



CATALOGUE NO. 5406.0

NOON 28 FEBRUARY 1983

IMPORTS BY COMMODITY DIVISIONS, AUSTRALIA DECEMBER 1982 (PRELIMINARY)

- PHONE INQUIRIES** for more information about these statistics - contact Mr Bob McGarry on Canberra (062) 52 5403 or any of our State offices.
- for specific queries about import orders statistics - contact Mr Greg Outzen on Canberra (062) 52 5310.
- MAIL INQUIRIES** write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Imports for December 1982 fell by \$284m, to \$1,707m, a decrease of 14% compared with November 1982.

The major contributors to this decrease were machinery (-\$124m), transport equipment (-\$74m), metal manufactures (-\$29m), chemicals (-\$28m) and textile yarns (-\$27m) whilst an increase of (+\$126m) was recorded in petroleum and petroleum products.

Imports for the six months ended December 1982 rose by \$771m to \$11,785m, an increase of 7% compared with the corresponding period last year.

The major contributors to this increase were petroleum and petroleum products (+\$385m) and machinery (+\$197m) whilst a decrease was recorded in transport equipment (-\$389m).

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 1982-83 may be amended as a result of continuing quality checks on overseas 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 1982-83 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 20 to 25 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:

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

Commodity classification

14. 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

15. 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.

16. The implementation of a new overseas 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.

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

Revision to previous figures

18. 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 figures shown in the latest issue.

OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

19. Special returns service: Subscribers can receive computer produced printout of overseas 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.

20. Microfiche service: Overseas 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 overseas trade details for a large number of commodities.

21. 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 Foreign Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra.

22. 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 Foreign Trade and Shipping Section in Canberra or any ABS State office. Payment in advance is required for each of these services.

IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING

23. This publication also provides in Table 4 and 5, for selected steel commodities, preliminary estimates of the of import orders outstanding and not cleared through Australian Customs at the end of the month. Table 4 shows import orders outstanding expected to be cleared within the subsequent four months and Table 5 shows total import orders outstanding. Import orders outstanding are 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.

24. The selected commodities for which statistics are shown in this publication are defined by the relevant Tariff Items/Statistical Keys of the Australian Customs Tariff and are listed below Table 5.

25. 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.

26. The import orders statistics provided in this publication have been compiled from monthly returns completed

by importers of the selected commodities.

27. Unless otherwise stated the import orders statistics shown in Table 4 exclude all goods imported duty-free under Customs by-law provisions, including government imports, and certain other goods such as goods entered under security for re-export or re-imported after repair overseas.

28. 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

29. 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 of Merchandise at Constant Prices, Australia (5421.0) -issued quarterly

30. 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

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

A.R.BAGNALL
Acting Australian Statistician

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

Section and Division	Six months ended December					
	October 1982	November 1982	December 1982	1981	1982	
0	FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD					
00	Live animals chiefly for food	1,318	755	1,181	11,329	8,846
01	Meat and meat preparations	1,147	1,088	989	4,974	5,397
02	Dairy products and birds' eggs	4,938	5,903	5,248	22,372	29,624
03	Fish, crustaceans and molluscs, and preparations thereof	15,336	18,460	18,460	107,124	99,073
04	Cereals and cereal preparations	3,102	3,653	2,791	13,942	20,900
05	Vegetables and fruit	11,670	17,124	19,574	71,672	90,791
06	Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	1,386	1,347	1,048	7,629	7,566
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	17,789	18,583	11,015	88,356	103,639
08	Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilld cereals)	2,624	2,049	2,407	11,714	12,484
09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	3,009	3,361	2,959	13,409	17,471
	Total Section 0	62,330	72,537	66,074	352,822	397,389
1	BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO					
11	Beverages	9,333	13,057	6,492	52,118	60,337
12	Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	9,233	8,837	8,674	33,356	49,712
	Total Section 1	18,567	19,894	15,166	85,474	110,049
2	CRUDE MATERIALS, IMEDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS					
21	Hides, skins and furskins, raw	189	85	39	1,376	914
22	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	421	284	1,767	9,609	3,237
23	Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	4,720	3,479	1,808	31,092	27,112
24	Cork and wood	11,626	11,776	8,699	99,335	76,341
25	Pulp and waste paper	6,295	6,703	4,302	50,843	49,081
26	Textile fibres (other than wool tops) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	7,140	6,228	4,580	43,653	38,864
27	Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)	13,313	11,014	11,344	114,511	87,920
28	Metaliferous ores and metal scrap	1,434	1,075	522	24,990	9,007
29	Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	3,466	4,125	4,088	21,701	22,394
	Total Section 2	48,624	44,749	37,150	397,110	314,890
3	MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
32	Coal, coke and briquettes	464	122	619	1,286	1,531
33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	408,102	210,689	336,631	1,379,200	1,764,101
34	Gas, natural and manufactured	27	142	290	301	610
	Total Section 3	408,593	210,953	337,540	1,380,788	1,766,243
4	ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES					
41	Animal oils and fats	26	71	17	253	517
42	Fixed vegetable oils and fats	3,191	6,042	5,970	28,834	27,309
43	Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed, and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	1,390	3,688	1,885	13,148	14,432
	Total Section 4	4,607	9,800	7,872	42,234	42,257
5	CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.					
51	Organic chemicals(a)	34,416	38,506	28,790	(b)238,448	239,581
52	Inorganic chemicals	22,293	19,335	21,745	135,344	125,391
53	Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials	5,992	6,676	5,049	42,829	39,049
54	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	14,428	15,056	15,027	70,433	92,090
55	Essential oils and perfume preparations; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations	8,235	9,758	7,744	50,444	55,846
56	Fertilisers, manufactured	9,229	8,774	2,479	29,126	37,697
57	Explosives and pyrotechnic products	306	162	1,629	5,160	3,486
58	Artificial resins and plastic materials, and cellulose esters and ethers(c)	28,112	33,074	25,437	(d)212,780	190,124
59	Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	24,367	20,493	15,041	104,122	118,020
	Total Section 5(e)	147,377	151,435	122,962	(f)888,684	891,484

For footnotes see end of table

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

Section and Division	Six months ended December				
	October 1982	November 1982	December 1982	1981	1982
6 MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL					
61 Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and dressed furskins	3,300	4,021	2,895	21,376	22,005
62 Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	21,488	22,266	18,473	136,505	135,805
63 Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	8,616	8,461	7,274	32,102	32,862
64 Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	35,758	51,096	31,054	276,641	246,584
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products	89,306	(g)99,761	(g)73,129	533,939	(g)537,621
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.(h)	30,405	33,447	23,735	198,199	199,204
67 Iron and steel	41,277	56,156	37,841	239,236	232,338
68 Non-ferrous metals	13,255	6,768	5,076	67,467	51,457
69 Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.(i)	53,127	49,178	38,479	263,031	309,804
Total Section 6(j)	298,930	(k)329,355	(k)238,055	1,808,716	(k)1,887,681
7 MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT					
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	73,353	60,053	35,820	299,580	382,177
72 Machinery specialised for particular industries(l)	115,716	103,794	76,651	674,759	622,486
73 Metalworking machinery	15,331	12,357	11,740	108,638	99,752
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s. and machine parts, n.e.s.(m)	111,557	106,025	84,460	573,014	628,019
75 Office machines and automatic data processing equipment	60,399	71,488	64,279	371,955	393,260
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	80,757	79,399	57,328	346,814	409,201
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof(n)	88,026	95,470	73,768	470,840	507,553
78 Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)	155,493	162,861	132,707	905,393	960,038
79 Other transport equipment	22,032	69,818	25,681	720,266	276,165
Total Section 7(o)	723,264	761,265	562,565	4,471,060	4,278,652
8 MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES					
81 Sanitary, plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	2,858	3,904	3,219	18,418	21,500
82 Furniture and parts thereof	10,129	11,264	9,234	65,306	63,339
83 Travel goods, handbags and similar containers	8,920	8,989	6,294	40,483	30,236
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	20,430	29,996	48,853	189,095	203,783
85 Footwear	7,632	9,833	13,141	69,739	75,705
86 Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	39,567	38,447	33,687	211,935	220,880
87 Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks(q)	30,344	37,724	28,457	189,437	200,408
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	109,275	109,722	88,489	544,310	628,144
Total Section 8	229,378	249,880	231,396	1,338,924	1,466,194
9A Commodities and transactions of Merchandise Trade, not elsewhere classified(s)					
Total merchandise (v)	1,974,386	1,893,426	1,669,268	10,906,746	11,349,917
9B Non-merchandise(w)					
Total Imports	(x)1,04,181	(y)107,376	37,314	106,721	434,964
Total Imports	2,078,567	1,990,802	1,706,582	11,013,467	11,784,881

(a) Excludes items 513.79.13 and 513.90.15.

(b) Excludes item 513.79.13 and includes item 513.90.15.

(c) Excludes item 582.70.04.

(d) Excludes items 582.70.04 and 582.70.06.

(e) Excludes items 513.79.13, 513.90.15 and 582.70.04.

(f) Excludes items 513.79.13, 582.70.04 and 582.70.06 and includes item 513.90.15.

(g) Excludes item 651.95.06 from 1.11.82.

(h) Excludes item 661.20.01.

(i) Excludes items 694.01.02 and 695.39.60.

(j) Excludes items 661.20.01, 694.01.02 and 695.39.60.

(k) Excludes items 651.95.06 from 1.11.82, 661.20.01, 694.01.02 and 695.39.60.

(l) Excludes items 749.10.70 and 749.10.76.

(m) Excludes item 775.86.01.

(n) Excludes items 723.30.01, 749.10.70, 749.10.76 and 775.86.01.

(o) Excludes item 881.11.45.

(p) Includes items 513.79.13, 513.90.15, 582.70.04, 661.20.01, 694.01.02, 695.39.60, 723.30.01, 749.10.70, 749.10.76, 775.86.01 and 881.11.45.

(q) Includes items 513.79.13, 513.90.15, 582.70.04, 651.95.06 from 1.11.82, 661.20.01, 694.01.02, 695.39.60, 723.30.01, 749.10.70, 749.10.76 and 881.11.45.

(r) Includes item 723.30.01, 582.70.04, 582.70.06, 661.20.01, 694.01.02, 695.39.60, 723.30.01, 749.10.70, 749.10.76, 775.86.01 and 881.11.45; excludes items 513.90.15 and 651.95.06.

(s) The sum of Divisions 00 to 9A.

(t) A complete description of non-merchandise items is contained in the Australian Import Commodity Classification (1204.0).

(u) Includes an oil-drilling rig, for temporary operation in Australian waters, valued at \$85 million.

(v) Includes two vessels, for temporary operation in Australian waters, combined value \$102 million.

(w) Includes two vessels, for temporary operation in Australian waters, combined value \$102 million.

TABLE 1. MOVEMENTS IN MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES (a) - PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN VALUE COMPARED WITH CORRESPONDING PERIOD FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Commodity description	Three months ended			
	1981-82	October 1982	November 1982	December 1982
Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	11.8	2.3	6.9	17.7
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	0.8	-24.0	-27.1	-28.4
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	10.6	22.2	7.0	30.7
Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	15.5	-4.3	-5.8	-3.6
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	21.6	-8.9	-9.0	-22.6
Textile yarns, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	11.6	-1.3	-0.2	-
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	28.5	21.6	11.2	8.3
Machinery (71-77)	22.3	8.7	7.5	5.0
Transport equipment (78,79)	59.3	-27.9	-22.7	-28.0
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	18.4	8.7	5.5	9.7
Total all imports	21.3	6.3	4.9	6.1

(a) For footnote see Table 2.

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

Commodity description	Three months ended			
	1981-82 %	October 1982 %	November 1982 %	December 1982 %
Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.5
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	3.3	2.7	2.6	2.3
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	13.1	14.9	12.5	16.5
Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	7.9	7.6	7.6	7.3
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.0
Textile yarns, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.5
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	5.9	6.2	5.8	5.2
Machinery (71-77)	26.5	26.0	26.5	25.6
Transport equipment (78,79)	14.1	9.6	10.2	9.8
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	11.6	12.4	12.2	12.3
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 WHICH ARE TO BE CLEARED DURING THE SUBSEQUENT FOUR MONTHS

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Orders outstanding at the end of -					
		July 1982	August 1982	September 1982	October 1982	November 1982	December 1982
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	30,469	26,510	34,696	33,708	34,042	38,156
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	23,308	16,328	18,681	20,392	19,286	23,025
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	4,021	3,653	3,115	2,586	2,613	2,258

TABLE 5. IMPORT ORDERS OUTSTANDING FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Total orders outstanding at the end of -					
		July 1982	August 1982	September 1982	October 1982	November 1982	December 1982
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	36,529	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	n.p.	n.p.	15,959	27,254	n.p.	n.p.
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	n.p.	4,033	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.

COMMODITY

TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL KEY(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

73.15.190/.729,.73x,.740,.751,.809,.81x,.820,.831,.842,.855,.864,.875,.886,.897