

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 18 MAY 1998

APRIL IMPORTS

	\$m
Food and live animals	262
Beverages and tobacco	39
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	117
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	232
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	11
Chemical and related products n.e.s.	914
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	974
Machinery and transport equipment	3 606
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1 000
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in SITC	291
Total imports	7 447

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents Australia's merchandise imports for 1 digit sections of the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification. The data are compiled from information submitted by importers or their agents to the Australian Customs Service.

MONTH TO MONTH MOVEMENTS

Care should be exercised in interpreting these statistics. The recent industrial dispute on the waterfront may have caused some importers to delay submitting or finalising their Customs import entries because their goods were held up on the wharves. Based on the increase in the value of import entries which were not finalised as at end April, the total value of recorded April imports shown above may be understated by \$200 to \$250 million. April imports on a Balance of Payments basis, to be published in *International Trade in Goods and Services* (catalogue number 5368.0) for release on 29 May 1998, will be adjusted to take account of this delay in the finalisation of import entries.

DETAILED DATA

More detailed merchandise imports data, including dissections by commodity and country of origin, are available from Client Services Statistical Support on Canberra 02 6252 5400. This information can also be provided on subscription.

FORTHCOMING ISSUE

The May 1998 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 17 June 1998.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Jan Gatenby on (02) 6252 5501, or any ABS Office.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

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2543900004986

ISSN 1328-2980

RRP \$15.00