



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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EXPORTS BY COMMODITY DIVISIONS, AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 1984

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MAIN FEATURES

Exports for December 1984 fell by \$469m to \$2,071m, a decrease of 18% compared with November 1984.

The major contributors to this decrease were coal (-\$157m), metalliferous ores (-\$129m), cereals (-\$88m), sugar (-\$25m) and metal manufactures (-\$22m).

Exports for the six months ended December 1984 rose by \$2,296m to \$14,227m, an increase of 19% compared with exports for the six months ended December 1983. The major contributors to this increase were cereals (+\$1,049m), coal (+\$577m), petroleum (+\$269m) and textile fibres (+\$79m). A decrease was recorded in meat and meat preparations (-\$124m).

2. More detailed figures will be published in the monthly publications Exports of Major Commodities and their Principal Markets, Australia (5403.0) and Exports, Australia (5404.0).

Source of data

3. These statistics are compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from information contained in export entries and returns submitted by exporters or their agents to the Australian Customs Service as required by the Customs Act.

Statistical concepts

4. The statistics of exports presented in this publication are recorded on a general trade basis, i.e. export figures include both Australian produce and re-exports.

5. Australian produce is defined as goods, materials or articles which have been produced, manufactured or partly manufactured in Australia, except goods which were originally imported and have undergone only repair or minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged.

6. Re-exports are defined as goods, materials or articles originally imported which are exported in the same condition in which they were imported and goods, materials or articles originally imported which are exported after undergoing only repair or minor operation which leave them essentially unchanged. Minor operations include blending, packaging, bottling, cleaning, sorting, husking, and shelling.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains monthly and year-to-date statistics of Australia's exports by Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the Australian Export Commodity Classification (AECG) (1203.0). Statistics for 1983-84 and 1984-85 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 1983-84 and 1984-85 should be regarded as preliminary and subject to revision.

7. The following are excluded from recorded export statistics:

- (a) direct transit trade, i.e. goods being trans-shipped or moved through Australia for purposes of transport only;
- (b) migrants' and passengers' effects exported and parcels post exports of small value, for which Customs entries are not required;
- (c) certain materials under inter-governmental agreements for defence and similar projects for which Customs entries are not required;
- (d) vessels and aircraft engaged in the transport of passengers or goods between Australia and other countries;
- (e) the sale of any vessel and/or aircraft originally purchased for use on overseas routes;
- (f) fish and other sea products landed abroad directly from the high seas by Australian vessels;
- (g) export consignments where the value of the goods in each transaction is less than \$250.

8. Ships' and aircraft stores. Prior to July 1982 bunkers and stores supplied to foreign owned vessels and aircraft prior to departure overseas were excluded from export statistics but were published separately as ships' and aircraft stores statistics. The United Nations Statistical Commission has recommended (International Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, United Nations Statistical Papers, Series M, No 52, Revision 1, 1982) that such bunkers and stores be included in total export statistics. Accordingly, commencing with July 1982 statistics, these commodities have been classified according to the appropriate AECC items. As a result, from July 1982 total export statistics and commodity statistics which include stores for foreign ships and aircraft are not strictly comparable with data for earlier periods.

Statistical period

9. Exports are recorded statistically in the month when the entries are lodged with the Australian Customs

Service. Regular exporters or their agents may provide details of their export shipments on a periodic rather than an individual shipment basis by submitting weekly or monthly returns. These "periodic returns" must be submitted to the Australian Customs Service within seven days of the end of the period in question covering all shipments during that period. All other exporters are required to report each individual shipment prior to the ship's departure. Approximately 90 per cent of monthly export values are recorded on periodic returns. The statistical month for Customs outports (generally ports other than those at which the main Customs office in each state is located) closes on the 21st of each month, whereas for mainports the statistical month is the calendar month.

10. Because of these factors, export statistics for a particular month do not necessarily represent entries lodged or commodities actually exported during that month. Analysis of past data has shown that in aggregate approximately 30 per cent of export trade by value for a particular month reflects actual shipments during that month, 60 per cent by value was actually exported during the previous month with the remaining 10 per cent by value exported in earlier months. For individual commodities the percentage by value representing actual exports in a month may vary considerably.

Valuation

11. Goods actually sold to overseas buyers prior to shipment are valued at the free-on-board (f.o.b.) Australian port of shipment equivalent of the actual price at which the goods were sold. Goods shipped on consignment are valued at the f.o.b. Australian port of shipment equivalent of the current price offering for similar goods of Australian origin in the principal markets of the country to which the goods are dispatched for sale.

12. The recorded value of exports includes the value of the outside package, other than international containers used for containerised cargo.

Merchandise exports

13. In accordance with standards recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission, merchandise exports are defined as all goods which subtract from the stock of material resources in Australia as a result of their movement out of the country.

Merchandise exports, therefore, exclude goods exported with the reasonable expectation of their re-import within a limited time. A complete list of commodities not included in merchandise trade is shown under Section 9(b) of the AECC. These include, for example, coin being legal tender and goods for temporary exhibition outside Australia. Goods excluded from merchandise trade are, for convenience, termed non-merchandise and non-merchandise trade is shown separately in Table 3. Total trade is the sum of merchandise and non-merchandise trade.

14. Classification changes affecting the levels of merchandise and non-merchandise trade were introduced on 1 July 1983, in accordance with recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission (International Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, United Nations Statistical Papers, Series M, No 52, Revision 1, 1982). As a result, statistics of exports, from July 1983, under Sections 9(a) and 9(b) of the AECC are not comparable with previous years. The changes do not affect Sections 0 to 8 of the classification, nor total trade. Further information about the changes was given in the 1983-84 edition of the AECC, or may be obtained from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra.

Commodity classification

15. Exports are classified according to the items of the AECC 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 AECC. 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 export figures but they can affect statistics at all levels of the Australian Export Commodity Classification.

17. The implementation of a new foreign trade processing system has resulted in a revised treatment of confidential data. Consequently certain statistics in publications first

containing March 1982 data are not directly comparable with statistics in previous publications.

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

Revision to previous figures

19. 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 figures shown in the latest issue.

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

20. Special returns service: Subscribers to this service 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.

21. Microfiche service: Foreign trade statistics are also available on microfiche in a variety of tabular formats. Each tabular format covers all commodities exported or imported, at various levels of aggregation. This service is recommended where the subscriber wishes to obtain foreign trade details for a large number of commodities.

22. Magnetic tape: Statistics for imports, exports and import clearances are available on 9-track magnetic tape approximately 4 weeks after the end of the reference period. Documentation regarding the content and structure of these tapes is available from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra.

23. To meet subscribers' needs special returns and microfiche 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.

Related publications

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

Balance of Payments, Australia (5301.0)
-issued monthly

Exports of Major Commodities and Their
Principal Markets Australia (5403.0)
-issued monthly

Exports, Australia (5404.0) -issued
monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 incl. postage)

Imports by Commodity Divisions, Australia
(5405.0) -issued monthly

Imports, Australia (5406.0) -issued
monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 incl. postage)

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

Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)
-issued monthly

25. 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.

Symbols and other usages

n.e.s. not elsewhere specified

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

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. EXPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN EXPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION
\$'000

Section and Division	October 1984	November 1984	December 1984	Six months ended December	
				1983	1984
0 FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD					
00 Live animals	12,923	21,331	14,080	114,545	106,111
01 Meat and meat preparations	110,724	100,133	83,072	803,052	678,571
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	31,839	35,954	28,641	184,787	180,985
03 Fish, crustaceans and molluscs, and preparations thereof	22,958	27,656	22,356	187,737	163,610
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	262,232	331,285	243,063	812,252	1,861,704
05 Vegetables and fruit	18,749	13,686	12,264	116,138	114,421
06 Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	66,069	37,760	12,431	392,220	376,254
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	3,609	3,113	3,313	21,952	19,858
08 Feeding stuff for animals (not including unskilled cereals)	5,605	9,929	11,892	38,605	45,849
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	2,856	2,496	2,549	11,540	13,705
Total Section 0	537,584	583,342	437,661	2,682,828	3,561,068
1 BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO					
11 Beverages	4,825	5,686	5,039	31,392	30,408
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	850	1,770	1,114	8,222	7,906
Total Section 1	5,676	7,456	6,143	39,614	38,513
2 CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS					
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	31,706	22,239	23,725	133,894	162,624
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	561	1,172	479	3,804	19,264
23 Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	136	188	308	2,419	1,111
24 Cork and wood	22,829	24,560	26,047	111,100	133,346
25 Pulp and waste paper	1,004	567	677	1,769	5,103
26 Textile fibres (other than wool tops) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	146,756	210,470	201,230	939,013	1,017,817
27 Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	12,886	9,852	15,402	70,301	69,334
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap(a)	401,915	398,778	269,459	2,170,299	2,179,532
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	6,000	4,555	5,444	29,165	31,284
Total Section 2(a)	623,792	672,382	542,771	3,461,763	3,619,394
3 MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	313,663	457,523	300,738	1,640,885	2,218,120
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	121,836	132,713	133,463	610,060	878,998
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	40,423	31,546	25,935	238,632	182,296
Total Section 3	475,922	621,782	460,136	2,489,576	3,279,413
4 ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES					
41 Animal oils and fats	5,366	8,293	6,908	34,223	46,710
42 Fixed vegetable oils and fats	538	1,252	559	2,091	7,221
43 Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed, and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	1,307	393	571	3,364	4,569
Total Section 4	7,211	9,939	8,039	39,678	58,500
5 CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.					
51 Organic chemicals	3,746	1,986	2,520	27,721	19,826
52 Inorganic chemicals(b)	3,067	2,299	3,885	24,688	19,672
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials(c)	2,000	1,492	1,723	10,663	11,052
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	11,872	9,955	10,345	65,490	64,726
55 Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	3,523	2,815	3,082	18,882	20,912
56 Fertilisers, manufactured	1,854	120	95	3,366	3,048
57 Explosives and pyrotechnic products	1,285	256	1,712	4,592	5,498
58 Artificial resins and plastic materials, and cellulose esters and ethers	12,609	8,956	10,220	62,536	66,220
59 Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	10,033	7,611	10,507	45,633	51,443
Total Section 5(d)	49,989	35,492	44,289	263,572	262,397

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 1. EXPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN EXPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION - Continued
\$'000

Section and Division	October 1984	November 1984	December 1984	Six months ended December	
				1983	1984
6 MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL					
61 Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins	9,173	2,743	5,999	22,396	32,387
62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	1,147	1,303	1,358	6,631	7,143
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	490	467	398	4,269	2,974
64 Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	7,600	6,318	5,245	27,665	38,131
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products	12,863	15,159	13,106	75,301	84,011
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	10,361	13,367	10,461	84,355	97,991
67 Iron and steel	37,092	47,128	25,472	233,788	194,655
68 Non-ferrous metals	163,265	127,435	130,388	746,156	817,788
69 Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.	16,036	16,495	12,708	118,926	93,476
Total Section 6	258,026	230,815	205,335	1,317,687	1,328,556
7 MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT					
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	12,155	7,567	16,120	99,129	82,190
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	15,919	11,662	18,111	102,056	93,387
73 Metalworking machinery	2,492	1,911	1,482	16,658	13,781
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.	14,992	13,447	14,183	98,207	88,211
75 Office machines and automatic data processing equipment	13,700	15,201	13,935	60,032	80,782
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	5,292	4,997	6,304	30,180	28,454
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof	12,740	14,887	12,103	75,023	81,421
78 Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)	29,311	18,740	23,373	140,081	151,318
79 Other transport equipment	18,313	20,832	15,357	124,451	122,998
Total Section 7	125,414	109,245	120,967	746,018	742,542
8 MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES					
81 Sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	765	426	784	4,307	4,345
82 Furniture and parts thereof	1,684	1,440	1,344	10,930	8,736
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	359	57	42	647	1,420
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	1,754	1,341	1,650	9,681	9,750
85 Footwear	408	535	426	2,839	2,611
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	16,942	15,145	14,476	75,384	90,679
88 Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	14,687	14,287	14,757	80,543	85,714
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	28,838	15,988	12,101	87,148	102,035
Total Section 8	65,437	49,241	45,580	271,659	305,289
9A Commodities and transactions of merchandise trade, not elsewhere specified(e)	66,219	85,925	66,647	326,431	455,574
Total merchandise(f)	2,215,270	2,405,619	1,937,568	11,638,827	13,651,246
9B Non-merchandise(g)	104,216	134,523	133,448	292,610	576,018
Total Exports	2,319,486	2,540,141	2,071,016	11,931,437	14,227,264

(a) Excludes items 287.31.00, 287.70.00, 287.93.07 and 287.99.19.

(b) Excludes item 522.49.00.

(c) Excludes item 533.10.00.

(d) Excludes items 522.49.00 and 533.10.00.

(e) Includes items 287.31.00, 287.70.00, 287.93.07, 287.99.19, 522.49.00 and 533.10.00.

(f) The sum of Divisions 00 to 9A.

(g) A complete description of non-merchandise items is contained in the Australian Export Commodity Classification (1203.0).

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

Commodity description	1983-84 %	Three months ended		
		October 1984 %	November 1984 %	December 1984 %
Meat and meat preparations (01)	-16.9	-12.4	-18.6	-22.9
Cereals and cereal preparations (04)	41.0	152.9	133.0	76.7
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey (06)	11.5	23.6	-11.6	-47.4
Textile fibres and their wastes (26)	6.8	13.4	15.0	5.9
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (28)	9.3	14.5	29.6	-2.3
Coal, coke and briquettes (32)	8.3	27.8	35.1	29.6
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	24.0	34.1	24.7	17.5
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	12.8	15.2	8.7	9.2
Machinery and transport equipment (7)	17.9	3.8	-6.0	-9.0
Total all exports	12.0	23.3	24.6	14.0

(a) For footnote see Table 3.

TABLE 3. PERCENTAGE SHARE BY VALUE OF MAJOR COMMODITIES IN TOTAL EXPORTS (a)

Commodity description	1983-84 %	Three months ended		
		October 1984 %	November 1984 %	December 1984 %
Meat and meat preparations (01)	5.6	5.3	4.6	4.2
Cereals and cereal preparations (04)	10.9	12.3	12.7	12.1
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey (06)	2.6	3.5	2.5	1.7
Textile fibres and their wastes (26)	8.3	6.4	7.2	8.1
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (28)	16.6	17.0	17.7	15.4
Coal, coke and briquettes (32)	13.5	15.3	15.0	15.5
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.6
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	8.7	7.4	7.7	8.3
Machinery and transport equipment (7)	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.1
Total all exports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Exports of the "major commodities" shown in these tables are significant exports by particular Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the Australian Export Commodity Classification (figures in brackets following commodity descriptions denote the relevant Sections and Divisions).