

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 29 MAY 1997

APRIL KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Feb 97 \$m	Mar 97 \$m	Apr 97 \$m	% change Mar 97 to Apr 97
Balance on goods and services	109	137	166	..
Exports of goods and services	8 749	8 841	8 911	1
Imports of goods and services	8 640	8 704	8 745	0

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Feb 97 \$m	Mar 97 \$m	Apr 97 \$m	% change Mar 97 to Apr 97
Balance on goods and services	315	- 103	302	..
Exports of goods and services	9 138	8 474	9 002	6
Imports of goods and services	8 823	8 577	8 700	1

APRIL KEY POINTS

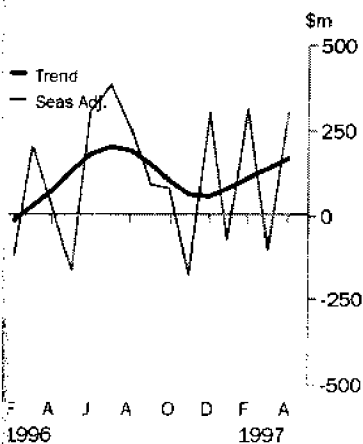
TREND ESTIMATES

- The provisional trend estimate of the balance on goods and services recorded a surplus of \$166 million in April, an increase of \$29 million on the surplus recorded in March. This is the fourteenth consecutive surplus on this balance.
- Exports of goods and services rose \$70 million, or 1%, continuing the upward trend since September 1996. Imports of goods and services rose \$41 million continuing the upward movement since August 1996.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- The balance on goods and services recorded a surplus of \$302 million. This was a turnaround of \$405 million on the deficit recorded in March, largely due to a \$345 million increase in exports of non-rural goods.
- Exports of goods and services rose \$528 million or 6%, while imports of goods and services rose \$123 million or 1%.

Balance on goods and services



INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Graeme Groves on 06 252 5540, or any ABS Office.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>EXPECTED RELEASE DATE</i>
May 1997	1 July 1997
June 1997	29 July 1997
July 1997	29 August 1997
August 1997	29 September 1997
September 1997	30 October 1997
October 1997	1 December 1997

.....

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

There are no changes in this issue.

.....

T. J. Skinner
Acting Australian Statistician

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

BALANCE ON GOODS AND SERVICES

The trend estimate of the balance on goods and services recorded a surplus of \$166 million in April, an increase of \$29 million on the surplus recorded in March. This is the fourteenth consecutive surplus in this balance and the longest run of monthly surpluses since May 1992.

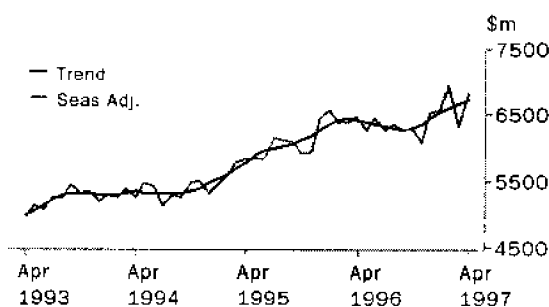
In seasonally adjusted terms, this balance recorded a surplus of \$302 million, a turnaround of \$405 million on the deficit recorded in March.

EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

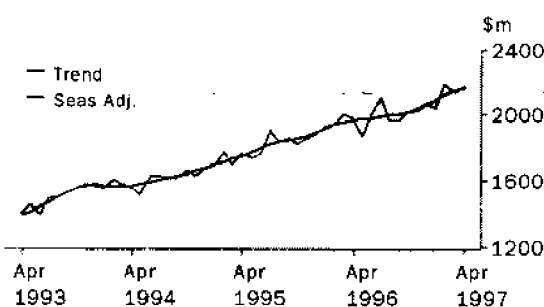
The trend estimate of exports of goods and services rose \$70 million, or 1%, to \$8,911 million, continuing the upward movement since September 1996. The trend estimate of goods has been increasing since September 1996, while the trend estimate of services has been gradually increasing since March 1994.

In seasonally adjusted terms, exports of goods and services rose \$528 million, or 6%, to \$9,002 million. Exports of goods rose \$491 million, or 8%, to \$6,824 million, while exports of services rose \$37 million, or 2%, to \$2,178 million.

EXPORTS OF GOODS



EXPORTS OF SERVICES



RURAL GOODS EXPORTS

The trend estimate of exports of rural goods rose \$27 million, or 1%, to \$2,011 million. In seasonally adjusted terms, rural goods rose \$146 million, or 8%, to \$2,004 million.

Rural exports, in original terms, fell \$56 million, or 3%, to \$1,964 million. The largest movements were recorded in cereals, down \$118 million or 17% (due mainly to decreased quantities of wheat exports); wool, down \$54 million or 15%; and 'other' rural goods, up \$92 million or 14% (due mainly to increased exports of cotton).

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

NON-RURAL GOODS EXPORTS

The trend estimate of exports of non-rural goods rose \$23 million to \$4,727 million. In seasonally adjusted terms, non-rural goods rose \$345 million, or 8%, to \$4,820 million.

Non-rural exports, in original terms, rose \$102 million, or 2%, to \$4,679 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- coal, coke and briquettes, up \$111 million or 18% (due mainly to increased volumes of exports);
- transport equipment, up \$69 million or 26%; and
- metal ores and minerals, up \$38 million or 5%.

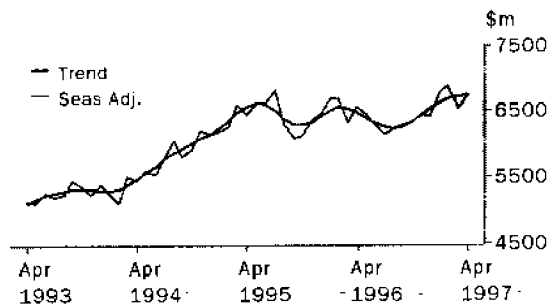
Decreases were recorded in machinery, down \$93 million or 15%; and 'other' manufactures, down \$53 million or 7%.

IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

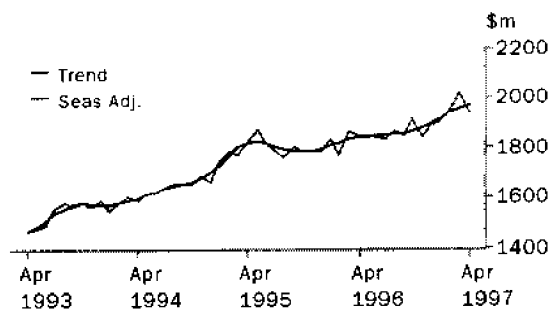
The trend estimate of imports of goods and services rose \$41 million to \$8,745 million. Imports of goods rose \$28 million to \$6,777 million, continuing the upward movement since August 1996. The trend estimate of imports of services rose \$13 million, or 1%, to \$1,968 million, continuing the gradual upward movement since October 1995.

In seasonally adjusted terms, imports of goods and services rose \$123 million, or 1%, to \$8,700 million, with imports of goods increasing by \$204 million (3%) and imports of services falling \$81 million (4%).

IMPORTS OF GOODS



IMPORTS OF SERVICES



ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

CONSUMPTION GOODS IMPORTS

The trend estimate of imports of consumption goods rose \$7 million to \$1,795 million, continuing the gradual upward movement since March 1996. In seasonally adjusted terms, imports of consumption goods rose \$50 million, or 3%, to \$1,788 million.

Imports of consumption goods, in original terms, rose \$235 million, or 15%, to \$1,779 million. Increases were recorded in all components with the largest being:

- consumption goods n.e.s., up \$110 million or 27%; and
- toys, books and leisure goods, up \$37 million or 22%.

CAPITAL GOODS IMPORTS

The trend estimate of imports of capital goods rose \$39 million, or 2%, to \$1,713 million, continuing an upward movement since September 1996. In seasonally adjusted terms, imports of capital goods rose \$171 million, or 11%, to \$1,773 million.

Imports of capital goods, in original terms, rose \$128 million, or 8%, to \$1,655 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- machinery and industrial equipment, up \$64 million or 10%;
- telecommunications equipment, up \$60 million or 48%; and
- capital goods n.e.s., up \$40 million or 22%.

These increases were partly offset by a decrease in civil aircraft, down \$53 million or 83%.

INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER GOODS IMPORTS

The trend estimate of imports of intermediate and other goods fell \$18 million, or 1%, to \$3,269 million. In seasonally adjusted terms, imports of intermediate and other goods fell \$17 million, or 1%, to \$3,202 million.

Imports of intermediate and other goods, in original terms, rose \$329 million, or 11%, to \$3,342 million. Increases were recorded in 10 of the 14 groups, with the largest being:

- processed industrial supplies n.e.s., up \$102 million or 15%;
- parts for transport equipment, up \$93 million or 27%; and
- 'other' parts for capital goods, up \$55 million or 11%.

GOODS AND SERVICES, Summary: Seasonally Adjusted and Trend

Period	EXPORTS.....						IMPORTS(a).....					
	Balance on goods and services	Total goods and services	Total goods	Rural goods	Non-rural goods	Total services	Total goods and services	Total goods	Consumption goods	Capital goods	Inter-mediate and other goods	Total services
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED												
1996												
February	- 120	8 361	6 408	1 855	4 553	1 953	-8 481	-6 710	-1 688	-1 775	-3 247	-1 771
March	203	8 390	6 386	1 795	4 591	2 004	-8 187	-6 325	-1 538	-1 666	3 121	-1 862
April	29	8 473	6 491	1 872	4 619	1 982	-8 444	-6 596	-1 665	-1 696	-3 235	-1 848
May	- 167	8 154	6 282	1 799	4 483	1 872	-8 321	-6 473	-1 694	-1 708	-3 071	-1 848
June	305	8 462	6 460	1 849	4 611	2 002	-8 157	-6 314	-1 662	-1 606	-3 046	-1 843
July	381	8 371	6 268	1 793	4 475	2 103	-7 990	-6 157	1 685	-1 421	-3 051	-1 833
August	256	8 354	6 382	1 927	4 455	1 972	-8 098	-6 231	-1 802	-1 473	-2 956	-1 867
September	89	8 239	6 265	1 808	4 457	1 974	-8 150	-6 297	-1 730	-1 537	3 030	-1 853
October	80	8 334	6 310	1 709	4 601	2 024	-8 254	-6 341	-1 691	-1 397	-3 253	-1 913
November	- 178	8 130	6 091	1 718	4 373	2 039	-8 308	-6 467	-1 751	-1 515	-3 201	-1 841
December	301	8 612	6 539	1 841	4 698	2 073	-8 311	-6 419	-1 743	-1 410	-3 266	1 892
1997												
January	-75	8 620	6 573	1 998	4 575	2 047	-8 695	-6 791	-1 732	-1 809	-3 250	-1 904
February	315	9 138	6 950	2 074	4 876	2 188	-8 823	-6 888	-1 872	-1 573	-3 443	-1 935
March	- 103	8 474	6 333	1 858	4 475	2 141	-8 577	-6 559	-1 738	-1 602	-3 219	-2 018
April	302	9 002	6 824	2 004	4 820	2 178	-8 700	-6 763	-1 788	-1 773	-3 202	-1 937
TREND ESTIMATES												
1996												
February	-17	8 381	6 438	1 882	4 556	1 943	-8 398	-6 581	-1 643	-1 706	-3 232	-1 817
March	24	8 416	6 456	1 877	4 579	1 960	-8 392	-6 563	-1 641	-1 717	-3 205	-1 829
April	73	8 405	6 433	1 858	4 575	1 972	-8 332	-6 494	-1 646	-1 694	-3 154	-1 838
May	131	8 378	6 397	1 840	4 557	1 981	-8 247	-6 403	-1 662	-1 645	-3 096	-1 844
June	178	8 351	6 362	1 832	4 530	1 989	-8 173	-6 324	-1 687	-1 586	-3 051	-1 849
July	204	8 326	6 330	1 825	4 505	1 996	-8 122	-6 269	-1 711	-1 524	-3 034	-1 853
August	189	8 295	6 291	1 807	4 484	2 004	-8 106	-6 249	-1 724	-1 480	-3 045	-1 857
September	151	8 287	6 276	1 792	4 484	2 011	-8 136	-6 275	-1 731	-1 460	-3 084	-1 861
October	103	8 321	6 299	1 793	4 506	2 022	-8 218	-6 349	-1 736	-1 467	-3 146	-1 869
November	63	8 398	6 360	1 816	4 544	2 038	-8 335	-6 454	-1 743	-1 499	-3 212	-1 881
December	57	8 511	6 447	1 857	4 590	2 064	-8 454	-6 557	-1 753	-1 544	-3 260	-1 897
1997												
January	79	8 636	6 539	1 905	4 634	2 097	-8 557	-6 640	-1 765	-1 589	-3 286	-1 917
February	109	8 749	6 622	1 950	4 672	2 127	-8 640	-6 703	-1 777	-1 634	-3 292	-1 937
March	137	8 841	6 688	1 984	4 704	2 153	-8 704	-6 749	-1 788	-1 674	-3 287	-1 955
April	166	8 911	6 738	2 011	4 727	2 173	-8 745	-6 777	-1 795	-1 713	-3 269	-1 968

(a) For an explanation of sign conventions concerning debit items, see Explanatory Note 9.

GOODS AND SERVICES, Summary: Original

Period	EXPORTS.....						IMPORTS(a).....					
	Balance on goods and services	Total goods and services	Total goods	Rural goods	Non- rural goods	Total services	Total goods and services	Total goods	Con- sumption goods	Capital goods	Inter- mediate and other goods	Total services
1993-94	- 959	82 425	63 822	18 445	45 377	18 603	-83 384	-64 411	-17 233	-14 843	-32 335	-18 973
1994-95	-8 728	86 693	66 446	19 045	47 401	20 247	-95 421	-74 715	-19 418	-18 541	-36 756	-20 706
1995-96	- 558	98 270	75 306	21 300	54 006	22 964	-98 828	-77 104	-19 860	-19 183	-38 061	-21 724
1996												
February	432	8 315	5 850	1 721	4 129	2 465	-7 883	-6 264	-1 585	-1 589	-3 090	-1 619
March	1 016	8 886	6 858	1 951	4 907	2 028	-7 870	-6 101	-1 452	-1 511	-3 138	-1 769
April	-32	8 068	6 187	1 840	4 347	1 881	-8 100	-6 312	-1 553	-1 608	-3 151	-1 788
May	-150	8 322	6 652	1 899	4 753	1 670	-8 472	-6 666	-1 641	-1 726	-3 299	-1 806
June	651	8 090	6 297	1 762	4 535	1 793	-7 439	-5 572	-1 344	-1 580	-2 648	-1 867
July	-240	8 698	6 489	1 826	4 663	2 209	-8 938	-6 948	-1 938	-1 570	-3 440	-1 990
August	-291	8 149	6 349	1 838	4 511	1 800	-8 440	-6 551	-1 910	-1 550	-3 091	-1 889
September	-484	7 906	6 190	1 722	4 468	1 716	-8 390	-6 393	-1 802	-1 565	-3 026	-1 997
October	-458	8 677	6 669	1 874	4 795	2 008	-9 135	-7 163	-2 077	-1 597	-3 489	-1 972
November	-99	8 321	6 327	1 800	4 527	1 994	-8 420	-6 637	-1 881	-1 572	-3 184	-1 783
December	690	8 807	6 678	1 930	4 748	2 129	-8 117	-6 241	-1 730	-1 493	-3 018	-1 876
1997												
January	-48	8 336	5 942	1 759	4 183	2 394	-8 384	-6 402	-1 564	-1 554	-3 284	-1 982
February	1 203	9 021	6 336	1 923	4 413	2 685	-7 818	-6 119	-1 670	-1 320	-3 129	-1 699
March	817	8 750	6 597	2 020	4 577	2 153	-7 933	-6 084	-1 544	-1 527	-3 013	-1 849
April	-5	8 718	6 643	1 964	4 679	2 075	-8 723	-6 776	-1 779	-1 655	-3 342	-1 947

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

10 months to Apr 96	-1 059	81 858	62 357	17 639	44 718	19 501	-82 917	-64 866	-16 875	-15 877	-32 114	-18 051
10 months to Apr 97	1 085	85 383	64 220	18 656	45 564	21 163	-84 298	-65 314	-17 895	-15 403	-32 016	-18 984

(a) For an explanation of sign conventions concerning debit items, see Explanatory Note 9.

EXPORTS OF GOODS: Original

RURAL GOODS.....

Period	Total exports of goods \$m	Total rural goods \$m	Meat and meat preparations \$m	Cereal grains and cereal preparations \$m	Sugar, sugar preparations and honey \$m	Wool and sheepskins \$m	Other rural \$m
1993-94	63 822	18 446	4 043	3 205	1 315	3 369	6 513
1994-95	66 446	19 045	3 654	2 523	1 730	4 216	6 922
1995-96	75 306	21 300	3 292	4 926	1 712	3 664	7 706
1996							
February	5 850	1 721	245	603	43	282	548
March	6 858	1 951	317	600	56	356	622
April	6 187	1 840	240	537	85	311	667
May	6 652	1 899	245	567	41	285	761
June	6 297	1 762	217	430	57	322	736
July	6 489	1 826	227	378	267	260	694
August	6 349	1 838	212	389	289	250	698
September	6 190	1 722	208	356	201	282	675
October	6 669	1 874	249	379	235	346	665
November	6 327	1 800	277	349	152	364	658
December	6 678	1 930	241	574	101	352	662
1997							
January	5 942	1 759	186	656	94	273	550
February	6 336	1 923	248	682	85	300	608
March	6 597	2 020	259	684	57	359	661
April	6 643	1 964	285	566	55	305	753

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

10 months to Apr 96	62 357	17 639	2 830	3 929	1 614	3 057	6 209
10 months to Apr 97	64 220	18 656	2 392	5 013	1 536	3 091	6 624

EXPORTS OF GOODS: Original *continued*

NON-RURAL GOODS.....

Period	Total non-rural goods	Metal ores and minerals	Coal, coke and briquettes	Other mineral fuels	Gold	Other metals	Mach- inery	Transport equipment	Other manu- factures	Other non- rural
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1993-94	45 377	7 671	7 253	3 351	5 521	5 396	5 293	2 087	6 966	1 839
1994-95	47 401	7 968	6 936	3 794	4 907	6 097	6 035	2 047	7 907	1 710
1995-96	54 006	9 088	7 843	4 165	5 697	6 799	7 119	2 500	8 755	2 040
1996										
February	4 129	650	604	342	449	514	526	162	704	178
March	4 907	870	698	330	387	583	710	329	798	202
April	4 347	697	645	385	499	528	517	172	701	203
May	4 753	761	713	339	533	571	603	254	785	194
June	4 535	888	613	377	440	528	592	201	734	162
July	4 663	689	609	426	641	515	620	211	744	208
August	4 511	825	648	344	425	513	604	181	780	191
September	4 468	717	643	356	431	543	581	188	808	201
October	4 795	767	687	461	484	474	590	352	777	203
November	4 527	722	664	424	364	485	611	293	804	160
December	4 748	828	658	460	425	470	642	328	765	172
1997										
January	4 183	709	762	418	480	503	370	179	572	190
February	4 413	714	640	505	375	498	510	285	697	189
March	4 577	816	620	410	367	473	620	268	801	202
April	4 679	854	731	415	377	510	527	337	748	180
FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE										
10 months to Apr 96	44 718	7 439	6 517	3 449	4 724	5 700	5 924	2 045	7 236	1 684
10 months to Apr 97	45 564	7 641	6 662	4 219	4 369	4 984	5 675	2 622	7 496	1 896

IMPORTS OF GOODS: Original(a)

CONSUMPTION GOODS.....

Period	Total imports of goods \$m	Total consumption goods \$m	Food and beverages, mainly for consumption \$m	Household electrical items \$m	Non-industrial transport equipment \$m	Textiles, clothing and footwear \$m	Toys, books and leisure goods \$m	Consumption goods n.e.s. \$m
1993-94	-64 411	-17 233	-2 430	-1 436	-3 800	-2 320	-2 496	-4 751
1994-95	-74 715	-19 418	-2 592	-1 744	-4 758	-2 566	-2 545	-5 213
1995-96	-77 104	-19 860	-2 760	-1 766	-4 436	-2 726	-2 534	-5 638
1996								
February	-6 264	-1 585	-215	-129	325	-293	191	-432
March	-6 101	-1 452	-203	-137	295	-225	170	-422
April	-6 312	-1 553	-209	-147	368	-207	173	-449
May	-6 666	-1 641	-220	-151	411	-194	192	-473
June	-5 572	-1 344	-193	-124	319	-155	167	-386
July	-6 948	-1 938	-263	-170	435	-284	244	-542
August	-6 551	-1 910	-255	-160	498	-264	223	-510
September	-6 393	-1 802	-225	-178	389	-244	250	516
October	-7 163	-2 077	-283	-204	483	-244	273	590
November	-6 637	-1 881	-240	-208	412	-227	236	558
December	-6 241	-1 730	-264	-144	499	-201	186	436
1997								
January	-6 402	-1 564	-243	-121	342	263	177	418
February	-6 119	-1 670	-225	-120	364	303	180	478
March	-6 084	-1 544	-219	-130	407	210	168	410
April	-6 776	-1 779	-230	-156	427	241	205	520

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

10 months to Apr 96	-64 866	-16 875	-2 347	-1 491	-3 706	-2 377	-2 175	-4 779
10 months to Apr 97	-65 314	-17 895	-2 447	-1 591	-4 256	-2 481	-2 142	-4 978

(a) For an explanation of sign conventions concerning debit items, see Explanatory Note 9.

IMPORTS OF GOODS: Original(a) continued

CAPITAL GOODS.....

Period	Total capital goods	Machinery and industrial equipment	ADP equipment	Telecomm- unications equipment	Civil aircraft	Industrial transport equipment n.e.s.	Capital goods n.e.s.
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1993-94	-14 843	-6 414	-2 629	-1 182	- 241	-2 084	2 293
1994-95	-18 541	-7 897	-3 232	-1 804	- 529	-2 714	-2 365
1995-96	-19 183	8 326	-3 593	-1 996	- 688	-2 214	-2 366
1996							
February	-1 589	- 712	- 274	- 141	-77	- 193	- 192
March	-1 511	653	- 283	- 173	-31	- 186	- 185
April	-1 608	- 669	327	- 150	-70	- 198	- 194
May	-1 726	- 719	- 361	131	- 117	- 191	- 207
June	-1 580	- 673	- 342	- 150	-66	- 178	- 171
July	-1 570	- 702	- 331	- 153	- 9	- 167	- 208
August	-1 550	- 709	- 260	- 120	- 113	- 166	- 182
September	-1 565	- 652	- 314	- 150	- 108	145	- 196
October	-1 597	- 716	- 270	- 168	- 61	- 170	- 212
November	-1 572	662	- 271	- 164	- 120	- 161	- 194
December	-1 493	- 687	- 281	- 141	-48	- 153	- 183
1997							
January	-1 554	- 688	- 267	- 109	-13	- 298	- 179
February	-1 320	- 600	- 253	- 112	- 8	- 159	- 188
March	-1 527	- 645	- 335	- 124	-64	- 174	- 185
April	-1 655	- 709	- 357	- 184	-11	- 169	- 225

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

10 months to Apr 96	-15 877	-6 934	-2 890	-1 715	- 505	-1 845	-1 988
10 months to Apr 97	-15 403	-6 770	-2 939	-1 425	- 555	-1 762	-1 952

(a) For an explanation of sign conventions concerning debit items, see Explanatory Note 9.

IMPORTS OF GOODS: Original(a) continued

INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER GOODS.....

Period	Total intermediate and other goods	Food and beverages, mainly for industry	Primary industrial supplies n.e.s.	Fuels and lubricants	Parts for transport equipment	Parts for ADP equipment	Other parts for capital goods	Organic and inorganic chemicals
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1993-94	-32 335	- 509	- 701	-3 317	-4 183	-1 681	-5 047	-2 102
1994-95	-36 756	- 774	- 901	-3 566	-4 714	-1 858	-5 975	-2 431
1995-96	-38 061	- 700	- 879	-4 163	-4 600	-1 857	-6 393	-2 754
1996								
February	-3 090	-51	-62	- 376	- 373	- 157	- 525	- 215
March	-3 138	-46	-106	- 374	-362	- 162	- 526	- 248
April	-3 151	-52	-75	- 425	-394	- 156	- 490	- 243
May	-3 299	-63	-73	-391	-419	- 154	- 557	232
June	-2 648	-40	-54	-321	-334	- 137	- 459	- 195
July	-3 440	-51	-69	- 412	- 490	- 161	- 565	- 264
August	-3 091	-66	-66	- 304	- 415	- 135	- 535	- 199
September	-3 026	-43	-70	- 254	- 386	- 138	- 526	- 241
October	-3 489	-62	-73	- 541	- 383	- 137	- 582	- 269
November	-3 184	-48	-78	- 416	- 378	- 136	- 558	- 207
December	-3 018	-35	-64	- 501	340	- 133	503	- 203
1997								
January	-3 284	-72	-66	- 514	- 370	- 129	- 643	- 269
February	-3 129	-47	-71	- 481	- 329	- 134	- 526	- 205
March	-3 013	-61	-55	- 397	- 340	- 146	- 514	- 219
April	-3 342	-55	-79	- 365	- 433	- 169	- 569	- 242

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

10 months to Apr 96	-32 114	- 597	- 752	-3 451	-3 847	-1 566	-5 377	-2 327
10 months to Apr 97	-32 016	- 540	- 691	-4 185	-3 864	-1 418	-5 421	-2 318

(a) For an explanation of sign conventions concerning debit items, see Explanatory Note 9.

IMPORTS OF GOODS: Original(a) continued

INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER GOODS continued.....

Period	Paper and paperboard \$m	Textile yarn and fabrics \$m	Iron and steel \$m	Plastics \$m	Non- monetary gold \$m	Processed industrial supplies n.e.s. \$m	Other goods \$m
1993-94	-1 465	-1 869	-1 039	-1 375	- 978	-7 783	- 286
1994-95	-1 794	-2 036	-1 285	-1 646	- 705	-8 680	- 391
1995-96	-1 868	-1 922	-1 408	-1 685	- 702	-8 793	- 337
1996							
February	- 147	- 151	- 113	- 131	-64	- 710	-15
March	- 115	- 142	- 109	- 128	-54	- 752	-14
April	- 141	- 141	-100	- 124	-52	- 745	-13
May	- 131	- 172	-101	- 133	-52	- 771	-50
June	- 103	- 143	- 93	- 111	-52	- 588	-18
July	- 151	- 182	-103	- 145	-45	- 779	-23
August	- 151	- 158	-114	- 135	-45	- 744	-24
September	- 149	- 162	-109	- 134	-53	- 747	-14
October	- 167	- 159	- 99	- 146	-60	- 786	-25
November	- 147	- 151	-119	- 127	-50	- 745	-24
December	- 134	- 128	- 76	- 120	-38	- 697	-46
1997							
January	- 137	- 156	- 112	- 126	-48	- 727	-15
February	- 141	- 141	- 115	- 126	-90	- 703	-20
March	- 126	- 119	- 110	- 123	-56	- 703	-44
April	- 148	- 151	- 120	- 135	-41	- 805	-30
FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE							
10 months to Apr 96	-1 634	-1 607	-1 214	-1 441	- 598	-7 434	- 269
10 months to Apr 97	-1 451	-1 507	-1 077	-1 317	- 526	-7 436	- 265

(a) For an explanation of sign conventions concerning debit items, see Explanatory Note 9.

SERVICES: Original

Period	EXPORTS.....					IMPORTS(a).....				
	Total services	Shipment	Other transportation(b)	Travel	Other services(b)	Total services	Shipment	Other transportation(b)	Travel	Other services(b)
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1993-94	18 603	1 101	4 617	7 910	4 975	-18 973	-3 854	-4 390	-5 157	-5 572
1994-95	20 247	1 139	5 401	9 500	4 207	-20 706	-4 384	-5 406	-5 774	-5 142
1995-96	22 964	1 233	5 891	11 007	4 833	-21 724	-4 429	-5 609	-6 434	-5 252
1996										
February	2 465	99	518	1 433	415	-1 619	- 357	- 410	- 429	- 423
March	2 028	100	522	991	415	-1 769	- 380	- 447	- 505	- 437
April	1 881	96	459	913	413	-1 788	- 379	- 442	- 549	- 418
May	1 670	97	461	687	425	-1 806	- 387	- 472	- 513	- 434
June	1 793	97	462	788	446	-1 867	- 302	- 500	- 614	- 451
July	2 209	84	479	1 215	431	-1 990	- 400	- 488	- 632	- 470
August	1 800	83	479	805	433	-1 889	- 389	- 460	- 582	- 458
September	1 716	83	478	722	433	-1 997	- 362	- 478	- 685	- 472
October	2 008	84	516	930	478	-1 972	- 412	- 453	- 604	- 503
November	1 994	85	519	916	474	-1 783	- 370	- 420	- 512	- 481
December	2 129	84	519	1 032	494	-1 876	- 351	- 458	- 556	- 511
1997										
January	2 394	90	519	1 326	459	-1 982	- 343	- 478	- 688	- 473
February	2 685	90	519	1 622	454	-1 699	- 340	- 429	- 475	- 455
March	2 153	90	519	1 084	460	-1 849	- 345	- 469	- 563	- 472
April	2 075	96	508	1 035	436	-1 947	- 386	- 495	- 616	- 450

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

10 months to Apr 96	19 501	1 039	4 968	9 532	3 962	-18 051	-3 740	-4 637	-5 307	4 367
10 months to Apr 97	21 163	869	5 055	10 687	4 552	-18 984	-3 698	-4 628	-5 913	-4 745

(a) For an explanation of sign conventions concerning debit items, see Explanatory Note 9.

(b) From July 1994, estimates of agency services provided to resident and non-resident transport operators are included in *Other transportation*. Prior to this they are included in *Other services*.

PERIOD AVERAGE EXCHANGE RATES(a)

UNITS OF FOREIGN CURRENCY PER AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR.....

Period	United States dollar	United Kingdom pound	German mark	Japanese yen	Special drawing right	Trade weighted index of value of the \$A (May 1970 = 100)
1993-94	0.6919	0.4623	1.171	73.52	0.4944	51.4
1994-95	0.7427	0.4705	1.120	70.35	0.4972	52.8
1995-96	0.7593	0.4909	1.109	77.66	0.5156	54.8
1996						
February	0.7555	0.4916	1.107	79.90	0.5157	55.1
March	0.7714	0.5049	1.139	81.69	0.5563	56.2
April	0.7868	0.5192	1.184	84.45	0.5423	57.5
May	0.7970	0.5265	1.222	84.75	0.5516	58.3
June	0.7915	0.5132	1.189	86.15	0.5487	58.3
July	0.7893	0.5081	1.188	86.27	0.5448	58.0
August	0.7830	0.5051	1.161	84.43	0.5368	57.3
September	0.7929	0.5084	1.193	87.06	0.5472	58.3
October	0.7918	0.4999	1.210	88.93	0.5502	58.6
November	0.7961	0.4791	1.203	89.40	0.5480	58.6
December	0.7979	0.4793	1.238	90.82	0.5541	59.2
1997						
January	0.7791	0.4678	1.247	91.69	0.5484	58.5
February	0.7670	0.4717	1.283	94.34	0.5537	58.7
March	0.7888	0.4909	1.339	96.67	0.5726	60.6
April	0.7790	0.4777	1.332	97.82	0.5676	60.3

(a) These exchange rates and the trade-weighted index are derived using rates provided by the Reserve Bank of Australia in respect of each trading day.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

.....

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains preliminary estimates of Australia's international trade in goods and services on a balance of payments basis. These estimates form part of Australia's balance of payments statistics.

2 More comprehensive quarterly estimates of Australia's trade in goods and services, together with quarterly estimates of Australia's international transactions in income and unrequited transfers, and their financing, are included in the quarterly publication, *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5302.0).

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

3 Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of the balance of payments and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates are presented in the 1996 edition of *Balance of Payments, Australia: Summary of Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5351.0). That publication also provides item definitions; and explanations of seasonal adjustment and trend estimates.

RELIABILITY AND VOLATILITY

4 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 Table 1) 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 with the following frequency:

balance on goods and services: 9 in 10 months
exports of goods and services: 8 in 10 months
imports of goods and services: 8 in 10 months.

TREND ESTIMATES

5 The impact of the irregular influences upon the seasonally adjusted series is reduced by smoothing, as shown by the trend estimates in Table 1 and the graphs.

6 The trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson moving average to the seasonally adjusted series. The 13-term Henderson average (like all Henderson averages) is symmetric, but as the end of a time series is approached, asymmetric forms of the average are applied. While the asymmetric weights enable trend estimates for recent months to be produced, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent six months (the most recent three months in particular) as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions because of changes in the original data and as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors. Details of trend-cycle weighting patterns are available on request from Time Series Analysis Section on Canberra (06) 252 6345.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

7 The factors used in seasonally adjusting the monthly goods and services statistics during 1997 can be obtained from Melissa Hunt on Canberra (06) 252 6224 at a cost of \$75.00.

8 The seasonally adjusted statistics in this publication should not be regarded as in any way definitive as recent estimates are subject to revision for several years, and results from seasonal adjustment vary according to the method used.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

SIGN CONVENTION	<p>9 In keeping with balance of payments conventions, debit items, such as imports of goods and imports of services, are shown as negative entries on Tables 1, 2, 4 and 5. However, references to these debit items in Key Figures, Key Points, and Analysis and Comments are made without regard to sign.</p>
COMMODITY BREAKDOWNS OF GOODS	<p>10 The commodity breakdown of exports of goods shown in Table 3 is based on the third revision of the United Nations' Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev 3). For further details see Table 3 in the 1996 edition of <i>Balance of Payments Australia: Summary of Concepts, Sources and Methods</i> (5351.0).</p> <p>11 A commodity breakdown of imports of goods is shown in Table 4. The three broad end-use categories—<i>Consumption goods</i>, <i>Capital goods</i> and <i>Intermediate and other goods</i>—are based on the United Nations' Classification of Broad Economic Categories (BEC), but differ from the BEC to the extent that intermediate goods are combined with other goods. These broad end-use categories are further divided into a total of 26 SITC Rev 3-based commodity groupings, which have also been aligned to the BEC.</p> <p>12 Most of the 26 SITC Rev-3 based commodity groups are further sub-divided into a total of 107 commodity sub-groups. Although the information at this level is not published, it is available as a special data service, see paragraph 14.</p> <p>13 For more information on the commodity classification of imports of goods, and a detailed concordance between balance of payments imports of goods end-use categories, commodity groups, commodity sub-groups, BEC and SITC Rev 3, refer to the Information Paper, <i>Change to Commodity Classification of Merchandise Imports in Balance of Payments Publications</i>, (5344.0), released on 14 April 1994.</p>
RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES	<p>14 Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication and more detailed imports time series on a balance of payments basis are available. Detailed data of exports and imports of goods, including dissections by commodity and country of origin, are also available on an international trade basis. These data can be obtained by contacting the General Sales and Inquiries telephone numbers shown on the back of this publication. There may be a charge for this information, depending on the volume of data requested.</p> <p>15 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Balance of Payments, Australia</i> (5302.0)—issued quarterly▪ <i>Balance of Payments, Australia: Summary of Concepts, Sources and Methods</i> (5351.0)▪ <i>Information Paper—Quality of Australian Balance of Payments Statistics</i> (5342.0)▪ <i>International Merchandise Trade, Australia</i> (5422.0)—issued quarterly▪ <i>International Merchandise Imports, Australia</i> (5439.0)—issued monthly.
SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES	<p>n.e.s. not elsewhere specified</p> <p>p provisional</p> <p>— nil or rounded to zero</p> <p>.. not applicable</p>

WHAT IF...? REVISIONS TO TREND ESTIMATES

EFFECT OF NEW SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES ON TREND ESTIMATES

Readers should exercise care in the interpretation of the trend data as the last three observations, in particular, are likely to be revised with the addition of subsequent months' data. For further information, see Explanatory Note 6.

TREND REVISIONS

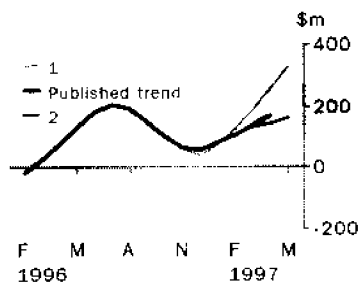
The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

1 The May seasonally adjusted estimate of the balance on goods and services 'improves' by \$200 million when compared with the April seasonally adjusted estimate. (An 'improvement' refers to an increase in a surplus or a decrease in a deficit.)

2 The May seasonally adjusted estimate of the balance on goods and services 'deteriorates' by \$200 million when compared with the April seasonally adjusted estimate. (A 'deterioration' refers to a decrease in a surplus or an increase in a deficit.)

The change of \$200 million has been chosen because in the last decade the average monthly movement, without regard to sign, of the seasonally adjusted balance on goods and services series has been approximately \$200 million.

BALANCE ON GOODS AND SERVICES



	TREND AS PUBLISHED	WHAT IF NEXT MONTH'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATE:	
		1 <i>improves by \$200m on Apr 97</i>	2 <i>deteriorates by \$200m on Apr 97</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m
October 1996	103	103	103
November 1996	63	55	63
December 1996	57	41	55
January 1997	79	73	80
February 1997	109	126	108
March 1997	137	188	129
April 1997	166	255	144
May 1997		329	160





FOR MORE INFORMATION

The ABS publishes a wide range of information on Australia's economic and social conditions. A catalogue of publications and products is available from any of our offices (see below).

INFORMATION CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Information tailored to special needs of clients can be obtained from the Information Consultancy Service available at ABS Offices (see below).

ABS PRODUCTS

A large number of ABS products is available from the ABS Bookshops (see below). The ABS also provides a subscription service - you can telephone the ABS Subscription Service Australia wide toll free on 1800 0206 08.

ELECTRONIC SERVICES

A large range of data is available via on-line services, diskette, magnetic tape, tape cartridge and CD ROM. For more details about our electronic data services, contact any ABS office (see below) or e-mail us at:

- client.services@abs.gov.au

GENERAL SALES AND INQUIRIES

- Sydney 02 9268 4611
- Melbourne 03 9615 7755
- Brisbane 07 3222 6351
- Perth 08 9360 5140
- Adelaide 08 8237 7100
- Hobart 03 6222 5800
- Darwin 08 8943 2111
- Canberra 06 252 6627
- Information Services, ABS
PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2616



2536800004972

ISSN 1328-2778

RRP \$14.00

© Commonwealth of Australia 1997

Produced by the Australian Government Publishing Service