

**IMPORT ORDERS
OUTSTANDING FOR
SELECTED COMMODITIES,
AUSTRALIA
CATALOGUE NO. 5417.0**

382-505

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IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES JANUARY 1978

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr B Donaghy, Canberra 525710 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 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Commodities with current orders in excess of recent clearances

- acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, etc.
- assembled tumble type clothes dryers
- precision ground steel ball bearings

Commodities with current orders below level of recent clearances

- polypropylene in bulk forms
- tufted and axminster carpets in rolls
- galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates
- air conditioners
- domestic refrigerators
- assembled domestic washing machines
- colour television receivers
- assembled new light commercial type motor vehicles

Import orders outstanding expected to be cleared during the 4 months ending May 1978

Quantity	
750	tonnes
18,000	units
1,494,000	units
2,200	tonnes (*)
1,743,000	sq. m
29,900	tonnes
19,600	units
14,500	units
26,200	units
85,000	units
11,600	units

(*) Includes orders expected to be cleared after May 1978.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This bulletin provides, for selected commodities, preliminary estimates of the level of *import orders outstanding and not cleared* through Australian Customs at 31 January 1978. 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 bulletin 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. 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:

- new orders being placed and expected to be cleared within the particular time period;
- new orders having been placed by new or casual importers;
- 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 clearances shown in this bulletin 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 1 standard error, and 19 chances in 20 that the difference would be less than 2 standard errors. The standard error associated with the estimates of total import orders outstanding for each particular commodity is approximately 2 per cent. This means, for example, that for the January 1978 estimate of total import orders outstanding of 1,937,000 sq.m of carpet there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an

estimate in the range of approximately 1,898,000 sq.m to 1,976,000 sq.m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range of 1,860,000 sq.m to 2,014,000 sq.m.

9. 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.

Commodities

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

ABS publications

11. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications, 1977* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

R.J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

COMMODITY

Polypropylene in bulk forms, including waste and scrap

Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil

Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls

Knitted net fabrics

Curtains

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates

Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates

Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates

Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type

Refrigerators for domestic use, over 200 litres

internal capacity

Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled

Washing machines for domestic use; assembled

Precision ground steel ball bearings

Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm

Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen 48cm

Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen exceeding 48cm

Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight (excl. four-wheel drive vehicles); new, assembled

Four-wheel drive motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight;

new, assembled

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

39.02.160

39.02.800.030/.041/.10X/.110

58.02.400.58.02.500.023/.034/.045/.056,

58.02.900.386/.397

60.01.910.107/.118/.151.60.01.911.100/.111/.122/.155/.166/.177,

60.01.919.10X/.110/.121/.154/.165/.176

60.05.610.026/.037, 60.05.690.022/.033,

60.05.900.12X/.130, 62.02.700.013/.024,

62.02.710, 62.02.790

73.13.100.113/.135/.157/.179

73.13.300.136/.17X/.180/.191/.205 and part of stat. keys .158 and .169

73.15.300

84.12.000.050/.061

84.15.211.015/.026, 84.15.219.014/.025, 84.15.221.1X,

84.15.229.019

84.40.211.015, 84.40.219.01

84.40.221.020/.031/.042/.053, 84.40.229.2X/.030/.041/.052

84.62.200.207/.218/.229

85.15.100.891

85.15.100.916

85.15.100.938

87.02.210.053, 87.02.310

87.02.390 part of stat. key .237

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED AT 31 JANUARY 1978 (PRELIMINARY)

Import orders outstanding and not cleared at 31 January 1978						
Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Expected by importers to be cleared		Total orders outstanding	Imports cleared in recent periods	
		Between			December 1977	Four months ended December 1977
		1 February 1978 and 31 May 1978	Beyond 31 May 1978			
Polypropylene in bulk forms	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	2,200	650	2,200
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	tonne	750	..	750	200	700
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b) (c)	sq.m	1,743,000	194,000	1,937,000	493,000	2,574,000
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	29,900	n.a.	n.a.	3,400	34,700
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	19,600	800	20,400	10,300	56,900
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	14,500	1,400	15,900	5,100	17,400
Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled	no.	18,000	5,700	23,700	600	15,100
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	26,200	11,600	37,800	7,600	45,300
Precision ground steel ball bearings (b)	no.	1,494,000	893,000	2,387,000	133,000	931,000
Television receivers, colour; complete						
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	50,000	8,000	58,000	9,100	76,000
viewable screen 48cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	34,000	6,400	31,000
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	14,000	1,300	6,000
Total	no.	85,000	21,000	106,000	16,800	113,000
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (d)						
four-wheel drive	no.	n.a.	n.a.	5,700	n.a.	n.a.
other	no.	n.a.	n.a.	6,600	1,700	7,200
Total	no.	11,600	700	12,300	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes paragraph 8. (c) Includes kitchen carpets. (d) At the end of January 1978 there were 2,650 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

n.a. not available. .. nil.

TABLE 2. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED AT 31 DECEMBER 1977 (REVISED)

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Import orders outstanding and not cleared at 31 December 1977				
		Expected by importers to be cleared			Imports cleared in recent periods	
		Between		Total orders outstanding	December 1977	Four months ended December 1977
		1 January 1978 and 30 April 1978	Beyond 30 April 1978			
Polypropylene in bulk forms	tonne	n.a.	n.a.	2,150	650	2,200
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	tonne	900	..	900	200	700
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b) (c)	sq.m	1,854,000	200,000	2,054,000	493,000	2,574,000
Knitted net fabrics (b)	sq.m	420,000	73,000	493,000	64,500	648,000
Curtains (b)	sq.m	1,670,000	56,000	1,726,000	204,000	1,456,000
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	39,900	n.a.	n.a.	7,900	41,900
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	30,900	..	30,900	3,400	34,700
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,550	200	3,750	750	2,100
Air conditioners, portable or fixed window type	no.	24,700	1,100	25,800	10,300	56,900
Television receivers, colour, complete						
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	64,000	9,100	76,000
viewable screen 48cm	no.	28,000	7,000	35,000	6,400	31,000
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	n.a.	n.a.	18,000	1,300	6,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>89,000</i>	<i>28,000</i>	<i>117,000</i>	<i>16,800</i>	<i>113,000</i>
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (d)						
four-wheel drive	no.	n.a.	n.a.	5,600	n.a.	n.a.
other	no.	n.a.	n.a.	7,000	1,700	7,200
<i>Total</i>	<i>no.</i>	<i>11,950</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>12,600</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Includes kitchen carpets. (d) At the end of December 1977 there were 2,600 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

n.a. not available. .. nil.

TABLE 3. IMPORT ORDERS FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES - OUTSTANDING AND NOT CLEARED,
AUGUST 1977 TO JANUARY 1978

Commodity (a)	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding 1977					1978
		August	September	October	November	December	January
		r					p
Polypropylene in bulk forms	tonne				1,800	2,150	2,200
Acrylic type sheets, plates, strip, film, roll film and foil (b)	tonne	750	850	1,850	1,800	900	750
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls (b) (c)	sq.m	2,576,000	2,610,000	2,354,000	2,109,000	2,054,000	1,937,000
Knitted net fabrics (b)	sq.m.	732,000	701,000	544,000	565,000	493,000	(f)
Curtains (b)	sq.m.	2,246,000	1,974,000	1,965,000	1,676,000	1,726,000	(f)
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	(e)36,000	(d)	(e)38,400	(d)	(e)39,900	(d)
Galvanised iron or steel sheets and plates	tonne	(e)26,000	(e)21,000	(e)26,500	(e)26,900	30,900	(e)29,900
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	2,400	(d)	3,450	(d)	3,750	(d)
Air conditioners; portable or fixed window type	no.	66,000	65,500	54,100	37,900	25,800	20,400
Refrigerators for domestic use and over 200 litres internal capacity	no.	(d)	14,700	(d)	18,600	(d)	15,900
Tumble type clothes dryers; assembled	no.	(d)	21,800	(d)	13,000	(d)	23,700
Washing machines for domestic use; assembled	no.	(d)	48,200	(d)	43,700	(d)	37,800
Precision ground steel ball bearings (b)	no.	(d)	2,370,000	(d)	2,650,000	(d)	2,387,000
Television receivers, colour; complete							
viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	97,000	100,000	90,000	67,000	64,000	58,000
viewable screen 48cm	no.	56,000	53,000	49,000	41,000	35,000	34,000
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	37,000	28,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	14,000
Total	no.	190,000	181,000	157,000	126,000	117,000	106,000
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled							
four-wheel drive	no.	5,950	5,500	5,500	4,850	5,600	5,700
other	no.	7,550	8,200	9,500	7,250	7,000	6,600
Total	no.	13,500	13,700	15,000	12,100	12,600	12,300

(a) Tariff items/statistical keys are shown in the Explanatory Notes, page 2. (b) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 8. (c) Includes kitchen carpets. (d) This commodity is surveyed in alternate months. (e) Includes only orders expected to be cleared in the subsequent four months. (f) Suspended from survey in January 1978.

r - revised. p - preliminary.