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QUEENSLAND OFFICE

IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER 1978

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr B. Donaghue 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

Outstanding import orders which are expected to be cleared in the four months ending January 1979 —

- For commodities with current orders in excess of recent clearances: 1.5 million sq.m worsted fabrics, 1.2 million sq.m. woollen fabrics, 328,000 kg hand knitting yarns, 42,700 air conditioners, 19,100 domestic refrigerators, 102,000 colour television receivers and 9,050 assembled new light commercial-type motor vehicles.
- For commodities with current orders below the level of recent clearances: 510 tonnes polypropylene in bulk forms, 2.7 million sq.m tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles, 119,000 dozen units knitted sleepwear, 4.5 million undergarments, 17,900 assembled domestic washing machines and 8,300 assembled new four-wheel drive motor vehicles.

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 30 September 1978. 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 subsequently cleared within the particular time period;
- new orders being 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 (a) 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 September 1978 estimate of total import orders outstanding of 2,715,000 sq.m of carpet and carpet tiles there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range of approximately 2,661,000 sq.m to 2,769,000 sq.m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range of 2,606,000 sq.m to 2,824,000 sq.m.

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* (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)
- 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
- | break in continuity of series

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

COMMODITY

Polypropylene in bulk forms, including waste and scrap
Worsted fabrics; polyester/wool fabrics and silk/wool fabrics

Woollen fabrics; certain synthetic/wool fabrics

Hand knitting yarns
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles

Knitted sleepwear (complete garments, excluding parts)

Undergarments (complete garments, excluding shirts and brassieres)

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, 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

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

39.02.160
50.09.191, 50.09.199, 51.04.191, 214.51.04.199, 166,
53.11.911.089/.17X/.227/.238/.249/.25X/.282/.293/.329,
53.11.919.077/.146/.190/.204/.215/.226/.259/.26X/.270,
53.11.921.12X/.210/.232/.301/.312/.323/.334/.345/.356/
.389/.39X/.425, 53.11.929.129/.220/.242/.286/.297/.300/
.311/.322/.333/.366/.377/.388, 53.11.991, 53.11.999,
56.07.311.015, 56.07.319.014, 56.07.321.01X, 56.07.329.019
51.04.191.19X/.236/.247/.27X/.291, 51.04.199.144/.188/.199/
.202/.213/.224/.235/.246/.257, 53.11.911.09X/.114/.158/.260/
.307, 53.11.919.088/.099/.135/.237/.281, 53.11.921.130/
.152/.163/.20X/.221/.243/.367/.378/.403/.414, 53.11.929.13X/
.140/.151/.21X/.231/.253/.344/.355/.399/.402, 56.07.311.026/
.037/.048/.059/.06X, 56.07.319.025/.036/.047/.058/.069,
56.07.321.020/.031/.042/.053/.064, 56.07.329.02X/.030/.041/
.052/.063
53.07.910.086/.097, 53.10.900, 56.06.300, 56.06.900
58.02.500, 58.02.900, 422
60.04.200.045/.205/.238/.25X/.260/.271/.282/.293/.307/.318/
.329/.33X/.340/.351/.362/.373/.384
60.04.610.110/.245/.256/.289/.29X/.303/.314/.325/.336/
.347/.358/.369/.37X/.380, 60.04.690.106/.117/.172/.183/.194/
.208/.219, 61.03.300.042/.053/.086/.097,
61.04.400.044/.055/.088/.099
73.15.300
84.12.190.013/.024
84.15.290.120/.131
84.40.210.011
84.40.220.027/.038/.049/.05X
84.62.100.198/.201/.212
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

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING AT 30 SEPTEMBER 1978 AND RECENT CLEARANCES, FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding at 30 September 1978 (preliminary)			Imports cleared in recent periods (excluding by-law)	
		Expected by importers to be cleared		Total orders outstanding	September 1978	Four months ended September 1978
		Between 1 October 1978 and 31 January 1979	Beyond 31 January 1979			
Polypropylene in bulk forms	tonne	510	n.p.	n.p.	160	810
Worsted fabrics; polyester/wool fabrics and silk/wool fabrics (a)	sq.m	1,532,000	390,000	1,922,000	110,000	548,000
Woollen fabrics; certain synthetic/wool fabrics (a)	sq.m	1,198,000	178,000	1,376,000	45,100	199,000
Hand knitting yarns (a)	kg.	328,000	68,000	396,000	7,900	264,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (a)	sq.m	2,686,000	29,000	2,715,000	651,000	3,405,000
Knitted sleepwear (complete garments, excluding parts) (a)	dozen	119,000	153,000	272,000	48,200	132,000
Undergarments (complete garments, excluding shirts and brassieres) (a)	no.	4,535,000	313,000	4,848,000	1,236,000	5,809,000
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	42,700	9,500	52,200	10,900	21,100
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	19,100	n.p.	n.p.	4,050	16,700
Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3,600	21,100
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	17,900	9,000	26,900	5,500	36,300
Television receivers, colour; complete						
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	69,500	14,500	84,000	14,300	66,300
viewable screen 48cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	41,000	4,750	19,800
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	5,000	1,450	6,900
Total	no.	102,000	28,000	130,000	20,500	93,000
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (b)	no.	9,050	—	9,050	2,150	8,650
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (c)	no.	8,300	1,700	10,000	2,650	10,200

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (b) At the end of September 1978 there were 370 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (c) At the end of September 1978 there were 330 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

TABLE 2. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING AT 31 AUGUST 1978 AND RECENT CLEARANCES, FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding at 31 August 1978 (revised)			Imports cleared in recent periods (excluding by-law)	
		Expected by importers to be cleared		Total orders outstanding	August 1978	Four months ended August 1978
		Between 1 September and 31 December 1978	Beyond 31 December 1978			
Poly propylene in bulk forms	tonne	640	n.p.	n.p.	80	910
Worsted fabrics; polyester/wool fabrics and silk/wool fabrics (a)	sq.m	1,129,000	383,000	1,512,000	184,000	566,000
Woollen fabrics; certain synthetic/wool fabrics (a)	sq.m	910,000	184,000	1,094,000	62,300	198,000
Hand knitting yarns (a)	kg.	197,000	36,000	233,000	64,100	470,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (a)	sq.m	2,654,000	51,000	2,705,000	921,000	3,450,000
Knitted sleepwear (complete garments, excluding parts) (a)	dozen	133,000	166,000	299,000	35,100	115,000
Undergarments (complete garments, excluding shirts and brassieres) (a)	no.	5,264,000	278,000	5,542,000	1,600,000	5,461,000
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,000	600	3,600	850	2,000
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	43,100	8,900	52,000	4,450	11,100
Television receivers, colour; complete						
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	72,100	15,900	88,000	14,300	63,500
viewable screen 48cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	45,000	4,050	21,300
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	6,000	1,950	6,200
Total	no.	103,000	36,000	139,000	20,300	91,000
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (b)	no.	8,650	—	8,650	2,100	10,000
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (c)	no.	8,300	n.p.	n.p.	2,000	10,300

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (b) At the end of August 1978 there were 150 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (c) At the end of August 1978 there were 120 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

TABLE 3. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 1978

Commodity	Unit of quantity	April	May	June	July	August	September
						r	p
Polypropylene in bulk forms (c)	tonne	800	790	720	490	640	510
Worsted fabrics; polyester/wool fabrics and silk/wool fabrics (a)	sq.m	732,000	1,909,000	1,140,000	1,281,000	1,512,000	1,922,000
Woolen fabrics; certain synthetic/wool fabrics (a)	sq.m	n.a.	720,000	959,000	983,000	1,094,000	1,376,000
Hand knitting yarns (a) (c)	kg.	374,000	291,000	189,000	145,000	197,000	328,000
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (a)	sq.m	2,248,000	2,464,000	2,489,000	2,517,000	2,705,000	2,715,000
Knitted sleepwear (complete garments, excluding parts) (a)	dozen	299,000	285,000	283,000	278,000	299,000	272,000
Undergarments (complete garments, excluding shirts and brassieres) (a)	no.	3,975,000	3,797,000	6,123,000	7,201,000	5,542,000	4,848,000
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,150	(b)	3,100	(b)	3,600	(b)
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	24,400	129,400	149,400	153,600	52,000	52,200
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity (c)	no.	(b)	14,200	(b)	16,900	(b)	19,100
Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled (c)	no.	(b)	20,600	(b)	16,200	(b)	n.p.
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled (c)	no.	(b)	32,500	(b)	124,100	(b)	17,900
Precision ground steel ball bearings (a)	no.	(b)	2,477,000	(b)	2,768,000	(b)	(d)
Television receivers, colour; complete	no.	72,600	95,600	85,400	82,400	88,000	84,000
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	41,700	45,300	41,800	40,100	45,000	41,000
viewable screen 48cm	no.	11,700	11,100	8,800	7,500	6,000	5,000
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	126,000	152,000	136,000	130,000	139,000	130,000
Total							
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (c)	no.	7,600	6,500	6,600	7,800	8,650	9,050
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (c) (e)	no.	5,150	5,000	15,400	17,350	8,300	8,300

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (b) This commodity is surveyed in alternate months. (c) Includes only orders expected to be cleared in the subsequent four months. (d) Suspended from the survey in September 1978. (e) Four-wheel drive motor vehicles greater than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight were excluded from the survey prior to July 1978.