

CATALOGUE NO. 5320.0

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**MERCHANDISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS)
AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1995**

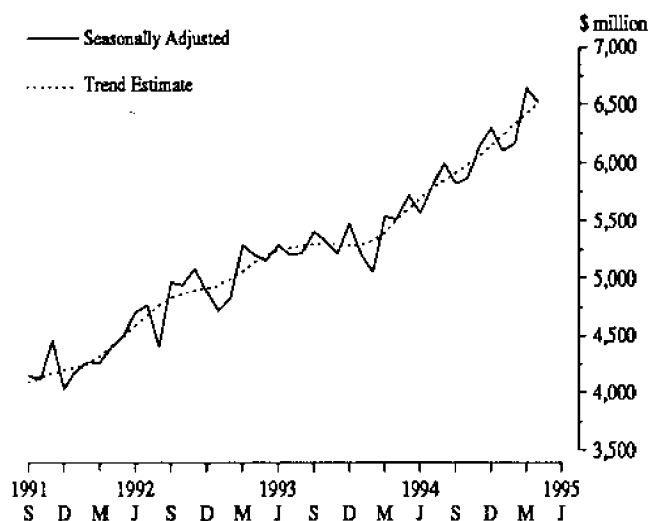
MAIN FEATURES

April 1995 compared with March 1995

The provisional trend estimate of *merchandise imports* rose \$76 million, or 1 per cent, to \$6,507 million.

Seasonally adjusted *merchandise imports* for April fell \$127 million, or 2 per cent, to \$6,518 million. *Consumption goods* fell \$10 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1,700 million. *Capital goods* fell \$177 million, or 10 per cent, to \$1,565 million. *Intermediate and other goods* rose \$60 million, or 2 per cent, to \$3,253 million.

GRAPH 1: MERCHANDISE - IMPORTS F.O.B.



In original terms, *imports* fell \$1,117 million, or 16 per cent, to \$5,695 million.

Imports of *consumption goods*, in original terms, fell \$304 million, or 18 per cent, to \$1,422 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- non-industrial transport equipment, down \$72 million or 16 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of passenger motor cars);

- food and beverages, mainly for consumption, down \$69 million or 29 per cent;
- consumption goods nes, down \$62 million or 14 per cent; and
- textiles, clothing and footwear, down \$57 million or 24 per cent.

Imports of *capital goods*, in original terms, fell \$239 million, or 15 per cent, to \$1,394 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups except civil aircraft, which rose \$25 million or 139 per cent (reflecting the import of an Ansett aircraft valued at \$42 million). The largest decreases were recorded in:

- machinery and industrial equipment, down \$125 million or 17 per cent (with most components recording decreases); and
- ADP equipment, down \$85 million or 26 per cent.

Imports of *intermediate and other goods*, in original terms, fell \$574 million, or 17 per cent, to \$2,879 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- processed industrial supplies nes, down \$173 million or 20 per cent (with all components recording decreases);
- "other" parts for capital goods, down \$78 million or 14 per cent; and
- non-monetary gold, down \$60 million or 67 per cent.

Ten months ended April 1995 compared with ten months ended April 1994

In original terms, *merchandise imports* rose \$7,954 million, or 15 per cent, to \$61,491 million:

- *consumption goods* rose \$1,829 million (13 per cent);
- *capital goods* rose \$2,900 million (24 per cent); and
- *intermediate and other goods* rose \$3,225 million (12 per cent).

INQUIRIES • for further information about these and related unpublished statistics, contact Mr Graeme Groves on Canberra (06) 252 5540, or any ABS State office.
• for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

TABLE 1. MERCHANDISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS) — ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES

	Months												July to Apr							
	Years			1994-95									1993-94							
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	94	95					
(\$ million)																				
<i>Consumption goods fob (a) —</i>																				
Food and beverages, mainly for consumption	-2,028	-2,261	-2,430	-176	-207	-173	-200	-186	-212	-199	-208	-237	-260	-234	-227	-200	-237	-168	-2,044	-2,182
Household electrical items	-1,257	-1,382	-1,436	-97	-112	-105	-122	-104	-130	-148	-152	-184	-181	-156	-121	-119	-147	-132	-1,210	-1,470
Non-industrial transport equipment	-2,777	-3,478	-3,800	-250	-359	-302	-327	-323	-382	-378	-428	-392	-407	-409	-338	-313	-463	-391	-3,150	-3,901
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-1,799	-2,178	-2,320	-222	-233	-167	-172	-163	-214	-249	-223	-209	-225	-192	-246	-249	-236	-179	-1,985	-2,222
Toys, books and leisure goods	-2,015	-2,238	-2,496	-160	-189	-177	-215	-192	-233	-262	-238	-276	-249	-184	-183	-157	-199	-170	-2,089	-2,151
Consumption goods nes	-3,793	-4,389	-4,751	-329	-393	-354	-417	-362	-436	-489	-464	-486	-520	-384	-390	-358	-444	-382	-3,972	-4,335
<i>Total consumption goods</i>	<i>-13,669</i>	<i>-15,926</i>	<i>-17,233</i>	<i>-1,234</i>	<i>-1,493</i>	<i>-1,278</i>	<i>-1,453</i>	<i>-1,330</i>	<i>-1,607</i>	<i>-1,725</i>	<i>-1,713</i>	<i>-1,784</i>	<i>-1,842</i>	<i>-1,559</i>	<i>-1,505</i>	<i>-1,396</i>	<i>-1,726</i>	<i>-1,422</i>	<i>-14,450</i>	<i>-16,279</i>
<i>Capital goods fob (a) —</i>																				
Machinery and industrial equipment	-4,320	-5,446	-6,414	-438	-577	-510	-565	-535	-607	-681	-614	-646	-674	-620	-637	-618	-742	-617	-5,314	-6,456
ADP equipment	-1,915	-2,319	-2,629	-175	-254	-221	-266	-298	-253	-243	-276	-255	-250	-217	-189	-195	-325	-240	-2,065	-2,443
Telecommunications equipment	-949	-1,224	-1,182	-79	-107	-87	-98	-105	-120	-132	-136	-148	-309	-127	-119	-120	-153	-117	-979	-1,481
Civil aircraft	-1,685	-828	-241	—	-10	-4	-4	-3	-5	-256	-13	-25	-9	-33	-6	-57	-18	-43	-234	-465
Industrial transport equipment nes	-1,240	-1,838	-2,084	-137	-207	-154	-225	-178	-225	-204	-162	-227	-239	-518	-149	-197	-190	-188	-1,681	-2,299
Capital goods nes	-1,788	-2,000	-2,293	-161	-184	-164	-184	-182	-208	-223	-187	-200	-221	-180	-173	-170	-205	-189	-1,927	-1,956
<i>Total capital goods</i>	<i>-11,897</i>	<i>-13,655</i>	<i>-14,843</i>	<i>-990</i>	<i>-1,339</i>	<i>-1,140</i>	<i>-1,342</i>	<i>-1,301</i>	<i>-1,418</i>	<i>-1,739</i>	<i>-1,388</i>	<i>-1,501</i>	<i>-1,702</i>	<i>-1,695</i>	<i>-1,273</i>	<i>-1,357</i>	<i>-1,633</i>	<i>-1,394</i>	<i>-12,200</i>	<i>-15,100</i>
<i>Intermediate and other goods fob (a) —</i>																				
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-388	-436	-509	-46	-50	-42	-44	-38	-56	-59	-44	-59	-58	-57	-110	-88	-59	-53	-427	-643
Primary industrial supplies nes	-586	-677	-701	-58	-69	-53	-69	-52	-85	-76	-71	-66	-96	-55	-80	-79	-64	-62	-569	-734
Fuels and lubricants	-2,715	-3,623	-3,317	-227	-272	-264	-275	-234	-319	-337	-318	-250	-208	-235	-280	-317	-325	-315	-2,808	-2,904
Parts for transport equipment	-2,941	-3,675	-4,183	-317	-392	-332	-376	-351	-409	-409	-402	-418	-437	-341	-401	-329	-410	-385	-3,456	-3,941
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,278	-1,423	-1,681	-119	-157	-123	-177	-169	-151	-156	-152	-152	-165	-136	-133	-138	-171	-146	-1,335	-1,500
Other parts for capital goods	-3,558	-4,232	-5,036	-386	-451	-388	-440	-415	-474	-502	-480	-482	-510	-438	-460	-453	-559	-481	-4,181	-4,839
Organic and inorganic chemicals	-1,804	-2,056	-2,102	-166	-191	-168	-178	-185	-176	-200	-157	-191	-216	-177	-204	-201	-246	-202	-1,739	-1,970
Paper and paperboard	-1,295	-1,381	-1,465	-109	-128	-109	-120	-101	-137	-150	-145	-151	-160	-142	-151	-133	-164	-137	-1,244	-1,470
Textile yarn and fabrics	-1,680	-1,763	-1,869	-134	-160	-144	-173	-162	-190	-183	-174	-173	-191	-140	-170	-143	-176	-137	-1,534	-1,677
Iron and steel	-822	-946	-1,039	-80	-91	-71	-87	-85	-83	-121	-99	-96	-113	-84	-97	-112	-124	-96	-867	-1,025
Plastics	-1,086	-1,272	-1,375	-111	-128	-103	-119	-109	-127	-136	-125	-131	-149	-126	-140	-134	-155	-134	-1,147	-1,357
Non-monetary gold	-1,034	-1,019	-978	-66	-105	-68	-68	-62	-54	-54	-60	-41	-58	-74	-69	-56	-90	-30	-848	-584
Processed industrial supplies nes	-6,059	-7,135	-7,783	-542	-730	-632	-672	-606	-681	-745	-714	-740	-755	-651	-700	-654	-856	-683	-6,505	-7,179
Other goods	-243	-208	-286	-29	-37	-12	-34	-25	-20	-80	-26	-27	-17	-11	-15	-21	-54	-18	-227	-289
<i>Total intermediate and other goods</i>	<i>-25,489</i>	<i>-29,846</i>	<i>-32,324</i>	<i>-2,390</i>	<i>-2,961</i>	<i>-2,509</i>	<i>-2,843</i>	<i>-2,594</i>	<i>-2,960</i>	<i>-3,208</i>	<i>-2,967</i>	<i>-2,977</i>	<i>-3,133</i>	<i>-2,667</i>	<i>-3,010</i>	<i>-2,858</i>	<i>-3,453</i>	<i>-2,879</i>	<i>-26,887</i>	<i>-30,112</i>
<i>Total imports fob</i>	<i>-51,055</i>	<i>-59,427</i>	<i>-64,400</i>	<i>-4,614</i>	<i>-5,793</i>	<i>-4,927</i>	<i>-5,638</i>	<i>-5,225</i>	<i>-5,985</i>	<i>-6,672</i>	<i>-6,068</i>	<i>-6,262</i>	<i>-6,677</i>	<i>-5,921</i>	<i>-5,788</i>	<i>-5,611</i>	<i>-6,812</i>	<i>-5,695</i>	<i>-53,537</i>	<i>-61,491</i>
Seasonally Adjusted																				
Consumption goods	..	..	..	-1,334	-1,432	-1,486	-1,536	-1,507	-1,568	-1,567	-1,610	-1,576	-1,615	-1,629	-1,604	-1,511	-1,710	-1,700	..	..
Capital goods	..	..	..	-1,187	-1,385	-1,275	-1,380	-1,302	-1,350	-1,477	-1,334	-1,335	-1,571	-1,738	-1,440	-1,630	-1,742	-1,565	..	..
Intermediate and other goods	..	..	..	-2,530	-2,726	-2,755	-2,806	-2,757	-2,874	-2,955	-2,880	-2,955	-2,957	-2,933	-3,059	-3,027	-3,193	-3,253	..	..
<i>Total imports fob</i>	..	..	..	<i>-5,051</i>	<i>-5,543</i>	<i>-5,516</i>	<i>-5,722</i>	<i>-5,566</i>	<i>-5,792</i>	<i>-5,999</i>	<i>-5,824</i>	<i>-5,866</i>	<i>-6,143</i>	<i>-6,300</i>	<i>-6,103</i>	<i>-6,168</i>	<i>-6,645</i>	<i>-6,518</i>	..	..
Trend Estimates																				
<i>Total imports fob</i>	..	..	..	<i>-5,326</i>	<i>-5,397</i>	<i>-5,500</i>	<i>-5,607</i>	<i>-5,701</i>	<i>-5,781</i>	<i>-5,850</i>	<i>-5,916</i>	<i>-5,987</i>	<i>-6,062</i>	<i>-6,146</i>	<i>-6,240</i>	<i>-6,337p</i>	<i>-6,431p</i>	<i>-6,507p</i>	..	..

(a) Definitions of the component series are given in the ABS Information Paper, *Changes to Commodity Classification of Merchandise Imports in Balance of Payments Publications* (ABS Catalogue No. 3344.0).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains preliminary estimates of Australia's merchandise imports on a balance of payments basis for April 1995, together with estimates for previous months.

2. Descriptions of the classifications used for merchandise imports, detailed item definitions and long term historical data are presented in *Change to Commodity Classification of Merchandise Imports in Balance of Payments Publications* (5344.0).

3. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of merchandise imports on a balance of payments basis and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates are presented in *Balance of Payments, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5331.0). That publication also provides explanations of seasonal adjustment and trend estimates; and an analysis of the quality of the estimates.

Accuracy, reliability and volatility

4. The latest estimates in this publication are **preliminary and subject to revision** as more complete and accurate information becomes available.

5. **Particular care should be exercised in interpreting month-to-month movements** in original and seasonally adjusted series as short term movements cannot be assumed to indicate changes in trend. The monthly estimates are volatile, being subject to seasonal factors (except where adjusted in the table) and large irregular influences. The irregular influences may reflect both random economic events and difficulties of statistical recording. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. This means that the month-to-month movements of the seasonally adjusted estimates may not be reliable indicators of trend behaviour. For example, irregular factors unrelated to the trend account for more than half the seasonally adjusted monthly movements in merchandise imports for 9 out of 10 months.

6. **The impact of the irregular influences upon the seasonally adjusted series is reduced by smoothing**, as shown by the trend estimates in the table and graph. The trend estimates are generally derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

Seasonal adjustment

7. The factors used in seasonally adjusting the monthly merchandise imports statistics during 1995 can be obtained, for \$70.00, from Mr Chris Durack on Canberra (06) 252 6224.

8. The **seasonally adjusted** statistics in this publication should not be regarded as in any way definitive as results from seasonal adjustment vary according to the method used.

Available longer term series

9. Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication are available and can be obtained by contacting Mr Trevor Jolly on Canberra (06) 252 6820. There may be a charge for this information.

Related products and services

10. Preliminary estimates of Australia's balance of payments for April 1995 are due for release on 29 May 1995 in the monthly publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0). The estimates of merchandise imports shown as part of the balance of payments in 5301.0 will normally be the same as those already released in the corresponding issue of this publication.

11. More detailed information than that shown in this publication is available for April 1995 and earlier months. These data may be obtained by contacting Mr Trevor Jolly on Canberra (06) 252 6820. There may be a charge for this information.

12. More detailed merchandise imports data, including dissections by commodity and country of origin, are also available on a foreign trade basis, for April 1995 and previous months. These data series can be obtained by contacting International Trade Client Services on Canberra (06) 252 5400.

Symbols and other usages

fob	free on board
nes	not elsewhere specified
—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable
p	provisional

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

Release date for May 1995 issue

The expected release date for the May issue of this publication is 20 June 1995. Any variations which might occur will be notified in the ABS Publications Advice (1105.0) and on DISCOVERY

The date can be confirmed a few days prior to release by telephoning Canberra (06) 252 6627.



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