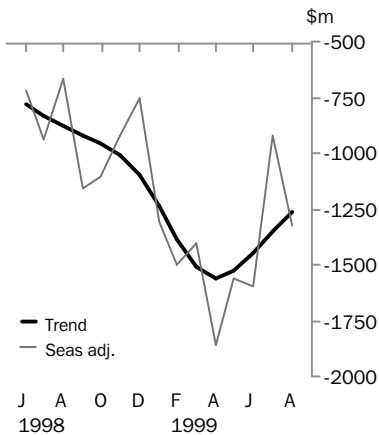


INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 29 SEP 1999

Balance on goods and services



AUGUST KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Jun 1999 \$m	Jul 1999 \$m	Aug 1999 \$m	Jul 1999 to Aug 1999 % change
Balance on goods & services	-1 448	-1 351	-1 262	..
Credits (exports of goods & services)	9 055	9 167	9 284	1
Debits (imports of goods & services)	10 503	10 518	10 546	0

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Jun 1999 \$m	Jul 1999 \$m	Aug 1999 \$m	Jul 1999 to Aug 1999 % change
Balance on goods & services	-1 595	- 917	-1 326	..
Credits (exports of goods & services)	8 766	9 418	9 529	1
Debits (imports of goods & services)	10 361	10 335	10 855	5

AUGUST KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The provisional trend estimate of the balance on goods and services is a deficit of \$1,262 million in August 1999, a decrease of \$89 million on the deficit in July, and the lowest monthly estimate since January 1999. The trend balance has been improving for the past 4 months, with exports rising faster than imports.
- Goods and services credits rose \$117 million in August, while goods and services debits rose \$28 million.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- In seasonally adjusted terms, the balance on goods and services is a deficit of \$1,326 million, up \$409 million on the deficit in July, but lower than the deficits recorded in the prior 5 months.
- Goods and services credits rose \$111 million, or 1%, due to higher rural goods exports, and are well above the average recorded in the first half of 1999.
- Goods and services debits rose \$520 million, or 5%, attributable to higher imports of capital goods and oil.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- In original terms, the balance on goods and services in August is a deficit of \$1,827 million, up \$663 million on the deficit in July.
- Exports of goods to our major south east Asia and north Asia trading partners rose 6% during August, while exports to other destinations remained steady on the previous month. See analysis on page 4 for details.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Carol Trickett on Canberra 02 6252 5540, or Client Services in any ABS office as shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>EXPECTED RELEASE DATE</i>
September 1999	1 November 1999
October 1999	29 November 1999
November 1999	5 January 2000
December 1999	2 February 2000
January 2000	28 February 2000
February 2000	30 March 2000

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

In original terms revisions since the last issue of this publication have:

- decreased the deficit on goods and services for 1998-99 by \$93 million; and
- decreased the deficit on goods and services for the 2 months to August 1999 by \$32 million.

These revisions result from the incorporation of the latest available data on:

- overseas arrivals and departures, which have affected travel estimates;
- merchandise exports and imports, which have affected goods estimates; and from
- the Survey of International Trade in Services, which have affected all broad services categories.

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

BALANCE ON GOODS AND SERVICES

The trend estimate of the balance on goods and services is a deficit of \$1,262 million in August, down \$89 million on the deficit in July and \$300 million below the peak reached in April 1999.

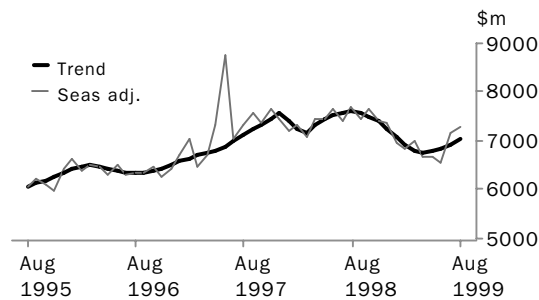
In seasonally adjusted terms, this balance is a deficit of \$1,326 million, up \$409 million on the deficit in July, reflecting a strong rise in imports of goods (up 7%).

EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

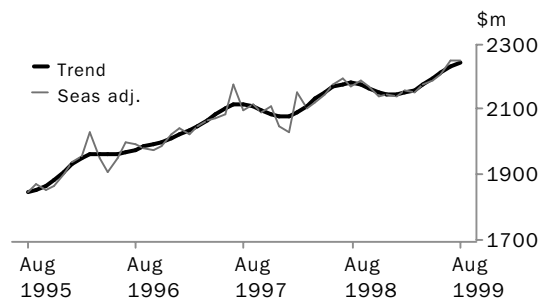
The trend estimate of goods and services credits rose \$117 million to \$9,284 million. In August there were rises in rural goods, up \$52 million, and non-rural and other goods, up \$51 million. Services rose slightly to \$2,246 million.

In seasonally adjusted terms, goods and services credits rose \$111 million to \$9,529 million, attributable to a rise in rural goods exports. Services remained steady at \$2,250 million.

GOODS CREDITS



SERVICES CREDITS



RURAL GOODS The trend estimate of rural goods rose \$52 million to \$1,887 million. In seasonally adjusted terms rural goods rose \$134 million, or 7% to \$2,022 million.

Rural goods, in original terms, rose \$99 million (6%) to \$1,869 million with most of the increase in other rural goods, up \$76 million (9%) due largely to seasonally higher tuna exports.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

NON-RURAL AND OTHER GOODS The trend estimate of non-rural and other goods rose \$51 million to \$5,151 million. In seasonally adjusted terms non-rural and other goods fell \$22 million to \$5,257 million.

Non-rural and other goods in original terms rose \$101 million to \$5,504 million.

Non-rural goods rose \$123 million, with the largest increases in:

- metals (excluding gold), up \$77 million, or 13%;
- other mineral fuels, up \$52 million, or 11%; and
- other non-rural, up \$51 million, or 12%.

Partly offsetting these rises was a fall in machinery, down \$138 million, or 20%.

Other goods fell \$22 million, or 4%, to \$470 million.

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS BY COUNTRY

The table below shows Australia's recorded merchandise exports for the 9 months to August 1999 (in original terms, not adjusted for BOP purposes) to 10 selected south east Asia and north Asia trading partners. Movements in the individual series reflect a range of seasonal and irregular influences. In August, exports to these selected Asian destinations rose 6% to their highest level in 8 months, while exports to other countries remained steady. There were significant rises in exports to the largest market, Japan, up \$197 million (14%), as well as China, up \$62 million (21%) and Thailand, up \$51 million (53%), which for the latter was the highest level since October 1997. These rises were offset by falls in exports to Hong Kong, down \$44 million, or 18%, and Singapore, down \$34 million, or 9%. Overall, exports to the group of 10 countries listed below is down 2% for the 8 months to August 1999 compared with the 8 months to August 1998, while exports to all other countries fell 11% over the same period. Comparing these periods after excluding gold, exports to the selected Asian destinations fell 3% while exports to the rest of the world also fell 3%.

AUSTRALIA'S MERCHANDISE EXPORTS(a) TO SELECTED MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS

	Dec 1998	Jan 1999	Feb 1999	Mar 1999	Apr 1999	May 1999	Jun 1999	Jul 1999	Aug 1999	Jul 1999 to Aug 1999 % change
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	
China	436	323	375	284	295	391	245	297	359	21
Hong Kong	254	267	257	311	207	240	208	249	205	-18
Indonesia	174	134	141	147	189	186	210	194	202	4
Japan	1 526	1 315	1 204	1 368	1 135	1 307	1 354	1 360	1 557	14
Korea, Republic of	560	539	413	584	399	553	595	461	466	1
Malaysia	163	128	137	146	159	169	137	183	169	-8
Philippines	94	79	100	103	98	90	117	112	107	-4
Singapore	409	270	206	316	355	341	365	395	361	-9
Taiwan	397	340	289	378	342	363	313	359	347	-3
Thailand	132	80	95	117	85	121	128	97	148	53
<i>Sub-total</i>	4 145	3 475	3 217	3 754	3 264	3 761	3 672	3 707	3 921	6
<i>All other countries</i>	3 753	2 827	3 028	3 579	3 171	3 218	3 237	3 427	3 416	0
Total	7 898	6 302	6 245	7 333	6 435	6 979	6 909	7 134	7 337	3

(a) Merchandise exports, in original terms, as recorded in ABS international trade statistics, not adjusted to a balance of payments basis.

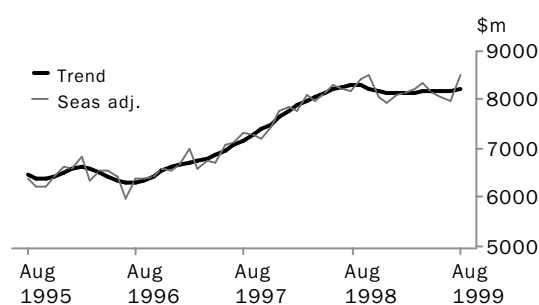
ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

The trend estimate of goods and services debits rose \$28 million to \$10,546 million. Services imports remained steady at \$2,321 million in trend terms.

In seasonally adjusted terms, goods and services debits rose \$520 million, to \$10,855 million. Goods rose \$533 million, or 7%, to \$8,528 million with rises in capital goods, up \$160 million, or 8%, and intermediate goods, up \$340 million, or 10%. Services fell \$13 million, or 1%, to \$2,327 million.

GOODS DEBITS



CONSUMPTION GOODS The trend estimate of consumption goods was \$2,394 million in August. In seasonally adjusted terms, consumption goods were unchanged at \$2,405 million.

Consumption goods, in original terms rose \$75 million, or 3%, to \$2,652 million. The major contributor was consumption goods nes, up \$123 million, or 18%, but partly offset by a fall in non-industrial transport equipment, down \$74 million, or 10%, from the seasonally high level of the previous month.

CAPITAL GOODS The trend estimate of capital goods remained steady at \$1,923 million. In seasonally adjusted terms, capital goods rose \$160 million, or 8%, to \$2,046 million.

Capital goods, in original terms, rose \$248 million, or 13%, to \$2,114 million. The largest increases were in:

- machinery and industrial equipment, up \$151 million, or 20%; and
- telecommunications equipment, up \$115 million, or 53%.

INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER GOODS In August the trend estimate of intermediate and other goods rose \$31 million to \$3,908 million. In seasonally adjusted terms, intermediate and other goods rose \$373 million, or 10%, to \$4,077 million.

Intermediate and other goods, in original terms, rose \$214 million, or 5%, to \$4,163 million. The largest increases were in fuels and lubricants, up \$168 million, or 37%, with both price and volume up significantly; and goods for processing, up \$59 million, or 51%. These rises were offset by processed industrial supplies nes, down \$34 million, or 4%.

GOODS AND SERVICES(a), Summary: Seasonally Adjusted and Trend

Period	CREDITS.....						DEBITS.....					
	Balance on goods and services	Total goods and services	Total goods	Rural goods(b)	Non-rural and other goods(b)	Total services	Total goods and services	Total goods	Con-sumption goods	Capital goods	Inter-mediate and other goods	Total services
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED												
1998												
June	- 720	9 832	7 652	1 863	5 789	2 180	-10 552	-8 293	-2 361	-1 839	-4 093	-2 259
July	- 935	9 607	7 409	1 859	5 550	2 198	-10 542	-8 225	-2 270	-1 888	-4 067	-2 317
August	- 663	9 867	7 696	1 980	5 716	2 171	-10 530	-8 170	-2 281	-1 854	-4 035	-2 360
September	-1 155	9 623	7 433	1 989	5 444	2 190	-10 778	-8 425	-2 343	-1 951	-4 131	-2 353
October	-1 106	9 816	7 646	1 779	5 867	2 170	-10 922	-8 492	-2 338	-1 931	-4 223	-2 430
November	- 917	9 535	7 397	1 840	5 557	2 138	-10 452	-8 076	-2 267	-1 794	-4 015	-2 376
December	- 753	9 503	7 354	1 912	5 442	2 149	-10 256	-7 936	-2 256	-1 818	-3 862	-2 320
1999												
January	-1 307	9 119	6 977	1 849	5 128	2 142	-10 426	-8 084	-2 305	-1 914	-3 865	-2 342
February	-1 502	8 984	6 825	1 803	5 022	2 159	-10 486	-8 138	-2 424	-1 915	-3 799	-2 348
March	-1 402	9 173	7 017	1 738	5 279	2 156	-10 575	-8 244	-2 438	-2 099	-3 707	-2 331
April	-1 856	8 832	6 654	1 775	4 879	2 178	-10 688	-8 345	-2 386	-2 056	-3 903	-2 343
May	-1 559	8 849	6 661	1 681	4 980	2 188	-10 408	-8 134	-2 373	-1 888	-3 873	-2 274
June	-1 595	8 766	6 556	1 691	4 865	2 210	-10 361	-8 043	-2 391	-1 813	-3 839	-2 318
July	- 917	9 418	7 167	1 888	5 279	2 251	-10 335	-7 995	-2 405	-1 886	-3 704	-2 340
August	-1 326	9 529	7 279	2 022	5 257	2 250	-10 855	-8 528	-2 405	-2 046	-4 077	-2 327
TREND ESTIMATES												
1998												
June	- 782	9 719	7 548	1 844	5 704	2 171	-10 501	-8 215	-2 316	-1 886	-4 013	-2 286
July	- 830	9 767	7 587	1 886	5 701	2 180	-10 597	-8 278	-2 320	-1 892	-4 066	-2 319
August	- 878	9 777	7 596	1 909	5 687	2 181	-10 655	-8 307	-2 314	-1 891	-4 102	-2 348
September	- 918	9 743	7 566	1 912	5 654	2 177	-10 661	-8 294	-2 301	-1 881	-4 112	-2 367
October	- 955	9 664	7 498	1 899	5 599	2 166	-10 619	-8 244	-2 294	-1 868	-4 082	-2 375
November	-1 006	9 549	7 393	1 878	5 515	2 156	-10 555	-8 183	-2 299	-1 868	-4 016	-2 372
December	-1 095	9 407	7 258	1 854	5 404	2 149	-10 502	-8 139	-2 315	-1 887	-3 937	-2 363
1999												
January	-1 233	9 242	7 095	1 825	5 270	2 147	-10 475	-8 127	-2 338	-1 919	-3 870	-2 348
February	-1 390	9 077	6 926	1 790	5 136	2 151	-10 467	-8 132	-2 363	-1 949	-3 820	-2 335
March	-1 512	8 967	6 805	1 761	5 044	2 162	-10 479	-8 153	-2 385	-1 967	-3 801	-2 326
April	-1 562	8 934	6 756	1 746	5 010	2 178	-10 496	-8 174	-2 398	-1 966	-3 810	-2 322
May	-1 528	8 972	6 776	1 756	5 020	2 196	-10 500	-8 180	-2 401	-1 949	-3 830	-2 320
June	-1 448	9 055	6 841	1 789	5 052	2 214	-10 503	-8 184	-2 399	-1 933	-3 852	-2 319
July	-1 351	9 167	6 935	1 835	5 100	2 232	-10 518	-8 199	-2 398	-1 924	-3 877	-2 319
August	-1 262	9 284	7 038	1 887	5 151	2 246	-10 546	-8 225	-2 394	-1 923	-3 908	-2 321

(a) For sign conventions, see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) For all time periods, estimates for Sugar, sugar preparations and honey are included in Other non-rural.

GOODS AND SERVICES(a), Summary: Original

Period	CREDITS.....						DEBITS.....					
	Balance on goods and services	Total goods and services	Total goods	Rural goods(b)	Non-rural and other goods(b)	Total services	Total goods and services	Total goods	Con- sumption goods	Capital goods	Inter- mediate and other goods	Total services
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996-1997	1 570	105 160	80 934	21 045	59 889	24 226	- 103 590	-79 438	-21 293	-18 884	-39 261	-24 152
1997-1998	-4 746	113 829	88 538	22 130	66 408	25 291	- 118 575	-92 084	-25 899	-21 168	-45 017	-26 491
1998-1999	-14 840	111 661	85 683	21 865	63 818	25 978	- 126 501	-98 429	-28 040	-23 056	-47 333	-28 072
1998												
June	-1 202	9 624	7 675	1 888	5 787	1 949	-10 826	-8 474	-2 276	-2 019	-4 179	-2 352
July	-1 530	9 930	7 473	1 756	5 717	2 457	-11 460	-9 020	-2 487	-2 053	-4 480	-2 440
August	- 828	9 812	7 762	1 818	5 944	2 050	-10 640	-8 261	-2 415	-1 910	-3 936	-2 379
September	-1 684	9 569	7 609	1 929	5 680	1 960	-11 253	-8 729	-2 523	-2 064	-4 142	-2 524
October	-1 677	9 925	7 816	1 760	6 056	2 109	-11 602	-9 049	-2 675	-1 953	-4 421	-2 553
November	-1 318	9 356	7 290	1 767	5 523	2 066	-10 674	-8 340	-2 423	-1 858	-4 059	-2 334
December	- 257	9 945	7 778	2 122	5 656	2 167	-10 202	-7 860	-2 301	-1 808	-3 751	-2 342
1999												
January	- 768	8 748	6 288	1 753	4 535	2 460	-9 516	-7 190	-1 945	-1 641	-3 604	-2 326
February	- 475	8 863	6 250	1 733	4 517	2 613	-9 338	-7 286	-2 203	-1 577	-3 506	-2 052
March	-1 664	9 439	7 314	1 870	5 444	2 125	-11 103	-8 870	-2 525	-2 287	-4 058	-2 233
April	-1 772	8 462	6 390	1 779	4 611	2 072	-10 234	-7 941	-2 171	-1 981	-3 789	-2 293
May	-1 129	8 806	6 893	1 795	5 098	1 913	-9 935	-7 716	-2 105	-1 882	-3 729	-2 219
June	-1 738	8 806	6 820	1 783	5 037	1 986	-10 544	-8 167	-2 267	-2 042	-3 858	-2 377
July	-1 164	9 693	7 173	1 770	5 403	2 520	-10 857	-8 392	-2 577	-1 866	-3 949	-2 465
August	-1 827	9 483	7 373	1 869	5 504	2 110	-11 310	-8 929	-2 652	-2 114	-4 163	-2 381

(a) For sign conventions, see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) For all time periods, estimates for Sugar, sugar preparations and honey are included in Other non-rural.

GOODS CREDITS: Original

RURAL GOODS.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Total goods</i>	<i>Total rural goods(a)</i>	<i>Meat and meat preparations</i>	<i>Cereal grains and cereal preparations</i>	<i>Sugar, sugar preparations and honey(a)</i>	<i>Wool and sheepskins</i>	<i>Other rural</i>
<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
1996-1997	80 934	21 045	2 957	5 954	n.p.	3 744	8 390
1997-1998	88 538	22 130	3 731	5 094	n.p.	4 020	9 285
1998-1999	85 683	21 865	4 008	5 046	n.p.	2 583	10 228
1998							
June	7 675	1 888	342	427	n.p.	236	883
July	7 473	1 756	339	322	n.p.	240	855
August	7 762	1 818	313	492	n.p.	197	816
September	7 609	1 929	365	430	n.p.	251	883
October	7 816	1 760	350	311	n.p.	249	850
November	7 290	1 767	352	364	n.p.	237	814
December	7 778	2 122	363	530	n.p.	251	978
1999							
January	6 288	1 753	226	568	n.p.	165	794
February	6 250	1 733	329	400	n.p.	222	782
March	7 314	1 870	374	459	n.p.	202	835
April	6 390	1 779	332	416	n.p.	178	853
May	6 893	1 795	337	336	n.p.	221	901
June	6 820	1 783	328	418	n.p.	170	867
July	7 173	1 770	353	360	n.p.	179	878
August	7 373	1 869	348	374	n.p.	193	954

(a) For all time periods, estimates for Sugar, sugar preparations and honey are included in Other non-rural.

GOODS CREDITS: **Original** *continued*

NON-RURAL GOODS.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Total non-rural goods(a)</i>	<i>Metal ores and minerals</i>	<i>Coal, coke and briquettes</i>	<i>Other mineral fuels</i>	<i>Metals (excl. gold)</i>	<i>Machinery</i>	<i>Transport equipment</i>	<i>Other manufactures</i>	<i>Other non-rural(a)</i>	<i>Other goods(b)</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996-1997	52 334	9 407	8 005	5 154	6 054	7 001	3 649	9 108	3 956	7 555
1997-1998	58 441	10 835	9 586	5 309	7 185	7 549	3 412	9 834	4 731	7 967
1998-1999	56 359	11 078	9 290	4 464	6 944	6 618	3 347	10 219	4 399	7 459
1998										
June	5 084	995	860	399	631	596	384	829	390	703
July	4 799	839	829	390	682	559	247	801	452	918
August	5 181	1 067	843	474	599	587	295	892	424	763
September	5 078	943	889	407	613	575	278	902	471	602
October	5 032	1 002	814	402	546	575	277	897	519	1 024
November	4 837	1 001	763	329	547	577	341	867	412	686
December	5 077	1 099	843	399	569	649	305	866	347	579
1999										
January	3 987	802	785	359	522	425	136	659	299	548
February	4 129	804	737	311	476	488	268	785	260	388
March	4 832	946	744	322	631	575	388	912	314	612
April	4 153	738	655	335	524	496	272	839	294	458
May	4 676	931	716	369	646	570	222	899	323	422
June	4 578	906	672	367	589	542	318	900	284	459
July	4 911	835	694	486	579	676	327	890	424	492
August	5 034	862	723	538	656	538	321	921	475	470

(a) For all time periods, estimates for Sugar, sugar preparations and honey are included in Other non-rural. (b) Includes non-monetary gold.

GOODS DEBITS(a): Original

CONSUMPTION GOODS.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Total goods</i>	<i>Total consumption goods</i>	<i>Food and beverages, mainly for consumption</i>	<i>Household electrical items</i>	<i>Non-industrial transport equipment</i>	<i>Textiles, clothing and footwear</i>	<i>Toys, books and leisure goods</i>	<i>Consumption goods n.e.s.</i>
<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
1996-1997	-79 438	-21 293	-2 879	-1 890	-5 143	-2 880	-2 567	-5 934
1997-1998	-92 084	-25 899	-3 282	-2 062	-7 102	-3 456	-2 956	-7 041
1998-1999	-98 429	-28 040	-3 606	-2 244	-7 231	-3 739	-3 184	-8 036
1998								
June	-8 474	-2 276	-294	-176	-679	-236	-270	-621
July	-9 020	-2 487	-284	-172	-623	-394	-311	-703
August	-8 261	-2 415	-274	-168	-593	-360	-304	-716
September	-8 729	-2 523	-316	-189	-573	-345	-320	-780
October	-9 049	-2 675	-346	-231	-689	-310	-342	-757
November	-8 340	-2 423	-343	-239	-538	-284	-299	-720
December	-7 860	-2 301	-341	-201	-559	-279	-257	-664
1999								
January	-7 190	-1 945	-281	-145	-514	-285	-201	-519
February	-7 286	-2 203	-283	-172	-600	-368	-205	-575
March	-8 870	-2 525	-305	-197	-724	-349	-223	-727
April	-7 941	-2 171	-284	-181	-561	-286	-222	-637
May	-7 716	-2 105	-265	-175	-556	-234	-247	-628
June	-8 167	-2 267	-284	-174	-701	-245	-253	-610
July	-8 392	-2 577	-317	-186	-732	-403	-272	-667
August	-8 929	-2 652	-316	-194	-658	-403	-291	-790

(a) For sign conventions, see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

GOODS DEBITS(a): Original *continued*

CAPITAL GOODS.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Total capital goods</i>	<i>Machinery and industrial equipment</i>	<i>ADP equipment</i>	<i>Telecommunications equipment</i>	<i>Civil aircraft</i>	<i>Industrial transport equipment n.e.s.</i>	<i>Capital goods n.e.s.</i>
<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
1996-1997	-18 884	-8 020	-3 719	-1 748	- 784	-2 178	-2 435
1997-1998	-21 168	-8 862	-4 345	-2 070	- 464	-2 560	-2 867
1998-1999	-23 056	-9 227	-4 495	-2 814	- 649	-2 859	-3 012
1998							
June	-2 019	- 795	- 455	- 210	-33	- 258	- 268
July	-2 053	- 885	- 366	- 182	- 121	- 235	- 264
August	-1 910	- 827	- 356	- 171	- 109	- 199	- 248
September	-2 064	- 891	- 376	- 169	- 164	- 188	- 276
October	-1 953	- 886	- 341	- 182	-12	- 265	- 267
November	-1 858	- 822	- 365	- 215	- 8	- 195	- 253
December	-1 808	- 753	- 359	- 220	- 6	- 221	- 249
1999							
January	-1 641	- 775	- 312	- 150	- 2	- 205	- 197
February	-1 577	- 609	- 316	- 200	-14	- 216	- 222
March	-2 287	- 777	- 430	- 338	- 167	- 284	- 291
April	-1 981	- 674	- 388	- 371	-18	- 291	- 239
May	-1 882	- 636	- 424	- 309	-11	- 258	- 244
June	-2 042	- 692	- 462	- 307	-17	- 302	- 262
July	-1 866	- 752	- 388	- 218	-26	- 243	- 239
August	-2 114	- 903	- 368	- 333	- 3	- 244	- 263

(a) For sign conventions, see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

GOODS DEBITS(a): **Original** *continued*

INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER MERCHANDISE GOODS.....

Period	<i>Total intermediate and other merchandise goods</i>	<i>Food and beverages, mainly for industry</i>	<i>Primary industrial supplies n.e.s.</i>	<i>Fuels and lubricants</i>	<i>Parts for transport equipment</i>	<i>Parts for ADP equipment</i>	<i>Other parts for capital goods</i>	<i>Organic and inorganic chemicals</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996-1997	-37 028	- 641	- 839	-5 004	-4 609	-1 759	-6 507	-2 743
1997-1998	-40 454	- 746	- 950	-4 276	-5 346	-1 993	-7 193	-2 814
1998-1999	-43 359	- 758	- 882	-4 429	-6 085	-1 944	-7 691	-3 140
1998								
June	-3 601	-63	-84	- 325	- 528	- 201	- 636	- 249
July	-3 920	-67	-84	- 363	- 532	- 176	- 815	- 236
August	-3 536	-59	-77	- 337	- 488	- 188	- 616	- 235
September	-3 694	-62	-93	- 338	- 489	- 149	- 665	- 235
October	-3 808	-59	-78	- 321	- 518	- 143	- 712	- 348
November	-3 652	-65	-69	- 449	- 500	- 153	- 662	- 210
December	-3 604	-61	-79	- 369	- 516	- 162	- 604	- 316
1999								
January	-3 307	-62	-51	- 340	- 428	- 144	- 573	- 266
February	-3 323	-71	-64	- 338	- 419	- 149	- 576	- 266
March	-3 815	-67	-74	- 321	- 565	- 188	- 667	- 271
April	-3 614	-54	-64	- 449	- 544	- 164	- 593	- 260
May	-3 521	-65	-79	- 414	- 542	- 161	- 588	- 253
June	-3 565	-66	-70	- 390	- 544	- 167	- 620	- 244
July	-3 721	-62	-83	- 458	- 527	- 147	- 645	- 231
August	-3 902	-68	-73	- 626	- 568	- 153	- 659	- 218

(a) For sign conventions, see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

GOODS DEBITS(a): **Original** *continued*INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER MERCHANDISE GOODS *continued*.....

Period	<i>Paper and paperboard</i>	<i>Textile yarn and fabrics</i>	<i>Iron and steel</i>	<i>Plastics</i>	<i>Processed industrial supplies n.e.s.</i>	<i>Other merchandise goods</i>	<i>Other goods(b)</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996-1997	-1 713	-1 817	-1 297	-1 577	-8 212	- 310	-2 233
1997-1998	-1 901	-2 005	-1 623	-1 814	-9 431	- 362	-4 563
1998-1999	-1 979	-2 007	-1 470	-1 889	-10 203	- 882	-3 974
1998							
June	- 173	- 183	- 132	- 154	- 827	-46	- 578
July	- 184	- 211	- 151	- 158	- 884	-59	- 560
August	- 177	- 175	- 138	- 147	- 811	-88	- 400
September	- 182	- 181	- 116	- 166	- 892	- 126	- 448
October	- 187	- 177	- 130	- 179	- 906	-50	- 613
November	- 165	- 171	- 125	- 166	- 825	-92	- 407
December	- 147	- 142	- 117	- 162	- 818	- 111	- 147
1999							
January	- 149	- 161	- 121	- 156	- 799	-57	- 297
February	- 161	- 152	- 105	- 151	- 816	-55	- 183
March	- 175	- 167	- 121	- 162	- 978	-59	- 243
April	- 150	- 148	- 124	- 142	- 853	-69	- 175
May	- 147	- 152	- 101	- 147	- 810	-62	- 208
June	- 155	- 170	- 121	- 153	- 811	-54	- 293
July	- 179	- 196	- 115	- 158	- 856	-64	- 228
August	- 172	- 172	- 129	- 171	- 822	-71	- 261

(a) For sign conventions, see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes non-monetary gold.

SERVICES(a)(b): Original

Period	CREDITS.....					DEBITS.....				
	Total services	Freight	Other transportation	Travel	Other services	Total services	Freight	Other transportation	Travel	Other services
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1996-1997	24 226	951	5 697	11 756	5 822	-24 152	-4 373	-4 066	-7 769	-7 944
1997-1998	25 291	1 042	5 678	11 499	7 072	-26 491	-5 013	-4 112	-8 372	-8 994
1998-1999	25 978	1 274	5 594	11 828	7 282	-28 072	-5 009	-4 358	-8 969	-9 736
1998										
June	1 949	94	437	773	645	-2 352	-449	-394	-710	-799
July	2 457	112	475	1 250	620	-2 440	-475	-406	-773	-786
August	2 050	112	475	860	603	-2 379	-434	-368	-735	-842
September	1 960	111	480	768	601	-2 524	-476	-405	-828	-815
October	2 109	98	491	892	628	-2 553	-476	-377	-853	-847
November	2 066	98	491	858	619	-2 334	-431	-334	-721	-848
December	2 167	98	497	940	632	-2 342	-416	-354	-683	-889
1999										
January	2 460	107	476	1 294	583	-2 326	-355	-364	-888	-719
February	2 613	107	476	1 462	568	-2 052	-369	-309	-611	-763
March	2 125	108	479	972	566	-2 233	-420	-348	-708	-757
April	2 072	108	419	938	607	-2 293	-398	-335	-720	-840
May	1 913	108	419	771	615	-2 219	-363	-358	-710	-788
June	1 986	107	416	823	640	-2 377	-396	-400	-739	-842
July	2 520	112	462	1 324	622	-2 465	-414	-416	-797	-838
August	2 110	112	462	922	614	-2 381	-411	-382	-764	-824

(a) For sign conventions, see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) For detailed trade in services by commodity, see Table 6 and paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes.

SERVICES(a)(b): Original—Quarterly

	CREDITS.....				DEBITS.....			
	Sep Qtr 1998	Dec Qtr 1998	Mar Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999	Sep Qtr 1998	Dec Qtr 1998	Mar Qtr 1999	Jun Qtr 1999
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
SERVICES	6 467	6 342	7 198	5 971	-7 343	-7 229	-6 611	-6 889
Transportation services	1 765	1 773	1 753	1 577	-2 564	-2 388	-2 165	-2 250
Passenger	1 430	1 479	1 431	1 254	- 967	- 830	- 800	- 888
Freight	335	294	322	323	-1 385	-1 323	-1 144	-1 157
Other	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	- 212	- 235	- 221	- 205
Travel services	2 878	2 690	3 728	2 532	-2 336	-2 257	-2 207	-2 169
Business	209	243	258	258	- 529	- 502	- 590	- 609
Personal	2 669	2 447	3 470	2 274	-1 807	-1 755	-1 617	-1 560
Education-related	827	361	1 370	431	- 160	- 128	- 159	- 100
Other	1 842	2 086	2 100	1 843	-1 647	-1 627	-1 458	-1 460
Communications services	302	289	256	293	- 325	- 414	- 326	- 400
Construction services	5	4	4	2	0	0	0	0
Insurance services	214	216	214	215	- 230	- 231	- 230	- 231
Financial services	179	179	179	179	- 117	- 117	- 117	- 117
Computer and information services	170	188	138	162	- 87	- 131	- 99	- 81
Royalties and licence fees	113	114	122	120	- 436	- 454	- 402	- 465
Other business services	600	659	591	606	- 877	- 820	- 722	- 780
Merchanting and other trade-related	110	129	151	137	- 100	- 95	- 69	- 95
Operational leasing	2	2	2	2	- 292	- 274	- 224	- 245
Miscellaneous business, professional & technical	488	528	438	467	- 485	- 451	- 429	- 440
Legal, accounting, management consulting and public relations	94	81	81	79	- 38	- 52	- 41	- 46
Advertising, market research, and public opinion polling	19	37	27	23	- 18	- 34	- 38	- 57
Research and development	44	50	43	42	- 34	- 37	- 37	- 32
Architectural, engineering and other technical services	112	119	95	113	- 111	- 67	- 84	- 84
Agricultural, mining, and on-site processing	8	10	8	7	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Services between affiliated enterprises n.i.e.	172	205	164	181	- 183	- 204	- 167	- 166
Other	39	26	20	22	- 101	- 57	- 62	- 55
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	114	97	83	117	- 222	- 251	- 191	- 230
Audiovisual and related services	44	33	33	40	- 198	- 213	- 167	- 200
Other personal, cultural and recreational services	70	64	50	77	- 24	- 38	- 24	- 30
Government services n.i.e.	127	133	130	168	- 149	- 166	- 152	- 166

(a) For sign conventions, see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) For detailed trade in services by commodity, see paragraph 11 of the Explanatory Notes.

PERIOD AVERAGE EXCHANGE RATES(a)

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

<i>Period</i>	<i>United States dollar</i>	<i>United Kingdom pound</i>	<i>Euro</i>	<i>Japanese yen</i>	<i>Special drawing right</i>	<i>Trade weighted index of value of the \$A(b)</i>
1996-1997	0.7828	0.4851	..	90.51	0.5521	58.7
1997-1998	0.6808	0.4138	..	86.02	0.5026	58.3
1998-1999	0.6276	0.3824	..	77.81	0.4589	56.0
1998						
June	0.6030	0.3656	..	84.74	0.4522	56.6
July	0.6182	0.3758	..	86.94	0.4645	58.0
August	0.5903	0.3614	..	85.42	0.4452	55.7
September	0.5889	0.3504	..	79.24	0.4321	54.2
October	0.6179	0.3648	..	74.87	0.4398	54.4
November	0.6342	0.3815	..	76.34	0.4548	55.5
December	0.6192	0.3706	..	72.71	0.4423	53.7
1999						
January	0.6316	0.3828	0.5440	71.45	0.4492	54.5
February	0.6399	0.3928	0.5706	74.62	0.4631	56.0
March	0.6300	0.3887	0.5785	75.36	0.4623	56.0
April	0.6418	0.3987	0.5992	76.73	0.4737	57.0
May	0.6621	0.4100	0.6225	80.70	0.4908	58.8
June	0.6556	0.4108	0.6316	79.19	0.4894	58.3
July	0.6578	0.4178	0.6356	78.77	0.4915	58.3
August	0.6450	0.4016	0.6081	73.13	0.4729	56.6

(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.

(b) May 1970=100. The Trade Weighted Index is reweighted annually (on 1 October) and on special occasions as required.

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 comprehensive details of Australia's balance of payments and international investment position statistics are included in the quarterly publication, *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (Cat. no. 5302.0).

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

3 The conceptual framework used in Australia's balance of payments and international investment position statistics is based on the Fifth Edition of the International Monetary Fund's *Balance of Payments Manual* (BPM5, 1993). Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of the balance of payments and international investment position, and the sources, methods and terms used in compiling the estimates are presented in *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5331.0), which was released on 22 September, 1998.

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

goods and services credits: 8 in 10 months

goods and services debits: 8 in 10 months.

TREND ESTIMATES

5 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 (02) 6252 6103.

SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

6 The factors used in seasonally adjusting the monthly goods and services statistics can be obtained from Balance of Payments Section on Canberra (02) 6252 5507 at a cost of \$100.00.

SIGN CONVENTION

7 In keeping with balance of payments conventions, credit entries are shown without sign and debit items are shown as negative entries. However, references to debit items in Key Figures, Key Points, and Analysis and Comments are made without regard to sign.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMODITY BREAKDOWNS OF GOODS

8 For details of the classification used for rural and non-rural goods see Table 6.6 in *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5331.0).

9 Table 6.7 in 5331.0 provides details of the classification used for goods debits. Most of the 25 commodity groups shown in Table 4 for merchandise goods debits are further sub-divided into a total of 106 commodity sub-groups. Although the information at this level is not published, it is available as a special data service, and can be obtained from Balance of Payments Section on Canberra (02) 6252 5375.

10 For more information on the commodity classification of merchandise goods debits, refer to *Information Paper: Change to Commodity Classification of Merchandise Imports in Balance of Payments Publications* (Cat. no. 5344.0).

COMMODITY BREAKDOWNS OF SERVICES

11 The quarterly detailed services data published in Table 6 are consistent with the monthly aggregates shown in Table 5. A further 14 sub-commodities are available on request. Detailed annual data are published for 61 services commodities, and a further 4 are available. Services trade data by major partner countries and by Australian State of production/consumption are also published annually. Additional detail and additional presentations of the data may be available on request. For further information contact Balance of Payments Section on Canberra (02) 6252 5336.

RELATED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

12 Detailed data of exports and imports of goods dissected by commodity and country are available on an international trade basis 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.

13 Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:

- *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia* (Cat. no. 5302.0)—issued quarterly
- *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (Cat. no. 5331.0)
- *Information Paper: Quality of Australian Balance of Payments Statistics* (Cat. no. 5342.0)
- *International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (Cat. no. 5422.0)—issued quarterly
- *Information Paper: Implementing New International Statistical Standards in ABS International Accounts Statistics* (Cat. no. 5364.0)—irregular, issued on 29 September 1997
- *Information Paper: Upgraded Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics* (Cat. no. 5365.0)—irregular, issued on 24 November 1997.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.e.s. not elsewhere specified
n.i.e. not included elsewhere
n.p. not published
. . not applicable

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 5.

TREND REVISIONS

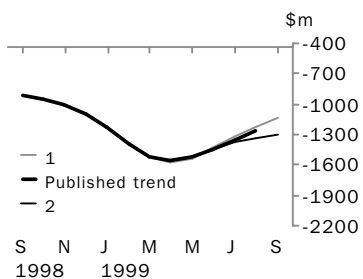
The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

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

2 The September seasonally adjusted estimate of the balance on goods and services 'deteriorates' by \$200 million when compared with the August 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 Aug 1999</i>	2 <i>deteriorates by \$200m on Aug 1999</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m
February 1999	-1 390	-1 392	-1 392
March 1999	-1 512	-1 520	-1 513
April 1999	-1 562	-1 576	-1 563
May 1999	-1 528	-1 535	-1 528
June 1999	-1 448	-1 433	-1 450
July 1999	-1 351	-1 323	-1 382
August 1999	-1 262	-1 222	-1 334
September 1999		-1 139	-1 308

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- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 75c per minute).
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	Melbourne	03 9615 7755	03 9615 7798
	Brisbane	07 3222 6351	07 3222 6283
	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

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