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AUSTRALIAN OVERSEA TRADE : FEBRUARY, 1966  
RECORDED TRADE EXCLUDING BULLION AND SPECIE (PRELIMINARY)

This preliminary statement of Oversea Trade is approximate and will be followed by the Monthly Statement of Imports by Commodity Divisions and Monthly Bulletin of Oversea Trade Statistics containing details of merchandise and non-merchandise trade.

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 of shipment of cargoes.

Recorded Imports excluding bullion and specie in February, 1966 were valued at \$A215.9 million compared with \$A207.2 million in February, 1965 an increase of \$A8.7 million.

Recorded Exports excluding bullion and specie in February, 1966 amounted to \$A214.4 million, compared with \$A205.0 million in February, 1965 an increase of \$A9.4 million.

In February, 1966, the recorded excess of imports over exports was \$A1.5 million, compared with \$A2.2 million in February, 1965.

For the first eight months of 1965-66 recorded imports exceeded recorded exports by \$A231.1 million compared with \$A153.8 million in the corresponding period of 1964-65.

All amounts are shown in decimal currency (1 pound = 2 dollars).

AUSTRALIA : RECORDED OVERSEA TRADE EXCLUDING BULLION AND SPECIE (a)  
(\$A million f.o.b. port of shipment)

Period	1964-65			1965-66 (b)		
	Recorded Trade excl. bullion and specie (a)		Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)	Recorded Trade excl. bullion and specie (a)		Excess of Exports (+) or Imports (-)
	Imports	Exports		Imports	Exports	
July	231.8	232.9	+1.1	240.3	224.3	-16.0
August	237.4	179.6	-57.8	273.4	201.3	-72.1
September	224.1	198.0	-26.1	283.0	227.5	-55.5
October	246.3	233.2	-13.1	229.1	215.9	-13.2
November	233.6	227.5	-6.1	255.1	242.1	-13.0
December	242.6	226.9	-15.7	245.1	220.5	-24.6
January	252.6	218.7	-33.9	247.8	212.6	-35.2
February	207.2	205.0	-2.2	215.9	214.4	-1.5
Eight Months Total	1,875.6	1,721.8	-153.8	1,989.7	1,758.6	-231.1
March	252.1	231.4	-20.7			
April	236.6	219.2	-17.4			
May	267.0	225.8	-41.2			
June	269.1	232.6	-36.5			
Twelve Months Total	2,900.4	2,630.8	-269.6			

(a) Statistics in this statement refer to "Recorded Trade excluding bullion and specie" and are comparable with those for "Merchandise Trade" in statements for previous years. "Merchandise Trade" has been redefined and details are published in the Monthly Oversea Trade Bulletin. (b) Preliminary, subject to revision.

NOTE: Freight and insurance payable on imports are not included above. These are estimated at approximately \$A334 million for twelve months ended 30th June, 1965.

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 merchant vessels trading overseas, aircraft for use on overseas routes and certain materials for intergovernmental defence projects, no customs entries are recorded, but these transactions are taken into account in estimates of the balance of payment.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS  
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 4TH MARCH, 1966

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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.