



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER 1980

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Ashley Hedde on Canberra (062) 52 5619 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 (062) 52 6627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Flannelette sheeting : orders outstanding increased significantly.

Galvanised iron, stainless steel and light commercial type motor vehicles : orders outstanding increased

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication provides, for selected commodities, preliminary estimates of the level of *import orders outstanding and not cleared* through Australian Customs at 30 September 1980. 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 publication 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. Unless otherwise stated 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:

- (a) new orders being placed and subsequently cleared within the particular time period
- (b) imports being cleared by new or casual importers;
- (c) 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 the clearances shown in this publication 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 one standard error, and 19 chances in 20 that the difference would be less than two standard errors.

9. Both estimates of level and estimates of percentage change from base month are subject to sampling variability. For example, consider the commodity 'flannelette sheeting'. The September estimate of total import orders outstanding is 19,364,000 sq m with a standard error of 279,000 sq m. This means that there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range 19,085,000 sq m to 19,643,000 sq m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range 18,806,000 sq m to 19,922,000 sq m. Similarly, the September estimate of percentage change from base month (April) of +36.5% has a standard error of 2.6%. In other words there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range +33.9% to +39.1% and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range +31.3% to +41.7%.

10. 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.

COMMODITY

Tyres
Wool carpet yarns
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex
and finer, not put up for retail sale
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and
carpet tiles

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets
and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates,
4.75 mm and less in thickness
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72
tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles;
new, assembled
Battery operated works trucks
Oval shaped leather footballs

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

40.11.200.136/.147, 40.11.300
53.06.900.030/.052, 53.07.910.042/.064
55.09.590.501/.523/.614/.636 and part of .40X and .443
56.05.900.899
58.02.200.118/.129, 58.02.400.243/.254/.345/.356/.436/.469/
.505/.516/.527, 58.02.900.819/.82X/.830/.841/.852/.863/.874/
.885/.896
73.13.100.113/.135
73.13.300.17X/.180/.191
73.15.300
87.02.111.03X, 87.02.112.033, 87.02.119.039, 87.02.210
87.02.220.07X/.105, 87.02.290.049
87.07.110.173/.184/.195/.209/.21X/.220/.231/.242/.253/.264/.275
97.06.100.171

Commodities

11. The selected commodities for which statistics are shown in this publication are listed below, together with their definitions in terms of the Tariff Items/Statistical Keys of the Australian Customs Tariff.

Related publications

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publication* (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)
- . . . not applicable
- p preliminary—figure or series subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- nil or rounded to zero

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR MONTHS
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 1980

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Orders outstanding at end of month							% change from base month (a)						
		1980						Standard error of September	1980						Standard error of September
		April	May	June	July	August	September estimate		May	June	July	August	September	% change	
Tyres (b)	no.	642,000	667,000	621,000	1556,000	579,000	598,000	14,200	+3.9	-3.3	-13.4	-9.8	-6.9	1.8	
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	1,077	1,238	1,104	994	988	937		+14.9	+2.5	-7.7	-8.3	-13.0		
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width (b)	1000 sq m	10,581	7,720	18,633	17,300	10,026	12,304	150	-27.0	-18.4	-31.0	-5.2	+16.3	2.6	
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer(b) (c)	tonne	3,227	3,622	3,714	3,412	3,341	3,164	97	+12.2	+15.1	+5.7	+3.5	-2.0	4.3	
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	1000 sq m	2,917	3,189	2,970	3,083	2,938	2,980	152	+9.3	+1.8	+5.7	+0.7	+2.2	3.3	
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness (d)	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	124,700	123,500	24,500	21,700				-4.9	-0.8	-12.1		
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness (d)	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	122,300	127,400	25,000	28,100				+22.9	+12.1	+26.0		
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	2,850	2,800	3,600	3,500	3,750	3,900		-1.8	+26.3	+22.8	+31.6	+36.8		
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	11,600	11,900	12,500	13,000	14,200	15,200		+2.6	+7.8	+12.1	+22.4	+31.0		
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	8,750	8,700	8,900	9,050	9,050	9,000		-0.6	+1.7	+3.4	+3.4	+2.9		
Battery operated works trucks	no.	340	340	470	340	350	(e)			+38.2		+2.9			
Oval shaped leather footballs	no.	89,000	172,300	63,900	33,700	40,900	(e)		-18.8	-28.2	-62.1	-54.0			

(a) For each of the selected commodities, the base month is the month to which the first published figure in the current orders outstanding series relates, e.g. for tyres the base month is April, for galvanised iron or steel the base month is June. (b) Based on a sample—see explanatory notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) Statistics include goods that will be cleared duty-free under by-law. (d) This commodity was first surveyed in June 1980. (e) This commodity has been deleted from the survey.

TABLE 2. TOTAL IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 1980

APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 1980														
Commodity	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding at end of month						% change from base month (a)						
		1980						Standard error of September estimate	1980					Standard error of September % change
		April	May	June	July	August	September		May	June	July	August		
Tyres (b)	no.	810,000	798,000	770,000	689,000	735,000	719,000	13,600	-1.5	-4.9	-14.9	-9.3	-11.2	1.3
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	1,213	1,297	1,185	n.p.	1,130	n.p.	..	+6.9	-2.3	..	-6.8	..	..
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width (b)	'000 sq m	14,184	15,226	15,663	14,005	16,830	19,364	279	+7.3	+10.4	-1.3	+18.7	+36.5	2.6
Polyester cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (c)	tonne	4,190	4,691	4,790	4,208	4,275	3,841	143	+12.0	+14.3	+0.4	+2.0	-8.3	4.1
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	3,331	3,596	3,318	3,331	3,296	3,315	152	+8.0	-0.4	—	-1.1	-0.5	2.8
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2 mm and less in thickness (d)	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	24,600	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness (d)	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	27,000	23,600	29,900	33,600	..	..	..	+10.7	+10.7	+24.4	..
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,800	3,700	3,850	4,250	4,550	4,600	..	-2.6	+1.3	+11.8	+19.7	+21.1	..
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight, new, assembled (e)	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles, new, assembled (f)	no.	9,050	9,050	9,250	9,300	9,350	9,150	..	—	+2.2	+2.8	+3.3	+1.1	..
Battery operated works trucks	no.	670	700	660	520	430	(g)	..	+4.5	-1.5	-22.4	-35.8	..	..
Oval shaped leather footballs	no.	131,000	106,000	91,500	71,700	86,700	(g)	..	-19.1	-30.2	-45.3	-33.8	..	..

(a) For each of the selected commodities, the base month is the month to which the first published figure in the current orders outstanding series relates, e.g. for tyres the base month is April, for galvanised iron or steel the base month is June.
 (b) Based on a sample — see explanatory notes, paragraphs 8 and 9.
 (c) Statistics include goods that will be cleared duty-free under By-law.
 (d) This commodity was first surveyed in June 1980.
 (e) At the end of September 1980 there were 700 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond.
 (f) At the end of September 1980 there were 850 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond.
 (g) This commodity has been deleted from the survey.

S/T 1980

TABLE 3. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)
OCTOBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1980 (c)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	1979			1980								
		October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Tyres	no.	171,000	159,000	143,000	208,000	224,000	177,000	246,000	178,000	198,000	226,000	165,000	198,000
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	274	296	178	119	212	288	326	354	335	323	298	295
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width	'000 sq m	2,054	3,590	2,384	3,317	3,585	2,309	1,645	3,638	1,561	1,824	1,022	1,916
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer(d)	tonne	844	796	506	696	912	749	746	839	859	1,140	982	993
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles	'000 sq m	1,315	1,206	955	876	898	860	898	864	842	848	665	826
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonne	6,700	4,900	4,250	8,200	18,000	1,650	2,150	12,800	1,000	6,400	2,550	11,600
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75 mm and less in thickness	tonne	2,800	4,100	2,750	7,050	6,050	1,650	2,600	3,700	2,100	5,850	9,050	4,000
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	710	580	410	960	650	560	510	630	410	660	510	610
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2,450	1,950	2,050	3,350	3,250	3,600	3,400	3,250	3,700	3,600	3,850	4,100
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	2,000	1,750	1,500	2,050	2,200	2,150	2,650	2,550	2,600	2,450	2,500	2,750
Battery operated works trucks	no.	70	50	30	40	100	70	70	60	100	210	110	60
Oval shaped leather footballs	no.	6,450	6,200	5,500	30,800	42,300	45,000	31,900	32,700	21,300	28,300	6,650	32,500

(a) Unless otherwise stated, statistics exclude goods entered duty-free under Customs by-law provisions. (c) Statistics are preliminary and subject to revision. (d) Statistics include by-law clearances.

TABLE 4. COMPARISON OF IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING AND SUBSEQUENT CLEARANCES, FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Order-clearance lag (c) (months)	Orders outstanding at 29 Feb. 1980	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 31 March 1980	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 31 April 1980	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 31 May 1980	Actual clearances
			expected to be cleared		expected to be cleared		expected to be cleared		expected to be cleared	
			Between 1 March and 30 June 1980		Between 1 April and 31 July 1980		Between 1 May and 31 August 1980		Between 1 June and 30 Sept. 1980	
Tyres (b)	no.	2-5	646,000	p	653,000	p	642,000	p	667,000	p
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	1-3	1,139	1,304	1,056	1,339	1,077	1,312	1,238	1,252
Flannelette sheeting, 132cm. or more in width (b)	1000 sq m	5-8	9,755	9,153	10,597	8,667	10,581	8,045	7,720	6,323
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (d)	tonne	2-5	2,743	3,193	2,971	3,584	3,227	3,707	3,622	3,861
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	1000 sq m	2-4	2,786	3,464	3,189	3,452	2,917	3,220	3,189	3,181
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	4-5	2,750	2,100	3,000	2,200	2,850	2,200	2,800	2,200
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2-4	11,300	14,000	11,600	13,900	11,600	14,400	11,900	15,300
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	3-4	9,450	9,950	9,350	10,200	8,750	10,100	8,700	10,200
Battery operated works trucks	no.	4-6	300	300	330	440	340	480	340	480
Oval shaped leather footballs	no.	3-5	139,000	131,000	107,000	114,000	89,000	89,000	72,300	88,700

(a) See explanatory notes, paragraph 5. (b) Based on a sample — see explanatory notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) Order-clearance lag is the expected time lag between placement of a firm order and the subsequent Customs clearance.
 (d) Statistics include goods entered duty-free under by-law.