



### IMPORTS BY COMMODITY DIVISIONS, AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY 1984 (PRELIMINARY)

- PHONE INQUIRIES** for more information about these statistics - contact Mr David Mitchell 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 February 1984 rose by \$56m to \$2,012m, an increase of 3% compared with January 1984. The major contributors to this increase were petroleum and petroleum products (+\$27m) and chemicals and related products (+\$21m). A decrease was recorded in machinery (-\$26m).

Imports for the eight months ended February 1984 rose by \$694m to \$15,470m, an increase of 5% compared with imports for the eight months ended February 1983. The major contributors to this increase were transport equipment (+\$554m), chemicals and related products (+\$246m), miscellaneous manufactures (+\$227m), textile yarns (+\$172m), and machinery (+\$147m). A decrease was recorded in petroleum and petroleum products (-\$863m).

#### 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 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 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 9(b) 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 figures 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

Section and Division	Eight months ended February				
	December 1983	January 1984	February 1984	1983	1984
0	FOOD AND LIVE ANIMALS CHIEFLY FOR FOOD				
00	2,619	1,064	10,669	16,405	24,672
01	663	1,151	1,382	8,129	7,158
02	5,629	5,072	5,788	37,512	44,278
03					
04	24,390	24,591	27,498	139,433	171,384
05	2,687	2,943	2,489	24,772	30,761
06	16,048	27,916	22,261	113,556	151,727
07	1,293	1,180	1,858	9,590	11,621
08	14,139	19,772	23,689	137,776	162,528
09	2,117	1,458	1,904	23,191	18,913
	4,187	4,319	4,600	22,540	34,277
	73,770	90,069	102,139	532,904	657,318
1	BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO				
11	8,576	7,646	8,433	73,747	72,494
12	6,927	5,805	7,668	40,716	66,102
	15,503	13,451	16,101	134,463	138,596
2	CRUDE MATERIALS, IRREDIBLE, EXCEPT FUELS				
21	267	123	291	1,353	1,981
22	1,022	1,058	732	3,918	19,642
23	4,297	4,853	6,193	31,226	39,998
24	15,950	13,286	19,684	94,161	138,918
25	5,931	9,822	6,570	57,667	70,125
26					
27	7,717	5,491	9,123	48,547	66,790
28	11,991	14,768	14,530	119,816	113,524
29	1,463	1,118	1,318	10,852	10,686
	4,918	5,582	5,127	29,144	37,432
	53,556	55,884	63,568	394,665	499,098
3	MINERAL FUELS, LUBRICANTS AND RELATED MATERIALS				
32	186	402	1,354	3,498	3,031
33	134,328	153,189	180,581	2,183,964	1,320,828
34	23	17	25	627	1,300
	134,537	153,608	181,959	2,188,089	1,325,159
4	ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE OILS, FATS AND WAXES				
41	26	37	22	581	468
42	7,597	4,984	11,319	30,252	46,801
43	5,720	3,197	3,670	19,755	31,355
	13,343	8,218	15,012	50,587	78,624
5	CHEMICALS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, N.E.S.				
51	(a)41,573	(b)57,212	(b)59,452	(c)302,657	(b)395,494
52	14,002	14,583	17,810	158,066	128,021
53	8,911	8,349	8,710	48,988	65,102
54	44,829	18,716	16,434	123,896	141,172
55					
56	10,087	10,688	11,168	70,767	87,600
57	11,180	8,178	9,040	44,281	51,612
58	1,875	1,491	1,699	4,401	9,581
59	36,312	40,092	45,522	240,449	319,748
	28,465	23,948	32,363	154,305	195,626
	(e)165,232	(f)181,258	(f)202,198	(g)1,147,809	(f)1,393,955

For footnotes see end of table

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

Section and Division	Eight months ended February				
	December 1983	January 1984	February 1984	1983	1984
<b>6</b>	<b>MANUFACTURED GOODS CLASSIFIED CHIEFLY BY MATERIAL</b>				
61	Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s. and Erased foakins				
62	4,798	7,073	7,901	28,046	51,733
63	22,428	23,306	26,147	166,453	191,459
64	9,155	8,450	9,865	64,137	76,491
65	48,124	45,851	57,171	307,831	406,361
66	(h)96,438	(h)103,928	(h)117,284	575,165	(h)687,455
67	28,708	32,514	36,444	(123)676	270,282
68	20,844	42,911	39,578	412,442	267,610
69	7,941	9,462	8,206	70,402	62,732
	(j)44,801	(j)44,877	(j)51,136	(k)385,236	(j)371,482
	(l)283,256	(l)320,371	(l)353,731	(m)2,361,547	(l)2,546,005
<b>7</b>	<b>MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT</b>				
71	41,183	50,034	43,223	484,041	396,887
72	86,744	93,437	97,133	776,044	697,484
73	9,031	10,522	11,179	126,840	85,215
74	83,994	91,905	95,193	785,988	766,403
75	62,653	99,956	77,261	508,422	693,093
76	75,962	72,150	77,518	525,930	649,739
77	78,184	87,509	87,597	650,070	725,900
78	127,512	174,380	174,387	1,183,388	1,436,330
79	130,360	39,404	36,587	307,310	608,556
	745,622	729,497	700,079	5,358,033	6,059,697
<b>8</b>	<b>MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURED ARTICLES</b>				
81	3,536	3,279	4,087	27,510	27,296
82	13,562	8,864	11,724	77,025	92,673
83	8,479	7,838	10,382	63,716	75,586
84	38,316	58,969	53,555	297,472	295,941
85	10,013	21,889	18,933	110,481	116,842
86	28,409	43,334	46,281	287,203	322,591
87	31,464	32,172	32,950	247,829	270,608
88	104,332	98,272	101,314	773,806	910,267
89	238,114	274,617	279,217	1,885,041	2,111,604
9A	(u)37,451	(v)56,109	(w)46,407	(w)237,203	(w)367,480
	1,760,364	1,883,082	1,960,411	14,292,342	15,177,535
9B	26,231	72,636	51,787	463,406	292,330
	1,786,595	1,955,718	2,012,198	14,775,748	15,469,864

(a) Excludes items 511.13.01 from 1.10.83; 513.79.13 and 513.90.15. (b) Excludes items 511.13.01 from 1.10.83; 511.40.00 from 1.1.84; 513.79.13 and 513.90.15. (c) Excludes items 513.79.13 and 513.90.15. (d) Excludes item 582.70.04. (e) Excludes items 511.13.01 from 1.10.83; 513.79.13 and 513.90.15. (f) Excludes items 513.79.13, 513.90.15 and 582.70.04. (g) Excludes items 513.79.13, 513.90.15 and 582.70.04. (h) Excludes item 651.95.06. (i) Excludes item 661.20.01. (j) Excludes items 691.10.05, 694.01.02 and 695.39.60. (k) Excludes items 694.01.02 and 695.39.60. (l) Excludes items 695.95.06, 691.10.05, 694.01.02 and 695.39.60. (m) Excludes items 661.20.01, 694.01.02 and 695.39.60. (n) Excludes item 723.30.01. (o) Excludes items 749.10.70 and 749.10.76. (p) Excludes item 775.86.01. (q) Excludes items 723.30.01, 749.10.70, 749.10.76 and 775.86.01. (r) Excludes item 881.11.45. (s) Excludes items 511.13.01 from 1.10.83; 513.79.13, 513.90.15, 582.70.04, 651.95.06, 691.10.05, 694.01.02, 695.39.60, 723.30.01, 749.10.70, 749.10.76, 775.86.01 and 881.11.45. (t) Excludes 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. (u) 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. (v) 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. (w) The sum of Divisions 00 to 9A. (y) A complete description of non-merchandise items is contained in the Australian Import Commodity Classification (1204.0).

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

Commodity description	1982-83	Three months ended		
		December 1983	January 1984	February 1984
Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	14.1	16.5	22.2	32.1
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	-15.7	38.7	45.8	44.8
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	3.1	-48.9	-37.3	-38.6
Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	-2.8	17.6	31.4	44.5
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	-13.1	32.9	32.7	64.2
Textile yarns, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	-7.7	19.8	30.9	50.9
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	-11.7	-18.6	-0.5	5.6
Machinery (71-77)	-7.0	0.9	8.9	17.5
Transport equipment (78,79)	-27.9	30.5	43.6	77.9
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	2.0	4.9	11.4	21.9
Total all imports	-5.2	-2.4	11.5	22.4

(a) For footnote see Table 3.

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

Commodity description	1982-83 I	Three months ended		
		December 1983 I	January 1984 I	February 1984 I
Food and live animals chiefly for food (0)	3.8	4.2	4.4	4.6
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (2)	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.0
Petroleum, petroleum products, etc. (33)	14.2	8.7	7.4	8.1
Chemicals and related products n.e.s. (5)	8.1	8.8	9.1	9.5
Paper, paperboard and articles thereof (64)	2.2	2.8	2.6	2.6
Textile yarns, fabrics, made-up articles, etc. (65)	4.6	5.6	5.6	5.5
Manufactures of metal (67-69)	5.5	4.4	4.7	4.7
Machinery (71-77)	26.1	26.6	26.3	25.1
Transport equipment (78,79)	10.7	13.2	13.2	12.7
Miscellaneous manufactured articles (8)	12.5	13.3	13.6	13.8
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 -					
		Sep. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1984
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	30,347	r38,374	r36,044	41,430	47,472	43,767
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	18,384	23,851	24,327	32,518	31,071	33,335
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	4,162	5,030	r4,508	4,466	4,461	4,657

TABLE 5. IMPORT CLEARANCES FOR SELECTED STEEL COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Total clearances during -					
		Sep. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1984
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	10,993	3,260	r10,753	5,097	7,916	14,175
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	6,599	3,912	3,716	839	9,584	7,418
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	802	633	r757	896	1,594	632

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

Commodity	Unit of Quantity	Net orders placed during -					
		Sep. 1983	Oct. 1983	Nov. 1983	Dec. 1983	Jan. 1984	Feb. 1984
Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness	tonnes	7,735	r11,501	9,269	r8,551	13,340	9,915
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness	tonnes	7,591	8,690	8,003	4,123	8,191	9,345
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates	tonnes	1,550	835	489	967	605	938

## COMMODITY

Cold rolled uncoated iron or steel sheets and plates, 3.2mm and less in thickness  
Galvanized iron or steel sheets and plates, 4.75mm and less in thickness  
Stainless steel hoop, strip, sheets and plates

## TARIFF ITEM(S)/STATISTICAL CODE(S)

73.13.200/.210,.221  
73.13.200/.294,.301,.312  
73.15.120/.1173,.1184,.1195,.1209,.1214,.1220,.1231,.1242,.1253,.1264,.1275,.1286,.1297,.1300  
73.15.150/.1878,.1889,.1892,.1894,.1974,.1980,.1981,.2004,.2010,.2021,.2032,.2043,.2054,.2065