

CATALOGUE NO. 5320.0

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MERCHANDISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS) AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1995

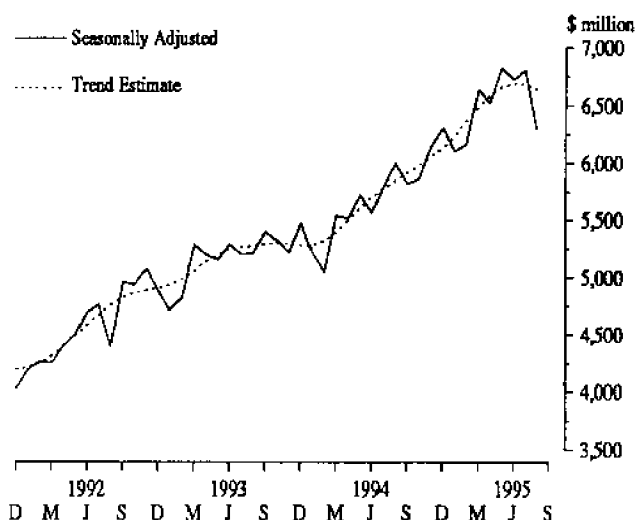
MAIN FEATURES

August 1995 compared with July 1995

The provisional **trend estimate** of *merchandise imports* fell \$40 million, or 1 per cent, to \$6,640 million.

Seasonally adjusted merchandise imports for August fell \$517 million, or 8 per cent, to \$6,295 million. *Consumption goods* fell \$98 million, or 5 per cent, to \$1,715 million. *Capital goods* fell \$78 million, or 5 per cent, to \$1,444 million. *Intermediate and other goods* fell \$341 million, or 10 per cent, to \$3,136 million.

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



In original terms, *imports* fell \$240 million, or 3 per cent, to \$6,955 million.

Imports of *consumption goods*, in original terms, fell \$25 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1,877 million. Decreases were recorded in:

- non-industrial transport equipment, down \$43 million or 9 per cent (due to decreased imports of passenger motor cars); and
- food and beverages, mainly for consumption, down \$11 million or 4 per cent.

The most significant increase was recorded in household electrical items, up \$10 million or 6 per cent.

Imports of *capital goods*, in original terms, fell \$32 million, or 2 per cent, to \$1,668 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups except civil aircraft, which rose \$53 million (reflecting the import of an Ansett aircraft valued at \$59 million). The largest decreases were recorded in:

- machinery and industrial equipment, down \$25 million or 4 per cent;
- industrial transport equipment nes, down \$25 million or 11 per cent; and
- capital goods nes, down \$22 million or 9 per cent.

Imports of *intermediate and other goods*, in original terms, fell \$183 million, or 5 per cent, to \$3,410 million. Decreases were recorded in 9 of the 14 groups. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- fuels and lubricants, down \$105 million or 27 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of crude petroleum);
- processed industrial supplies nes, down \$62 million or 8 per cent; and
- "other" parts for capital goods, down \$37 million or 6 per cent.

The most significant increases were recorded in iron and steel, up \$26 million or 22 per cent; and non-monetary gold, up \$23 million or 42 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

(\$ million)

	Years				Months												1995-96	
					1994-95												July	Aug.
	1992.	1993.	1994.	94	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May			June
<i>Consumption goods fob (a) —</i>																		
Food and beverages, mainly for consumption	-2,261	-2,430	-2,594	-186	-212	-199	-208	-237	-260	-235	-227	-199	-237	-168	-230	-182	-245	-234
Household electrical items	-1,382	-1,436	-1,744	-104	-130	-148	-152	-184	-181	-156	-121	-119	-147	-132	-145	-129	-157	-167
Non-industrial transport equipment	-3,478	-3,800	-4,763	-323	-382	-378	-428	-392	-407	-408	-337	-313	-463	-390	-448	-417	-469	-426
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-2,178	-2,320	-2,567	-163	-214	-249	-223	-208	-225	-192	-246	-249	-235	-179	-190	-157	-266	-274
Toys, books and leisure goods	-2,238	-2,496	-2,546	-192	-233	-262	-238	-277	-249	-183	-181	-157	-199	-170	-204	-193	-247	-252
Consumption goods nes	-4,389	-4,751	-5,212	-362	-436	-489	-464	-486	-521	-384	-390	-360	-444	-382	-481	-375	-518	-524
<i>Total consumption goods</i>	-15,926	-17,233	-19,426	-1,330	-1,607	-1,725	-1,713	-1,784	-1,843	-1,558	-1,502	-1,397	-1,725	-1,421	-1,698	-1,453	-1,902	-1,877
<i>Capital goods fob (a) —</i>																		
Machinery and industrial equipment	-5,446	-6,414	-7,893	-535	-607	-681	-614	-646	-675	-620	-637	-619	-742	-618	-705	-729	-714	-689
ADP equipment	-2,319	-2,629	-3,232	-298	-253	-243	-276	-255	-251	-217	-189	-195	-325	-243	-393	-392	-337	-325
Telecommunications equipment	-1,224	-1,182	-1,805	-105	-120	-132	-136	-148	-310	-127	-119	-119	-153	-117	-151	-173	-164	-163
Civil aircraft	-828	-241	-531	-3	-5	-256	-13	-25	-9	-33	-6	-57	-18	-43	-16	-50	-28	-81
Industrial transport equipment nes	-1,838	-2,084	-2,712	-178	-225	-204	-162	-227	-239	-518	-150	-197	-190	-188	-234	-178	-223	-198
Capital goods nes	-2,000	-2,293	-2,365	-182	-208	-223	-187	-201	-221	-180	-173	-170	-205	-189	-215	-193	-234	-212
<i>Total capital goods</i>	-13,655	-14,843	-18,538	-1,301	-1,418	-1,739	-1,388	-1,502	-1,705	-1,695	-1,274	-1,357	-1,633	-1,398	-1,714	-1,715	-1,700	-1,668
<i>Intermediate and other goods fob (a) —</i>																		
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-436	-509	-773	-38	-56	-59	-44	-59	-58	-57	-110	-90	-59	-53	-67	-61	-65	-65
Primary industrial supplies nes	-677	-701	-902	-52	-85	-76	-71	-66	-96	-55	-80	-79	-64	-62	-83	-85	-73	-71
Fuels and lubricants	-3,623	-3,317	-3,564	-234	-319	-337	-318	-250	-208	-235	-280	-314	-323	-315	-378	-287	-388	-283
Parts for transport equipment	-3,675	-4,183	-4,715	-351	-409	-409	-402	-418	-437	-341	-401	-329	-410	-385	-423	-351	-449	-446
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,423	-1,681	-1,858	-169	-151	-156	-152	-152	-165	-136	-133	-138	-171	-143	-189	-172	-159	-158
Other parts for capital goods	-4,232	-5,036	-5,938	-415	-474	-502	-479	-482	-510	-438	-459	-453	-559	-481	-581	-520	-622	-585
Organic and inorganic chemicals	-2,056	-2,102	-2,431	-185	-176	-200	-157	-191	-216	-177	-203	-201	-246	-203	-228	-233	-242	-249
Paper and paperboard	-1,381	-1,465	-1,798	-101	-137	-150	-145	-151	-160	-142	-151	-133	-164	-137	-181	-147	-189	-188
Textile yarn and fabrics	-1,763	-1,869	-2,039	-162	-190	-183	-175	-174	-191	-140	-170	-143	-176	-137	-194	-166	-189	-189
Iron and steel	-946	-1,039	-1,284	-85	-83	-121	-99	-96	-113	-84	-97	-112	-124	-96	-137	-122	-117	-143
Plastics	-1,272	-1,375	-1,647	-109	-127	-136	-125	-131	-149	-127	-140	-134	-155	-134	-160	-129	-170	-154
Non-monetary gold	-1,019	-978	-705	-62	-52	-54	-60	-41	-58	-74	-69	-56	-90	-30	-66	-55	-55	-78
Processed industrial supplies nes	-7,135	-7,783	-8,686	-606	-681	-745	-714	-740	-753	-650	-700	-653	-856	-684	-823	-687	-825	-763
Other goods	-208	-286	-392	-25	-20	-80	-26	-27	-17	-11	-16	-22	-54	-17	-57	-45	-50	-38
<i>Total intermediate and other goods</i>	-29,846	-32,324	-36,732	-2,594	-2,960	-3,208	-2,967	-2,978	-3,131	-2,667	-3,009	-2,857	-3,451	-2,877	-3,567	-3,060	-3,593	-3,410
<i>Total imports fob</i>	-59,427	-64,400	-74,696	-5,225	-5,985	-6,672	-6,068	-6,264	-6,679	-5,920	-5,785	-5,611	-6,809	-5,696	-6,979	-6,228	-7,195	-6,955
Seasonally Adjusted																		
Consumption goods	..	..	..	-1,507	-1,568	-1,567	-1,610	-1,576	-1,616	-1,628	-1,601	-1,512	-1,709	-1,699	-1,737	-1,656	-1,813	-1,715
Capital goods	..	..	..	-1,302	-1,350	-1,477	-1,334	-1,336	-1,574	-1,738	-1,441	-1,630	-1,742	-1,569	-1,690	-1,785	-1,522	-1,444
Intermediate and other goods	..	..	..	-2,757	-2,874	-2,955	-2,880	-2,956	-2,955	-2,933	-3,058	-3,026	-3,191	-3,251	-3,400	-3,284	-3,477	-3,136
<i>Total imports fob</i>	..	..	..	-5,566	-5,792	-5,999	-5,824	-5,868	-6,145	-6,299	-6,100	-6,168	-6,642	-6,519	-6,827	-6,725	-6,812	-6,295
Trend Estimates																		
<i>Total imports fob</i>	..	..	..	-5,701	-5,781	-5,850	-5,916	-5,988	-6,057	-6,137	-6,234	-6,360	-6,488	-6,590	-6,660	-6,687p	-6,680p	-6,640p

(a) Definitions of the component series are given in the ABS Information Paper, *Change to Commodity Classification of Merchandise Imports in Balance of Payments Publications* (ABS Catalogue No. 5344.0).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains preliminary estimates of Australia's merchandise imports on a balance of payments basis for August 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 fob in 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 David Jenkins on Canberra (06) 252 6128.

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.

More detailed and longer term series

9. More detailed information than that shown in this publication is available for August 1995 and earlier months. Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication are also available. These data 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 August 1995 are due for release on 29 September 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 merchandise imports data, including dissections by commodity and country of origin, are also available on a foreign trade basis, for August 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

RICHARD MADDEN
Acting Australian Statistician

Release date for September 1995 issue

The expected release date for the September issue of this publication is 19 October 1995. Any variations which might occur will be notified in the ABS Publications Advice (1105.0) and on DISCOVERY.

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