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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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OVERSEAS TRADE : AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER 1969
EXPORTS AND IMPORTS (PRELIMINARY)



Particulars of the overseas trade of Australia shown in this statement are preliminary and will be followed by monthly statements of Exports and Imports by Commodity Divisions, Exports of Principal Products of Australian Origin and the Monthly Bulletin of Overseas Trade Statistics, containing more detailed information. Exports and imports are recorded statistically in the month in which the entries are passed by the Department of Customs and Excise. Normally this is within a few days of discharge or shipment of cargoes, but delays occasionally occur in the lodging of entries.

2. Original and seasonally adjusted statistics of exports and imports are shown in the table on page 2. In the seasonal adjustment, account has been taken not only of normal seasonal factors but, additionally, of "trading-day" effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, etc., in the month) and the influence of Easter which may, in successive years, affect figures for different months. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these and other series are given in "Seasonally Adjusted Indicators 1969" (Ref. No. 1.10) issued on 22 May 1969. These series are subject to large irregular influences which are not removed by seasonal adjustment and may also be affected by changes in the composition of exports. For these reasons, particular care should be exercised in interpreting month-to-month movements.

3. The statistics shown overleaf refer to the total value of exports and imports recorded during the period specified. The excess of the value of exports or imports shown does not represent the balance of trade.

4. The balance of trade, which represents the excess of exports or imports on a "balance of payments" basis, is derived from overseas trade statistics by means of certain adjustments relating both to valuation and scope. A valuation adjustment is made to imports for the overall excess of recorded "value-for-duty" over the actual selling price to the importer. Adjustments to the scope of the statistics include deductions for exports and imports of goods for repair and return (including the value of repairs). Exports and imports of ships and aircraft for use on overseas routes, certain imports of defence equipment and other items of trade for which customs entries are not required, are added. Adjustments may also be made in the case of certain large items of equipment, such as warships or aircraft, for timing differences between the change of ownership and the lodgement of import entries.

5. The balance of trade is only one element in the balance of payments. Balance of payments statistics also take into account other external transactions including freight and insurance charges on imports, expenditure by overseas ships in Australian ports, overseas travel, and payments of profits and interest, and government and private transfers as well as private and government borrowing overseas. These estimates are published in the bulletin: "Balance of Payments".

AUSTRALIA : EXPORTS AND IMPORTS
(\$ million f.o.b. port of shipment)

Period	1968-69p			1969-70p		
	Exports	Imports	Excess of exports (+) or imports (-)	Exports	Imports	Excess of exports (+) or imports (-)
ORIGINAL						
July	264.2	298.8	-34.6	353.1	351.2	+ 1.9
August	268.1	298.5	-30.4	336.4	302.1	+34.3
September	239.1	310.6	-71.5	331.3	320.5	+10.8
October	297.7	226.9	-29.2	370.6	354.3	+16.3
Four months total	1,069.1	1,234.8	-165.7	1,391.4	1,328.1	+63.3
November	263.1	295.6	-32.5			
December	302.2	263.2	+39.0			
January	282.9	300.6	-17.7			
February	288.4	262.8	+25.6			
March	274.7	241.9	+32.8			
April	283.0	282.7	+0.3			
May	298.5	289.0	+9.5			
June	304.2	293.6	+10.6			
Twelve months total	3,366.1	3,464.2	-98.1			

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED (b)

July	257.5	290.1		343.8	331.3	
August	294.6	277.2		386.2	298.8	
September	257.9	309.4		340.8	305.8	
October	273.6	314.3		340.3	346.7	
November	253.5	301.0				
December	307.7	289.5				
January	271.2	282.0				
February	291.6	287.8				
March	289.2	240.0				
April	290.9	295.4				
May	278.5	276.3				
June	304.8	304.9				

p - preliminary; subject to revision. (a) Includes "H.M.A.S. Brisbane" valued at \$36.8 million. (b) See para. 2 on page 1.

NOTE. Freight and insurance payable on imports are not included above. These are estimated at approximately \$219 million for the six months ended 31 December 1968.

K.M. ARCHER
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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600 5 NOVEMBER 1969

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2187 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.