AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AUSTRALIA, JANUARY 1982

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Neil Patterson on Canberra (062) 52 5519 or any of our State offices.

other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

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MAIN FEATURES

January 1982—

An overall deficit of $407 million as measured by net official monetary movements.

A trade deficit of $208 million.

Exports of $1,542 million, up $131 million on the previous month.

Imports of $1,749 million, up $231 million on December 1981.

A current account deficit of $698 million, $154 million higher than the deficit in December 1981.

A net apparent capital inflow of $291 million, the lowest in four months.

Seven months ended January 1982—

An overall deficit of $1,714 million compared with an overall surplus of $294 million for the seven months ended January 1981.

A trade deficit of $1,929 million, compared with a $133 million surplus in the corresponding seven months of last financial year.

Exports of $10,598 million, 3 per cent down on the same period last financial year. Falls in the exports of wheat (down 30 per cent) and sugar (down 30 per cent) were partially offset by a rise in coal exports (up 35 per cent).

Imports of $12,526 million, up 16 per cent on the corresponding period in 1980-81. Significant increases occurred in machinery and transport equipment (up 25 per cent), petroleum (up 15 per cent), chemicals (up 15 per cent) and other manufactured goods (up 15 per cent).

A current account deficit of $5,024 million, $2,437 million higher than for the corresponding period last financial year.

A net apparent capital inflow of $3,310 million, $429 million higher than for the corresponding period last financial year. Of this increase government capital contributed $325 million.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This issue contains, in Table 1, preliminary estimates of Australia's international balance of payments for the month of January 1982 together with revised estimates for previous months and financial years. Supplementary information is contained in Table 2. The estimates should be examined in conjunction with the series contained in the quarterly and annual balance of payments publications (5302.0 and 5303.0, respectively). Reference should be made to the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5331.0) released on 19 March 1981 for information about balance of payments concepts and definitions. Changes to concepts, sources and methods since that publication are described in the 1979-80 issue of 5303.0 and in the December quarter 1981 issue of 5302.0.

2. Care should be exercised in interpreting monthly movements in the balance of payments, especially those of the most recent months. The sources available for the production of timely and reliable monthly estimates are limited. Consequently, estimates in this publication, to a greater degree than estimates in the quarterly and annual balance of payments publications, are subject to revision as more complete and more accurate information becomes available.

Exports f.o.b. and imports f.o.b.

3. The figures for exports free-on-board (f.o.b.) and imports f.o.b. in Table 1 represent recorded trade figures adjusted in respect of coverage, timing and valuation for balance of payments purposes. Seasonally adjusted estimates for exports f.o.b. and imports f.o.b. are shown in Table 2.

Balance of trade

4. This is exports f.o.b. less imports f.o.b.

Net invisibles

5. Net invisibles comprises the net sum of credit and debit entries for transactions in services, income and unrequited transfers. Items included are transportation services, travel, government services, miscellaneous services, property income and unrequited transfers such as foreign aid, gifts and donations.

Private capital and balancing item

6. This aggregate covers private capital movements (i.e. foreign investment in Australian enterprises, Australian investment abroad, trade credit n.e.i.), non-official monetary sector transactions and the balancing item (i.e. net errors and omissions). Within this aggregate, separate details are shown for public non-monetary enterprise borrowings, the trade credit of marketing authorities and other (which includes the balancing item).

Net official monetary movements

7. The aggregate net official monetary movements, the main component of which is changes in official reserve assets, is usually taken as a measure of the overall surplus or deficit in the balance of payments. This aggregate excludes changes that do not arise from international economic transactions.

Official reserve assets and exchange rates

8. Table 2 shows changes in official reserve assets which are included in the balance of payments, together with the adjustments made to the original Reserve Bank statistics to exclude changes in the Australian dollar value of reserve assets that are the result of revaluations. The table also shows changes in the value of the Australian dollar against specified foreign currencies.

Residual items

9. Due to lack of monthly data certain aggregates in Table 1 are derived as residuals after having first calculated those aggregates for which monthly information can be obtained or estimated. The aggregates which are derived as residuals are net apparent capital inflow, which is calculated by subtracting the balance on current account from net official monetary movements, and private capital and balancing item, which is derived by subtracting government capital from net apparent capital inflow.

Seasonal adjustment

10. In carrying out seasonal adjustment of exports f.o.b. and imports f.o.b. account is taken not only of seasonal factors, but also of 'trading-day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, etc. in the month) which may affect figures for different months in different years. Details of the methods used in the seasonal adjustment of these series are given in *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators, Australia* (1308.0). The statistics are also subject to large irregular influences which are not removed by seasonal adjustment and may be affected by changes in the composition of exports and imports. For these reasons, particular care should be exercised in interpreting individual month-to-month movements.

Presentation

11. In Table 1, minus sign (-) denotes: a debit for aggregates in the current account; an outflow for components of capital inflow (net); and for monetary movements, a decrease in assets or an increase in liabilities.

Available longer-term series

12. Users requiring monthly series for months earlier than those shown in this publication should contact Mr John Lazanis on Canberra (062) 52 5507. Series consistent with Table 1 and for exports f.o.b. and imports f.o.b., seasonally adjusted, are available from July 1971 onwards.

Related publications

13. 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

.. not applicable
— nil or rounded to zero

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

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
($ million)

	Exports f.o.b.	Imports f.o.b.	Balance of trade	Net invisibles	Balance on current account	Government capital	Private capital and balancing item(a)				Net apparent capital inflow	Net official monetary movements
							Trade credit of marketing authorities	Public non-monetary enterprise borrowings	Other	Total		
1978-79	14,073	-13,493	581	-4,391	-3,811	1,353	34	246	2,054	2,334	3,687	-124
1979-80	18,579	-15,829	2,749	-4,817	-2,068	-75	-379	509	1,712	1,842	1,767	-301
1980-81	18,851	-19,203	-351	-4,841	-5,193	-64	93	408	5,905	6,406	6,342	1,149
1980-81—												
December	1,618	-1,522	96	-381	-285	-80	8	-20	263	251	172	-114
January	1,577	-1,426	151	-415	-264	27	78	7	447	531	558	294
February	1,502	-1,595	-93	-320	-413	-9	-57	1	432	375	366	-47
March	1,451	-1,784	-333	-402	-736	84	22	57	615	694	778	43
April	1,636	-1,626	10	-490	-481	-24	-25	92	992	1,059	1,035	555
May	1,688	-1,622	65	-476	-411	-100	29	28	648	705	605	194
June	1,626	-1,759	-134	-433	-566	-5	-10	68	625	683	677	111
1981-82—												
July	1,438	-1,896	-458	-444	-901	99	9	27	373	408	508	-394
August	1,710	-1,812	-102	-434	-536	-6	-55	90	238	274	268	-267
September	1,470	-1,764	-295	-446	-741	-46	56	60	189	305	259	-482
October	1,519	-1,980	-461	-475	-936	-1	38	62	664	764	763	-173
November	1,509	-1,807	-299	-371	-670	9	-34	42	482	489	499	-171
December	1,411	-1,518	-107	-436	-544	307	22	20	374	417	724	180
January	1,542	-1,749	-208	-490	-698	-47	27	29	282	338	291	-407
Seven months ended—												
January 1981	10,949	-10,817	133	-2,719	-2,587	-9	134	163	2,592	2,890	2,881	294
January 1982	10,598	-12,526	-1,929	-3,096	-5,024	316	62	330	2,603	2,995	3,310	-1,714

(a) Includes private capital movements, non-official monetary sector transactions and the balancing item.

TABLE 2. VISIBLE TRADE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED; OFFICIAL RESERVE ASSETS; AND EXCHANGE RATES

	Seasonally adjusted visible trade ($ million)		*Official reserve assets ($ million)*				*Exchange rates (end of year/month) Units of foreign currency per $A(a)*				*Trade-weighted index (end of year/month) of value of Australian dollar, May 1970 = 100(b)*
					Reserve bank series						
	Exports f.o.b.	*Imports f.o.b.*	*Changes included in the balance of payments*	*Changes due to effects of revaluations*	*Changes in levels*	*Levels at end of year/month*	*U.S.A. Dollar*	*U.K. Pound*	*Germany Fed. Rep. Mark*	*Japan Yen*	
1978-79	..	..	-167	+827	+660	3,885	1.1211	0.5154	2.068	242.44	83.1
1979-80	..	..	-349	+2,145	+1,796	5,681	1.1576	0.4914	2.033	251.26	85.0
1980-81	..	..	+1,101	-1,072	+29	5,709	1.1480	0.5894	2.746	259.57	92.9
1980-81—											
December	1,596	-1,630	-283	-269	-551	5,430	1.1807	0.4942	2.317	238.86	87.1
January	1,593	-1,376	+390	-235	+156	5,586	1.1707	0.4886	2.458	239.24	87.5
February	1,613	-1,699	-66	-348	-414	5,172	1.1566	0.5182	2.453	240.75	88.2
March	1,550	-1,747	+33	-52	-19	5,153	1.1684	0.5159	2.412	245.43	88.8
April	1,592	-1,694	+582	+27	+609	5,762	1.1505	0.5356	2.537	246.85	89.5
May	1,588	-1,639	+181	-85	+96	5,858	1.1385	0.5494	2.639	254.74	90.8
June	1,584	-1,747	+52	-200	-148	5,709	1.1480	0.5894	2.746	259.57	92.9
1981-82—											
July	1,346	-1,797	-383	-330	-714	4,996	1.1356	0.6097	2.791	271.36	94.2
August	1,799	-1,823	-258	-41	-299	4,696	1.1508	0.6184	2.805	261.81	94.4
September	1,535	-1,838	-480	+279	-201	4,495	1.1414	0.6364	2.648	265.64	93.8
October	1,511	-1,842	+40	-9	+32	4,527	1.1350	0.6135	2.565	265.77	93.0
November	1,482	-1,816	-173	-198	-371	4,156	1.1514	0.5860	2.541	248.00	91.2
December	1,386	-1,570	+157	+47	+204	4,360	1.1279	0.5900	2.536	247.47	90.5
January	1,587	-1,713	347	-100	-448	3,912	1.0994	0.5868	2.561	253.75	90.1

(a) The rates quoted are mid-points of the buying and selling rates for the last trading day of the month obtained from the Commonwealth Trading Bank. (b) The trade-weighted index is published by the Reserve Bank and is an index of the average value of the Australian dollar vis a vis currencies of Australia's major trading partners.

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