

5 MAR 1964

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

S.B. 403

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

To be treated as strictly CONFIDENTIAL and NOT to be published, broadcast or cabled before 6 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, 4TH MARCH, 1964.

AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE : FEBRUARY, 1964MERCHANDISE TRADE ONLY (PRELIMINARY)

(Excluding Bullion and Specie)

(Note : Values are in Australian Currency f.o.b. Port of Shipment)

This preliminary statement of Oversea Trade is approximate and will be followed by the usual Monthly Bulletin of Oversea Trade Statistics containing details of Merchandise, Bullion and Specie.

Imports and Exports of merchandise 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.

Imports of Merchandise recorded in February, 1964 were valued at approximately £A96.5 million, compared with £A78.6 million in February, 1963, an increase of £A17.9 million.

Exports of Merchandise recorded in February, 1964 amounted to approximately £A116.7 million, compared with £A90.4 million in February, 1963, an increase of £A26.3 million.

In February, 1964, the recorded excess of exports over imports was approximately £A20.2 million compared with an excess of exports over imports of £A11.8 million in February, 1963.

For the first eight months of 1963-64 recorded exports exceeded recorded imports by approximately £A148.6 million compared with an excess of recorded imports of £A31.8 million in the corresponding period of 1962-63.

AUSTRALIA : OVERSEA TRADE IN MERCHANDISE

(Excluding Bullion and Specie)

(£A million f.o.b. Port of Shipment)

Period	1962-63			1963-64 (a)		
	Merchandise		Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)	Merchandise		Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)
	Imports	Exports		Imports	Exports	
July	89.1	79.7	-9.4	99.7	116.7	+17.0
August	97.4	73.5	-23.9	96.3	95.1	-1.2
September	87.5	73.9	-13.6	89.0	102.6	+13.6
October	93.4	86.0	-7.4	93.0	115.4	+22.4
November	95.1	102.2	+7.1	96.7	129.3	+32.6
December	74.7	87.0	+12.3	90.0	118.4	+28.4
January	103.4	94.7	-8.7	106.6	122.2	+15.6
February	78.6	90.4	+11.8	96.5	116.7	+20.2
<u>Eight Months Total</u>	719.2	687.4	-31.8	767.8	916.4	+148.6
March	80.9	95.7	+14.8			
April	92.3	91.4	-0.9			
May	95.8	101.2	+5.4			
June	90.6	93.3	+2.7			
<u>Twelve Months Total</u>	1,078.8	1,069.0	-9.8			

(a) Preliminary, subject to revision.

NOTE: Freight and insurance payable on imports are not included above. These are estimated at approximately £A129 million for the year ended 30th June, 1963.

Statistics relating to Oversea Trade do not measure Australia's total balance of payments during the period shown. Particulars of other transactions entering into the balance of payments, for example, freight charges and overseas travel, payments of dividends, profits and interest, and government expenditure overseas, are provided in the Statistical Bulletin "Balance of Payments : Quarterly Summary" issued by the Commonwealth Statistician. For items such as naval ships, merchant vessels trading overseas, aircraft for use on overseas routes, uranium, 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.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 4TH MARCH, 1964

K.M. ARCHER

COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 90381 Extension 135 or, in each State Capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.