



EXPORTS BY COMMODITY DIVISIONS, AUSTRALIA MAY 1985

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MAIN FEATURES

Exports for May 1985 rose by \$23m to \$2,938m, an increase of 1% compared with April 1985.

The major contributors to this increase were metalliferous ores (+\$103m), fish, crustaceans and molluscs (+\$31m), machinery and transport equipment (+\$24m), sugar (+\$19m) and meat and meat preparations (+\$19m). Decreases were recorded in coal (-\$69m), cereals (-\$54m) and textile fibres (-\$47m).

Exports for the eleven months ended May 1985 rose by \$4,616m to \$26,910m, an increase of 21% compared with exports for the eleven months ended May 1984. The major contributors to this increase were cereals (+\$1,287m), coal (+\$1,045m), textile fibres (+\$449m), petroleum products (+\$445m) and metalliferous ores (+\$417m).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains monthly and year-to-date statistics of Australia's exports by Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the Australian Export Commodity Classification (AEC) (1203.0). Statistics for 1983-84 and 1984-85 may be amended as a result of continuing quality checks on foreign trade data. Although these amendments usually have little effect on broad aggregate statistics, they may have a significant effect on individual commodity statistics. For this reason, statistics for 1983-84 and 1984-85 should be regarded as preliminary and subject to revision.

2. More detailed figures will be published in the monthly publications Exports of Major Commodities and their Principal Markets, Australia (5403.0) and Exports, Australia (5404.0).

Source of data

These statistics are compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from information contained in export entries and returns submitted by exporters or their agents to the Australian Customs Service as required by the Customs Act.

Statistical concepts

4. The statistics of exports presented in this publication are recorded on a general trade basis, i.e. export figures include both Australian produce and re-exports.

5. Australian produce is defined as goods, materials or articles which have been produced, manufactured or partly manufactured in Australia, except goods which were originally imported and have undergone only repair or minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged.

6. Re-exports are defined as goods, materials or articles originally imported which are exported in the same condition in which they were imported and goods, materials or articles originally imported which are exported after undergoing only repair or minor operation which leave them essentially unchanged. Minor operations include blending, packaging, bottling, cleaning, sorting, husking, and shelling.

7. The following are excluded from recorded export statistics:

- (a) direct transit trade, i.e. goods being trans-shipped or moved through Australia for purposes of transport only;
- (b) migrants and passengers' effects exported and parcels post exports of small value, for which Customs entries are not required;
- (c) certain materials under inter-governmental agreements for defence and similar projects for which Customs entries are not required;
- (d) vessels and aircraft engaged in the transport of passengers or goods between Australia and other countries;
- (e) the sale of any vessel and/or aircraft originally purchased for use on overseas routes;
- (f) fish and other sea products landed abroad directly from the high seas by Australian vessels;
- (g) export consignments where the value of the goods in each transaction is less than \$250.

8. Ships' and aircraft stores. Prior to July 1982 bunkers and stores supplied to foreign owned vessels and aircraft prior to departure overseas were excluded from export statistics but were published separately as ships' and aircraft stores statistics. The United Nations Statistical Commission has recommended (International Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, United Nations Statistical Papers, Series M, No 52, Revision 1, 1982) that such bunkers and stores be included in total export statistics. Accordingly, commencing with July 1982 statistics, these commodities have been classified according to the appropriate AECC items. As a result, from July 1982 total export statistics and commodity statistics which include stores for foreign ships and aircraft are not strictly comparable with data for earlier periods.

Statistical period

9. Exports are recorded statistically in the month when the entries are lodged with the Australian Customs

Service. Regular exporters or their agents may provide details of their export shipments on a periodic rather than an individual shipment basis by submitting weekly or monthly returns. These "periodic returns" must be submitted to the Australian Customs Service within seven days of the end of the period in question covering all shipments during that period. All other exporters are required to report each individual shipment prior to the ship's departure. Approximately 90 per cent of monthly export values are recorded on periodic returns. The statistical month for Customs outports (generally ports other than those at which the main Customs office in each state is located) closes on the 21st of each month, whereas for mainports the statistical month is the calendar month.

10. Because of these factors, export statistics for a particular month do not necessarily represent entries lodged or commodities actually exported during that month. Analysis of past data has shown that in aggregate approximately 30 per cent of export trade by value for a particular month reflects actual shipments during that month, 60 per cent by value was actually exported during the previous month with the remaining 10 per cent by value exported in earlier months. For individual commodities the percentage by value representing actual exports in a month may vary considerably.

Valuation

11. Goods actually sold to overseas buyers prior to shipment are valued at the free-on-board (f.o.b.) Australian port of shipment equivalent of the actual price at which the goods were sold. Goods shipped on consignment are valued at the f.o.b. Australian port of shipment equivalent of the current price offering for similar goods of Australian origin in the principal markets of the country to which the goods are dispatched for sale.

12. The recorded value of exports includes the value of the outside package, other than international containers used for containerised cargo.

Merchandise exports

13. In accordance with standards recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission, merchandise exports are defined as all goods which subtract from the stock of material resources in Australia as a result of their movement out of the country.

Merchandise exports, therefore, exclude goods exported with the reasonable expectation of their re-import within a limited time. A complete list of commodities not included in merchandise trade is shown under Section 9(b) of the AECC. These include, for example, coin being legal tender and goods for temporary exhibition outside 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 sum of merchandise and non-merchandise trade.

14. Classification changes affecting the levels of merchandise and non-merchandise trade were introduced on 1 July 1983, in accordance with recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission (International Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, United Nations Statistical Papers, Series M, No 52, Revision 1, 1982). As a result, statistics of exports, from July 1983, under Sections 9(a) and 9(b) of the AECC are not comparable with previous years. The changes do not affect Sections 0 to 8 of the classification, nor total trade. Further information about the changes was given in the 1983-84 edition of the AECC, or may be obtained from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra.

Commodity classification

15. Exports are classified according to the items of the AECC which, from 1 July 1978, has been based on the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 2 (United Nations Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 34, Revision 2, 1975). A detailed description of the commodity items included in this publication is contained in the AECC. Copies of, or extracts from, this classification may be obtained from offices of the ABS in Canberra and in each capital city.

Treatment of confidential data

16. To ensure that information about the activities of particular businesses is not disclosed it is necessary to restrict the release of statistics of certain commodities. These restrictions do not affect total export figures but they can affect statistics at all levels of the Australian Export Commodity Classification.

17. The implementation of a new foreign trade processing system has resulted in a revised treatment of confidential data. Consequently certain statistics in publications first

containing March 1982 data are not directly comparable with statistics in previous publications.

18. Reference to table footnotes should assist in the interpretation of these differences.

Revision to previous figures

19. 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.

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

20. Special returns service: Subscribers to this service can receive computer produced printout of foreign trade statistics at a particular commodity level in one or more of a limited number of formats, for a charge consistent with the level of detail required. This service is recommended where up to fifty specific commodity items are required on a regular basis.

21. Microfiche service: Foreign trade statistics are also available on microfiche in a variety of tabular formats. Each tabular format covers all commodities exported or imported, at various levels of aggregation. This service is recommended where the subscriber wishes to obtain foreign trade details for a large number of commodities.

22. Magnetic tape: Statistics for imports, exports and import clearances are available on 9-track magnetic tape approximately 4 weeks after the end of the reference period. Documentation regarding the content and structure of these tapes is available from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra.

23. To meet subscribers' needs special returns and microfiche are available on a monthly, quarterly or less frequent basis. Relevant application forms and information papers for these services are available from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra or any ABS State office. Payment in advance is required for each of these services.

Related publications

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

Balance of Payments, Australia (5301.0)
-issued monthly

Exports of Major Commodities and Their
Principal Markets Australia (5403.0)
-issued monthly

Exports, Australia (5404.0) -issued
monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 incl. postage)

Imports by Commodity Divisions, Australia
(5405.0) -issued monthly

Imports, Australia (5406.0) -issued
monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 incl. postage)

Exports and Imports (Balance of Payments
Basis) at Constant Prices, Australia
(5332.0) -issued quarterly

Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)
-issued monthly

25. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications, 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.

Symbols and other usages

n.e.s. not elsewhere specified

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

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

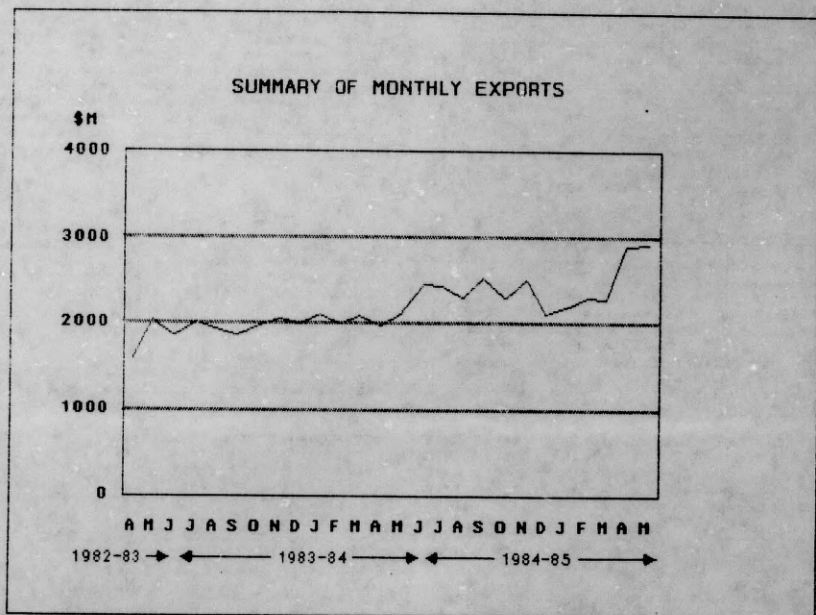


TABLE 1. REPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN EXPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION
1 000

Section and Division	March 1985	April 1985	May 1985	Eleven months ended May	
				1984	1985
0 FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS					
00 Live animals	24,414	17,634	38,846	229,972	228,336
01 Meat and meat preparations	111,053	117,807	136,775	1,262,937	1,214,218
02 Dairy products and birds' eggs	30,863	51,495	37,935	338,490	379,908
03 Fish, crustaceans and molluscs, and preparations thereof	27,376	32,170	63,067	355,410	355,605
04 Cereals and cereal preparations	432,947	425,595	371,606	2,432,540	3,719,735
05 Vegetables and fruit	21,534	29,228	28,331	200,198	225,427
06 Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	25,935	36,576	55,584	596,320	559,858
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	1,727	3,013	1,432	36,958	33,263
08 Feeding stuff for animals (not including unskilled cereals)	11,669	13,092	15,196	91,181	111,778
09 Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	1,799	2,278	1,681	20,078	24,480
Total Section 0	689,317	728,889	750,454	5,564,484	6,852,607
1 BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO					
11 Beverages	4,363	4,432	5,470	53,858	53,300
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	1,555	1,288	991	13,545	13,338
Total Section 1	5,918	5,720	6,461	67,403	66,638
2 CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS					
21 Hides, skins and furskins, raw	24,202	29,414	30,125	239,977	289,608
22 Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	424	3,845	1,009	10,567	28,690
23 Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	93	34	292	3,025	1,473
24 Cork and wood	16,572	23,397	24,057	204,596	227,678
25 Pulp and waste paper	618	1,482	1,454	3,436	8,483
26 Textile fibres (other than wool tops) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	178,585	321,321	274,771	1,828,481	2,277,805
27 Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	19,069	11,734	17,538	112,678	131,033
28 Metalliferous ores and metal scrap(s)	326,605	413,929	517,182	3,755,085	4,172,192
29 Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	4,983	5,282	4,499	48,777	53,329
Total Section 2(a)	571,151	810,459	870,928	6,206,620	7,191,891
3 MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
32 Coal, coke and briquettes	357,902	439,139	370,562	3,067,437	4,112,272
33 Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	138,883	187,373	187,616	1,217,472	1,662,242
34 Gas, natural and manufactured	27,077	47,122	61,016	384,010	374,062
Total Section 3	523,861	673,634	619,193	4,668,919	6,148,576
4 ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES					
41 Animal oils and fats	10,911	12,893	15,321	79,711	101,331
42 Fixed vegetable oils and fats	387	365	461	4,498	8,905
43 Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed, and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	502	714	856	6,171	7,860
Total Section 4	11,800	13,972	16,637	90,380	118,096
5 CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.					
51 Organic chemicals	6,690	5,485	5,590	42,553	45,279
52 Inorganic chemicals(b)	3,042	7,228	5,211	39,616	45,028
53 Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials(c)	1,850	2,872	7,291	18,493	21,575
54 Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	8,559	11,020	11,174	108,182	110,844
55 Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	2,474	2,444	4,242	34,761	36,035
56 Fertilisers, manufactured	151	161	89	8,312	7,735
57 Explosives and pyrotechnic products	143	354	1,069	7,560	7,526
58 Artificial resins and plastic materials, and cellulose esters and ethers	9,885	15,597	12,498	116,980	125,480
59 Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	6,734	7,470	8,403	77,541	90,402
Total Section 5(d)	39,848	52,832	50,567	453,997	485,904

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 1. EXPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN EXPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION - Continued
\$'000

Section and Division	March 1985	April 1985	May 1985	Eleven months ended May	
				1984	1985
6 MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL					
61 Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins	1,729	7,034	6,264	46,030	59,373
62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	1,148	1,733	1,556	11,172	13,024
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excluding Furniture)	1,140	377	579	6,382	5,775
64 Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	4,631	7,159	4,218	48,554	64,825
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products	14,321	14,142	17,773	134,009	133,955
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	9,136	13,546	11,317	144,267	109,904
67 Iron and steel	49,403	61,373	60,044	383,133	429,987
68 Non-ferrous metals	92,910	173,531	140,548	1,366,380	1,486,555
69 Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.	11,484	12,478	21,704	189,134	160,106
Total Section 6	186,102	291,393	264,001	2,328,361	2,483,702
7 MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT					
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	16,532	16,357	19,788	175,088	175,430
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries	11,348	15,923	16,703	164,553	162,123
73 Metalworking machinery	1,809	1,902	1,541	27,908	24,301
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.	12,168	14,283	14,415	160,830	153,242
75 Office machines and automatic data processing equipment	13,438	13,448	15,025	106,645	144,367
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	4,274	5,652	7,424	48,127	53,324
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof	11,387	13,272	13,906	133,006	140,958
78 Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)	20,791	30,697	28,359	242,893	268,739
79 Other transport equipment	8,898	14,035	32,704	165,247	230,027
Total Section 7	100,646	125,570	149,865	1,224,297	1,352,503
8 MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES					
81 Sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	730	860	774	8,101	7,993
82 Furniture and parts thereof	948	1,451	1,327	17,232	14,280
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	309	327	257	1,968	3,702
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	1,063	1,711	1,452	14,904	16,114
85 Footwear	273	351	488	4,536	4,670
87 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	8,978	15,223	16,323	132,826	157,059
88 Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	12,920	13,424	16,411	133,866	159,716
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	14,383	15,368	16,461	150,158	172,847
Total Section 8	39,405	50,714	53,463	463,592	536,382
9A Commodities and transactions of merchandise trade, not elsewhere specified(a)	80,590	92,752	90,870	627,827	893,256
Total merchandise(f)	2,248,837	2,845,934	2,872,640	21,695,880	26,129,555
9B Non-merchandise(g)	33,801	69,376	65,371	597,726	780,534
Total Exports	2,282,638	2,915,310	2,938,011	22,293,606	26,910,089

(a) Excludes items 287.31.00, 287.70.00, 287.93.07 and 287.99.19.

(b) Excludes item 522.49.00.

(c) Excludes item 533.10.00.

(d) Excludes items 522.49.00 and 533.10.00.

(e) Includes items 287.31.00, 287.70.00, 287.93.07, 287.99.19, 522.49.00 and 533.10.00.

(f) The sum of Divisions 00 to 9A.

(g) A complete description of non-merchandise items is contained in the Australian Export Commodity Classification (1203.0).

TABLE 2. MOVEMENTS IN MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES (a) - PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN VALUE COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING PERIOD FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR

COMMODITY DESCRIPTION	1983-84 %	Three months ended		
		March 1985 %	April 1985 %	May 1985 %
Meat and meat preparations (01)	-18.3	0.6	14.2	31.0
Cereals and cereal preparations (04)	36.6	3.9	22.2	34.0
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey (06)	16.0	1.4	104.5	-10.8
Textile fibres and their wastes (26)	5.8	18.0	47.7	48.8
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (28)	9.3	20.9	11.5	24.3
Coal, coke and briquettes (32)	9.2	18.8	40.8	43.1
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	13.0	10.8	48.7	44.7
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	12.1	-1.3	24.9	24.1
Machinery and transport equipment (7)	20.3	6.5	6.8	16.9
Total all exports	10.4	9.1	23.0	30.4

(a) For footnote see Table 3.

TABLE 3. PERCENTAGE SHARE BY VALUE OF MAJOR COMMODITIES IN TOTAL EXPORTS (a)

Commodity description	1983-84 %	Three months ended		
		March 1985 %	April 1985 %	May 1985 %
Meat and meat preparations (01)	5.7	4.1	4.1	4.5
Cereals and cereal preparations (04)	10.9	15.6	15.5	15.1
Sugar, sugar preparations and honey (06)	2.7	1.3	1.2	1.3
Textile fibres and their wastes (26)	8.2	9.8	10.0	9.3
Metalliferous ores and metal scrap (28)	16.8	15.0	14.8	15.5
Coal, coke and briquettes (32)	13.8	14.0	15.7	14.4
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	5.5	6.0	6.3	6.3
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	8.7	7.4	8.2	7.7
Machinery and transport equipment (7)	5.3	4.4	4.2	4.6
Total all exports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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