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IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, AUSTRALIA
FEBRUARY 1980

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr M. Ferguson on Canberra 526740 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.
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MAIN FEATURES

Whilst orders outstanding for most commodities surveyed showed little change from last month, the following movements are of note:

Wool carpet yarns: expected clearances within four months increased significantly, whilst total orders outstanding decreased marginally.

Polyester/cotton blend yarns: expected clearances within four months and total orders outstanding both decreased significantly.

Tufted and axminster carpets: expected clearances within four months continued to decrease.

Stainless steel: expected clearances within four months decreased, whilst total orders outstanding increased.

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 subsequently cleared within the particular time period;
imports being cleared 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 publication 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.

9. Both estimates of level and estimates of percentage change from base month are subject to sampling variability. For example, consider the commodity 'flannelette sheeting'. The February estimate of total import orders outstanding is 14,083,000 sq m with a standard error of 409,000 sq m. This means that there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range 13,674,000 sq m to 14,492,000 sq m and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range 13,265,000 sq m to 14,901,000 sq m. Similarly, the February estimate of percentage

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication provides, for selected commodities, preliminary estimates of the level of *import orders outstanding and not cleared* through Australian Customs at 29 February 1980. 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 publication 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. Unless otherwise stated these statistics exclude all goods imported duty-free under Customs by-law

change from base month (January) of -14.3% has a standard error of 2.3%. In other words there are 2 chances in 3 that a complete collection would give an estimate in the range -16.6% to -12.0% and 19 chances in 20 that the estimate would be in the range -18.9% to -9.7%.

10. 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

11. The selected commodities for which statistics

are shown in this publication are listed below, together with their definitions in terms of the Tariff Items/Statistical Keys of the Australian Customs Tariff.

Related publications

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

Symbols and other usages

- n.a. not available
- n.p. not available for separate publication (but included in totals where applicable)
- .. not applicable
- p preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- nil or rounded to zero

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COMMODITY

Wool carpet yarns
Hand knitting yarns
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex
and finer, not put up for retail sale
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles
Woven towels in excess of quota allocations
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates
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; new, assembled
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled
Battery operated works trucks
Oval shaped leather footballs

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(S)

53.06.900.030/.052, 53.07.910.042/.064
53.07.910.086/.097, 53.10.900.56.06.300, part of 56.06.900
55.09.590.501/.523/.614/.636 and part of .40X and .443
56.05.900.899
58.02.400
62.02.690
73.15.300
85.15.100.891
85.15.100.916
85.15.100.938
87.02.111.03X, 87.02.119.039, 87.02.210
87.02.220.07X/.105, 87.02.290.049
87.07.110.173/.184/.195/.209/.21X/.220/.231/.242/.253/.264/.275
97.06.100.171

TABLE 1. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR MONTHS
SEPTEMBER 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1980

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of February estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of February % change
		1979				1980			1979			1980		
		September	October	November	December	January	February		October	November	December	January	February	
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	690	778	976	1,062	798	1,139	..	+12.8	+41.4	+53.9	+15.7	+65.1	..
Hand knitting yarns (b) (c)	tonne	393	378	475	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	-3.8	+20.9	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width (b) (d)	'000 sq m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12,275	9,402	406	..	..	..	..	-23.4	2.5
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (e)	tonne	2,723	2,602	2,682	2,807	2,825	2,557	49	-4.4	-1.5	+3.1	+3.7	-6.1	4.2
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	3,277	3,156	2,877	2,818	2,808	2,593	196	-3.7	-12.2	-14.0	-14.3	-20.9	6.9
Woven towels in excess of quota allocations (b) (d) (e)	'000 sq m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,712	1,707	40	..	..	..	..	-0.3	1.2
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	2,800	2,650	2,500	2,800	2,700	2,650	..	-5.4	-10.7	-	-3.6	-5.4	..
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	77,200	78,700	69,300	63,900	64,800	62,900	..	+1.9	-10.2	-17.2	-16.1	-18.5	..
viewable screen 48cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	no.	92,400	91,700	79,600	75,300	73,700	72,200	..	-0.8	-13.9	-18.5	-20.2	-21.9	..
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	8,250	8,600	9,850	11,300	11,700	11,300	..	+4.2	+19.4	+37.0	+41.8	+37.0	..
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	9,050	8,650	9,450	9,400	9,600	9,450	..	-4.4	+4.4	+3.9	+6.1	+4.4	..
Battery operated works trucks	no.	370	340	340	340	350	300	..	-8.1	-8.1	-8.1	-5.4	-18.9	..
Oval shaped leather footballs	no.	49,300	74,500	114,000	116,000	172,000	151,000	..	+51.1	+131.2	+238.7	+248.9	+206.3	..

(a) For each of the selected commodities, the base month is the month to which the first published figure in the current orders outstanding series relates, e.g. for wool carpet yarns the base month is September, for flannelette sheeting the base month is January. (b) Based on a sample - see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) This commodity has now been deleted from the survey. (d) This commodity was first surveyed in January 1980. (e) Statistics include goods that will be cleared duty-free under by-law.

TABLE 2. TOTAL IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES
SEPTEMBER 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1980

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Total orders outstanding at end of month						Standard error of February estimate	% change from base month (a)					Standard error of February % change
		1979				1980			1979			1980		
		September	October	November	December	January	February		October	November	December	January	February	
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	747	869	1,084	1,103	1,288	1,266	..	+16.3	+45.1	+47.7	+72.4	+69.5	..
Hand knitting yarns (b) (c)	tonne	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width (b) (d)	'000 sq m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	16,440	14,083	409	..	..	..	..	-14.3	2.3
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b) (e)	tonne	3,395	13,626	13,722	13,779	3,751	3,156	49	+6.8	+9.6	+11.3	+10.5	-7.0	4.5
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	3,415	3,439	3,144	3,090	3,150	n.p.	n.p.	+0.7	-7.9	-9.5	-7.8	n.p.	n.p.
Woven towels in excess of quota allocations (b) (d) (e)	'000 sq m	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2,397	2,513	57	..	..	..	..	+4.8	0.9
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	3,650	3,600	3,300	3,500	3,250	3,900	..	-1.4	-9.6	-4.1	-11.0	+6.8	..
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	88,200	89,500	75,600	74,800	79,300	81,900	..	+1.5	-14.3	-15.2	-10.1	-7.1	..
viewable screen 48cm	no.	13,700	12,200	11,800	12,800	10,400	10,400	..	-10.9	-13.9	-6.6	-24.1	-24.1	..
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	2,250	1,450	1,300	1,250	1,150	1,200	..	-35.6	-42.2	-44.4	-48.9	-46.7	..
Total	no.	104,150	103,150	88,700	88,850	90,850	93,500	..	-1.0	-14.8	-14.7	-12.8	-10.2	..
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled (f)	no.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled (g)	no.	n.p.	n.p.	9,750	9,750	9,900	9,700	..	..	..	-	+1.5	-0.5	..
Battery operated works trucks	no.	570	550	620	620	640	670	..	-3.5	+8.8	+8.8	+12.3	+17.5	..
Oval shaped leather footballs	no.	76,400	98,200	129,000	1183,000	n.p.	179,000	..	+28.5	+68.8	+139.5	n.p.	+134.3	..

(a) For each of the selected commodities, the base month is the month to which the first published figure in the current orders outstanding series relates, e.g. for carpets the base month is September, for woven towels the base month is January. (b) Based on a sample - see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) This commodity has now been deleted from the survey. (d) This commodity was first surveyed in January 1980. (e) Statistics include goods that will be cleared duty-free under by-law. (f) At the end of February 1980 there were 1,200 light commercial-type motor vehicles held in Customs bond. (g) At the end of February 1980 there were 2,000 four-wheel drive motor vehicles held in Customs bond.

S/T 1980

TABLE 3. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)
MARCH 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1980 (c)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	1979										1980	
		March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	144	226	191	175	330	321	236	274	296	178	119	212
Hand knitting yarns	tonne	138	70	194	93	96	39	124	108	173	133	53	134
Flannelette sheeting, 132 cm or more in width	'000 sq m	3,102	1,871	2,757	1,656	1,607	1,325	1,129	2,087	3,590	2,555	3,317	3,572
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (d)	tonne	534	872	673	776	526	712	691	844	817	516	702	892
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles	'000 sq m	529	608	756	717	850	980	740	1,315	1,206	955	876	898
Woven towels in excess of quota allocations (d)	'000 sq m	139	88	199	170	148	234	181	239	328	206	370	287
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	900	740	720	530	1,050	390	560	710	580	410	960	650
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	10,400	10,100	9,700	15,300	16,400	14,200	13,700	16,100	23,700	16,700	16,900	14,600
viewable screen 48cm	no.	4,450	2,800	3,750	2,300	5,100	4,300	3,150	1,750	4,000	1,300	4,150	1,050
viewable screen exceeding 48 cm	no.	250	400	130	1,100	450	230	250	190	100	110	160	70
Total	no.	15,100	13,300	13,580	18,700	21,950	18,730	17,100	18,040	27,800	18,110	21,210	15,720
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2,150	1,250	2,700	2,300	2,950	2,050	1,500	2,450	1,950	2,050	3,350	3,250
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	2,150	1,650	2,300	1,950	3,400	2,650	1,900	2,000	1,750	1,500	2,050	2,200
Battery operated works trucks	no.	70	30	40	40	30	50	30	70	50	30	40	100
Oval shaped leather footballs (e)	no.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,050	9,950	2,450	6,450	6,200	5,500	30,800	41,100

(a) Unless otherwise stated, statistics exclude goods entered duty-free under Customs by-law provisions. (c) Statistics are preliminary and subject to revision.
(d) Statistics include by-law clearances. (e) Prior to July 1979, statistics were not separately recorded.

TABLE 4. COMPARISON OF IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING AND SUBSEQUENT CLEARANCES, FOR SELECTED COMMODITIES (a)

Commodity	Unit of quantity	Order-clearance lag (c) (months)	Orders outstanding at 31 July 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 31 August 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 30 Sept. 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances	Orders outstanding at 31 Oct. 1979 expected to be cleared	Actual clearances
			Between 1 August and 30 November 1979		Between 1 September and 31 December 1979		Between 1 October 1979 and 31 January 1980		Between 1 November 1979 and 29 February 1980	
Wool carpet yarns	tonne	2.4	756	p 1,127	809	p 985	690	p 868	778	p 806
Hand knitting yarns (b)	tonne	3.5	373	443	404	538	393	468	378	494
Polyester/cotton blend yarns, 20 tex and finer (b)(d)	tonne	2.5	2,296	3,065	2,498	2,868	2,723	2,879	2,602	2,926
Tufted and axminster carpets in rolls and carpet tiles (b)	'000 sq m	2.4	3,135	4,241	3,320	4,216	3,277	4,352	3,156	3,935
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonne	4.5	2,600	2,250	2,950	2,250	2,800	2,650	2,650	2,600
Television receivers, colour; complete, viewable screen less than 48cm	no.	4.5	59,100	67,600	68,700	70,100	77,200	73,300	78,700	71,800
viewable screen 48cm	no.	4.5	n.p.	13,100	n.p.	10,100	n.p.	11,200	n.p.	10,500
viewable screen exceeding 48cm	no.	3.4	n.p.	770	n.p.	650	n.p.	560	n.p.	450
Total	no.	3.5	72,750	81,470	84,750	80,850	92,400	85,060	91,700	82,750
Commercial-type motor vehicles less than 2.72 tonnes gross vehicle weight; new, assembled	no.	2.4	7,050	7,950	6,600	7,950	8,250	9,800	8,600	10,600
Four-wheel drive motor vehicles; new, assembled	no.	3.4	7,700	8,350	7,450	7,200	9,050	7,300	8,650	7,500
Battery operated works trucks	no.	4.8	n.a.	200	n.a.	180	370	200	340	220
Oval shaped leather footballs	no.	3.5	n.a.	25,000	n.a.	20,500	49,300	48,900	74,500	83,500

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 5. (b) Based on a sample — see Explanatory Notes, paragraphs 8 and 9. (c) Order-clearance lag is the expected time lag between placement of a firm order and the subsequent Customs clearance. (d) Statistics include goods entered duty-free under by-law.