

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
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EVENING PAPERS : FRIDAY, 4TH MAY, 1956.

MORNING PAPERS : SATURDAY, 5TH MAY, 1956.

AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE : APRIL, 1956.

(Note: Values are in Australian Currency f.o.b. Port of Shipment)

Imports are recorded statistically in the month in which the import entries are passed by the Dept. of Customs and Excise. Normally this is within a few days of discharge of cargoes. Exports are recorded statistically in the month in which the export entries are passed by the Dept. of Customs and Excise. Normally this is within a few days of shipment.

Preliminary total values of the Oversea Trade of Australia recorded for the month of April, 1956 are shown below. This preliminary statement will be followed by the usual Monthly Bulletin containing details of items.

Total Imports recorded in April, 1956 were valued at approximately £68.1 million compared with £73.7 million in April, 1955, a decrease of £5.6 million or 7.6 per cent..

Total Exports recorded in April, 1956 amounted to approximately £78.1 million compared with £58.2 million in April, 1955, an increase of £19.9 million or 34.2 per cent.

In April, 1956, the recorded excess of exports over imports was approximately £10.0 million compared with an excess of imports over exports of £15.5 million in April, 1955.

For the first ten months of the year 1955-56 recorded imports exceeded recorded exports by approximately £65.7 million compared with an excess of £53.7 million in the corresponding period of 1954-55.

The table below shows the total value of recorded Oversea Trade (including Bullion and Specie) during each of the twentytwo months ended April, 1956.

(£A. million f.o.b. Port of Shipment)

Period	1954-55			1955-56 (a)		
	Imports	Exports	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)	Imports	Exports	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)
July ..	70.4	52.9	- 17.5	61.5	63.0	+ 1.5
August ..	66.7	44.5	- 22.2	71.4	51.3	- 20.1
September ..	70.5	55.0	- 15.5	75.3	54.0	- 21.3
October ..	65.0	74.1	+ 9.1	68.4	67.5	- 0.9
November ..	55.1	50.8	- 4.3	73.4	78.8	+ 5.4
December ..	64.1	85.5	+ 21.4	63.3	73.2	+ 9.9
January ..	76.4	64.4	- 12.0	(b)64.3	(b)55.7	(b) - 8.6
February ..	69.9	68.0	- 1.9	(b)59.4	(b)20.6	(b) - 38.8
March ..	77.6	82.3	+ 4.7	(b)80.7	(b)77.9	(b) - 2.8
April ..	73.7	58.2	- 15.5	68.1	78.1	+ 10.0
Ten Months ended April	689.4	635.7	- 53.7	685.8	620.1	- 65.7
May ..	79.1	68.2	- 10.9			
June ..	75.2	70.3	- 4.9			
Total Twelve Months	843.7	774.2	- 69.5			

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Affected by Industrial Dispute. March figures probably include some imports and exports which would normally have been included in January and February.

NOTE: - Freight and insurance charges payable on imports are not included above. These were estimated at £92.3 million for the year 1954-55 and at £53.1 million for the six months ended December, 1955.

Statistics relating only to oversea trade do not measure Australia's total Balance of Payments during the periods shown. Particulars of "invisible" transactions entering into the balance of payments (in particular, freight and insurance charges on imports, current production of Australian gold, oversea payments of dividends, profits, interest and royalties, Government expenditure overseas, etc.) are shown in a printed bulletin published by the Commonwealth Statistician entitled "The Australian Balance of Payments 1928-29 to 1951-52". Less detailed estimates for the years 1952-53, 1953-54 and 1954-55 and for the six months ended December, 1955 have been published in mimeographed form.

K.M. ARCHER
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