COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA.

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AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE : JULY, 1956.

(Note: Values are in Australian Currency f.o.b. port of shipment)

This preliminary statement of Oversea Trade for the month of July, 1956, will be followed by the usual Monthly Bulletin containing details of items.

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

Total Imports recorded in July, 1956 were valued at approximately £57.8 million compared with £61.6 million in July, 1955, a decrease of £3.8 million or 6.2 per cent..

Total Exports recorded in July, 1956 amounted to approximately £65.0 million compared with £63.0 million in July, 1955, an increase of £2.0 million or 3.2 per cent..

In July, 1956, the recorded excess of exports over imports was approximately £7.2 million compared with an excess of exports of £1.4 million in July, 1955.

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

(£A. million f.o.b. Port of Shipment)

Period	1955-56 (a)			1956-57 (a)		
	Imports	Exports	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)	Imports	Exports	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)
July ..	61.6	63.0	+ 1.4	57.8	65.0	+ 7.2
August ..	71.4	51.3	- 20.1			
September ..	75.3	54.0	- 21.3			
October ..	68.3	67.5	- 0.8			
November ..	73.4	78.7	+ 5.3			
December ..	63.3	73.2	+ 9.9			
January ..	(b)64.3	(b)55.5	- 8.8			
February ..	(b)59.4	(b)20.6	- 38.8			
March ..	(b)80.7	(b)77.9	- 2.8			
April ..	68.1	(b)78.7	+ 10.6			
May ..	71.7	(b)90.5	+ 18.8			
June ..	63.5	(b)73.3	+ 9.8			
Total Twelve Months	821.0	784.2	- 36.8			

(a) Subject to revision. (b) Affected by industrial dispute.

NOTE - Freight and insurance charges payable on imports are not included above. These were estimated 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 other 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 Government 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. For items such as naval ships, merchant vessels trading overseas, aircraft for use on oversea routes and certain materials for inter-governmental defence projects, no customs entries are recorded but these transactions are taken into account in estimating Balance of Payments.

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