

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 22 AUG 2006

KEY FIGURES

	May 2006	June 2006	July 2006
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Food and live animals	501	483	495
Beverages and tobacco	97	90	94
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	177	183	153
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	2 354	2 280	1 881
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	52	42	35
Chemicals and related products, nes	1 688	1 491	1 558
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 584	1 595	1 556
Machinery and transport equipment	6 443	6 548	5 846
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1 799	1 841	2 014
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	734	589	587
TOTAL	15 431	15 143	14 219

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistics of Australia's merchandise imports classified according to the broadest level (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.

PRELIMINARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS GOODS IMPORTS

Preliminary analysis shows that goods imports (debits) on a balance of payments basis decreased by 4% in seasonally adjusted terms between June and July 2006.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

An error has been rectified in concordances between two tariff item statistical codes and the detailed SITC and BoPBEC classifications. The error does not impact on data on a balance of payments basis. Correcting the error has resulted in a break in series between the June and July 2006 reference months for BoPBEC items OK02 - Motor Spirit and OK03 - Other Petroleum Products. These items are presented in data cubes table 8 associated with this issue.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The August 2006 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 18 September 2006, and the September to January 2007 issues are expected to be released on 18 October 2006, 16 November 2006, 18 December 2006, 17 January 2007 and 16 February 2007.

Susan Linacre
Acting Australian
Statistician

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Olivia Lam on Canberra (02) 6252 7406.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

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All ABS statistics can be downloaded free of charge from the ABS web site.

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ISSN 1328 2980

RRP \$22.00