



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra



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INQUIRIES

MAIN FEATURES

Total imports for April 1981 rose by \$108m, to \$1,704m.

Of this increase \$50m was attributed to the arrival of the Chinese Paintings Exhibition. Machinery imports increased by \$38m.

Imports for the ten months ended April 1981 rose by \$2,234m, an increase of 16.7% compared with the ten months ended April 1980.

The major contributors to this increase were machinery and transport equipment (+\$1,072m) and petroleum products (+\$553m).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains monthly and year-to-date statistics of imports by Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the *Australian Import Commodity Classification* (AICC) (1204.0). Statistics for 1980-81 are preliminary and subject to revision.

2. More detailed figures will be published in the monthly publication *Imports, Australia* (5406.0).

Source of data

3. These statistics are compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from information contained in import entries submitted by importers or their agents to the Bureau of Customs as required by the Customs Act.

Statistical period

4. Imports are recorded statistically in the calendar month in which the import entries were both finalised by the Bureau of Customs and passed to the ABS for further processing. Normally this is within a few days of discharge of cargo. However, import entries may be lodged early using the check-to-arrive system or may be delayed because of various validation checks before being passed on to the ABS. Because of this, import statistics for a particular month do not necessarily represent entries lodged or commodities actually imported during the month in question. Analysis of past data has shown that in aggregate approximately 70% of import trade by value recorded for a particular month was actually imported

during that month, 25% was actually imported during the previous month with the remaining 5% being imported in earlier months. For individual commodities the percentage by value representing actual imports in a month may vary considerably.

Valuation

5. For imports the recorded value is the value for duty for Customs purposes (VFD). On 1 July 1976, Australia adopted the internationally recognised Brussels Definition of Value (BDV) on a free-on-board (f.o.b.) basis (i.e. charges and expenses involved in delivering the goods from the place of exportation to the place of introduction in Australia, are excluded). The value for duty is based on the normal price i.e. the price the goods would fetch at the time when duty becomes payable on a sale in the open market between a buyer and a seller independent of each other. In practice, the basis for valuation is generally taken to be the invoice price subject to certain safeguards and adjustments where necessary.

Merchandise imports

6. In accordance with standards recommended by the United Nations merchandise imports are defined as all goods which add to the stocks of material resources in Australia as a result of their movement into the country. Merchandise imports, therefore, exclude goods imported with the reasonable expectation of re-export within a limited time. A complete list of commodities not included in merchandise trade is shown under Section 9(b) of the AICC. These include, for example, coin being legal tender, goods for temporary exhibition in Australia. Goods excluded from merchandise trade are for convenience termed non-merchandise and non-merchandise trade is shown separately in Table 3. Total trade is the addition of merchandise and non-merchandise trade.

Commodity classification

7. Imports are classified according to the items of the AICC which, from 1 July 1978, has been based on the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 2. A detailed description of the commodity items included in this publication is contained in the AICC. Copies of or extracts from this classification may be obtained from offices of the ABS in Canberra and in each capital city.

Revisions to previous figures

8. Where revisions have been made to the previously published figures for earlier months of the current financial year, appropriate adjustments are made to the year-to-date figures shown in this publication. For this reason, monthly figures published in previous issues for the current financial year will not necessarily add to the year-to-date figures shown in the latest issue.

Special returns system

9. More detailed and/or timely statistics at a more specific commodity level are available by subscription to the pre-paid Overseas Trade Special Return Service. Subscribers to this service can obtain by post, computer-produced special returns according to a limited number of formats, for a charge consistent with the degree of detail required. Special returns are available on a monthly or less frequent basis and application forms are available from the Overseas Trade Section in Canberra or from each State office of the ABS. Special returns are also available for imports cleared for home consumption and export statistics.

Related publications

10. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Imports of Assembled New Passenger Motor Cars, Australia (5416.0)—issued monthly

Imports, Australia (5406.0)—issued monthly

Exports by Commodity Divisions, Australia (Preliminary) (5402.0)—issued monthly

Exports, Australia (5404.0)—issued monthly

Exports and Imports of Merchandise at Constant Prices, Australia (5421.0)—issued quarterly

11. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia (1101.0)* which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

n.e.s. not elsewhere specified

n.a. not available

12. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDEXES OF CURRENT PRICE VALUES OF MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES(a)

Commodity description	Average monthly value 1979-80	February 1981	March 1981	April 1981
Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	100	89	95	101
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	100	109	103	95
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	100	215	123	127
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. (5)	100	96	101	109
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	100	80	111	105
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	100	99	104	103
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	100	108	122	133
Machinery (71-77)	100	115	131	143
Transport equipment (78,79)	100	108	128	117
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	100	114	113	115
Total imports	100	119	118	126

For footnotes see Table 2.

TABLE 2. PERCENTAGE SHARE BY VALUE OF MAJOR COMMODITIES IMPORTED(a)

Commodity description	1979-80	February 1981	March 1981	April 1981
	%	%	%	%
Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	4.0	3.0	3.3	3.2
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	4.3	3.9	3.8	3.3
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	12.9	23.3	13.5	13.0
Chemicals and related products, n.e.s. (5)	9.7	7.8	8.3	8.4
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	2.6	1.7	2.4	2.2
Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	5.0	4.9	5.2	4.8
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	5.4	4.8	5.5	5.6
Machinery (71-77)	24.2	23.3	27.0	27.5
Transport equipment (78,79)	10.6	9.6	11.6	9.9
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	12.4	11.8	11.9	11.3
Total imports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Imports of the 'major commodities' shown in these tables are significant imports by particular Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the Australian Import Commodity Classification (figures in brackets following commodity descriptions denote the relevant Sections and Divisions).

TABLE 3. IMPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN IMPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION
(£ 000)

Section and division	February 1981	March 1981	April 1981	Ten months ended April	
				1980	1981
0 FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD—					
00 Live animals chiefly for food	5,975	973	1,634	22,277	18,852
01 Meat and meat preparations	589	615	833	7,638	8,807
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	1,619	2,980	2,664	26,407	32,211
03 Fish, crustaceans and molluscs and preparations thereof	16,275	15,865	15,407	127,440	161,147
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	861	1,297	1,774	14,077	16,291
05 Vegetables and fruit	8,263	8,817	9,164	97,024	96,951
06 Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	975	981	1,145	8,325	9,336
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	10,803	16,763	18,696	200,649	157,088
08 Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	1,549	1,820	2,043	22,688	21,741
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	1,512	2,007	1,907	19,302	19,091
Total section 0	48,421	52,119	55,267	545,829	541,515
1 BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO—					
11 Beverages	5,955	7,115	8,695	59,911	78,627
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	2,749	10,398	6,379	57,938	66,161
Total section 1	8,704	17,513	15,074	117,849	144,788
2 CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS—					
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	241	246	366	2,004	2,146
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	3,976	3,174	1,352	6,690	16,416
23 Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	4,918	4,916	6,023	65,540	55,897
24 Cork and wood	15,599	15,585	17,376	162,514	156,669
25 Pulp and waste paper	6,141	9,748	7,956	74,972	95,576
26 Textile fibres (other than wool tops) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	6,834	7,530	9,635	74,310	69,372
27 Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum, precious stones)	19,153	9,918	8,465	130,764	178,722
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	3,586	5,498	1,362	25,900	30,573
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	3,068	3,366	3,064	34,091	34,052
Total section 2	63,515	59,980	55,599	576,786	639,422
3 MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS—					
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	487	96	3,238	3,372	5,572
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	375,258	214,786	222,096	1,662,241	2,215,453
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	5	5	23	229	167
Total section 3	375,750	214,887	225,357	1,665,842	2,221,192
4 ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES—					
41 Animal oils and fats	34	37	15	417	449
42 Fixed vegetable oils and fats	2,587	2,533	3,259	54,231	36,369
43 Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed, and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	1,689	2,356	1,226	12,993	15,312
Total section 4	4,309	4,925	4,500	67,642	52,130
5 CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.—					
50 Combined confidential items from 513 and 582	246	765	1,132	n.a.	5,037
51 Organic chemicals	34,368	39,232	39,927	412,518	367,661
52 Inorganic chemicals	20,217	14,750	11,610	131,662	168,424
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	5,089	5,930	8,052	69,883	64,602
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	11,733	12,425	13,091	127,360	119,425
55 Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleaning preparations	5,838	7,673	7,943	68,561	71,528
56 Fertilisers, manufactured	1,680	1,665	8,454	26,351	32,981
57 Explosives and pyrotechnic products	842	580	1,069	8,216	6,255
58 Artificial resins and plastic materials, and cellulose esters and ethers	24,344	34,070	31,562	308,500	289,129
59 Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	21,427	15,774	20,887	171,619	183,876
Total section 5	125,784	132,863	143,728	1,324,669	1,308,917

TABLE 3. IMPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE AUSTRALIAN
IMPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION—continued
(£' 000)

Section and division	February 1981	March 1981	April 1981	Ten months ended April	
				1980	1981
6 MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL—					
60 Combined confidential items from 661, 694 and 695	1,075	409	296	n.a.	4,558
61 Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins	2,662	3,250	3,397	37,128	31,557
62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	18,539	22,903	21,485	162,967	201,629
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	6,245	6,747	8,209	64,249	77,469
64 Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	28,087	38,825	36,745	350,390	376,012
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products	78,752	82,465	82,120	787,953	818,083
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	29,937	35,807	35,129	272,591	322,467
67 Iron and steel	31,556	41,557	44,327	282,117	355,450
68 Non-ferrous metals	12,946	7,426	8,449	70,886	92,206
69 Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.	33,658	39,493	43,446	362,447	402,774
Total section 6	243,457	278,882	283,604	2,390,728	2,682,206
7 MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT—					
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	53,684	47,273	57,051	414,023	468,432
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	85,197	91,712	117,043	705,185	977,631
73 Metalworking machinery	15,570	15,872	17,864	97,870	178,278
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.	72,563	82,363	92,403	650,907	818,062
75 Office machines and automatic data processing equipment	39,569	61,186	57,880	398,258	524,385
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	42,950	57,819	52,652	346,317	453,541
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s. and electrical parts thereof (including non-electrical counter-parts, n.e.s., of electrical household type equipment)	66,440	74,114	73,682	580,785	679,692
78 Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)	131,364	158,015	143,842	1,175,471	1,398,693
79 Other transport equipment	23,619	26,271	24,803	284,066	225,803
Total section 7	530,957	614,824	637,220	5,652,883	5,724,620
8 MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES—					
81 Sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	3,250	2,497	3,331	32,598	31,347
82 Furniture and parts thereof	6,811	7,470	8,296	64,378	76,661
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	5,258	4,521	4,789	44,902	54,350
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	39,026	28,193	23,665	255,027	265,547
85 Footwear	13,358	9,413	7,142	91,411	96,754
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	30,707	34,099	34,497	237,561	305,222
88 Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	23,819	28,145	31,101	256,093	291,198
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	67,577	75,216	78,974	693,279	779,362
Total section 8	189,805	189,554	191,795	1,675,248	1,900,442
9A Commodities and transactions of merchandise trade, not elsewhere classified	14,872	18,333	31,075	176,817	213,763
Total merchandise (a)	1,605,574	1,983,680	1,643,219	13,194,292	15,428,994
9B Non-merchandise (b)	7,806	11,439	(c) 60,318	156,919	(c) 156,349
Total imports	1,613,380	1,995,119	1,703,537	13,351,211	15,585,343

(a) The sum of Divisions 60 to 9A. (b) A complete description of non-merchandise items is contained in the *Australian Import Commodity Classification* (1204.0). (c) Includes the arrival of the Chinese Paintings Exhibition valued at \$50m.