



IMPORTS BY COMMODITY DIVISIONS, AUSTRALIA

AUGUST 1984

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MAIN FEATURES

Imports for August 1984 rose by \$152m to \$2,624m, an increase of 6% compared with July 1984. The major contributors to this increase were petroleum and petroleum products (+\$165m), machinery specialised for particular industries (+\$27m), and misc. manufactured articles (+\$15m). There were decreases recorded in road vehicles (-\$18m), office machines (-\$10m) and crude fertilisers and crude minerals (-\$6m).

Imports for the two months ended August 1984 rose by \$1,069m, or 27%, to \$5,095m when compared with imports for the two months ended August 1983.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication predominantly contains monthly and year-to-date statistics of imports by Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the Australian Import Commodity Classification (AICC) (1204.0). Statistics for 1983-84 and 1984-85 may be amended as a result of continuing quality checks on foreign trade data. Although these amendments usually have little effect on broad aggregate statistics, they may have a significant effect on individual commodity statistics. For this reason, statistics for 1983-84 and 1984-85 should be regarded as preliminary and subject to revision.

2. More detailed figures will be published in the monthly publication Imports, Australia (5406.0).

3. This publication also contains details of import orders for selected steel commodities, see paragraphs 24 to 32 below for details.

STATISTICS OF IMPORTS

Source of data

4. The statistics of imports in Tables 1, 2, and 3 are compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from information contained in import entries submitted by importers or their agents to the Australian Customs Service as required by the Customs Act.

Statistical concepts

5. The statistics of imports in Tables 1, 2 and 3 of this publication are recorded on a general trade basis, i.e. imports comprise goods entered directly for home consumption together with goods imported into Customs warehouses.

6. The following are excluded from recorded import statistics:

- (a) direct transit trade, i.e. goods being trans-shipped or moved through Australia for purposes of transport only;
- (b) bunkers and stores supplied to vessels and aircraft prior to arrival in Australia;
- (c) migrants' and passengers' effects imported and parcels post imports of small value, for which Customs entries are not required;

- (d) certain materials under inter-governmental agreements for defence and similar projects for which Customs entries are not required;
- (e) vessels and aircraft engaged in the transport of passengers or goods between Australia and other countries;
- (f) the purchase of any vessel and/or aircraft intended for use on overseas routes;
- (g) fish and other sea products landed in Australia directly from the high seas by Australian vessels;
- (h) entries lodged on informal clearances documents (ICD) for values not exceeding \$250.

Statistical period

7. Imports are recorded statistically in the calendar month in which the import entries are both finalised by the Australian Customs Service and passed to the ABS for further processing. Import entries may be lodged early using the Customs check-to-arrive system or the documents may be delayed because of various validation checks carried out by Customs prior to the entries being passed to the ABS.

8. Import statistics for a particular month do not necessarily represent entries lodged or commodities actually imported during that month. Analysis of past data has shown that in aggregate approximately 70 per cent of import trade by value for a particular month reflects actual imports during that month, 25 per cent by value was actually imported during the previous month with the remaining 5 per cent by value being imported in earlier months. For individual commodities the percentage by value representing actual imports in a month may vary considerably.

Valuation

9. The recorded value of imports is the Customs value (formerly referred to as the value for duty). On 30 November 1981, Australia changed its system of valuation from the Brussels Definition of Value (BDV) to the GATT Agreement on Customs Valuation. The Agreement reflects one of a number of trade related codes of conduct established during the round of Multi-lateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) concluded in 1979.

10. The GATT Agreement differs from the Brussels Definition of Value in that it offers a set of practical rules on the valuation of imports rather than a list of conceptual guidelines. Under the Agreement the primary basis for establishing the customs value is the price actually paid or payable, provided a number of conditions are met. The most important condition is that the buyer and seller must be independent of each other. If the conditions are not met the practical rules are used to determine the customs value.

11. The recording of the value of imports remains on a free-on-board (f.o.b.) basis (i.e. charges and expenses involved in delivering the goods from the place of exportation to Australia are excluded). The recorded value also continues to include the value of the outside package, other than international containers used for containerised cargo.

12. The change in the basis of valuation is expected to have a negligible effect on value and duty import statistics.

Merchandise imports

13. In accordance with standards recommended by the United Nations Statistical Commission, merchandise imports are defined as all goods which add to the stock of material resources in Australia as a result of their movement into the country. Merchandise imports, therefore, exclude goods imported with the reasonable expectation of re-export within a limited time. A complete list of commodities not included in merchandise trade is shown under Section (9b) of the AICC. These include, for example, coin being legal tender and goods for temporary exhibition in Australia. Goods excluded from merchandise trade are, for convenience, termed non-merchandise and non-merchandise trade is shown separately in Table 1. Total trade is the sum of merchandise and non-merchandise trade.

14. Classification changes affecting the levels of merchandise and non-merchandise trade were introduced on 1 July 1983, in accordance with recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission (International Trade Statistics, Concepts and Definitions, United Nations Statistical Papers, Series M, No 52, Revision 1, 1982). As a result, statistics of imports, from July 1983, under Sections 9(a) and 9(b) of the AICC are not comparable with previous years. The changes do not affect Sections 0 to 8 of the classification, nor total trade.

Further information about the changes is given in the current edition of the AICC, or may be obtained from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra.

Commodity classification

15. Imports are classified according to the items of the AICC which, from 1 July 1978, has been based on the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 2 (United Nations, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 34, Revision 2, 1975). A detailed description of the commodity items included in this publication is contained in the AICC. Copies of, or extracts from, this classification may be obtained from offices of the ABS in Canberra and in each capital city.

Treatment of confidential data

16. To ensure that information about the activities of particular businesses is not disclosed it is necessary to restrict the release of statistics of certain commodities. These restrictions do not affect total import figures but they affect statistics at all levels of the Australian Import Commodity Classification.

17. The implementation of a new foreign trade processing system has resulted in a revised treatment of confidential data. Consequently certain statistics produced by the new processing system are not directly comparable with statistics in previous publications.

18. Reference to table footnotes should assist in the interpretation of these differences.

Revision to previous figures

19. Where revisions have been made to the previously published figures for earlier months of the current financial year, appropriate adjustments are made to the year-to-date figures shown in this publication. For this reason, monthly figures published in previous issues for the current financial year will not necessarily add to the year-to-date figure shown in the latest issue.

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

20. Special returns service: Subscribers can receive computer produced printout of foreign trade statistics at a particular commodity level in one or more of a limited number of formats, for a charge consistent with the level of detail required. This service is

recommended where up to fifty specific commodity items are required on a regular basis.

21. Microfiche service: Foreign trade statistics are also available on microfiche in a variety of tabular formats. Each tabular format covers all commodities imported or exported, at various levels of aggregation. This service is recommended where the subscriber wishes to obtain foreign trade details for a large number of commodities.

22. Magnetic tape: Statistics for imports, exports and import clearances are available on 9-track magnetic tape approximately 4 weeks after the end of the reference period. Documentation regarding the content and structure of these tapes is available from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra.

23. To meet subscribers' needs special returns and microfiche are available on a monthly, quarterly or less frequent basis. Relevant application forms and information papers for these services are available from the ABS Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra or any ABS State office. Payment in advance is required for each of these services.

IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING

24. This publication also provides monthly statistics of import orders for selected steel commodities. Tables 4, 5 and 6 respectively show import orders outstanding, clearances, and net orders placed.

25. Table 4 shows "Import orders outstanding, expected to be cleared by Australian Customs within the subsequent four months". The statistics shown are aggregates of firm orders placed overseas as at the end of the month after allowance for (i) cancellations and (ii) clearances during the month. Imports landed but not cleared (i.e. held in a Customs warehouse) are treated as import orders outstanding.

26. Publication of "total import orders outstanding", previously shown in Table 5, has been discontinued from January 1983. From February 1983, Table 5 shows "import clearances" for home consumption (either directly on arrival in Australia or ex-warehouse). Clearance statistics shown in Table 5 may differ from official ABS statistics of imports cleared for home consumption as adjustments are made by excluding various

categories of imports as listed in paragraph 31 below.

27. From February 1983, statistics of "net new import orders placed" are given in Table 6. These statistics are aggregates of new orders placed during the month, less any outstanding orders cancelled during the month.

28. The selected commodities for which statistics are shown in Tables 4, 5 and 6 of this publication are defined by the relevant Tariff Items/Statistical Codes of the Australian Customs Tariff and are listed below Table 6.

29. These commodities were also included in the monthly Survey of Import Orders which was discontinued from January 1981 and published up to January 1981 in the discontinued publication Import Orders Outstanding for Selected Commodities, Australia (5417.0). No import orders statistics for the commodities are available covering the period February 1981 to May 1981, inclusive.

30. The import orders statistics provided in this publication have been compiled from monthly returns completed by importers of the selected commodities.

31. The import orders statistics shown in Tables 4, 5 and 6 exclude all goods imported duty-free under Customs by-law provisions, including government imports and goods entered under security for re-export.

32. Estimates of import orders outstanding and not cleared will probably differ from future actual import clearances, due to:

- (a) new orders being placed and subsequently cleared within the particular time period;
- (b) imports being cleared by new or casual importers;

(c) orders being cancelled or revised at any stage.

Related publications

33. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Balance of Payments, Australia (Preliminary) (5301.0) -issued monthly

Exports by Commodity Divisions, Australia (Preliminary) (5402.0) -issued monthly

Exports, Australia (5404.0) -issued monthly

Imports, Australia (5406.0) -issued monthly

Imports of Assembled New Passenger Motor Cars, Australia (5416.0) -issued monthly

Exports and Imports (Balance of Payments Basis) at Constant Prices, Australia (5332.0) -issued quarterly

34. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications, Australia (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a Publications Advice (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.e.s. not elsewhere specified
- p preliminary - figure or series subject to revision
- r figure or series revised since previous issue
- n.p. not available for publication

35. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R.J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. IMPORTS BY SECTIONS AND DIVISIONS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN IMPORT COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION
\$'000

				Two months ended August	
Section and Division	June 1984	July 1984	August 1984	1983	1984
0	FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD				
00	Live animals	1,495	128	2,725	4,636
01	Meat and meat preparations	1,382	1,389	1,428	2,573
02	Dairy products and birds' eggs	6,870	5,388	5,389	11,164
03	Fish, crustaceans and molluscs, and preparations thereof	17,796	16,095	16,935	32,911
04	Cereals and cereal preparations	4,296	4,190	5,278	9,509
05	Vegetables and fruit	15,894	20,816	20,447	35,352
06	Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	1,317	1,785	2,102	3,480
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	28,197	28,981	27,707	42,193
08	Feeding stuff for animals (not including unroasted cereals)	2,792	2,555	6,737	4,801
09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	4,254	4,589	4,927	8,382
	Total Section 0	84,292	85,935	93,875	154,319
1	BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO				
11	Beverages	7,466	7,846	11,510	18,884
12	Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	6,018	6,395	6,401	18,510
	Total Section 1	13,483	14,241	17,912	37,394
2	CRUDE MATERIALS, INEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS				
21	Hides, skins and furskins, raw	518	180	29	351
22	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	629	705	669	9,879
23	Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	5,715	7,233	7,666	14,899
24	Cork and wood	24,821	30,719	26,793	37,512
25	Pulp and waste paper	7,684	8,714	11,532	20,246
26	Textile fibres (other than wool tops) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	9,924	11,603	8,939	20,544
27	Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	11,606	19,739	13,528	33,267
28	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	1,508	1,394	1,638	3,032
29	Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	3,727	4,837	4,693	9,530
	Total Section 2	66,132	85,123	75,488	160,610
3	MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS				
32	Coal, coke and briquettes	337	98	196	293
33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	255,995	167,363	332,286	499,648
34	Gas, natural and manufactured	11	38	46	84
	Total Section 3	256,343	167,499	332,527	500,026
4	ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES				
41	Animal oils and fats	23	871	30	703
42	Fixed vegetable oils and fats	4,734	5,815	7,883	13,698
43	Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed, and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	3,249	5,892	3,889	9,792
	Total Section 4	8,006	12,579	11,813	24,192
5	CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.				
51	Organic chemicals	(a)53,673	(a)56,986	(a)58,923	(b)104,090
52	Inorganic chemicals	(c)13,015	(c)15,867	(c)16,510	(c)32,377
53	Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	9,887	9,826	10,663	20,488
54	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	20,346	22,421	26,618	49,039
55	Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	11,704	15,148	14,881	30,028
56	Fertilisers, manufactured	7,137	13,482	10,478	23,971
57	Explosives and pyrotechnic products	523	2,923	470	3,393
58	Artificial resins and plastic materials, and cellulose esters and ethers(d)	41,436	46,842	46,412	93,254
59	Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	16,365	26,316	27,894	54,210
	Total Section 5	(e)174,206	(e)209,821	(e)212,850	(f)422,670

For footnotes see end of table.

TABLE 2. MOVEMENTS IN MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES (a) - PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN VALUE
COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING PERIOD FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Commodity description	1983-84	Three months ended		
		June 1984	July 1984	August 1984
Food and live animals (0)	21.5	20.0	18.6	11.0
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	17.7	1.4	12.4	10.6
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	-28.8	4.2	7.4	28.5
Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	21.3	17.0	22.3	15.0
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	27.2	32.6	47.7	38.8
Textile yarns, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	28.8	36.0	39.2	30.3
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	-4.9	33.1	40.7	33.2
Machinery (71-77)	10.2	26.8	39.6	30.5
Transport equipment (78,79)	30.4	18.7	-8.3	-8.3
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	14.1	19.4	30.2	22.5
Total all imports	10.3	24.5	29.0	24.9

(a) For footnote see Table 3.

TABLE 3. SHARE BY VALUE OF MAJOR COMMODITIES IN TOTAL IMPORTS (a)

Commodity description	1983-84 %	Three months ended		
		June 1984 %	July 1984 %	August 1984 %
Food and live animals (0)	4.2	4.2	3.8	3.6
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	9.2	9.4	9.2	10.3
Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	9.0	8.7	8.5	8.1
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6
Textile yarns, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.3
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	4.7	5.2	4.8	4.8
Machinery (71-77)	26.0	26.6	26.5	26.4
Transport equipment (78,79)	12.7	12.1	11.4	11.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	13.0	11.6	12.2	12.8
Total all imports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Imports of the 'major commodities' shown in these tables are significant imports by particular Sections (1 digit) and Divisions (2 digits) of the Australian Import Commodity Classification (figures in brackets following commodity descriptions denote the relevant Sections and Divisions).

TABLE 4. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES
EXPECTED TO BE CLEARED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR MONTHS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Orders outstanding at the end of -					
		Mar. 1984	Apr. 1984	May. 1984	Jun. 1984	Jul. 1984 r	Aug. 1984 p
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	44,855	45,057	44,289	44,347	45,559	40,111
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	32,028	31,910	34,322	35,053	37,565	36,450
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	4,936	5,194	4,349	5,548	5,284	5,024

TABLE 5. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Total clearances during -					
		Mar. 1984	Apr. 1984	May. 1984	Jun. 1984	Jul. 1984	Aug. 1984 p
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	8,770	10,008	11,302	11,386	11,291	12,835
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	10,460	12,428	9,594	11,703	9,569	16,353
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	1,110	1,167	1,650	641	1,833	1,209

TABLE 6. IMPORT ORDERS PLACED (LESS CANCELLATIONS)
FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Net orders placed during -					
		Mar. 1984	Apr. 1984	May. 1984	Jun. 1984	Jul. 1984 r	Aug. 1984 p
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	13,575	9,270	10,535	9,334	11,503	7,287
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	9,607	12,410	12,006	12,214	11,925	13,214
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	1,123	1,181	1,795	1,009	1,421	1,447

COMMODITY

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL CODE(S)

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness

73.13.200/.210,.221

Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness

73.13.200/.298,.301,.312

Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates

73.15.120/.1173,.1184,.1195,.1209,.121x,
.1220,.1231,.1242,.1253,.1264,.1275,.1286,
.1297,.1300
73.15.190/.1878,.1889,.189x,.2349,.197x,
.1980,.1991,.200x,.2010,.2021,.2032,
.2043,.2054,.2065