

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
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AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE : AUGUST, 1956.

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

This preliminary statement of Oversea Trade for the month of August, 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 August, 1956 were valued at approximately £78.7 million compared with £71.4 million in August, 1955, an increase of £7.3 million or 10.2 per cent.

Total Exports recorded in August, 1956 amounted to approximately £61.5 million compared with £51.3 million in August, 1955, an increase of £10.2 million or 19.9 per cent..

In August, 1956, the recorded excess of imports over exports was approximately £17.2 million compared with an excess of imports of £20.1 million in August, 1955.

For the first two months of the year 1956-57 recorded imports exceeded recorded exports by £10 million compared with an excess of recorded imports of £18.7 million in the corresponding period of 1955-56.

The table below shows the total value of recorded Oversea Trade (including Bullion and Specie) during each of the fourteen months ended August, 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	78.7	61.5	- 17.2
Two months ended August	133.0	114.3	- 18.7	136.5	126.5	- 10.0
September ..	75.3	54.0	- 21.3			
October ..	68.3	67.5	- 0.8			
November ..	73.4	78.1	+ 4.7			
December ..	63.3	72.6	+ 9.3			
January ..	(b) 64.3	(b) 55.5	- 8.8			
February ..	(b) 59.4	(b) 20.4	- 39.0			
March ..	(b) 80.7	(b) 77.6	- 3.1			
April ..	68.1	(b) 78.6	+ 10.5			
May ..	71.7	(b) 90.3	+ 18.6			
June ..	63.6	(b) 73.1	+ 9.5			
Total Twelve Months	821.1	782.0	- 39.1			

(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 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 on imports, 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". 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 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.

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