



**Australian  
Bureau of  
Statistics**

**Manufacturing Production  
Australia**

**Plastics, Rubber, Paints  
Detergents and  
Industrial Chemicals**

**July, August 1993**

**Catalogue No. 8362.0**

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**MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, AUSTRALIA**  
**PLASTICS, RUBBER, PAINTS, DETERGENTS AND**  
**INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS**  
**JULY, AUGUST 1993**

**IAN CASTLES**  
*Australian Statistician*

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**CATALOGUE NO. 8362.0**

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### INQUIRIES

- \* for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Rod Smith on Melbourne (03) 615 7635 or any ABS office.
  - \* for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.
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TABLE 1. PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS(a)  
(tonnes)

Period	Mixed or compound (576.02)	Not mixed or compound(b)				Other (573.15, 576.01, 576.04, 579.00)	Total
		Poly- ethylene (571.13)	Poly- styrene (572.14)	Poly- propylene (575.14)	Polyvinyl acetate (575.98)		
1990-91	46,345	217,126	62,266	169,635	12,722	441,168	949,262
1991-92	43,374	234,195	65,230	190,892	11,486	456,631	1,002,288
1992-93	r 49,727	254,515	62,103	214,790	10,860	r 430,507	r 1,022,502
1992—	r						r
June	3,229	18,595	5,896	14,407	753	36,173	79,053
July	4,249	22,223	5,551	19,603	887	33,694	86,447
August	4,070	21,100	4,660	15,779	777	38,767	85,153
September	4,174	22,124	4,473	21,059	884	40,364	93,078
October	4,948	21,822	4,470	21,213	889	39,156	92,478
November	4,383	21,106	5,587	19,140	930	38,787	89,953
December	4,202	22,636	4,388	20,604	764	r 30,821	83,415
1993—	r						r
January	2,368	21,663	4,393	19,660	731	23,498	72,313
February	4,249	19,237	5,241	15,112	947	33,284	78,070
March	4,157	21,335	6,251	14,668	849	41,577	88,937
April	4,096	20,251	5,618	13,660	1,035	34,614	79,274
May	4,365	20,137	5,102	17,536	1,097	37,650	85,887
June	4,226	20,781	6,369	16,756	1,070	r 38,315	87,517
July	4,640	24,418	5,740	18,857	1,380	r 39,815	94,850
August	4,555	23,391	5,876	20,813	1,084	r 39,066	94,787
1992-93: July to Aug.	8,559	43,323	10,211	35,382	1,664	72,461	171,600
1993-94: July to Aug.	9,195	47,809	11,616	39,672	2,464	78,881	189,637

(a) Primary forms includes liquid, paste, powder, granules, flakes, blocks, irregular shapes, lumps and similar bulk forms. (b) Excludes regrind/stamp scrap.

TABLE 2. PLASTIC TUBES, PIPES, HOSES, FILM, SHEETING AND COATED MATERIALS

Period	Flexible plates, sheets, foil and strip of plastic(a)					Tubes, pipes and hoses		
	Polymers of ethylene				Other (582.34)	Plastic coated textile materials (657.32)	High density polyethylene (581.82)	Rigid polyethylene (581.22)
	Polymer of vinyl chloride (582.32)	Low density(b) (582.31)	High density (582.38)	Polymer of propylene (582.33)				
	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	'000 sq. m	tonnes	tonnes
1990-91	13,127	106,221	24,958	19,457	9,360	27,874	r 20,323	79,133
1991-92	r 13,248	r 110,044	24,220	20,197	r 9,656	28,466	24,266	84,313
1992-93	r 14,491	r 117,842	24,270	20,531	r 13,664	25,653	25,771	97,252
1992—	r				r			r
June	1,062	9,671	2,112	1,967	999	3,235	1,683	7,346
July	1,312	9,895	2,168	1,978	912	1,775	2,783	9,431
August	r 1,478	9,670	1,980	1,725	1,042	1,810	2,193	8,116
September	r 1,488	9,966	2,334	1,679	974	2,093	2,235	7,443
October	r 1,431	10,471	2,093	1,805	891	3,050	2,723	9,453
November	1,347	10,000	2,431	1,783	1,254	2,604	2,276	8,113
December	1,246	8,602	1,743	1,531	1,432	2,856	1,948	7,973
1993—	r				r			r
January	807	7,275	1,308	1,203	716	589	1,466	3,753
February	959	9,697	1,888	1,576	1,381	2,432	1,933	7,487
March	1,206	11,012	2,172	2,070	1,339	2,452	1,772	9,091
April	1,077	9,765	1,904	1,539	1,140	1,360	1,999	8,208
May	1,097	11,103	2,090	1,849	1,284	1,948	2,238	9,138
June	1,043	10,385	2,160	1,794	1,297	2,683	2,187	9,046
July	1,370	10,631	2,137	1,995	1,336	2,000	2,273	9,802
August	1,372	10,799	2,131	1,938	1,296	2,359	1,838	8,143
1992-93: July to Aug.	2,790	19,566	4,148	3,703	1,954	3,586	4,975	17,548
1993-94: July to Aug.	2,742	21,430	4,268	3,931	2,632	4,559	4,131	19,945

(a) Excludes self-adhesive, flow, wall and ceiling coverings, vulcanized film and plastic foam. (b) Excludes reinforced, laminated or supported with other materials.  
(c) Includes linear low density polyethylene. (d) Fleximeter correct 1 per cent or less by weight of PVC. Excludes electrical conduit.

TABLE 3. RUBBER PRODUCTS

Period	Camel back for retreading rubber tyres (621.21)	Strip (eg arbi-strip) for retreading tyres (621.22)	Tubes, pipes and hoses of un- hardened vulcan- ised rubber(a) (621.41.45.49)
	tonnes	tonnes	'000 metres
1990-91		14,617	9,359
1991-92	1,021		6,884
1992-93	911		7,569
1990—			
September qtr		3,477	2,703
December qtr		3,614	2,608
1991—			
March qtr	153	2,941	2,310
June qtr	168	4,263	1,710
September qtr	n.p.	3,968	1,633
December qtr	289	4,276	1,709
1992—			
March qtr	200	4,508	1,764
June qtr	n.p.	4,029	1,758
September qtr	195	4,667	1,836
December qtr	206	4,739	1,794
1993—			
March qtr	207	4,456	1,969
June qtr	302	5,043	1,970

(a) Includes with fittings (eg joints, elbows, flanges).

TABLE 4. PAINTS AND OTHER SURFACE COATINGS  
(\*000 litres)

Period	Architectural and decorative paints, enamels and clear(a)								Other water based (533.73)
	Solvent thinned				Water thinned				
	Finishing coats				Plastic latex				
	Primers and undercoats (533.65)	Pigmented		Clears (533.68)	Primers and undercoats (533.69)	Finishing coats			
	Full glass (533.66)	Other (533.67)			Flat (533.71)	Other (533.72)			
1990-91	5,421	11,218	4,200	3,252	7,293	30,245	34,843	5,092	
1991-92	3,111	9,968	3,715	1,063	8,238	29,226	37,550	4,709	
1992-93	5,123	r 9,937	3,821	2,660	8,228	30,182	40,224	5,292	
1992—									
June	375	719	250	216	614	2,014	2,572	367	
July	480	808	341	204	699	2,611	3,479	444	
August	411	674	500	210	767	2,351	3,010	395	
September	404	788	372	221	609	2,363	3,194	454	
October	436	921	352	304	844	2,892	3,708	451	
November	439	844	320	250	713	2,774	3,538	528	
December	372	895	319	363	615	2,524	3,459	454	
1993—									
January	376	749	263	173	628	1,971	2,794	266	
February	434	796	308	189	634	2,562	3,065	487	
March	443	946	322	229	672	2,630	3,667	430	
April	444	874	309	167	639	2,781	3,614	475	
May	459	840	285	160	657	2,435	3,313	445	
June	424	r 802	330	190	701	2,288	3,385	462	
July	r 430	821	r 342	226	671	r 2,473	r 3,417	440	
August	403	711	306	216	694	2,312	3,097	459	
1992-93: July to Aug.	891	1,483	641	413	1,466	4,962	6,488	839	
1993-94: July to Aug.	833	1,532	647	442	1,365	4,785	6,515	899	

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 4. PAINTS AND OTHER SURFACE COATINGS—continued  
(\*000 litres)

Period	Industrial paints, enamels and clear <sup>(a)</sup>							
	Automotive				Other industrial			
	Finishing coats			Finishing coats				
	Primers and undercoats (533.74)	Nitro-cellulose lacquers (533.75)	Other (533.76)	Primers and undercoats (533.78)	Nitro-cellulose lacquers (533.79)	Clears (533.81)	Clears (533.82)	Colours (533.83)
1990-91	5,150	474	9,181	8,667	3,213	724	7,861	21,302
1991-92	4,710	429	9,209	8,309	3,383	730	7,321	20,665
1992-93	4,554	402	9,405	r 8,634	r 3,683	819	r 7,331	r 21,525
1992 —								
June	406	28	700	766	279	63	597	1,585
July	472	35	945	842	293	66	688	1,850
August	395	19	776	706	275	69	607	1,603
September	399	32	749	731	323	66	557	1,534
October	480	41	905	786	299	59	681	1,828
November	327	32	696	619	305	76	627	1,772
December	334	34	632	655	337	77	633	1,853
1993 —								
January	238	10	505	589	196	27	484	1,412
February	350	38	786	720	317	73	582	1,707
March	412	44	812	799	353	87	638	2,013
April	366	51	880	837	305	69	602	2,036
May	383	28	858	673	339	72	562	1,921
June	398	39	859	r 676	r 341	78	r 670	r 1,995
July	421	33	r 956	r 719	r 325	r 80	r 583	r 2,243
August	289	37	715	641	310	83	590	1,901
1992-93: July to Aug.	867	54	1,722	1,548	569	135	1,295	3,453
1993-94: July to Aug.	710	70	1,671	1,360	634	162	1,174	4,145

TABLE 4. PAINTS AND OTHER SURFACE COATINGS—continued  
(\*000 litres)

Period	Wood stains (oil, spirit, etc.) packed for sale or coatings <sup>(c)</sup>					Thinners	
	Heavy duty (533.77)	transfer out(d) (533.84)	Marine coatings(e) (533.85)	For nitro-cellulose castings (533.86)	For all other coatings (533.87)		
1990-91	12,637	1,657	1,696	6,905	19,430		
1991-92	13,011	1,784	1,884	6,353	18,249		
1992-93	14,590	r 1,925	n.p.	r 6,004	r 18,587		
1992 —							
June	1,024	124	142	418	1,459		
July	1,391	151	209	608	1,643		
August	1,252	155	138	427	1,234		
September	1,241	207	118	483	1,620		
October	1,481	217	143	616	1,882		
November	1,198	184	129	525	1,427		
December	930	164	140	440	1,388		
1993 —							
January	756	105	95	386	1,245		
February	1,091	150	153	473	1,564		
March	1,393	179	135	492	1,999		
April	1,420	207	147	526	1,848		
May	1,334	152	136	485	1,739		
June	1,102	r 154	n.p.	r 542	r 1,549		
July	r 1,309	r 152	n.p.	r 442	r 1,727		
August	1,496	157	n.p.	448	1,403		
1992-93: July to Aug.	2,643	306	347	1,035	2,927		
1993-94: July to Aug.	2,806	309	n.p.	890	3,130		

(a) Includes all paints and coatings for use on buildings and structures. Excludes heavy duty coatings. (b) Includes lacquers and water thinned industrial products. (c) Includes specialty coatings specifically designed for the protection of interiors and exteriors of buildings, plants and equipment etc. (d) Includes part-pigmented, Mastic and Concrete types. (e) Includes primers and undercoats, underwater compositions, boat-stopping, deck paints and marine varnishes. Excludes superstructure paints which are included with architectural and decorative paints.

TABLE 5. GASES

Period	Acetylene gas (511.15)	Carbon dioxide carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide(a)		Hydrogen, rare gases, nitrogen and oxygen (522.21)
		'000 cu.m.	'000 tonnes	
1990-91	3,047		89	1,558
1991-92	2,708		97	1,974
1992-93	2,860		r 100	r 1,681
1990—				
September qtr	896		23	n.p.
December qtr	701		25	412
1991—				
March qtr	668		23	n.p.
June qtr	782		19	406
September qtr	790		23	503
December qtr	586		24	620
1992—				
March qtr	553		27	465
June qtr	779		23	386
September qtr	806		22	391
December qtr	725		27	456
1993—				
March qtr	622		r 28	r 379
June qtr	707		24	454

(a) Excludes dry ice.

TABLE 6. INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

Period	Acids (in terms of 100 percent acid)					
	Hydrochloric; Chlorosulphuric (522.31)	Sulphuric; Oleum (522.32)			Ammonium sulphate Superphosphate(c)	
		tonnes	Original '000 tonnes	Seasonally adjusted(a) '000 tonnes	Trend(b) '000 tonnes	'000 tonnes
1990-91	55,663	986	..	..	215	1,574
1991-92	n.p.	816	..	..	233	1,337
1992-93	62,231	868	..	..	280	1,440
1992—						
June	n.p.	69	69	70	19	108
July	5,648	62	76	70	19	74
August	n.p.	62	66	72	n.p.	76
September	5,046	57	71	74	n.p.	46
October	4,415	70	79	76	n.p.	96
November	3,278	76	80	77	n.p.	128
December	5,126	88	78	76	n.p.	165
1993—						
January	4,195	94	79	74	28	203
February	5,368	69	60	r 72	25	179
March	5,454	85	74	70	25	193
April	5,545	68	66	r 70	23	117
May	5,955	71	68	r 70	22	97
June	n.p.	75	76	r 69	28	66
July	4,336	64	77	68	11	54
August	5,437	42	52	67	25	36
1992-93: July to Aug.	n.p.	114	..	..	n.p.	150
1993-94: July to Aug.	9,773	105	..	..	37	90

(a) See paragraph 5, Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 6 to 8, Explanatory Notes. (c) Double and triple superphosphates expressed in terms of single phosphate i.e. 9 per cent P equivalent.

TABLE 7. ORGANIC SURFACE-ACTIVE AGENTS(a)  
(tonnes)

Period	Anionic(b) (554.24)	Cationic(c) (554.25)	Other(d) (554.26)
1990-91	17,647	4,846	5,291
1991-92	16,643	2,461	3,956
1992-93	17,606	2,100	3,939
1992 —			
June	1,531	216	360
July	1,609	194	289
August	1,435	201	342
September	1,420	176	308
October	1,404	163	338
November	1,697	182	322
December	1,301	145	273
1993 —			
January	1,050	191	303
February	1,495	126	297
March	1,542	206	366
April	1,531	177	340
May	1,575	155	398
June	1,545	185	362
July	1,478	157	397
August	1,696	213	427
1992-93: July to Aug.	3,045	395	632
1993-94: July to Aug.	3,174	370	823

(a) Organic surface-active agents in capable of absorption at an interface and in that state display a number of physico-chemical properties responsible for surface activity (e.g. reduction of surface tension, foaming, emulsifying and wetting). Excludes soap.  
 (b) Organic surface-active agents which ionize in aqueous solution to produce negatively charged organic ions responsible for surface activity (e.g. sulphates and sulphosates of fats, vegetable oils or resin acids). (c) Organic surface-active agents which ionize in aqueous solution to produce positively charged organic ions responsible for surface activity (e.g. salts of fatty amines). (d) Includes non-ionic and amphoteric agents.

TABLE 8. DETERGENTS AND SOAP

Period	Surface-active washing or cleaning preparations									
	Soaps in bars, cakes, moulded pieces or shapes for personal use(a) (554.12)	Scouring preparations(b) (554.39)			Fabric washing		Dish washing preparations		Soaking, rinsing or bleaching preparations (554.53)	Other(d) (554.54)
		tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	Liquid (554.28) '000 litres	Other(c) (554.29) tonnes	Liquid (554.51) '000 litres	Other(c) (554.52) tonnes		
1990-91	32,725	19,215	11,819	42,415	110,048	25,398	3,906	23,912	36,381	
1991-92	32,760	19,968	11,865	41,936	110,013	30,679	3,633	32,196	35,792	
1992-93	35,070	21,732	12,106	42,224	97,077	32,479	3,688	33,488	34,163	
1992 —										
June	3,005	1,731	1,083	2,997	9,896	2,635	301	3,213	2,757	
July	3,142	1,983	1,154	4,744	10,566	2,892	396	3,169	2,877	
August	2,798	1,694	999	3,970	7,542	2,046	362	2,305	2,772	
September	2,634	2,069	928	3,692	8,138	2,653	344	2,430	3,026	
October	2,917	2,157	1,148	3,634	8,188	2,652	223	2,715	3,042	
November	2,585	1,649	1,003	3,277	7,507	2,978	333	2,887	3,042	
December	2,532	1,354	610	3,353	6,609	2,571	353	2,912	2,459	
1993 —										
January	2,088	1,540	536	2,203	6,364	1,996	285	2,843	2,034	
February	2,879	1,633	1,203	2,880	8,596	2,732	144	3,298	3,019	
March	3,460	2,133	1,383	4,022	8,566	3,211	275	3,358	2,760	
April	2,235	1,548	898	3,414	7,721	2,783	401	2,497	2,927	
May	3,443	1,992	1,323	3,562	8,447	2,693	321	2,569	3,228	
June	3,157	1,961	920	3,471	8,833	3,273	251	2,506	2,980	
July	3,018	2,040	1,190	4,739	9,356	3,403	265	2,814	2,992	
August	3,046	1,978	910	3,968	9,479	3,079	265	2,928	3,151	
1992-93: July to Aug.	5,940	3,677	2,154	8,714	18,108	4,938	758	5,473	5,649	
1993-94: July to Aug.	6,254	4,018	2,100	8,707	18,835	6,482	531	5,742	6,143	

(a) Includes abrasive and medicated. (b) Includes abrasive soap sets in bars, cakes, moulded pieces or shapes. (c) For example powders. (d) Includes surface-active preparations for use in the processing or preparation of minerals, fibres and skins, paper, dyed textiles, textile fibres, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Introduction

This publication is one of a series of ten containing monthly and quarterly production statistics. The titles of the other publications of this series are shown in paragraph 9.

## Classification

2. Data contained in these publications are mostly based on monthly or quarterly collections conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Most items are identified by the commodity codes used in Australian Standard Commodity Classification (ASCC), which was developed by the ABS to facilitate greater comparability of manufacturing production commodity statistics with import and export commodity statistics. In cases where data are derived from sources other than ABS collections no commodity code is shown and the source of the data is acknowledged in a footnote.

## Scope and coverage

3. Manufacturing commodity statistics collected by the ABS exclude details relating to single establishment manufacturing enterprises with fewer than four persons employed and production of establishments predominantly engaged in non-manufacturing activities but which may carry on, in a minor way, some manufacturing. However, except for a few commodities, the effect on production levels and movements is marginal.

4. Annual figures shown in this publication are derived by aggregating monthly/quarterly production and relate to production during the year ended 30 June. They may differ from annual manufacturing census data which relate to the census year and, in the case of businesses unable to report on a June year basis, include details in respect of substitute accounting periods.

## Seasonal adjustment and trend estimates

5. This publication contains seasonally adjusted statistics. In the seasonal adjustment account has been taken not only of normal seasonal factors but also, where appropriate, of 'working-day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in the month) and the influence of Easter and Australia Day which may, in successive years, affect figures for different months. However, care should be exercised in interpreting the figures for those months in which Christmas/New Year and Easter holidays fall as some manufacturers vary holiday shutdowns in the light of prevailing demand for their products. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these and other series are available on request.

6. The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to create trend estimates is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates have been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

7. While this smoothing technique enables estimates of trend to be produced for the latest month, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent months as

data for subsequent months become available. Generally subsequent revisions become smaller and after 3 months have little impact on the series. There will also be revisions as a result of revisions to the original estimates and annual reviews of seasonal and 'working day' factors.

8. Users may wish to refer to the ABS Information Papers *A Guide to Smoothing Time Series — Estimates of Trend* (1316.0) and *Time Series Decomposition — An Overview* (1317.0) for more detailed information on smoothing of seasonally adjusted time series data.

## Related publications

9. Other ABS publications which may be of interest are:

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) — issued monthly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Household Appliances and Electrical Equipment* (8357.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Clothing and Footwear* (8358.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food* (8359.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings* (8360.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Building Materials and Fittings* (8361.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Transport Equipment* (8363.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Metal Products* (8367.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Energy Products* (8368.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia, Wood and Wood Products* (8369.0) — issued quarterly

*Manufacturing Production, Australia: Principal Commodities Produced, 1989-90* (8365.0) — to be released shortly

Unpublished production data is also available from the ABS Sydney office. Please contact Colin Nicholson on (02) 268 4282.

10. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, 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.

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