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AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE - OCTOBER, 1937.

Particulars of the Oversea Trade of Australia for the month of October, 1937 have been made available by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson).

In addition to the details of total exports by countries of destination for the latest month and for the expired portion of the trade year which now appear in the monthly press notice, it is anticipated that similar particulars showing total imports by countries of origin will be available for the next issue.

Tabular statements are also included at the end of this press notice showing for the first four months (July to October) of the trade years 1936-37 and 1937-38 exports by countries of destination of butter, mutton and lamb, wheat, flour and wool.

The Trade Position: Imports of merchandise in October, 1937 amounted to £stg.9,283,000 as compared with £stg.7,876,000 in October, 1936 an increase of £stg.1,407,000 (17.86 per cent.). Exports of merchandise were valued at £stg.9,872,000 as compared with £stg.9,980,000 a decrease of £stg.108,000 (1.08 per cent.).

Imports of merchandise for the first four months of the trade year 1937-38 were valued at £stg.36,544,000 as compared with £stg.30,679,000 for the first four months of 1936-37 an increase of £stg.5,865,000 (19.12 per cent.). Exports of merchandise were valued at £stg.33,262,000 as compared with £stg.27,569,000 an increase of £stg.5,693,000 (20.65 per cent.).

Balance of Trade: The favourable commodity balance of trade in October 1937 was £stg.589,000 as compared with a favourable balance of £stg.2,104,000 in October 1936. Including bullion and specie the favourable balance of trade in October 1937 was £stg.1,557,000 as compared with a favourable balance of £stg.2,781,000 in October, 1936.

For the first four months of 1937-38 the unfavourable commodity balance of trade was £stg.3,282,000 as compared with an unfavourable balance of £stg.3,110,000 for the first four months of 1936-37. Including bullion and specie the favourable balance for the first four months of 1937-38 was £stg.641,000 against an unfavourable balance of £stg.89,000 for the four months of 1936-37.

The following table shows the movements of merchandise and of bullion and specie in the periods under review.

Item	October		Four Months July - October	
	1936	1937 (a)	1936	1937 (a)
<u>BRITISH CURRENCY VALUES.</u>				
	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000
Merchandise - Exports ..	9,980	9,872	27,569	33,262
Imports ..	7,876	9,283	30,679	36,544
Commodity Balance ..	2,104	589	-3,110	-3,282
Bullion and Specie - Exports ..	880	992	3,787	4,468
Imports ..	203	24	766	545
Bullion and Specie Balance ..	677	968	3,021	3,923
<u>TOTAL BALANCE:</u>	2,781	1,557	- 89	641
<u>AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY VALUES.</u>				
	£A.1,000	£A.1,000	£A.1,000	£A.1,000
Merchandise - Exports ..	12,499	12,365	34,529	41,661
Imports ..	9,865	11,627	38,425	45,771
Commodity Balance ..	2,634	738	-3,896	-4,110
Bullion and Specie - Exports ..	1,201	1,240	4,734	5,585
Imports ..	254	30	960	683
Bullion and Specie Balance ..	847	1,210	3,774	4,902
<u>TOTAL BALANCE:</u>	3,481	1,946	- 122	792

(a) Preliminary figures, subject to revision.

In the next table the values of imports and exports of merchandise are compared for each of the months July to October 1937 and July to October 1936.

Month	Imports Merchandise		Exports Merchandise	
	1936	1937	1936	1937
	£m.stg.	£m.stg.	£m.stg.	£m.stg.
July ..	8.4	8.8	5.3	8.5
August ..	7.4	8.9	4.7	6.5
September	7.0	9.5	7.6	8.4
October..	7.9	9.3	10.0	9.9

IMPORTS - COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS PERIODS.

(a) Statistical Classes, October 1936 and October, 1937: Imports are compared hereunder for the months of October, 1936 and October, 1937 according to statistical classes.

Statistical Class	October		Increase or Decrease
	1936	1937	
	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000
I Foodstuffs of Animal Origin ..	136	102	- 34
II Foodstuffs of Vegetable Origin ..	262	295	+ 33
III Spirituous and Alcoholic Liquors ..	55	48	- 7
IV Tobacco and Preparations thereof ..	154	171	+ 17
V Live Animals ..	4	4	-
VI Animal Substances, not foodstuffs ..	130	168	+ 38
VII Vegetable Substances and Fibres ..	270	280	+ 10
VIII (a) Apparel and Attire ..	119	146	+ 27
(b) Textiles ..	1,181	1,384	+ 203
(c) Yarns and Manufactured Fibres ..	480	239	- 241
TOTAL - CLASS VIII:	1,780	1,769	- 11
IX Oils, Fats and Waxes ..	610	832	+ 222
X Paints and Varnishes ..	42	51	+ 9
XI Stones and Minerals including Ores ..	65	81	+ 16
XII (a) Machines and Machinery ..	881	1,181	+ 300
(b) Metals and Manufactures ..	1,243	1,835	+ 592
TOTAL - CLASS XII:	2,124	3,016	+ 892
XIII (a) Rubber and Rubber Manufactures ..	114	259	+ 145
(b) Leather and Leather Manufactures ..	11	11	-
TOTAL - CLASS XIII:	125	270	+ 145
XIV Wood and Wicker ..	150	321	+ 171
XV Earthenware, Cements, China, Glass etc. ..	161	162	+ 1
XVI (a) Paper ..	420	382	- 38
(b) Stationery - Paper Manufactures ..	229	183	- 41
TOTAL - CLASS XVI:	649	570	- 79
XVII Jewellery, Timepieces and Fancy Goods..	133	143	+ 10
XVIII Optical, Surgical and Scientific Instru- ments ..	114	121	+ 7
XIX Drugs, Chemicals and Fertilizers ..	419	404	- 15
XX Miscellaneous ..	493	475	- 18
XXI Gold and Silver and Bronze Specie ..	203	24	- 179
TOTAL IMPORTS:	8,079	9,307	+1,228

(-) Minus sign denotes decrease.

(b) Principal Commodities, July-October, 1936 and July-October, 1937:
 Value of Principal Commodities imported into Australia in the first four months of the
 Trade years 1936-37 and 1937-38 showing increases and decreases.

INCREASES.

Commodity	Imports - Four Months July - October		
	1936-37	1937-38	Increase
	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000
Ten	755	800	45
Tobacco, Unmanufactured	553	578	25
Cattle Hides	67	117	50
Silk raw	134	196	62
Linseed	146	188	42
Fibres - Cotton, Raw	44	119	75
Gums and Resins	102	134	32
Pulp for Papermaking	137	160	23
Boots and Shoes	38	50	12
Trimmings and Ornaments	137	145	8
Carpets and Linoleums	552	696	134
Handkerchiefs, Serviettes etc.	116	182	66
Piece Goods - Canvas and Duck.. .. .	191	232	41
Cotton and Linen	1,719	2,168	449
Silk or containing silk	1,265	1,466	201
Towels and Towelling	137	165	28
Cordage and Twines	64	92	28
Yarns, Cotton	168	194	26
Oils - Kerosene	172	293	121
Lubricating	269	310	41
Petroleum	1,561	1,980	419
Residual	150	225	75
Paints and Colours	165	202	37
Cable and Wire Covered	280	453	173
Dynamo Electric Machines	177	217	40
Telegraph Instruments etc. Telephone Switchboards etc.	120	224	104
Agricultural and Horticultural Machinery	73	126	53
Metal Working Machinery	238	275	37
Motive Power Machinery (excluding Electric)	860	1,242	382
Sewing Machines	91	128	37
Alloys	103	171	68
Iron and Steel -	155	209	54
Bars, Rods, etc.	113	203	90
Pipes and Tubes	216	339	123
Plate and Sheet -	443	687	244
Plain	193	210	17
Tinned	303	353	50
Plated Ware and Outlery	212	237	25
Tools of Trade	2,008	2,818	810
Cycle and Cycle Parts	441	915	474
Motor Car Chassis and Parts	437	770	333
Crude Rubber and Rubber Waste.. .. .	309	361	52
Timber - Undressed	84	132	48
Glass and Glassware	160	244	84
Millboards and Other Boards			
Writing and Typewriting Paper			

DECREASES.

Commodity	Imports - Four Months July - October		
	1936-37	1937-38	Decrease
	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000	£stg.1,000
Fish	282	256	26
Whisky	176	169	7
Piece Goods - Messian and Jute	168	147	21
Baggs and Sacks - Corn and Flour	398	184	214
Neopacks	189	160	29
Yarns - Artificial Silk	268	232	36
Sewing and Other Cottons	177	159	18
Printing Machinery	133	110	23

DECREASES (Continued)

Commodity	Imports - Four Months		
	July - October		
	1936-37	1937-38	Decrease
	Estg.1,000	Estg.1,000	Estg.1,000
Yarn and Textile Making Machinery ..	190	102	88
Crockery and Household Ware ..	213	194	19
Printing Paper ..	855	758	97
Timepieces ..	183	167	16
Vessels (Ships) ..	745	155	590
Gold ..	733	532	201

EXPORTS - COMPARISONS WITH PREVIOUS PERIODS.

(a) Principal Countries, October, 1937 and July-October, 1937:

Total Value of Exports shipped from Australia to Principal Countries in October, 1937 and in the first four months of the Trade year 1937-38.

Country of Destination	October 1937	Four Months July - October, 1937	
	£A.	£A.	Percentage of Total Exports
United Kingdom ..	7,063,477	22,719,141	48.1
Canada ..	102,101	1,124,752	2.4
Ceylon ..	82,884	234,032	0.5
India ..	93,634	475,121	1.0
Malaya (British) ..	205,316	677,782	1.4
New Zealand ..	540,392	2,326,348	4.9
Other British Countries..	435,732	1,696,741	3.6
Total British Countries	8,523,536	29,253,917	61.9
Belgium ..	575,977	1,995,584	4.2
China ..	1,892	174,199	0.4
Czechoslovakia ..	59,100	166,788	0.4
France ..	1,262,435	3,043,967	6.5
Germany ..	299,880	1,427,638	3.0
Italy ..	223,888	651,331	1.4
Japan ..	336,773	1,422,836	3.0
Netherlands ..	97,641	345,983	0.7
Netherlands East Indies..	117,698	482,372	1.0
United States of America	1,090,277	5,301,040	11.2
Other Foreign Countries..	916,150	2,981,235	6.3
Total Foreign Countries	5,081,716	17,992,023	38.1
<u>TOTAL:</u>	13,605,252	47,245,940	100.0

(b) (i) Principal Commodities, October, 1936 and October, 1937:

Value of principal commodities exported from Australian during the month of October, 1936 and October, 1937 showing increases and decreases.

INCREASES.

Commodity	October 1936	October 1937	Increase
	£A.1,000	£A.1,000	£A.1,000
Butter ..	775	869	93
Cheese ..	44	114	70
Beef ..	237	289	52
Lamb ..	656	704	48
Meats Preserved in tins	31	36	5
Sausage Casings..	30	39	9
Milk and Cream ..	83	134	51
Currents ..	13	16	3
Flour ..	441	573	132
Sugar ..	273	502	229
Cattle Hides ..	117	155	38
Sheepskins ..	332	392	60

INCREASES (Continued)

Commodity		October 1936	October 1937	Increase
		£A.1,000	£A.1,000	£A.1,000
Kangaroo and Wallaby Skins	..	21	37	16
Rabbit and Hare Skins	..	99	117	18
Orea and Concentrates -				80
Silver and Silver Lead	..	8	88	30
Zinc	..	17	47	191
Lead Pig	..	350	541	93
Timber	..	65	158	139
Gold	..	1,033	1,172	

DECREASES.

Commodity		October 1936	October 1937	Decrease
		£A.1,000	£A.1,000	£A.1,000
Eggs	..	323	190	133
Mutton	..	45	26	19
Wheat	..	808	789	19
Rice	..	34	24	10
Wine	..	171	90	81
Horses	..	41	27	14
Wool Greasy	..	5,224	4,471	753
Scoured	..	545	446	99
Tallow	..	59	50	9
Machines and Machinery	..	115	87	28
Zinc Bars	..	117	34	83

(b) (ii) Principal Commodities, July-October, 1936 and July-October, 1937: Value of Principal Commodities exported from Australia in the first four months of the Trade years 1936-37 and 1937-38 showing increases and decreases.

INCREASES.

Commodity		Exports - Four Months July - October		
		1936-37	1937-38	Increase
		£A.1,000	£A.1,000	£A.1,000
Cheese	..	61	191	130
Beef	..	1,079	1,625	546
Lamb	..	830	994	164
Mutton	..	86	123	37
Meats preserved in tins	..	94	165	71
Sausage Casings	..	72	105	33
Milk and Cream	..	162	311	149
Currants	..	77	137	60
Fruits preserved in liquid	..	265	455	190
Wheat	..	3,070	3,592	522
Flour	..	1,471	1,991	520
Sugar	..	1,603	2,351	748
Cattle Hides	..	355	673	318
Sheepskins	..	1,014	1,668	654
Pearlshell	..	130	165	35
Wool - Greasy	..	9,734	11,150	1,416
Scoured	..	1,816	2,263	447
Ores and Concentrates -				187
Silver and Silver Lead	..	102	289	299
Zinc	..	214	513	48
Machines and Machinery	..	355	403	176
Iron and Steel	..	296	472	562
Lead pig	..	1,275	1,837	24
Zinc Bars	..	318	342	16
Leather	..	283	299	159
Timber	..	295	454	782
Gold	..	4,499	5,281	71
Silver	..	233	304	

DECREASES.

Commodity	Exports - Four Months July - October		
	1936-37 £A.1,000	1937-38 £A.1,000	Decrease £A.1,000
Butter	2,069	1,810	259
Eggs	694	492	202
Wine	441	316	125
Rabbit and Hare Skins ..	1,035	923	112

(c) Quantities: The principal commodities exported in larger quantities in the first four months of 1937-38 as compared with the first four months of 1936-37 were:- Cheese, beef, lamb, mutton, rabbits and hares, meats preserved in tins, sausage casings, milk and cream, currants, fresh apples, fruits preserved in liquid, flour, sugar, cattle hides, kangaroo skins, sheepskins, scoured wool, silver and silver lead and zinc ores and concentrates, pig lead and tin ingots. The principal commodities exported in smaller quantities were:- Butter, raisins, citrus fruits, wheat, jams and fruit jellies, wine, rabbit and hare skins, greasy wool, tallow, coal and zinc bars.

(d) Declared Unit Values: A comparison of the average prices computed from the declared export values of the principal commodities shows that average prices were higher in October, 1937 than in October, 1936 for wool, greasy and scoured, sheepskins, wheat, flour, butter, sugar, beef, lamb, tallow, pig lead, and zinc bars. A lower average export value was declared for wine, mutton and gold while raisins averaged about the same price in both months.

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CANBERRA, F.C.T. 3rd December, 1937.