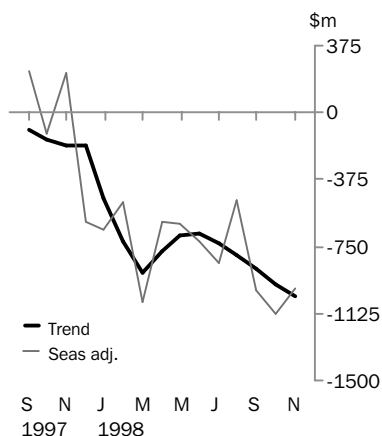


INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 5 JAN 1999

Balance on goods and services



NOVEMBER KEY FIGURES

TREND ESTIMATES

	Sep 98 \$m	Oct 98 \$m	Nov 98 \$m	Oct 98 to Nov 98 % change
Balance on goods and services	- 879	- 960	-1 024	. .
Credits (exports of goods and services)	9 765	9 708	9 647	-1
Debits (imports of goods and services)	10 644	10 668	10 670	0

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Sep 98 \$m	Oct 98 \$m	Nov 98 \$m	Oct 98 to Nov 98 % change
Balance on goods and services	- 994	-1 127	- 980	. .
Credits (exports of goods and services)	9 689	9 794	9 427	-4
Debits (imports of goods and services)	10 683	10 921	10 408	-5

NOVEMBER KEY POINTS

TREND ESTIMATES

- The provisional trend estimate of the balance on goods and services is a deficit of \$1,024 million in November, an increase of \$64 million on the deficit in October.
- Goods and services credits fell \$61 million, while goods and services debits were virtually unchanged.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ESTIMATES

- In seasonally adjusted terms, the balance on goods and services is a deficit of \$980 million, down \$147 million on the deficit in October.
- Goods and services credits fell \$367 million, or 4%, on the October figure, mainly reflecting lower gold exports.
- Goods and services debits fell \$513 million, or 5%. This is attributable to lower imports of gold and passenger motor vehicles.

ORIGINAL ESTIMATES

- In original terms, the balance on goods and services in November is a deficit of \$1,242 million, down \$236 million on the deficit in October.
- Exports of goods to our major south east Asia and north Asia trading partners were flat during November, compared with exports to other destinations which fell 14% on the previous month. See analysis on page 4 for details.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Patricia Mahony on Canberra 02 6252 5540, or any ABS office shown on the back cover of this publication.

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	EXPECTED RELEASE DATE
December 1998	2 February 1999
January 1999	1 March 1999
February 1999	30 March 1999
March 1999	3 May 1999
April 1999	31 May 1999
May 1999	30 June 1999



CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

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

- increased the deficit on goods and services for 1997-98 by \$93 million; and
- decreased the deficit on goods and services for the four months to October 1998 by \$54 million.

The major factors contributing to these revisions are:

- incorporation of the latest available data on merchandise exports and imports;
- incorporation of the latest available data on overseas arrivals and departures which have affected travel credits and debits; and
- incorporation of the latest available data from the Survey of International Trade in Services.



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 \$1,024 million in November, an increase of \$64 million on the deficit in October. The trend deficit has been increasing since June 1998.

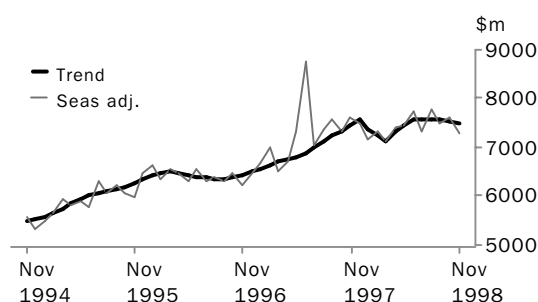
In seasonally adjusted terms, this balance was a deficit of \$980 million, down \$147 million on the deficit in October. November imports includes \$115 million of gold imported for processing and future re-export (\$188 million of gold for processing was imported in October). Very little from any of these imports has yet been re-exported.

EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

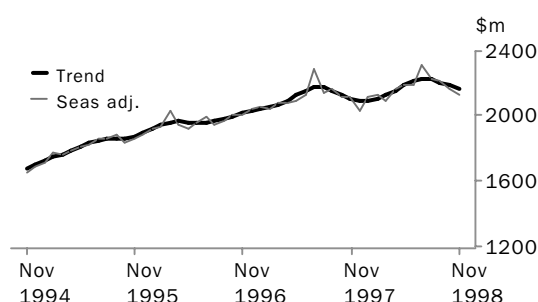
The trend estimate of goods and services credits fell \$61 million to \$9,647 million, and has been falling slowly since July 1998. There were falls in November in rural goods and services while non-rural and other goods was little changed.

In seasonally adjusted terms, goods and services credits fell \$367 million, or 4%, to \$9,427 million. Goods fell \$339 million, or 4%, to \$7,291 million, while services fell \$28 million, or 1%.

GOODS CREDITS



SERVICES CREDITS



RURAL GOODS The trend estimate of rural goods fell \$32 million to \$1,862 million. The trend estimate is now 4% below the level estimated 12 months ago. In seasonally adjusted terms, rural goods remained virtually unchanged at \$1,763 million. Cereal grain exports in the past two months have been about 20% below the levels a year earlier, while wool exports are running at a little over half the level 12 months ago.

Rural goods, in original terms, rose \$3 million, to \$1,759 million. The largest movements were in cereals, up \$59 million or 20%, on the very low October level and 'other' rural, down \$45 million or 5%.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

NON-RURAL AND OTHER GOODS The trend estimate of non-rural and other goods is little changed at \$5,616 million but is above the level of 12 months ago and within 2% of the peak level recorded in June 1998. In seasonally adjusted terms non-rural and other goods fell \$340 million, or 6%, to \$5,528 million.

Non-rural and other goods in original terms fell \$579 million, or 10%, to \$5,508 million. The largest decreases were in:

- non-monetary gold, down \$357 million (37%) to \$597million, on the very high shipments in October;
- 'other' non-rural, down \$110 million or 21%; and
- 'other' mineral fuels, down \$66 million or 16%.

These decreases were partly offset by increases in transport equipment, up \$64 million, or 23%.

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS BY COUNTRY

The table below shows Australia's recorded merchandise exports for the 9 months to November 1998 (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 November, exports to these selected Asian destinations showed little movement while exports to other countries fell 14% on the previous month. Exports to the largest market, Japan, fell 13% to their lowest level in seven months and well below the monthly average for both the 1997 and 1998 calendar years. Exports to Singapore, although up 43% this month, are still down 19% in the 11 months to November 1998 compared to the 11 months to November 1997. Overall, exports to the group of 10 countries listed below is down 7% in the 11 months to November 1998 compared with the 11 months to November 1997, while exports to all other countries rose 22% over the same period. Comparing these periods after excluding gold, exports to the selected Asian destinations fell 6% while exports to the rest of the world rose 11%.

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

	Mar 1998	Apr 1998	May 1998	Jun 1998	Jul 1998	Aug 1998	Sep 1998	Oct 1998	Nov 1998	Oct 1998 to Nov 1998 % change
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	
China	313	256	352	314	295	307	343	279	372	33
Hong Kong	320	255	365	305	279	279	284	227	251	11
Indonesia	174	157	140	191	163	243	225	191	194	2
Japan	1 320	1 362	1 444	1 485	1 406	1 570	1 483	1 564	1 365	-13
Korea, Republic of	442	595	488	592	657	482	468	540	530	-2
Malaysia	161	139	167	133	180	149	156	164	171	4
Philippines	92	68	66	99	105	113	105	105	100	-5
Singapore	332	237	428	266	194	237	200	215	308	43
Taiwan	325	397	418	317	360	370	344	353	352	0
Thailand	106	91	126	98	102	106	111	108	118	9
Sub-total	3 585	3 557	3 994	3 800	3 741	3 856	3 719	3 746	3 761	0
All other countries	3 726	3 641	3 955	3 932	3 730	3 893	3 880	4 076	3 521	-14
Total	7 311	7 198	7 949	7 732	7 471	7 749	7 599	7 822	7 282	-7

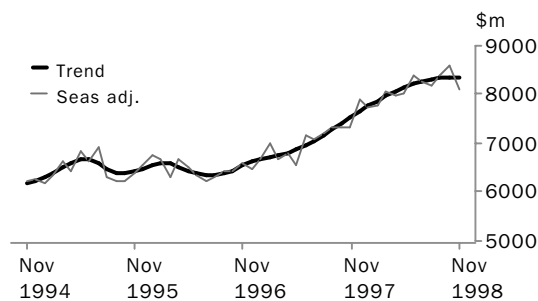
(a) Merchandise exports, in original terms, as recorded in ABS international trade statistics, not adjusted to a balance of payments basis.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES

The trend estimate of goods and services debits was little changed at \$10,670 million. Consumption goods have been relatively stable for the past seven months. Capital goods in November are at the level of seven months ago after peaking in July 1998. However, intermediate and other goods have been rising continuously since March 1997, and services have been rising since February 1998. In seasonally adjusted terms, goods and services debits fell \$513 million, or 5%, to \$10,408 million. Goods fell \$457 million, or 5%, to \$8,118 million, the lowest level since May 1998. Services fell \$56 million, or 2%, to \$2,290 million.

GOODS DEBITS



CONSUMPTION GOODS

The trend estimate of consumption goods was \$2,298 million in November, with little change over the past seven months. After rising strongly in 1997-98, passenger motor vehicle imports have levelled off in recent months. In seasonally adjusted terms, consumption goods fell \$142 million, to \$2,220 million.

Consumption goods, in original terms, fell \$251 million, or 9%, to \$2,425 million. The largest decrease was in non-industrial transport equipment, down \$151 million or 22%.

CAPITAL GOODS

The trend estimate of capital goods fell \$26 million to \$1,869 million, roughly at the level of seven months ago. High civil aircraft imports in the five months from May to September 1998 pushed the total series up for a few months before falling back to its current level. In seasonally adjusted terms, capital goods fell \$35 million, or 2%, to \$1,805 million.

Capital goods, in original terms, fell \$95 million, or 5%, to \$1,860 million. The largest decreases were in industrial transport equipment n.e.s., down \$70 million, or 26% and machinery and industrial equipment, down \$63 million or 7%.

INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER GOODS

The trend estimate of intermediate and other goods has been rising since March 1997 to reach \$4,183 million in November. Much of that rise reflected higher merchandise gold imports and imports of gold for processing and re-export. In seasonally adjusted terms, intermediate and other goods fell \$280 million, or 6%, to \$4,093 million.

Intermediate and other goods, in original terms, fell \$333 million, or 8%, to \$4,068 million. There were decreases in 9 of the 14 groups with the largest being:

- organic & inorganic chemicals, down \$136 million or 39%; and
- non-monetary gold, down \$127 million (45%), to \$158 million.

These decreases were partly offset by an increase in fuels and lubricants, up \$116 million or 35%, in response to the disruption of production from Bass Strait.

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

CREDITS.....

DEBITS.....

Period	Balance on goods and services \$m	Total goods and services \$m	Total goods \$m	Rural goods(b) \$m	Non-rural and other goods(b) \$m	Total services \$m	Total goods and services \$m	Total goods \$m	Con- sumption goods \$m	Capital goods \$m	Inter- mediate and other goods \$m	Total services \$m
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SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

1997												
September	231	9 728	7 564	1 954	5 610	2 164	-9 497	-7 307	-2 024	-1 679	-3 604	-2 190
October	-123	9 444	7 321	1 920	5 402	2 123	-9 567	-7 332	-2 059	-1 716	-3 557	-2 236
November	222	9 748	7 630	1 948	5 682	2 118	-9 526	-7 315	-2 037	-1 674	-3 603	-2 211
December	-610	9 523	7 492	1 962	5 529	2 031	-10 133	-7 917	-2 183	-1 841	-3 894	-2 216
1998												
January	-652	9 265	7 150	1 819	5 331	2 114	-9 916	-7 734	-2 280	-1 738	-3 716	-2 182
February	-503	9 443	7 316	1 751	5 565	2 127	-9 945	-7 783	-2 209	-1 780	-3 794	-2 163
March	-1 058	9 198	7 107	1 634	5 473	2 091	-10 256	-8 061	-2 277	-1 879	-3 905	-2 195
April	-613	9 591	7 427	1 699	5 727	2 165	-10 204	-7 991	-2 293	-1 839	-3 859	-2 213
May	-625	9 638	7 447	1 764	5 683	2 190	-10 263	-8 021	-2 282	-1 991	-3 748	-2 242
June	-717	9 906	7 715	1 865	5 850	2 191	-10 623	-8 397	-2 384	-1 806	-4 207	-2 226
July	-847	9 664	7 346	1 839	5 507	2 318	-10 511	-8 254	-2 254	-1 976	-4 024	-2 257
August	-492	10 017	7 792	2 039	5 753	2 225	-10 509	-8 197	-2 294	-1 919	-3 984	-2 312
September	-994	9 689	7 477	2 057	5 420	2 212	-10 683	-8 392	-2 358	-2 023	-4 011	-2 291
October	-1 127	9 794	7 630	1 762	5 868	2 164	-10 921	-8 575	-2 362	-1 840	-4 373	-2 346
November	-980	9 427	7 291	1 763	5 528	2 136	-10 408	-8 118	-2 220	-1 805	-4 093	-2 290

TREND ESTIMATES

1997												
September	-95	9 385	7 226	1 937	5 289	2 159	-9 480	-7 290	-2 024	-1 678	-3 588	-2 190
October	-146	9 461	7 328	1 943	5 385	2 133	-9 607	-7 401	-2 065	-1 701	-3 635	-2 206
November	-182	9 545	7 438	1 942	5 496	2 107	-9 727	-7 519	-2 110	-1 725	-3 684	-2 208
December	-185	9 656	7 565	1 938	5 627	2 091	-9 841	-7 638	-2 157	-1 753	-3 728	-2 203
1998												
January	-483	9 473	7 383	1 831	5 552	2 090	-9 955	-7 759	-2 206	-1 784	-3 769	-2 196
February	-718	9 344	7 241	1 739	5 502	2 103	-10 062	-7 870	-2 248	-1 813	-3 809	-2 191
March	-898	9 266	7 140	1 668	5 471	2 127	-10 164	-7 970	-2 277	-1 842	-3 851	-2 194
April	-778	9 479	7 319	1 714	5 605	2 160	-10 257	-8 051	-2 293	-1 871	-3 887	-2 206
May	-693	9 662	7 467	1 780	5 687	2 195	-10 355	-8 130	-2 304	-1 899	-3 927	-2 225
June	-679	9 777	7 557	1 849	5 708	2 220	-10 455	-8 208	-2 311	-1 921	-3 976	-2 247
July	-729	9 813	7 583	1 898	5 685	2 230	-10 542	-8 274	-2 317	-1 931	-4 026	-2 268
August	-799	9 803	7 577	1 919	5 658	2 226	-10 602	-8 316	-2 317	-1 926	-4 073	-2 286
September	-879	9 765	7 554	1 915	5 639	2 210	-10 644	-8 343	-2 314	-1 914	-4 115	-2 301
October	-960	9 708	7 518	1 894	5 624	2 190	-10 668	-8 356	-2 307	-1 895	-4 153	-2 313
November	-1 024	9 647	7 478	1 862	5 616	2 169	-10 670	-8 350	-2 298	-1 869	-4 183	-2 320

(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.....					
	<i>Balance on goods and services</i>	<i>Total goods and services</i>	<i>Total goods</i>	<i>Rural goods(b)</i>	<i>Non-rural and other goods(b)</i>	<i>Total services</i>	<i>Total goods and services</i>	<i>Total goods</i>	<i>Con- sumption goods</i>	<i>Capital goods</i>	<i>Inter- mediate and other goods</i>	<i>Total services</i>
	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m	\$m
1995-96	-1 983	99 095	76 146	19 588	56 558	22 949	- 101 078	-77 729	-19 860	-19 183	-38 686	-23 349
1996-97	1 785	105 330	80 934	21 045	59 889	24 396	- 103 545	-79 438	-21 293	-18 884	-39 261	-24 107
1997-98	-4 253	114 182	88 517	22 130	66 387	25 665	- 118 435	-92 084	-25 901	-21 169	-45 014	-26 351
1997												
September	- 580	9 402	7 504	1 786	5 718	1 898	-9 982	-7 595	-2 213	-1 755	-3 627	-2 387
October	- 614	9 715	7 632	1 943	5 689	2 083	-10 329	-8 020	-2 405	-1 863	-3 752	-2 309
November	386	9 801	7 721	1 969	5 752	2 080	-9 415	-7 285	-2 111	-1 659	-3 515	-2 130
December	- 165	9 931	7 825	2 127	5 698	2 106	-10 096	-7 865	-2 243	-1 915	-3 707	-2 231
1998												
January	- 642	8 798	6 367	1 677	4 690	2 431	-9 440	-7 218	-2 036	-1 580	-3 602	-2 222
February	484	9 326	6 722	1 687	5 035	2 604	-8 842	-6 942	-1 947	-1 481	-3 514	-1 900
March	-1 091	9 373	7 313	1 779	5 534	2 060	-10 464	-8 340	-2 279	-1 866	-4 195	-2 124
April	- 544	9 272	7 210	1 727	5 483	2 062	-9 816	-7 677	-2 089	-1 829	-3 759	-2 139
May	-23	9 756	7 872	1 946	5 926	1 884	-9 779	-7 595	-2 031	-1 902	-3 662	-2 184
June	-1 157	9 640	7 673	1 888	5 785	1 967	-10 797	-8 469	-2 276	-2 019	-4 174	-2 328
July	-1 286	9 996	7 476	1 760	5 716	2 520	-11 282	-8 902	-2 487	-2 054	-4 361	-2 380
August	- 722	9 849	7 765	1 821	5 944	2 084	-10 571	-8 262	-2 414	-1 910	-3 938	-2 309
September	-1 655	9 556	7 607	1 926	5 681	1 949	-11 211	-8 740	-2 525	-2 066	-4 149	-2 471
October	-1 478	9 971	7 843	1 756	6 087	2 128	-11 449	-9 032	-2 676	-1 955	-4 401	-2 417
November	-1 242	9 346	7 267	1 759	5 508	2 079	-10 588	-8 353	-2 425	-1 860	-4 068	-2 235
FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE												
5 months to Nov 1997	-1 115	48 086	37 535	9 299	28 236	10 551	-49 201	-37 978	-11 000	-8 577	-18 401	-11 223
5 months to Nov 1998	-6 383	48 718	37 958	9 022	28 936	10 760	-55 101	-43 289	-12 527	-9 845	-20 917	-11 812

(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>
1995-96	76 146	19 588	3 292	4 926	n.p.	3 664	7 706
1996-97	80 934	21 045	2 957	5 954	n.p.	3 744	8 390
1997-98	88 517	22 130	3 731	5 094	n.p.	4 020	9 285
1997							
September	7 504	1 786	293	400	n.p.	324	769
October	7 632	1 943	344	385	n.p.	411	803
November	7 721	1 969	332	439	n.p.	437	761
December	7 825	2 127	342	549	n.p.	429	807
1998							
January	6 367	1 677	220	520	n.p.	299	638
February	6 722	1 687	302	417	n.p.	325	643
March	7 313	1 779	334	387	n.p.	312	746
April	7 210	1 727	274	454	n.p.	277	722
May	7 872	1 946	358	379	n.p.	291	918
June	7 673	1 888	342	427	n.p.	236	883
July	7 476	1 760	340	322	n.p.	240	858
August	7 765	1 821	312	492	n.p.	196	821
September	7 607	1 926	357	438	n.p.	248	883
October	7 843	1 756	349	302	n.p.	247	858
November	7 267	1 759	351	361	n.p.	234	813

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

5 months to Nov 1997	37 535	9 299	1 559	1 961	n.p.	1 851	3 928
5 months to Nov 1998	37 958	9 022	1 709	1 915	n.p.	1 165	4 233

(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>Mach- inery</i>	<i>Transport equipment</i>	<i>Other manu- factures</i>	<i>Other non-rural(a)</i>	<i>Other goods(b)</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>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
1995-96	50 021	9 088	7 843	4 165	6 799	7 119	2 500	8 755	3 752	6 537
1996-97	52 334	9 407	8 005	5 154	6 054	7 001	3 649	9 108	3 956	7 555
1997-98	58 485	10 835	9 586	5 309	7 185	7 549	3 412	9 834	4 775	7 902
1997										
September	4 949	838	807	470	529	668	231	908	498	769
October	5 100	907	744	511	596	658	279	871	534	589
November	5 135	895	783	469	644	679	329	882	454	617
December	5 154	969	879	522	606	773	287	825	293	544
1998										
January	4 182	840	869	398	582	424	167	603	299	508
February	4 354	813	766	427	536	557	217	740	298	681
March	4 781	930	717	391	655	628	232	857	371	753
April	4 753	984	807	404	586	533	324	707	408	730
May	5 141	957	850	375	687	661	386	883	342	785
June	5 093	995	860	399	631	596	384	829	399	692
July	4 820	840	829	390	682	559	248	800	472	896
August	5 183	1 070	843	473	599	590	295	889	424	761
September	5 091	945	890	407	613	576	278	899	483	590
October	5 067	1 028	823	401	545	577	281	889	523	1 020
November	4 828	1 011	764	335	548	551	345	861	413	680
FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE										
5 months to Nov 1997	25 027	4 347	3 838	2 393	2 902	3 377	1 415	4 390	2 365	3 209
5 months to Nov 1998	24 989	4 894	4 149	2 006	2 987	2 853	1 447	4 338	2 315	3 947

(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>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>Period</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>
1995-96	-77 729	-19 860	-2 760	-1 766	-4 436	-2 726	-2 534	-5 638
1996-97	-79 438	-21 293	-2 879	-1 890	-5 143	-2 880	-2 567	-5 934
1997-98	-92 084	-25 901	-3 282	-2 062	-7 103	-3 457	-2 956	-7 041
1997								
September	-7 595	-2 213	-261	-177	-557	-295	-288	-635
October	-8 020	-2 405	-314	-212	-600	-283	-316	-680
November	-7 285	-2 111	-296	-196	-501	-257	-265	-596
December	-7 865	-2 243	-299	-189	-631	-281	-248	-595
1998								
January	-7 218	-2 036	-256	-133	-633	-319	-199	-496
February	-6 942	-1 947	-246	-145	-499	-342	-196	-519
March	-8 340	-2 279	-285	-177	-685	-316	-226	-590
April	-7 677	-2 089	-246	-172	-622	-253	-215	-581
May	-7 595	-2 031	-251	-162	-559	-246	-229	-584
June	-8 469	-2 276	-294	-176	-679	-236	-270	-621
July	-8 902	-2 487	-285	-172	-621	-394	-311	-704
August	-8 262	-2 414	-274	-168	-593	-360	-303	-716
September	-8 740	-2 525	-315	-189	-573	-346	-320	-782
October	-9 032	-2 676	-346	-231	-689	-311	-342	-757
November	-8 353	-2 425	-343	-241	-538	-284	-298	-721

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

5 months to Nov 1997	-37 978	-11 000	-1 405	-908	-2 795	-1 464	-1 373	-3 055
5 months to Nov 1998	-43 289	-12 527	-1 563	-1 001	-3 014	-1 695	-1 574	-3 680

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

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

CAPITAL GOODS.....

	<i>Total capital goods</i>	<i>Machinery and industrial equipment</i>	<i>ADP equipment</i>	<i>Telecomm- unications equipment</i>	<i>Civil aircraft</i>	<i>Industrial transport equipment n.e.s.</i>	<i>Capital goods n.e.s.</i>
<i>Period</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
1995-96	-19 183	-8 326	-3 593	-1 996	- 688	-2 214	-2 366
1996-97	-18 884	-8 020	-3 719	-1 748	- 784	-2 178	-2 435
1997-98	-21 169	-8 864	-4 345	-2 071	- 464	-2 559	-2 866
1997							
September	-1 755	- 753	- 374	- 188	-52	- 163	- 225
October	-1 863	- 747	- 359	- 208	-15	- 286	- 248
November	-1 659	- 688	- 337	- 175	-17	- 203	- 239
December	-1 915	- 833	- 353	- 194	-36	- 204	- 295
1998							
January	-1 580	- 725	- 324	- 131	-1	- 193	- 206
February	-1 481	- 616	- 293	- 126	-36	- 215	- 195
March	-1 866	- 755	- 432	- 184	-24	- 216	- 255
April	-1 829	- 735	- 365	- 181	-62	- 254	- 232
May	-1 902	- 758	- 378	- 166	-159	- 200	- 241
June	-2 019	- 795	- 455	- 211	-33	- 258	- 267
July	-2 054	- 886	- 366	- 183	-121	- 235	- 263
August	-1 910	- 827	- 356	- 172	-109	- 199	- 247
September	-2 066	- 893	- 376	- 170	-164	- 188	- 275
October	-1 955	- 887	- 341	- 185	-12	- 265	- 265
November	-1 860	- 824	- 365	- 216	-8	- 195	- 252

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

5 months to Nov 1997	-8 577	-3 647	-1 745	- 878	- 113	-1 019	-1 175
5 months to Nov 1998	-9 845	-4 317	-1 804	- 926	- 414	-1 082	-1 302

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

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

INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER MERCHANDISE GOODS.....

<i>Period</i>	<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
1995-96	-36 964	- 700	- 879	-4 163	-4 600	-1 857	-6 393	-2 754
1996-97	-37 028	- 641	- 839	-5 004	-4 609	-1 759	-6 507	-2 743
1997-98	-40 413	- 746	- 950	-4 277	-5 360	-1 993	-7 176	-2 814
1997								
September	-3 279	-71	-88	- 355	- 425	- 154	- 590	- 207
October	-3 493	-59	-75	- 394	- 440	- 155	- 639	- 242
November	-3 294	-69	-80	- 409	- 374	- 152	- 589	- 250
December	-3 418	-56	-84	- 359	- 461	- 162	- 674	- 219
1998								
January	-3 372	-63	-73	- 426	- 413	- 160	- 566	- 216
February	-3 119	-61	-78	- 276	- 410	- 144	- 532	- 249
March	-3 672	-67	-78	- 395	- 488	- 194	- 634	- 311
April	-3 318	-54	-80	- 240	- 463	- 192	- 602	- 254
May	-3 208	-60	-78	- 304	- 456	- 171	- 563	- 184
June	-3 609	-63	-84	- 326	- 533	- 201	- 635	- 249
July	-3 784	-67	-84	- 361	- 540	- 176	- 681	- 236
August	-3 529	-59	-77	- 338	- 496	- 188	- 616	- 235
September	-3 688	-62	-93	- 337	- 500	- 150	- 664	- 235
October	-3 767	-59	-78	- 332	- 526	- 143	- 652	- 347
November	-3 650	-65	-71	- 448	- 501	- 153	- 646	- 211

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

5 months to Nov 1997	-16 697	- 322	- 395	-1 951	-2 136	- 769	-2 970	-1 132
5 months to Nov 1998	-18 418	- 312	- 403	-1 816	-2 563	- 810	-3 259	-1 264

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

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

<i>Period</i>	<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>
<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
1995-96	-1 868	-1 922	-1 408	-1 685	-8 398	- 337	-1 722
1996-97	-1 713	-1 817	-1 297	-1 577	-8 212	- 310	-2 233
1997-98	-1 901	-2 005	-1 623	-1 813	-9 393	- 362	-4 601
1997							
September	- 164	- 167	- 130	- 149	- 760	-19	- 348
October	- 175	- 173	- 134	- 168	- 818	-21	- 259
November	- 146	- 165	- 138	- 151	- 740	-31	- 221
December	- 167	- 158	- 134	- 141	- 775	-28	- 289
1998							
January	- 158	- 175	- 148	- 152	- 792	-30	- 230
February	- 146	- 155	- 137	- 140	- 745	-46	- 395
March	- 172	- 168	- 147	- 162	- 825	-31	- 523
April	- 149	- 150	- 147	- 148	- 808	-31	- 441
May	- 150	- 163	- 119	- 149	- 784	-27	- 454
June	- 173	- 183	- 132	- 153	- 831	-46	- 565
July	- 184	- 212	- 151	- 158	- 869	-65	- 577
August	- 178	- 175	- 138	- 148	- 793	-88	- 409
September	- 182	- 181	- 116	- 166	- 876	- 126	- 461
October	- 187	- 177	- 130	- 180	- 894	-62	- 634
November	- 165	- 171	- 125	- 167	- 824	- 103	- 418
FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE							
5 months to Nov 1997	- 786	- 853	- 659	- 768	-3 833	- 123	-1 704
5 months to Nov 1998	- 896	- 916	- 660	- 819	-4 256	- 444	-2 499

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

(b) Includes non-monetary gold.

SERVICES(a)(b): Original

CREDITS.....

DEBITS.....

<i>Period</i>	<i>Total services</i>	<i>Freight</i>	<i>Other transport- ation</i>	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Other services</i>	<i>Total services</i>	<i>Freight</i>	<i>Other transport- ation</i>	<i>Travel</i>	<i>Other services</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>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
1995-96	22 949	1 221	5 305	11 252	5 171	-23 349	-4 405	-4 083	-6 988	-7 873
1996-97	24 396	951	5 697	11 926	5 822	-24 107	-4 373	-4 066	-7 769	-7 899
1997-98	25 665	1 042	5 678	11 876	7 069	-26 351	-5 013	-4 112	-8 372	-8 854
1997										
September	1 898	81	483	785	549	-2 387	-423	-394	-860	-710
October	2 083	81	477	906	619	-2 309	-456	-333	-757	-763
November	2 080	81	477	906	616	-2 130	-407	-300	-641	-782
December	2 106	81	478	921	626	-2 231	-426	-338	-650	-817
1998										
January	2 431	91	497	1 280	563	-2 222	-404	-336	-736	-746
February	2 604	91	497	1 465	551	-1 900	-373	-272	-545	-710
March	2 060	90	492	925	553	-2 124	-450	-327	-616	-731
April	2 062	94	435	919	614	-2 139	-423	-328	-686	-702
May	1 884	94	435	734	621	-2 184	-396	-362	-698	-728
June	1 967	94	437	790	646	-2 328	-449	-394	-710	-775
July	2 520	112	475	1 331	602	-2 380	-474	-402	-773	-731
August	2 084	112	475	910	587	-2 309	-433	-364	-735	-777
September	1 949	111	480	777	581	-2 471	-476	-402	-828	-765
October	2 128	101	475	925	627	-2 417	-476	-380	-791	-770
November	2 079	101	475	881	622	-2 235	-432	-352	-681	-770

FINANCIAL YEAR TO DATE

5 months to Nov 1997	10 551	407	2 407	4 842	2 895	-11 223	-2 092	-1 755	-3 731	-3 645
5 months to Nov 1998	10 760	537	2 380	4 824	3 019	-11 812	-2 291	-1 900	-3 808	-3 813

(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.....			
	<i>Dec Qtr 1997</i>	<i>Mar Qtr 1998</i>	<i>Jun Qtr 1998</i>	<i>Sep Qtr 1998</i>	<i>Dec Qtr 1997</i>	<i>Mar Qtr 1998</i>	<i>Jun Qtr 1998</i>	<i>Sep Qtr 1998</i>
SERVICES	6 269	7 095	5 913	6 553	-6 670	-6 246	-6 651	-7 160
Transportation services	1 675	1 758	1 589	1 765	-2 260	-2 162	-2 352	-2 551
Passenger	1 432	1 486	1 307	1 430	- 727	- 716	- 882	- 966
Freight	243	272	282	335	-1 289	-1 227	-1 268	-1 383
Other	<i>n.p.</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	<i>n.p.</i>	- 244	- 219	- 202	- 202
Travel services	2 733	3 670	2 443	3 018	-2 048	-1 897	-2 094	-2 336
Business	169	193	191	191	- 546	- 623	- 557	- 529
Personal	2 564	3 477	2 252	2 827	-1 502	-1 274	-1 537	-1 807
Education-related	367	1 473	416	846	- 121	- 139	- 111	- 160
Other	2 197	2 004	1 836	1 981	-1 381	-1 135	-1 426	-1 647
Communications services	341	329	348	323	- 364	- 336	- 360	- 300
Construction services	3	3	2	24	0	0	0	0
Insurance services	213	213	213	232	- 268	- 268	- 268	- 280
Financial services	182	179	173	179	- 112	- 109	- 109	- 117
Computer and information services	137	105	139	160	-95	-92	-80	-75
Royalties and licence fees	146	96	127	147	- 388	- 334	- 348	- 369
Other business services	632	530	614	482	- 789	- 753	- 710	- 832
Merchanting and other trade-related	106	123	141	116	- 101	-92	-93	- 112
Operational leasing	2	2	2	2	- 205	- 254	- 216	- 297
Miscellaneous business, professional & technical	524	405	471	364	- 483	- 407	- 401	- 423
Legal, accounting, management consulting and public relations	89	87	81	76	-41	-29	-45	-41
Advertising, market research, and public opinion polling	32	19	24	21	-40	-52	-55	-37
Research and development	58	38	35	50	-28	-24	-28	-41
Architectural, engineering and other technical services	108	94	113	65	- 114	-58	-57	-70
Agricultural, mining, and on-site processing	11	10	7	7	-51	-61	-27	-70
Services between affiliated enterprises n.i.e.	203	135	185	131	- 191	- 157	- 161	- 145
Other	23	22	26	14	-18	-26	-28	-19
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	75	84	94	96	- 194	- 164	- 152	- 152
Audiovisual and related services	25	26	30	38	- 172	- 130	- 123	- 133
Other personal, cultural and recreational services	50	58	64	58	-22	-34	-29	-19
Government services n.i.e.	132	128	171	127	- 152	- 131	- 178	- 148

(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>German mark</i>	<i>Japanese yen</i>	<i>Special drawing right</i>	<i>Trade weighted index of value of the \$A(b)</i>
1995-96	0.7593	0.4909	1.109	77.66	0.5156	54.8
1996-97	0.7828	0.4851	1.251	90.51	0.5521	58.7
1997-98	0.6806	0.4138	1.221	86.02	0.5026	58.3
1997						
September	0.7211	0.4520	1.295	87.42	0.5322	57.7
October	0.7212	0.4422	1.267	87.35	0.5269	58.1
November	0.6954	0.4121	1.203	86.97	0.5055	57.0
December	0.6627	0.3986	1.178	85.80	0.4891	57.9
1998						
January	0.6543	0.4004	1.190	84.87	0.4871	60.2
February	0.6733	0.4107	1.221	84.75	0.4988	60.8
March	0.6699	0.4034	1.222	86.22	0.4981	60.2
April	0.6524	0.3899	1.183	86.19	0.4860	58.5
May	0.6312	0.3851	1.120	85.13	0.4695	57.4
June	0.6030	0.3656	1.081	84.74	0.4522	56.6
July	0.6182	0.3758	1.111	86.94	0.4645	58.0
August	0.5903	0.3614	1.055	85.42	0.4452	55.7
September	0.5889	0.3504	1.003	79.24	0.4321	54.2
October	0.6179	0.3648	1.013	74.87	0.4398	54.4
November	0.6342	0.3815	1.066	76.34	0.4548	55.5

(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.

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* (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* (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 6224 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* (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 6419.

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* (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* (5302.0)—issued quarterly
- *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5331.0)
- *Information Paper: Quality of Australian Balance of Payments Statistics* (5342.0)
- *International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (5422.0)—issued quarterly
- *Information Paper: Implementing New International Statistical Standards in ABS International Accounts Statistics* (5364.0)—irregular, issued on 29 September 1997
- *Information Paper: Upgraded Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Statistics* (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

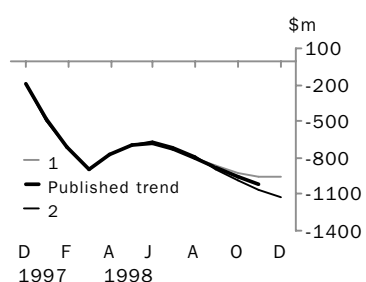
The graph below presents the effect of two possible scenarios on the previous trend estimates:

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

2 The December seasonally adjusted estimate of the balance on goods and services 'deteriorates' by \$200 million when compared with the November 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

*improves by
\$200m on
Nov 98
\$m*

2

*deteriorates by
\$200m on
Nov 98
\$m*

	\$m		
May 1998	- 693	- 693	- 693
June 1998	- 679	- 678	- 670
July 1998	- 729	- 731	- 718
August 1998	- 799	- 802	- 795
September 1998	- 879	- 871	- 889
October 1998	- 960	- 921	- 981
November 1998	-1 024	- 950	-1 062
December 1998		- 960	-1 128

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ISSN 1328-2778

RRP \$16.00