

CATALOGUE NO. 5320.0

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

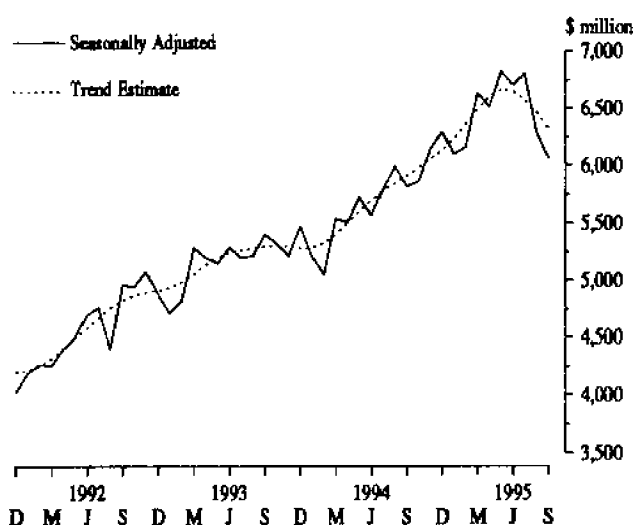
MAIN FEATURES

September 1995 compared with August 1995

The provisional trend estimate of *merchandise imports* fell \$134 million, or 2 per cent, to \$6,334 million.

In *seasonally adjusted terms*, *merchandise imports* for September fell \$231 million, or 4 per cent, to \$6,064 million, the lowest level since October 1994. *Consumption goods* fell \$89 million, or 5 per cent, to \$1,626 million. *Capital goods* fell \$74 million, or 5 per cent, to \$1,370 million. *Intermediate and other goods* fell \$68 million, or 2 per cent, to \$3,068 million.

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



In *original terms*, *imports* fell \$835 million, or 12 per cent, to \$6,120 million.

Imports of *consumption goods*, in *original terms*, fell \$204 million, or 11 per cent, to \$1,673 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups except toys, books and leisure goods, which remained unchanged. The most significant decreases were recorded in:

- non-industrial transport equipment, down \$80 million or 19 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of passenger motor cars); and

- textiles, clothing and footwear, down \$54 million or 20 per cent.

Imports of *capital goods*, in *original terms*, fell \$250 million, or 15 per cent, to \$1,418 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups except telecommunications equipment, which rose \$44 million or 27 per cent. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- machinery and industrial equipment, down \$73 million or 11 per cent;
- ADP equipment, down \$72 million or 22 per cent; and
- civil aircraft, down \$71 million or 88 per cent on the August figure which included an Ansett aircraft valued at \$59 million.

Imports of *intermediate and other goods*, in *original terms*, fell \$381 million, or 11 per cent, to \$3,029 million. Decreases were recorded in 12 of the 14 groups. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- parts for transport equipment, down \$109 million or 24 per cent (with most components recording decreases);
- "other" parts for capital goods, down \$74 million or 13 per cent; and
- organic and inorganic chemicals, down \$55 million, or 22 per cent.

Three months ended September 1995 compared with three months ended September 1994

In *original terms*, *merchandise imports* rose \$1,540 million, or 8 per cent, to \$20,265 million:

- *consumption goods* rose \$407 million (8 per cent);
- *capital goods* rose \$240 million (5 per cent); and
- *intermediate and other goods* rose \$893 million (10 per cent).

INQUIRIES • for further information about these and related unpublished statistics, contact Mr Chee Low on Canberra (06) 252 6012, 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												July to Sept.			
	1992-93		1994-95		1994-95												1995-96			
	93	94	95	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	95	96
Consumption goods fob (a) —																				
Food and beverages, mainly for consumption	-2,261	-2,430	-2,592	-212	-199	-208	-237	-260	-235	-227	-199	-236	-168	-230	-181	-245	-234	-231	-619	-710
Household electrical items	-1,382	-1,436	-1,744	-130	-148	-152	-184	-181	-156	-121	-119	-147	-132	-145	-129	-157	-167	-138	-430	-462
Non-industrial transport equipment	-3,478	-3,800	-4,756	-382	-378	-428	-392	-407	-409	-337	-313	-462	-390	-446	-412	-469	-426	-346	-1,188	-1,241
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-2,178	-2,320	-2,566	-214	-249	-223	-208	-225	-192	-246	-249	-235	-179	-189	-157	-266	-274	-220	-686	-760
Toys, books and leisure goods	-2,238	-2,496	-2,546	-233	-262	-238	-277	-249	-183	-181	-156	-199	-170	-205	-193	-246	-252	-252	-733	-750
Consumption goods nes	-4,389	-4,751	-5,213	-436	-489	-464	-486	-521	-385	-390	-360	-445	-381	-481	-375	-519	-524	-486	-1,389	-1,529
Total consumption goods	-15,926	-17,233	-19,417	-1,607	-1,725	-1,713	-1,784	-1,843	-1,560	-1,502	-1,396	-1,724	-1,420	-1,696	-1,447	-1,902	-1,877	-1,673	-5,045	-5,452
Capital goods fob (a) —																				
Machinery and industrial equipment	-5,446	-6,414	-7,896	-607	-681	-614	-646	-675	-620	-637	-618	-743	-616	-706	-733	-714	-689	-616	-1,902	-2,019
ADP equipment	-2,319	-2,629	-3,232	-253	-243	-276	-255	-251	-217	-189	-195	-325	-243	-393	-392	-338	-325	-253	-772	-916
Telecommunications equipment	-1,224	-1,182	-1,805	-120	-132	-136	-148	-310	-127	-119	-119	-153	-117	-151	-173	-164	-163	-207	-388	-534
Civil aircraft	-828	-241	-529	-5	-256	-13	-25	-9	-33	-6	-57	-18	-43	-16	-48	-28	-81	-10	-274	-119
Industrial transport equipment nes	-1,838	-2,084	-2,714	-225	-204	-162	-227	-239	-518	-150	-197	-190	-189	-234	-179	-221	-198	-149	-591	-568
Capital goods nes	-2,000	-2,293	-2,363	-208	-223	-187	-201	-221	-180	-173	-170	-205	-188	-215	-192	-234	-212	-183	-618	-629
Total capital goods	-13,655	-14,843	-18,539	-1,418	-1,739	-1,388	-1,502	-1,705	-1,695	-1,274	-1,356	-1,634	-1,396	-1,715	-1,717	-1,699	-1,668	-1,418	-4,545	-4,785
Intermediate and other goods fob (a) —																				
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-436	-509	-773	-56	-59	-44	-59	-58	-57	-110	-90	-59	-53	-67	-61	-65	-65	-65	-159	-195
Primary industrial supplies nes	-677	-701	-901	-85	-76	-71	-66	-96	-55	-80	-79	-63	-62	-83	-85	-73	-71	-66	-232	-210
Fuels and lubricants	-3,623	-3,317	-3,566	-319	-337	-318	-250	-268	-235	-280	-314	-323	-317	-379	-286	-386	-283	-291	-974	-960
Parts for transport equipment	-3,675	-4,183	-4,714	-409	-409	-402	-418	-437	-340	-401	-329	-409	-385	-424	-351	-448	-446	-337	-1,220	-1,231
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,423	-1,681	-1,857	-151	-156	-152	-152	-165	-136	-133	-138	-171	-142	-189	-172	-159	-158	-155	-459	-472
Other parts for capital goods	-4,232	-5,036	-5,932	-474	-502	-479	-482	-510	-438	-459	-453	-559	-481	-579	-516	-622	-585	-511	-1,455	-1,718
Organic and inorganic chemicals	-2,056	-2,102	-2,431	-176	-200	-157	-191	-216	-177	-203	-201	-245	-203	-228	-234	-242	-249	-194	-533	-685
Paper and paperboard	-1,381	-1,465	-1,794	-137	-150	-145	-151	-160	-142	-151	-133	-164	-137	-179	-145	-189	-189	-172	-432	-550
Textile yarn and fabrics	-1,763	-1,869	-2,037	-190	-183	-175	-174	-191	-139	-170	-142	-176	-137	-194	-166	-189	-188	-154	-548	-531
Iron and steel	-946	-1,039	-1,285	-83	-121	-99	-96	-113	-85	-97	-112	-124	-96	-137	-122	-117	-143	-129	-303	-389
Plastics	-1,272	-1,375	-1,646	-127	-136	-125	-131	-149	-127	-140	-134	-155	-133	-160	-129	-170	-154	-146	-388	-470
Non-monetary gold	-1,019	-978	-705	-52	-54	-60	-41	-58	-74	-69	-56	-90	-30	-66	-55	-55	-78	-56	-166	-189
Processed industrial supplies nes	-7,135	-7,783	-8,681	-681	-745	-714	-740	-753	-650	-700	-652	-857	-684	-818	-687	-824	-763	-728	-2,140	-2,315
Other goods	-208	-286	-391	-20	-80	-26	-27	-17	-11	-16	-22	-54	-17	-57	-44	-50	-38	-25	-126	-113
Total intermediate and other goods	-29,846	-32,324	-36,713	-2,960	-3,208	-2,967	-2,978	-3,131	-2,666	-3,009	-2,855	-3,449	-2,877	-3,560	-3,053	-3,589	-3,410	-3,029	-9,135	-10,028
Total imports fob	-59,427	-64,400	-74,669	-5,985	-6,672	-6,068	-6,264	-6,679	-5,921	-5,785	-5,607	-6,807	-5,693	-6,971	-6,217	-7,190	-6,955	-6,120	-18,725	-20,265
Seasonally Adjusted																				
Consumption goods	..	..	..	-1,568	-1,567	-1,610	-1,576	-1,616	-1,631	-1,601	-1,511	-1,708	-1,698	-1,735	-1,650	-1,813	-1,715	-1,626	..	..
Capital goods	..	..	..	-1,350	-1,477	-1,334	-1,336	-1,574	-1,738	-1,441	-1,629	-1,744	-1,567	-1,691	-1,787	-1,521	-1,444	-1,370	..	..
Intermediate and other goods	..	..	..	-2,874	-2,955	-2,880	-2,956	-2,955	-2,932	-3,058	-3,023	-3,189	-3,251	-3,393	-3,276	-3,473	-3,136	-3,068	..	..
Total imports fob	..	..	..	-5,792	-5,999	-5,824	-5,868	-6,145	-6,301	-6,100	-6,163	-6,641	-6,516	-6,819	-6,713	-6,807	-6,295	-6,064	..	..
Trend Estimates																				
Total imports fob	..	..	..	-5,781	-5,850	-5,917	-5,988	-6,058	-6,137	-6,233	-6,358	-6,499	-6,610	-6,665	-6,651	-6,575p	-6,468p	-6,334p	..	..

(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).

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains preliminary estimates of Australia's merchandise imports on a balance of payments basis for September 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 Gary Knox on Canberra (06) 252 5753.

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 September 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 September 1995 are due for release on 31 October 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 September 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 October 1995 issue

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