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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE : APRIL, 1957

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

This preliminary statement of Oversea Trade for the month of April, 1957 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 April, 1957 were valued at approximately £61.0 million compared with £68.2 million in April, 1956, a decrease of £7.2 million.

Total Exports recorded in April, 1957, amounted to approximately £89.9 million compared with £78.4 million in April, 1956, an increase of £11.5 million.

In April, 1957, the recorded excess of exports over imports was approximately £28.9 million compared with a recorded excess of exports of £10.2 million in April, 1956.

For the first ten months of the year 1956-57 recorded exports exceeded recorded imports by £234.1 million compared with an excess of recorded imports of £67.1 million in the corresponding period of 1955-56.

However, the above comparisons are affected by the industrial dispute which occurred in February, 1956.

The table below shows the total value of recorded Oversea Trade (including Bullion and Specie) during each of the twenty-two months ended April, 1957.

(£A. million f.o.b. port of shipment)

Period	1955-56			1956-57 (a)		
	Imports	Exports	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)	Imports	Exports	Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)
July ..	61.5	63.0	+ 1.5	57.5	64.8	+ 7.3
August ..	71.4	51.3	- 20.1	78.9	61.0	- 17.9
September ..	75.3	54.0	- 21.3	53.9	61.7	+ 7.8
October ..	68.3	67.6	- 0.7	57.3	98.6	+ 41.3
November ..	73.4	78.2	+ 4.8	59.8	95.4	+ 35.6
December ..	63.2	72.6	+ 9.4	52.5	77.4	+ 24.9
January ..	(b) 64.3	(b) 55.6	- 8.7	62.7	90.0	+ 27.3
February ..	(b) 59.4	(b) 20.2	- 39.2	51.6	90.6	+ 39.0
March ..	(b) 80.7	(b) 77.7	- 3.0	58.8	98.7	+ 39.9
April ..	68.2	(b) 78.4	+ 10.2	61.0	89.9	+ 28.9
Ten Months Total	(b) 685.7	(b) 618.6	- 67.1	594.0	828.1	+234.1
May ..	71.8	(b) 90.2	+ 18.4			
June ..	63.6	(b) 73.1	+ 9.5			
Total Twelve Months	821.1	781.9	- 39.2			

(a) Subject to revision.

(b) Affected by industrial dispute.

NOTE: Freight and insurance charges payable overseas are not included above. These were estimated at £107.2 million for the year ended June, 1956, and at £54.6 million for the six months ended December, 1956.

Statistics relating only to overseas 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 payable overseas, current production of Australian gold, overseas 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". Current estimates for the years 1951-52 to 1955-56, have been published in mimeographed form. For items such as naval ships, merchant vessels trading overseas, aircraft for use on overseas 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.

S.R. CARVER
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

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RRA, A.C.T.

6TH MAY, 1957