

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 17 JUN 1998

MAY IMPORTS

	\$m
Food and live animals	279
Beverages and tobacco	43
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	137
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	326
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	26
Chemical and related products n.e.s.	889
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 063
Machinery and transport equipment	3 502
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1 139
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in SITC	268
Total imports	7 673

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, and the subsequent finalisation of these entries in May, the total value of recorded May imports shown above may be overstated by \$250 million. May imports on a Balance of Payments basis, to be published in *International Trade in Goods and Services* (catalogue number 5368.0) for release on 30 June 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 June 1998 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 16 July 1998.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact any ABS Office shown on the back cover of this publication.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

SELF-HELP ACCESS TO STATISTICS

PHONE Call 1900 986 400 for the latest statistics on CPI, Labour Force, Earnings, National Accounts, Balance of Payments and other topics (call cost is 75c per minute).

INTERNET <http://www.abs.gov.au>

LIBRARY A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require.

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

PHONE +61 1300 366 323

FAX +61 03 9615 7848

CONTACTING THE ABS

ABS provides a range of services, including: a telephone inquiry service; information consultancy tailored to your needs; survey, sample and questionnaire design; survey evaluation and methodological reviews; and statistical training.

<i>INQUIRIES</i>	<i>By phone</i>	<i>By fax</i>
Canberra	02 6252 6627	02 6253 1404
Sydney	02 9268 4611	02 9268 4668
Melbourne	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 8283
Perth	08 9360 5140	08 9360 5955
Adelaide	08 8237 7400	08 8237 7566
Hobart	03 6222 5800	03 6222 5995
Darwin	08 8943 2111	08 8981 1218

POST Client Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616



2543900005983

ISSN 1328-2980

RRP \$15.00

© Commonwealth of Australia 1998

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics