 1976
		Between 1 February and 31 May 1977	Beyond 31 May 1977	Total orders outstanding		
Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film and roll film (b)(c)	kg	1,068,000	103,000	1,171,000	336,000	1,431,000
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film and roll film (b)	kg	1,151,000	..	1,151,000	114,000	682,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b)	sq.m	1,462,000	199,000	1,661,000	751,000	2,688,000
Coated textile and bonded fibre fabrics (b)	sq.m	806,000	49,000	855,000	332,000	1,335,000
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	23,900	3,100	22,900
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets, plates	tonne	2,250	450	2,700	550	1,800
Aluminium foil (b)	kg	n.a.	n.a.	349,000	150,000	442,000
Refrigerators attracting duty at rates in excess of present quotas; for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	14,000	2,100	16,100	6,100	22,000
Washing machines attracting duty at rates in excess of present quotas; assembled, for domestic use	no.	45,900	9,200	55,100	10,500	39,800
Precision ground steel ball bearings (b)	no.	1,235,000	1,212,000	2,447,000	258,000	1,185,000
Television receivers, colour: complete						
screen not exceeding 49 cm	no.	122,000	31,000	153,000	35,000	137,000
screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	85,000	5,000	35,000
screen exceeding 53 cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	76,000	7,000	38,000
Total	no.	244,000	70,000	314,000	47,000	210,000
Assembled, new passenger motor cars including station wagons (b) (d)						
from Japan	no.	22,600	..	22,600	12,100	31,300
from other countries	no.	9,300	6,400	15,700	2,000	4,400
Total	no.	31,900	6,400	38,300	14,100	35,700
Assembled, new commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight						
four-wheel drive	no.	n.a.	n.a.	6,300	n.a.	n.a.
other	no.	n.a.	n.a.	10,100	2,600	9,900
Total	no.	15,800	600	16,400	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Tariff items/statistical keys for this commodity have been changed in February 1977 by the inclusion of 39.02.520.317/328/339/34X and the exclusion of 39.02.400.083/094. (d) At the end of January 1977 there were 2,000 cars held in Customs bond.

.. nil. n.a. not available.

TABLE 3. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED,
SEPTEMBER 1976 TO FEBRUARY 1977

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	1976				1977	
		September	October	November	December	January r	February p
Vegetable oils (b)	tonne	(c)	15,700	(c)	r13,200	(c)	(d)11,800
Vinyl type sheets, plates, strip, film and roll film (b)(e)	kg	1,086,000	1,248,000	1,285,000	1,265,000	1,171,000	1,134,000
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film and roll film (b)	kg	366,000	404,000	734,000	1,331,000	1,151,000	1,283,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b)	sq. m	1,598,000	1,704,000	r1,791,000	r1,672,000	1,661,000	1,758,000
Coated textile and bond-d fibre fabrics (b)	sq. m	r1,076,000	r958,000	r60,000	r925,000	855,000	736,000
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne						30,700
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne			16,100	18,600	23,900	29,900
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets, plates	tonne	2,600	2,950	3,350	3,100	2,700	2,250
Aluminium foil (b)	kg	650,000	588,000	540,000	432,000	349,000	(c)
Refrigerators attracting duty at rates in excess of present quotas; for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	23,300	(c)	25,200	(c)	16,100	(c)
Washing machines attracting duty at rates in excess of present quotas; assembled, for domestic use	no.	52,100	(c)	53,500	(c)	55,100	(c)
Precision ground steel ball bearings (b)	no.	3,186,000	2,873,000	2,771,000	2,579,000	2,447,000	(c)
Television receivers, colour; complete	no.	134,000	140,000	129,000	118,000	153,000	132,000
screen not exceeding 49 cm	no.	76,000	89,000	84,000	80,000	85,000	81,000
screen exceeding 49 cm but not exceeding 53 cm	no.	89,000	106,000	97,000	90,000	76,000	73,000
screen exceeding 53 cm	no.	299,000	335,000	310,000	288,000	314,000	286,000
Total	no.	299,000	335,000	310,000	288,000	314,000	286,000
Assembled, new passenger motor cars including station wagons (b)							
from Japan	no.	33,400	26,500	25,700	23,500	22,600	27,400
from other countries	no.	9,200	10,200	11,600	14,400	15,700	16,800
Total	no.	42,600	36,700	37,300	37,900	38,300	44,200
Assembled, new commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight							
four-wheel drive	no.		r6,700	r6,700	r6,700	6,300	7,400
other	no.		11,100	10,700	10,200	10,100	11,000
Total	no.		r17,800	r17,400	r16,900	16,400	18,400

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) This commodity is surveyed in alternate months. (d) Excludes 5,800 tonnes expected to be cleared under Customs short fall by-law provisions. (e) Tariff items/statistical keys for this commodity have been changed in February 1977 by the inclusion of 39.02.520.317/328/339/34X and the exclusion of 39.02.400.083/094.

p - preliminary. r - revised.

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