

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1996

MAIN FEATURES

Estimates of the main balance of payments aggregates for November 1996 and the two preceding months are shown below. These estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Particular care should be taken in interpreting monthly movements, as indicated in the note on page 7 on *Reliability of Contemporary Trend Estimates* and in paragraph 4 of the *Explanatory Notes* on page 15. Certain items have been estimated using extrapolation techniques until source data become available.

| | 1996 | | | Change on previous month(a) |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| | September | October | November | |
| | | <i>\$ million</i> | | |
| | | <i>Trend</i> | | |
| Balance on current account | -1,603p | -1,710p | -1,818p | -6 |
| | | <i>Seasonally adjusted</i> | | |
| Balance on current account | -1,701 | -1,807 | -1,923 | -6 |
| Balance on merchandise trade | -32 | -5 | -394 | .. |
| Net services | 13 | -6 | 14 | .. |
| Net income | -1,758 | -1,910 | -1,676 | 12 |
| Net unrequited transfers | 76 | 114 | 133 | 17 |
| | | <i>Not seasonally adjusted</i> | | |
| Balance on current account | -2,234 | -2,386 | -1,843 | 23 |
| Balance on merchandise trade | -208 | -557 | -340 | 39 |
| Net services | -343 | -60 | 92 | .. |
| Net income | -1,774 | -1,916 | -1,726 | 10 |
| Net unrequited transfers | 91 | 147 | 131 | -11 |

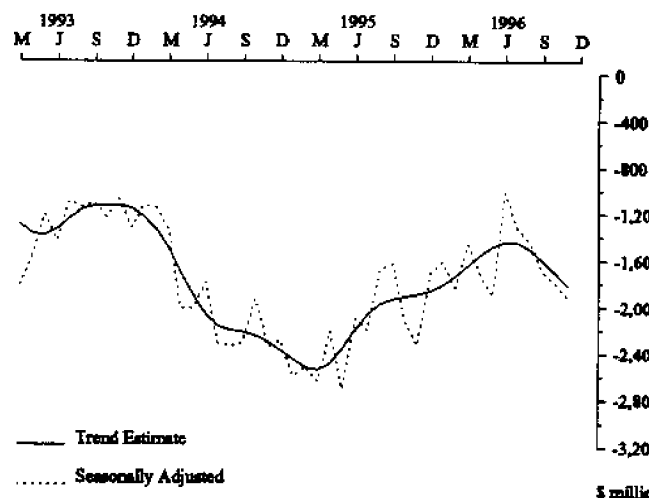
(a) For current account aggregates, a minus sign means an increase in a deficit or a decrease in a surplus; and an absence of sign means a decrease in a deficit or an increase in a surplus.

The **provisional trend estimate** for the November current account deficit was \$1,818 million, up \$108 million, or 6 per cent, on the provisional trend estimate for October. This is the fifth consecutive increase in this trend estimate.

The provisional trend estimate of the balance on goods and services recorded a deficit of \$120 million, up \$90 million on the trend estimate for October. The trend estimate of the balance on merchandise trade recorded a deficit of \$126 million, up \$76 million on the deficit recorded in October. Merchandise exports fell 1 per cent, while merchandise imports rose 1 per cent.

In **seasonally adjusted terms**, the current account deficit for November increased \$116 million to \$1,923 million. The increase in the deficit was caused by an increase of \$389 million in the merchandise trade deficit (merchandise exports fell 5 per cent, while merchandise imports rose 1 per cent). These movements were partly offset by a turnaround of \$20 million, from a deficit to a surplus, in the net services balance; a decrease of \$234 million in the net income deficit; and an increase of \$19 million in the net unrequited transfers surplus.

GRAPH 1: BALANCE ON CURRENT ACCOUNT



ANALYSIS OF SELECTED MAJOR AGGREGATES

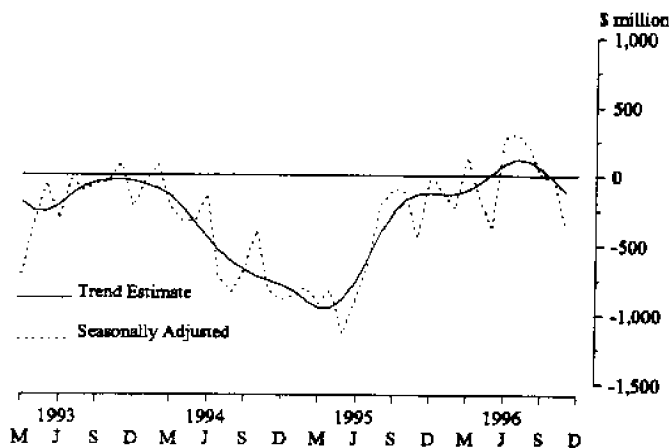
November 1996 compared with October 1996

Balance on goods and services

The **provisional trend estimate** of the *balance on goods and services* recorded a deficit of \$120 million in November, an increase of \$90 million on the deficit recorded in October.

In **seasonally adjusted terms**, this balance recorded a deficit of \$380 million, an increase of \$369 million on the deficit recorded in October.

GRAPH 2: BALANCE ON GOODS AND SERVICES

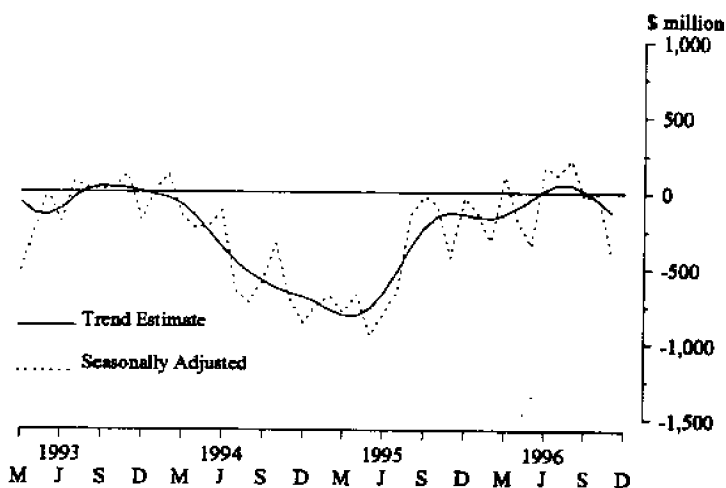


Balance on merchandise trade

The **provisional trend estimate** of the *balance on merchandise trade* recorded a deficit of \$126 million, an increase of \$76 million on the deficit recorded in October.

In **seasonally adjusted terms**, this balance recorded a deficit of \$394 million, an increase of \$389 million on the deficit recorded in October.

GRAPH 3: BALANCE ON MERCHANDISE TRADE

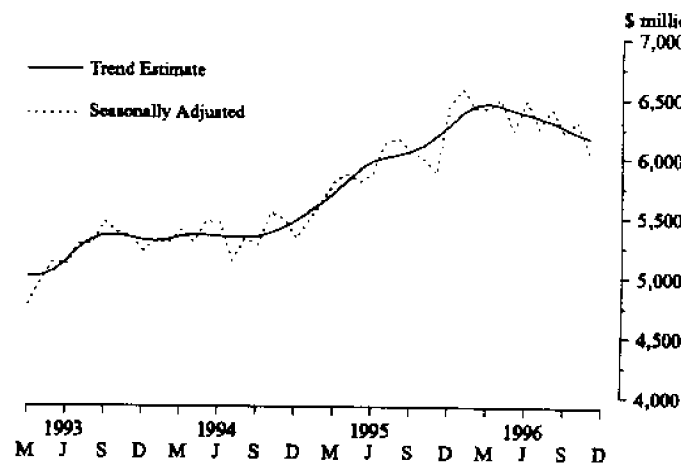


Merchandise exports

The **provisional trend estimate** of *merchandise exports* fell \$43 million, or 1 per cent, to \$6,169 million.

In **seasonally adjusted terms**, *exports* fell \$312 million, or 5 per cent, to \$6,006 million. *Rural exports* fell \$27 million, or 2 per cent, to \$1,710 million. *Non-rural exports* fell \$285 million, or 6 per cent, to \$4,296 million.

GRAPH 4: MERCHANDISE - EXPORTS FOB



In **original terms**, *exports* fell \$313 million, or 5 per cent, to \$6,300 million.

Rural exports, in original terms, fell \$94 million, or 5 per cent, to \$1,787 million. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- sugar, down \$83 million or 35 per cent (due mainly to decreased volumes of cane sugar exports); and
- cereals, down \$34 million or 9 per cent.

These decreases were partly offset by an increase in meat, up \$22 million or 9 per cent (due mainly to increased exports of beef and veal).

Non-rural exports, in original terms, fell \$219 million, or 5 per cent, to \$4,513 million. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- gold, down \$121 million or 25 per cent (due mainly to decreased volumes of exports);
- "other" non-rural exports, down \$45 million or 22 per cent;
- metal ores and minerals, down \$40 million or 5 per cent; and
- "other" mineral fuels, down \$35 million or 8 per cent.

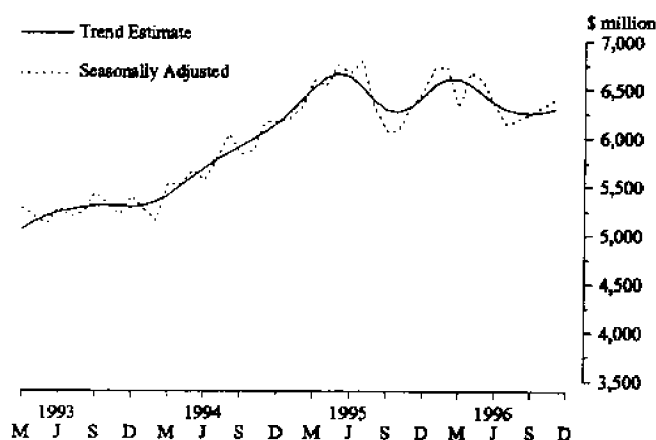
The largest increases were recorded in "other" manufactures, up \$22 million or 3 per cent; and "other" metals, up \$21 million or 5 per cent.

Merchandise imports

The provisional trend estimate of merchandise imports rose \$33 million, or 1 per cent, to \$6,295 million.

In seasonally adjusted terms, merchandise imports for November rose \$77 million, or 1 per cent, to \$6,400 million. Consumption goods rose \$32 million, or 2 per cent, to \$1,740 million. Capital goods rose \$87 million, or 6 per cent, to \$1,487 million. Intermediate and other goods fell \$42 million, or 1 per cent, to \$3,173 million.

GRAPH 5: MERCHANDISE - IMPORTS FOB



In original terms, imports fell \$530 million, or 7 per cent, to \$6,640 million.

Imports of consumption goods, in original terms, fell \$196 million, or 9 per cent, to \$1,884 million. Falls were recorded in all groups except household electrical items, which rose \$5 million or 2 per cent. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- non-industrial transport equipment, down \$71 million or 15 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of passenger motor cars);
- food and beverages, mainly for consumption, down \$41 million or 14 per cent (with most components recording decreases);
- toys, books and leisure goods, down \$38 million or 14 per cent; and
- consumption goods nes, down \$34 million or 6 per cent.

Imports of capital goods, in original terms, fell \$21 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1,575 million. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- machinery and industrial equipment, down \$54 million or 8 per cent (with most components recording decreases); and

- capital goods nes, down \$17 million or 8 per cent.

These decreases were largely offset by civil aircraft, up \$63 million or 103 per cent (which includes the import of an Ansett aircraft valued at \$57 million and a Qantas aircraft valued at \$38 million).

Imports of intermediate and other goods, in original terms, fell \$313 million, or 9 per cent, to \$3,181 million. Decreases were recorded in 12 of the 14 groups, with the largest being:

- fuels and lubricants, down \$134 million or 24 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of crude petroleum);
- organic and inorganic chemicals, down \$57 million or 22 per cent (with most components recording decreases); and
- processed industrial supplies nes, down \$44 million or 6 per cent.

The largest increase was recorded in iron and steel, up \$20 million or 20 per cent.

Net services

The seasonally adjusted net services balance recorded a surplus of \$14 million, a turnaround of \$20 million on the deficit recorded in October. Services credits fell \$22 million (1 per cent), while services debits fell \$42 million (2 per cent).

Net income

The seasonally adjusted net income deficit fell \$234 million, or 12 per cent, to \$1,676 million. Income credits rose \$22 million or 3 per cent, while income debits fell \$212 million or 8 per cent. It should be noted that the monthly estimates of the non-official sector for July through November 1996 are based largely on extrapolations of quarterly results divided by three. These extrapolations will be replaced by preliminary results from the ABS Survey of International Investment when these results become available.

Net unrequited transfers

The seasonally adjusted net unrequited transfers surplus rose \$19 million, or 17 per cent, to \$133 million. Unrequited transfers credits fell \$6 million, or 2 per cent. Unrequited transfers debits fell \$25 million, or 13 per cent.

Net capital transactions

In original terms, general government borrowing domiciled abroad recorded a net outflow of \$199 million in November, a decrease of \$163 million on the net outflow recorded in October. This decrease was mainly due to a \$221 million decrease in repayments of State government borrowings. Partly offsetting this movement was a \$59

million increase in repayments of Commonwealth government borrowings.

Reserve Bank transactions in November recorded a net outflow of \$71 million, a turnaround of \$1,307 million on the net inflow recorded in October. Transactions in November mainly reflected net purchases of reserve assets of \$91 million, a turnaround of \$1,419 million on the net sales recorded in the previous month.

Exchange rates

Using period average exchange rates, the \$A showed no change on a trade weighted basis during November against the currencies of Australia's major trading partners. The \$A appreciated by 0.5 per cent against the Japanese yen and appreciated by 0.5 per cent against the \$US.

Five months ended November 1996 compared with five months ended November 1995

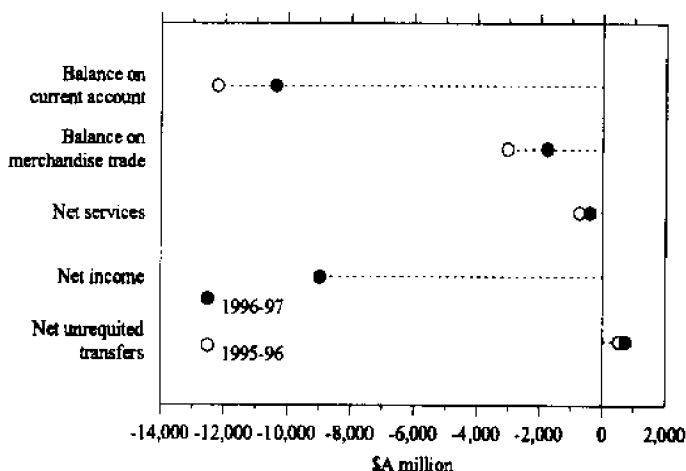
In original terms, the current account deficit for the five months ended November 1996 was \$10,376 million, down \$1,838 million, or 15 per cent, on the deficit for the five months ended November 1995.

This result reflected:

- a decrease of \$1,257 million (41 per cent) in the merchandise trade deficit;
- a decrease of \$357 million (48 per cent) in the net services deficit; and
- an increase of \$234 million (44 per cent) in the net unrequited transfers surplus.

An increase of \$10 million in the net income deficit partly offset the movements in merchandise trade, services and unrequited transfers.

GRAPH 6: BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AGGREGATES - FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER

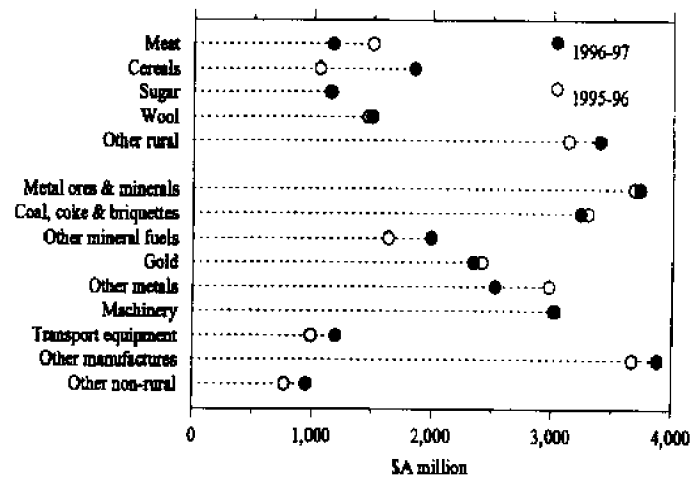


Merchandise exports rose \$1,158 million, or 4 per cent, to \$31,918 million. *Rural exports* rose \$748 million (9 per cent); and *non-rural exports* rose \$410 million (2 per cent). The largest increases were recorded in:

- cereals, up \$799 million (76 per cent);
- "other" mineral fuels, up \$360 million (22 per cent);
- "other" rural exports, up \$261 million (8 per cent);
- transport equipment, up \$211 million (21 per cent); and
- "other" manufactures, up \$208 million (6 per cent).

The most significant decreases were recorded in "other" metals, down \$451 million (15 per cent); and meat, down \$334 million (22 per cent).

GRAPH 7: MERCHANDISE EXPORTS - FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER

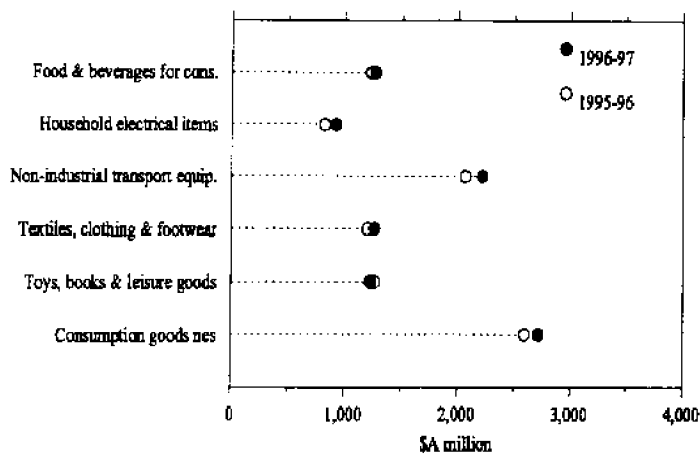


Merchandise imports fell \$99 million to \$33,693 million. *Consumption goods* rose \$437 million (5 per cent); *capital goods* fell \$257 million (3 per cent); and *intermediate and other goods* fell \$279 million (2 per cent). The largest decreases were recorded in:

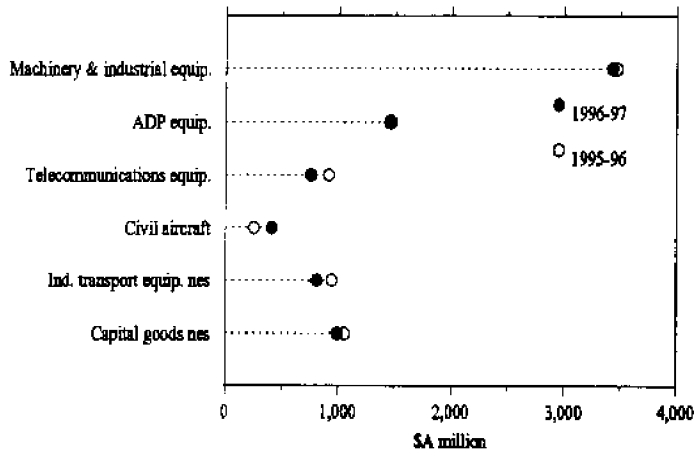
- telecommunications equipment, down \$156 million (17 per cent);
- paper and paperboard, down \$152 million (17 per cent);
- industrial transport equipment nes, down \$136 million (14 per cent);
- iron and steel, down \$95 million (15 per cent);
- parts for ADP equipment, down \$94 million (12 per cent); and
- plastics, down \$91 million (12 per cent).

The most significant increases were recorded in fuels and lubricants, up \$357 million (23 per cent); civil aircraft, up \$160 million (63 per cent); non-industrial transport equipment, up \$151 million (7 per cent); and consumption goods nes, up \$123 million (5 per cent).

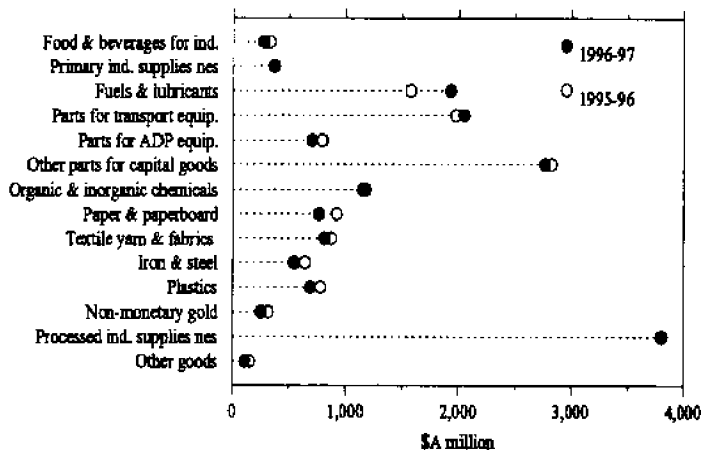
GRAPH 8: MERCHANDISE IMPORTS - CONSUMPTION GOODS
FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER



GRAPH 9: MERCHANDISE IMPORTS - CAPITAL GOODS
FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER



GRAPH 10: MERCHANDISE IMPORTS - INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER GOODS
FIVE MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER



The *net services* deficit fell \$357 million, or 48 per cent, to \$390 million. Services credits rose \$663 million, or 8 per cent, due mainly to increases of \$631 million in travel credits and \$208 million in "other" services credits. Services debits rose \$306 million, or 3 per cent, due mainly to increases of \$284 million in travel debits and \$130 million in "other" services debits.

The *net income* deficit rose \$10 million to \$8,972 million. Income credits rose \$258 million, or 8 per cent, due mainly to an increase in dividends receivable. Income debits rose \$269 million, or 2 per cent, largely reflecting both increased interest and dividends payable abroad.

The *net unrequited transfers* surplus rose \$234 million, or 44 per cent, to \$761 million. Unrequited transfers credits rose \$96 million, or 6 per cent, due mainly to an increase in migrants' transfers. Unrequited transfers debits fell \$138 million or 13 per cent.

General government borrowing domiciled abroad for the five months ended November 1996 yielded a net outflow of \$401 million, compared with a net inflow of \$1,869 million for the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The estimate for the latest period consisted of:

- a net outflow of \$317 million in State government borrowing domiciled abroad, a turnaround of \$2,660 million on the net inflow for the five months to November 1995; and
- a net outflow of \$84 million in Commonwealth government borrowing domiciled abroad, a decrease of \$390 million on the net outflow for the five months to November 1995.

Reserve Bank transactions recorded a net outflow of \$1,726 million, an increase of \$859 million on the net outflow recorded for the five months to November 1995. An increase in net purchases of official reserve assets was the main factor underlying the movement.

REVISIONS

Revisions since the last issue of this publication have reduced the current account deficit for 1995-96 by \$2 million and increased the current account deficit for the first four months of this financial year by \$7 million.

The major factors contributing to these revisions are:

- incorporation of the latest available data on merchandise imports and exports. Merchandise imports was the sole contributor to the revisions to the current account deficit for 1995-96;
- incorporation of the latest available information from the Survey of International Trade in Services which has affected services credits and debits; and

- incorporation of the latest available information on overseas arrivals and departures which has affected credits and debits for services, labour income credits and unrequited transfers.

Revisions to the capital account estimates for the first four months of this financial year are due to the incorporation of the latest available information from the Survey of International Investment.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Difficulties are currently being experienced with the quality of the monthly information provided to the ABS in regard to non-resident holdings of general government securities domiciled in Australia. Until the issue is resolved monthly data

for the net capital transactions of *general government borrowing domiciled in Australia* are not available from October 1996. This affects the availability of the separately identified series for these transactions in Table 6, together with the aggregates in Table 1 and/or Table 6 for *total general government borrowing*, *total general government capital transactions*, and *total official sector capital transactions*. As a consequence, the total for *non-official capital transactions plus balancing item* (derived as the residual of the current account balance and official sector capital transactions) can no longer be derived.

Quarterly series for the net capital transactions of *general government borrowing domiciled in Australia* are expected to continue to be available.

Expected release dates for forthcoming issues

| Issue | Date |
|---------------|-----------------|
| December 1996 | 31 January 1997 |
| Future issues | Under review |

A discussion of the review of the future of monthly balance of payments statistics, and an invitation to contribute to the process, are provided in the ABS publication *Information Paper: Do We Need Monthly Balance of Payment Statistics?* (catalogue no. 5366.0). The Information Paper has been issued on a complimentary basis with this issue of 5301.0. If you do not subscribe to, or have not otherwise purchased or received a copy of the November 1996 issues of 5301.0 and wish to receive a copy of the Information Paper, please contact Wendy Raedt on Canberra (06) 252 6689.

The date for the December 1996 issue can be confirmed a few days prior to release by telephoning Canberra (06) 252 6627.

RELIABILITY OF CONTEMPORARY TREND ESTIMATES

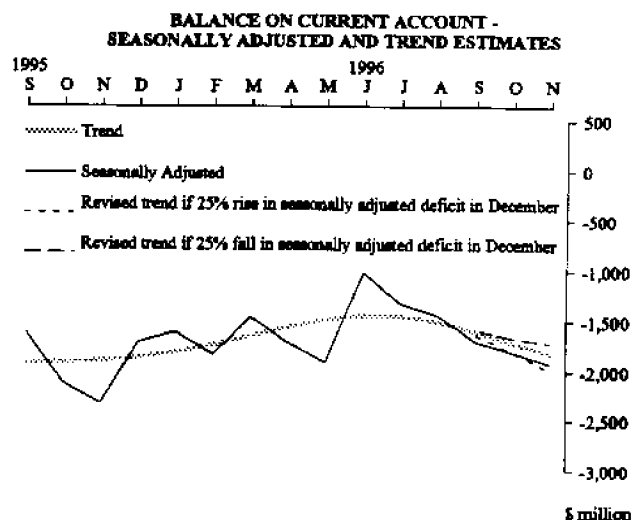
The table below presents trend estimates of the deficit on current account from September 1995 onwards, including provisional trend estimates for the latest three months (September, October and November 1996).

To illustrate the possible impact of future months' observations on the provisional trend estimates for the latest three months, the table also shows the revisions to these trend estimates that would result if the seasonally adjusted estimate of the current account balance next month (December 1996) is 25 per cent higher or lower than this month and if there are no revisions to the current or previous months' estimates. The 25 per cent range has been chosen because in the last decade the average monthly percentage movement, without regard to sign, of the seasonally adjusted current account deficit has been about 25 per cent.

If the seasonally adjusted deficit were to increase in December by 25 per cent, to \$2,404 million, the provisional trend movement for that month would be 9.9 per cent. The movements in the trend estimates for September, October and November which are provisionally 6.4 per cent, 6.7 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively, would be revised to 9.3 per cent, 10.7 per cent and 9.8 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, a 25 per cent decline in the seasonally adjusted deficit

next month, to \$1,442 million, would produce a movement of 3.6 per cent in the trend estimate for December, with the movements in the trend estimates for September, October and November being revised to 5.2 per cent, 4.8 per cent and 3.1 per cent, respectively.

The graph below illustrates this potential degree of revision at the current end of the trend series.



DEFICIT ON CURRENT ACCOUNT — RELIABILITY OF TREND ESTIMATES

| | Trend estimate | | Revised trend estimate if December 1996 seasonally adjusted current account deficit - | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|------|
| | \$m | % change on previous month | is up 25% on November 1996 (a) | | is down 25% on November 1996 (a) | | | |
| | | | \$m | % change on previous month | \$m | % change on previous month | | |
| 1995-96 — | | | | | | | | |
| September | -1932 | -2.2 | -1932 | -2.2 | -1932 | -2.2 | -1932 | -2.2 |
| October | -1916 | -0.8 | -1916 | -0.8 | -1916 | -0.8 | -1916 | -0.8 |
| November | -1894 | -1.1 | -1894 | -1.1 | -1894 | -1.1 | -1894 | -1.1 |
| December | -1867 | -1.4 | -1867 | -1.4 | -1867 | -1.4 | -1867 | -1.4 |
| January | -1814 | -2.8 | -1814 | -2.8 | -1814 | -2.8 | -1814 | -2.8 |
| February | -1738 | -4.2 | -1738 | -4.2 | -1738 | -4.2 | -1738 | -4.2 |
| March | -1644 | -5.4 | -1644 | -5.4 | -1644 | -5.4 | -1644 | -5.4 |
| April | -1557 | -5.3 | -1557 | -5.3 | -1557 | -5.3 | -1557 | -5.3 |
| May | -1488 | -4.5 | -1488 | -4.5 | -1488 | -4.5 | -1488 | -4.5 |
| June | -1446 | -2.8 | -1432 | -3.8 | -1450 | -2.6 | | |
| 1996-97 — | | | | | | | | |
| July | -1447 | 0.1 | -1422 | -0.7 | -1455 | 0.3 | | |
| August | -1507 | 4.1 | -1494 | 5.1 | -1511 | 3.8 | | |
| September | -1603 p | 6.4 | -1633 | 9.3 | -1590 | 5.2 | | |
| October | -1710 p | 6.7 | -1808 | 10.7 | -1666 | 4.8 | | |
| November | -1818 p | 6.3 | -1986 | 9.8 | -1717 | 3.1 | | |
| December | | | -2183 | 9.9 | -1778 | 3.6 | | |

(a) Assumes no revisions to the seasonally adjusted estimates of the current account balance for the 15 months September 1995 to November 1996.

TABLE 1. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
(\$ million)

| | Years | | | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | July to Nov. | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | |
| Current transactions — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Goods and services — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Merchandise (a) — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Exports fob | 63,822 | 66,446 | 75,305 | 6,230 | 6,258 | 5,959 | 6,788 | 5,915 | 5,850 | 6,865 | 6,190 | 6,642 | 6,295 | 6,485 | 6,340 | 6,180 | 6,613 | 6,300 | 30,760 | 6,300 | 30,760 | 31,918 |
| Imports fob | -64,411 | -74,715 | -77,092 | -6,115 | -6,701 | -6,832 | -5,941 | -6,454 | -6,262 | -6,099 | -6,310 | -6,664 | -5,570 | -6,945 | -6,550 | -6,388 | -7,170 | -6,640 | -33,792 | -6,640 | -33,792 | -33,693 |
| Balance on merchandise trade | -989 | -8,269 | -1,787 | 115 | -443 | -873 | 847 | -539 | -412 | 766 | -120 | -22 | 725 | -460 | -210 | -208 | -557 | -340 | -3,032 | -340 | -3,032 | -1,775 |
| Services — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Credits | 18,539 | 20,056 | 22,517 | 1,578 | 1,815 | 1,838 | 1,938 | 2,169 | 2,343 | 1,994 | 1,855 | 1,661 | 1,775 | 2,095 | 1,764 | 1,681 | 1,957 | 1,948 | 8,782 | 1,948 | 8,782 | 9,445 |
| Debits | -19,499 | -21,433 | -22,424 | -1,984 | -1,887 | -1,808 | -1,820 | -1,956 | -1,687 | -1,836 | -1,835 | -1,850 | -1,911 | -2,020 | -1,918 | -2,024 | -2,017 | -1,856 | -9,529 | -1,856 | -9,529 | -9,835 |
| Net services | -960 | -1,377 | 93 | -406 | -72 | 30 | 118 | 213 | 656 | 158 | 20 | -189 | -136 | 75 | -154 | -343 | -60 | 92 | -747 | 92 | -747 | -390 |
| Balance on goods and services | -1,549 | -9,646 | -1,694 | -291 | -515 | -843 | 965 | -326 | 244 | 924 | -100 | -211 | 589 | -385 | -364 | -551 | -617 | -248 | -3,779 | -248 | -3,779 | -2,165 |
| Income — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Credits | 5,818 | 6,934 | 7,348 | 690 | 552 | 562 | 549 | 661 | 616 | 588 | 597 | 596 | 602 | 666 | 642 | 672 | 703 | 714 | 3,137 | 714 | 3,137 | 3,396 |
| Debits | -21,074 | -25,911 | -27,794 | -2,315 | -2,702 | -2,577 | -2,338 | -2,379 | -2,342 | -2,277 | -2,175 | -2,189 | -2,045 | -2,480 | -2,384 | -2,446 | -2,618 | -2,440 | -12,099 | -2,440 | -12,099 | -12,368 |
| Net income | -15,256 | -18,978 | -20,446 | -1,625 | -2,150 | -2,015 | -1,789 | -1,668 | -1,726 | -1,689 | -1,578 | -1,594 | -1,443 | -1,814 | -1,742 | -1,774 | -1,916 | -1,726 | -8,962 | -1,726 | -8,962 | -8,972 |
| Unrequited transfers — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Credits | 2,802 | 3,246 | 3,976 | 282 | 309 | 303 | 327 | 417 | 437 | 298 | 326 | 264 | 322 | 451 | 331 | 281 | 316 | 302 | 1,585 | 302 | 1,585 | 1,681 |
| Debits | -2,624 | -2,722 | -2,767 | -197 | -187 | -234 | -249 | -261 | -210 | -214 | -202 | -227 | -346 | -203 | -187 | -190 | -169 | -171 | -1,058 | -171 | -1,058 | -920 |
| Net unrequited transfers | 178 | 524 | 1,209 | 85 | 122 | 69 | 78 | 156 | 227 | 84 | 124 | 37 | -24 | 248 | 144 | 91 | 147 | 131 | 527 | 131 | 527 | 761 |
| Balance on current account | -16,627 | -28,100 | -20,931 | -1,831 | -2,543 | -2,789 | -746 | -1,838 | -1,255 | -681 | -1,554 | -1,768 | -877 | -1,951 | -1,962 | -2,234 | -2,386 | -1,843 | -12,214 | -1,843 | -12,214 | -10,376 |
| Net capital transactions — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Official — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General government | 6,582 | 10,159 | 2,624 | -271 | 1,916 | 2 | 389 | -2,901 | 1,493 | 1,822 | -3,235 | 1,237 | 1,095 | 1,600 | -1,442 | -364 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 2,724 | n.y.a. | 2,724 | n.y.a. |
| Reserve Bank — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reserve assets | -1,037 | 1,971 | -817 | 226 | -49 | -1,151 | -98 | 592 | 554 | 256 | 67 | -272 | -1,076 | -4,722 | 2,225 | -469 | 1,328 | -91 | -890 | -1,328 | -890 | -1,729 |
| Other | -49 | 23 | -16 | -32 | -13 | 9 | 5 | -12 | -12 | -32 | 19 | -17 | 10 | -50 | 53 | 72 | -92 | 20 | 23 | -92 | 20 | 23 |
| Total | -1,086 | 1,994 | -833 | 194 | -62 | -1,142 | -93 | 580 | 542 | 224 | 86 | -289 | -1,016 | -4,772 | 2,278 | -397 | 1,236 | -71 | -867 | -1,236 | -867 | -1,726 |
| Total official | 5,496 | 12,153 | 1,791 | -77 | 1,854 | -1,140 | 296 | -2,321 | 2,035 | 2,046 | -3,149 | 948 | 79 | -3,172 | 836 | -761 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 1,857 | n.y.a. | 1,857 | n.y.a. |
| Non-official plus balancing item | 11,131 | 15,947 | 19,140 | 1,908 | 689 | 3,929 | 450 | 4,158 | -781 | -1,365 | 4,703 | 819 | 799 | 5,123 | 1,126 | 2,996 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 10,357 | n.y.a. | 10,357 | n.y.a. |
| Balance on capital account plus balancing item | 16,627 | 28,100 | 20,931 | 1,831 | 2,543 | 2,789 | 746 | 1,838 | 1,255 | 681 | 1,554 | 1,768 | 877 | 1,951 | 1,962 | 2,234 | 2,386 | 1,843 | 12,214 | 1,843 | 12,214 | 10,376 |

(a) Balance of payments basis.

TABLE 2. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS—CURRENT ACCOUNT—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES (a)
(\$ million)

| | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. |
| Seasonally Adjusted (b) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Goods and services—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Merchandise—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Exports fob—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rural | 1,718 | 1,572 | 1,595 | 1,945 | 2,053 | 1,865 | 1,772 | 1,856 | 1,776 | 1,843 | 1,777 | 1,956 | 1,799 | 1,737 | 1,710 |
| Non-rural | 4,332 | 4,423 | 4,276 | 4,499 | 4,530 | 4,552 | 4,648 | 4,645 | 4,454 | 4,646 | 4,481 | 4,462 | 4,410 | 4,581 | 4,296 |
| Total | 6,050 | 5,995 | 5,871 | 6,444 | 6,583 | 6,417 | 6,420 | 6,501 | 6,230 | 6,489 | 6,258 | 6,418 | 6,209 | 6,318 | 6,006 |
| <i>Imports fob—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Consumption goods | -1,622 | -1,570 | -1,656 | -1,729 | -1,603 | -1,687 | -1,532 | -1,662 | -1,717 | -1,657 | -1,680 | -1,813 | -1,728 | -1,708 | -1,740 |
| Capital goods | -1,399 | -1,452 | -1,533 | -1,478 | -1,761 | -1,835 | -1,660 | -1,732 | -1,764 | -1,625 | -1,386 | -1,439 | -1,508 | -1,400 | -1,487 |
| Intermediate and other goods | -3,051 | -3,056 | -3,109 | -3,266 | -3,353 | -3,214 | -3,113 | -3,286 | -3,098 | -3,037 | -3,072 | -2,947 | -3,005 | -3,215 | -3,173 |
| Total | -6,072 | -6,078 | -6,298 | -6,473 | -6,717 | -6,736 | -6,305 | -6,680 | -6,579 | -6,319 | -6,138 | -6,199 | -6,241 | -6,323 | -6,400 |
| <i>Balance on merchandise trade</i> | -22 | -83 | -427 | -29 | -134 | -319 | 115 | -179 | -349 | 170 | 120 | 219 | -32 | -5 | -394 |
| <i>Services—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Credits</i> | 1,798 | 1,792 | 1,810 | 1,851 | 1,919 | 1,919 | 1,979 | 1,933 | 1,847 | 1,999 | 2,052 | 1,897 | 1,905 | 1,941 | 1,919 |
| <i>Debits</i> | -1,873 | -1,829 | -1,830 | -1,811 | -1,901 | -1,839 | -1,955 | -1,908 | -1,888 | -1,889 | -1,861 | -1,904 | -1,892 | -1,947 | -1,905 |
| <i>Net services</i> | -75 | -37 | -20 | 40 | 18 | 80 | 24 | 25 | -41 | 110 | 191 | -7 | 13 | -6 | 14 |
| <i>Balance on goods and services</i> | -97 | -120 | -447 | 11 | -116 | -239 | 139 | -154 | -390 | 280 | 311 | 212 | -19 | -11 | -380 |
| <i>Income—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Credits</i> | 679 | 551 | 570 | 552 | 661 | 628 | 598 | 597 | 597 | 598 | 652 | 637 | 657 | 703 | 725 |
| <i>Debits</i> | -2,273 | -2,645 | -2,526 | -2,346 | -2,304 | -2,432 | -2,277 | -2,244 | -2,179 | -2,015 | -2,507 | -2,384 | -2,415 | -2,613 | -2,401 |
| <i>Net income</i> | -1,594 | -2,094 | -1,956 | -1,794 | -1,643 | -1,804 | -1,679 | -1,647 | -1,582 | -1,417 | -1,855 | -1,747 | -1,758 | -1,910 | -1,676 |
| <i>Unrequited transfers—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Credits</i> | 306 | 308 | 307 | 325 | 380 | 408 | 309 | 314 | 289 | 346 | 421 | 322 | 309 | 312 | 306 |
| <i>Debits</i> | -241 | -219 | -237 | -255 | -230 | -200 | -231 | -224 | -227 | -224 | -201 | -235 | -233 | -198 | -173 |
| <i>Net unrequited transfers</i> | 65 | 89 | 70 | 70 | 150 | 208 | 78 | 90 | 62 | 122 | 220 | 87 | 76 | 114 | 133 |
| <i>Balance on current account</i> | -1,626 | -2,125 | -2,333 | -1,713 | -1,609 | -1,835 | -1,462 | -1,711 | -1,910 | -1,015 | -1,324 | -1,448 | -1,701 | -1,807 | -1,923 |
| Trend Estimates | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Merchandise—</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Exports fob</i> | 6,054 | 6,105 | 6,184 | 6,278 | 6,374 | 6,441 | 6,462 | 6,440 | 6,403 | 6,370 | 6,345 | 6,309 | 6,263p | 6,212p | 6,169p |
| <i>Imports fob</i> | -6,284 | -6,260 | -6,312 | -6,419 | -6,534 | -6,607 | -6,606 | -6,541 | -6,444 | -6,351 | -6,289 | -6,258 | -6,252p | -6,262p | -6,295p |
| <i>Balance on merchandise trade</i> | -230 | -155 | -128 | -141 | -160 | -166 | -144 | -101 | -41 | 19 | 56 | 51 | 11p | -50p | -126p |
| <i>Balance on goods and services</i> | -267 | -177 | -133 | -128 | -136 | -134 | -107 | -56 | 14 | 81 | 118 | 104 | 49p | -30p | -120p |
| <i>Balance on current account</i> | -1,932 | -1,916 | -1,894 | -1,867 | -1,814 | -1,738 | -1,644 | -1,557 | -1,488 | -1,446 | -1,447 | -1,507 | -1,603p | -1,710p | -1,818p |

(a) Balance of payments basis. (b) For forward seasonal factors see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 3. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS — CURRENT ACCOUNT — MERCHANDISE EXPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS)
(\$ million)

| | Years | | | | | | | | | | | | Months | | | | | July to Nov. | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | 1993-94 | | | 1994-95 | | | 1995-96 | | | 1996-97 | | | 1995-96 | | 1996-97 | | | | |
| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | |
| <i>Rural exports fob (a) —</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Meat & meat preparations | 4,043 | 3,654 | 3,290 | 293 | 305 | 308 | 319 | 208 | 244 | 318 | 241 | 244 | 217 | 226 | 211 | 208 | 249 | 271 | 1,499 |
| Cereal grains & cereal preparations | 3,205 | 2,523 | 4,926 | 194 | 223 | 282 | 537 | 600 | 603 | 600 | 537 | 567 | 430 | 378 | 389 | 356 | 381 | 347 | 1,052 |
| Sugar, sugar preparations & honey | 1,315 | 1,730 | 1,711 | 249 | 244 | 188 | 152 | 122 | 43 | 56 | 84 | 41 | 57 | 267 | 289 | 201 | 235 | 152 | 1,156 |
| Wool & sheepskins | 3,369 | 4,216 | 3,606 | 287 | 327 | 309 | 368 | 265 | 277 | 345 | 298 | 278 | 313 | 260 | 250 | 281 | 347 | 358 | 1,462 |
| Other rural | 6,513 | 6,922 | 7,757 | 619 | 601 | 578 | 660 | 593 | 554 | 630 | 677 | 768 | 743 | 692 | 697 | 676 | 669 | 659 | 3,132 |
| Total rural | 18,445 | 19,045 | 21,290 | 1,642 | 1,700 | 1,665 | 2,036 | 1,788 | 1,721 | 1,949 | 1,837 | 1,898 | 1,760 | 1,823 | 1,836 | 1,722 | 1,881 | 1,787 | 8,301 |
| <i>Non-rural exports fob (a) —</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Metal ores & minerals | 7,671 | 7,968 | 9,099 | 664 | 725 | 738 | 819 | 724 | 654 | 874 | 699 | 761 | 888 | 689 | 826 | 716 | 769 | 729 | 3,680 |
| Coal, coke & briquettes | 7,253 | 6,936 | 7,843 | 620 | 681 | 638 | 634 | 641 | 603 | 698 | 645 | 713 | 613 | 609 | 648 | 642 | 675 | 660 | 3,296 |
| Other mineral fuels | 3,351 | 3,794 | 4,171 | 341 | 307 | 299 | 407 | 360 | 342 | 330 | 385 | 338 | 378 | 426 | 344 | 356 | 450 | 415 | 1,631 |
| Gold | 5,521 | 4,907 | 5,697 | 574 | 582 | 438 | 391 | 580 | 449 | 387 | 501 | 533 | 440 | 641 | 425 | 431 | 485 | 364 | 2,416 |
| Other metals | 5,396 | 6,097 | 6,802 | 607 | 598 | 516 | 584 | 518 | 514 | 585 | 528 | 570 | 528 | 515 | 512 | 544 | 466 | 487 | 2,346 |
| Machinery | 5,293 | 6,035 | 7,131 | 618 | 576 | 644 | 703 | 440 | 525 | 715 | 521 | 606 | 595 | 624 | 605 | 583 | 591 | 608 | 3,026 |
| Transport equipment | 2,087 | 2,047 | 2,490 | 205 | 214 | 157 | 256 | 135 | 162 | 329 | 172 | 248 | 199 | 211 | 181 | 189 | 321 | 298 | 989 |
| Other manufactures | 6,966 | 7,907 | 8,740 | 780 | 704 | 724 | 768 | 588 | 702 | 796 | 699 | 782 | 732 | 740 | 774 | 797 | 774 | 796 | 3,881 |
| Other non-rural | 1,839 | 1,710 | 2,042 | 179 | 171 | 140 | 190 | 141 | 178 | 202 | 203 | 193 | 162 | 207 | 189 | 200 | 201 | 156 | 773 |
| Total non-rural | 45,377 | 47,401 | 54,015 | 4,588 | 4,558 | 4,294 | 4,752 | 4,127 | 4,129 | 4,916 | 4,353 | 4,744 | 4,535 | 4,662 | 4,504 | 4,458 | 4,732 | 4,513 | 22,459 |
| Total exports fob | 63,822 | 66,446 | 75,305 | 6,230 | 6,258 | 5,959 | 6,788 | 5,915 | 5,850 | 6,865 | 6,190 | 6,642 | 6,295 | 6,485 | 6,340 | 6,180 | 6,613 | 6,300 | 30,760 |

(a) Definitions of the component series are given in ABS Catalogue No. 5302.0.

TABLE 4. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS — CURRENT ACCOUNT — MERCHANDISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS)
(\$ million)

| | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | July to Nov. | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| | Years | | | 1995-96 | | | | | | 1996-97 | | | | | | | | | |
| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. |
| <i>Consumption goods fob (a)</i> — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food and beverages, mainly for consumption | -2,430 | -2,592 | -2,760 | -230 | -255 | -263 | -242 | -252 | -215 | -203 | -209 | -220 | -193 | -263 | -255 | -225 | -283 | -242 | -1,226 |
| Household electrical items | -1,436 | -1,744 | -1,766 | -138 | -179 | -178 | -139 | -129 | -129 | -137 | -147 | -151 | -124 | -170 | -159 | -177 | -203 | -208 | -819 |
| Non-industrial transport equipment | 3,800 | 4,758 | 4,436 | 346 | 422 | 403 | 375 | 277 | 325 | 295 | 368 | 411 | 319 | 435 | 498 | 389 | 483 | 412 | 2,066 |
| Textiles, clothing and footwear | -2,320 | -2,566 | -2,726 | -220 | -212 | -229 | -190 | -261 | -293 | -225 | -207 | -194 | -155 | -284 | -265 | -244 | -244 | -227 | -1,201 |
| Toys, books and leisure goods | -2,496 | -2,545 | -2,535 | -252 | -260 | -256 | -185 | -190 | -191 | -170 | -173 | -192 | -168 | -243 | -223 | -250 | -274 | -236 | -1,264 |
| Consumption goods nes | -4,751 | -5,213 | -5,638 | -486 | -529 | -539 | -450 | -430 | -432 | -422 | -449 | -473 | -386 | -542 | -510 | -515 | -593 | -559 | -2,226 |
| <i>Total consumption goods</i> | -17,233 | -19,418 | -19,861 | -1,672 | -1,837 | -1,868 | -1,581 | -1,530 | -1,385 | -1,452 | -1,553 | -1,641 | -1,345 | -1,937 | -1,910 | -1,800 | -2,080 | -1,884 | -9,174 |
| <i>Capital goods fob (a)</i> — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Machinery and industrial equipment | -6,414 | -7,897 | -8,316 | -615 | -723 | -726 | -687 | -738 | -710 | -651 | -667 | -716 | -674 | -700 | -707 | -650 | -715 | -661 | -3,473 |
| ADP equipment | -2,629 | -3,232 | -3,593 | -253 | -273 | -282 | -272 | -263 | -274 | -283 | -327 | -361 | -342 | -332 | -261 | -315 | -271 | -271 | -1,471 |
| Telecommunications equipment | -1,182 | -1,804 | -1,996 | -207 | -179 | -199 | -169 | -170 | -141 | -173 | -150 | -131 | -150 | -153 | -121 | -150 | -168 | -164 | -756 |
| Civil aircraft | -241 | -529 | -688 | -11 | -31 | -104 | -28 | -44 | -77 | -31 | -70 | -117 | -66 | -9 | -113 | -108 | -61 | -124 | -255 |
| Industrial transport equipment nes | -2,084 | -2,714 | -2,214 | -148 | -197 | -180 | -165 | -158 | -193 | -186 | -198 | -191 | -178 | -167 | -166 | -145 | -170 | -161 | -809 |
| Capital goods nes | -2,293 | -2,365 | -2,365 | -183 | -213 | -213 | -173 | -189 | -192 | -185 | -194 | -206 | -171 | -208 | -182 | -196 | -211 | -194 | -1,055 |
| <i>Total capital goods fob</i> | -14,843 | -18,341 | -19,172 | -1,417 | -1,616 | -1,704 | -1,494 | -1,562 | -1,587 | -1,509 | -1,606 | -1,722 | -1,581 | -1,569 | -1,550 | -1,564 | -1,596 | -1,575 | -8,111 |
| <i>Intermediate and other goods (a)</i> — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food and beverages, mainly for industry | -509 | -774 | -700 | -65 | -55 | -77 | -44 | -77 | -51 | -46 | -52 | -63 | -40 | -51 | -66 | -43 | -62 | -48 | -327 |
| Primary industrial supplies nes | -701 | -901 | -879 | -66 | -83 | -76 | -76 | -64 | -62 | -106 | -75 | -73 | -54 | -69 | -66 | -70 | -73 | -78 | -369 |
| Fuels and lubricants | -3,317 | -3,566 | -4,163 | -290 | -264 | -353 | -314 | -387 | -376 | -374 | -425 | -391 | -321 | -412 | -304 | -254 | -548 | -414 | -1,575 |
| Parts for transport equipment | 4,183 | 4,714 | 4,601 | 338 | 406 | 340 | 344 | 397 | 373 | 362 | 394 | 420 | 334 | 490 | 415 | 386 | 383 | 377 | 1,932 |
| Parts for ADP equipment | -1,681 | -1,858 | -1,857 | -155 | -161 | -161 | -137 | -160 | -157 | -162 | -156 | -154 | -137 | -160 | -133 | -136 | -136 | -135 | -794 |
| Other parts for capital goods | -5,047 | -5,975 | -6,389 | -509 | -563 | -580 | -471 | -539 | -525 | -526 | -490 | -558 | -454 | -565 | -535 | -526 | -581 | -558 | -2,826 |
| Organic and inorganic chemicals | -2,102 | -2,431 | -2,754 | -193 | -225 | -245 | -193 | -274 | -215 | -248 | -243 | -232 | -195 | -264 | -200 | -240 | -265 | -208 | -700 |
| Paper and paperboard | -1,465 | -1,794 | -1,868 | -172 | -195 | -173 | -151 | -162 | -147 | -115 | -141 | -131 | -103 | -151 | -151 | -149 | -168 | -147 | -1,177 |
| Textile yarn and fabrics | -1,869 | -2,036 | -1,922 | -154 | -167 | -172 | -137 | -167 | -151 | -142 | -141 | -172 | -143 | -182 | -158 | -162 | -159 | -151 | -766 |
| Iron and steel | -1,039 | -1,285 | -1,408 | -129 | -125 | -125 | -132 | -121 | -113 | -109 | -100 | -101 | -93 | -103 | -114 | -109 | -99 | -119 | -812 |
| Plastics | -1,375 | -1,646 | -1,685 | -146 | -158 | -149 | -129 | -151 | -131 | -128 | -124 | -133 | -111 | -145 | -135 | -134 | -146 | -127 | -544 |
| Non-monetary gold | -978 | -705 | -702 | -56 | -51 | -74 | -48 | -66 | -64 | -54 | -52 | -52 | -52 | -45 | -45 | -53 | -60 | -50 | -314 |
| Processed industrial supplies nes | -7,783 | -8,680 | -8,793 | -728 | -747 | -751 | -660 | -755 | -710 | -752 | -745 | -771 | -588 | -779 | -744 | -748 | -789 | -745 | -3,812 |
| Other goods | -286 | -391 | -338 | -25 | -28 | -14 | -30 | -42 | -15 | -14 | -13 | -50 | -19 | -23 | -24 | -14 | -25 | -24 | -155 |
| <i>Total intermediate and other goods</i> | -32,335 | -36,756 | -38,059 | -3,026 | -3,228 | -3,260 | -2,866 | -3,362 | -3,090 | -3,138 | -3,151 | -3,301 | -2,644 | -3,439 | -3,090 | -3,024 | -3,494 | -3,181 | -16,507 |
| <i>Total imports fob</i> | -64,411 | -74,715 | -77,092 | -6,115 | -6,701 | -6,832 | -5,941 | -6,454 | -6,262 | -6,099 | -6,310 | -6,664 | -5,570 | -6,945 | -6,550 | -6,388 | -7,170 | -6,640 | -33,792 |

(a) Definitions of the component series are given in the ABS Information Paper, *Change to Commodity Classification of Merchandise Imports in Balance of Payments Publications* (ABS Catalogue No. 5344.0).

TABLE 5. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS — CURRENT ACCOUNT — SERVICES, INCOME AND UNREQUITED TRANSFERS
(\$ million)

| | Years | | | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|---------|
| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 | | | | | |
| Services — | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | July to Nov. | |
| Credits — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipment | 1,487 | 1,533 | 1,641 | 143 | 143 | 143 | 145 | 132 | 133 | 133 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 113 | 111 | 111 | 120 | 120 | 714 | 575 |
| Other transportation (a) | 4,604 | 5,396 | 5,897 | 486 | 500 | 502 | 503 | 518 | 517 | 521 | 460 | 462 | 463 | 477 | 477 | 478 | 492 | 492 | 2,453 | 2,416 |
| Travel | 7,502 | 8,879 | 10,378 | 594 | 798 | 807 | 906 | 1,129 | 1,301 | 948 | 874 | 667 | 757 | 1,112 | 781 | 698 | 921 | 915 | 3,796 | 4,427 |
| Other services (a) | 4,946 | 4,248 | 4,601 | 355 | 374 | 386 | 384 | 390 | 392 | 392 | 394 | 404 | 426 | 393 | 395 | 394 | 424 | 421 | 1,819 | 2,027 |
| Total services credits | 18,539 | 20,056 | 22,517 | 1,578 | 1,815 | 1,838 | 1,938 | 2,169 | 2,343 | 1,994 | 1,855 | 1,661 | 1,775 | 2,095 | 1,764 | 1,681 | 1,957 | 1,948 | 8,782 | 9,445 |
| Debits — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Shipment | -3,854 | -4,384 | -4,429 | -352 | -380 | -417 | -340 | -358 | -357 | -380 | -379 | -387 | -302 | -388 | -377 | -350 | -417 | -375 | -1,926 | -1,907 |
| Other transportation (a) | -4,906 | -6,021 | -6,266 | -567 | -529 | -507 | -511 | -531 | -466 | -502 | -490 | -519 | -547 | -536 | -507 | -524 | -534 | -510 | -2,700 | -2,611 |
| Travel | -5,157 | -5,774 | -6,434 | -620 | -529 | -457 | -505 | -617 | -429 | -505 | -549 | -513 | -614 | -632 | -582 | -685 | -581 | -506 | -2,702 | -2,986 |
| Other services (a) | -5,582 | -5,254 | -5,295 | -445 | -449 | -427 | -464 | -450 | -435 | -449 | -417 | -431 | -448 | -464 | -452 | -465 | -485 | -465 | -2,201 | -2,331 |
| Total services debits | -19,499 | -21,433 | -22,424 | -1,984 | -1,887 | -1,808 | -1,820 | -1,956 | -1,687 | -1,836 | -1,835 | -1,850 | -1,911 | -2,020 | -1,918 | -2,024 | -2,017 | -1,856 | -9,529 | -9,835 |
| Net services | -960 | -1,377 | 93 | -406 | -72 | 30 | 118 | 213 | 656 | 158 | 20 | -189 | -136 | 75 | -154 | -343 | -60 | 92 | -747 | -390 |
| Income — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Credits — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Property income — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Investment income — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reinvested earnings (b) | 1,979 | 3,295 | 2,127 | 376 | 160 | 160 | 160 | 149 | 149 | 149 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 197 | 197 | 197 | 223 | 223 | 1,450 | 1,037 |
| Other | 2,952 | 2,656 | 4,176 | 212 | 306 | 322 | 305 | 422 | 390 | 356 | 491 | 490 | 490 | 367 | 349 | 370 | 378 | 399 | 1,863 | 1,863 |
| Other property income | 376 | 432 | 435 | 44 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 33 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 41 | 41 | 42 | 41 | 41 | 196 | 206 |
| Labour and other income | 511 | 551 | 610 | 57 | 54 | 47 | 51 | 56 | 43 | 50 | 48 | 47 | 54 | 61 | 55 | 63 | 60 | 51 | 261 | 290 |
| Total income credits | 5,818 | 6,934 | 7,348 | 690 | 532 | 562 | 549 | 661 | 616 | 598 | 597 | 596 | 602 | 666 | 642 | 672 | 703 | 714 | 3,137 | 3,396 |
| Debits — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Property income — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Investment income — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Official | -4,111 | -4,021 | -4,562 | -451 | -507 | -381 | -137 | -462 | -474 | -410 | -358 | -379 | -231 | -496 | -398 | -468 | -547 | -366 | -2,110 | -2,274 |
| Non-official | -3,570 | -6,256 | -5,805 | -623 | -520 | -520 | -520 | -571 | -571 | -571 | -221 | -221 | -221 | -221 | -221 | -221 | -221 | -221 | -2,909 | -2,533 |
| Reinvested earnings (b) | -11,350 | -13,486 | -15,007 | -1,045 | -1,474 | -1,474 | -1,474 | -1,091 | -1,091 | -1,091 | -1,391 | -1,391 | -1,391 | -1,222 | -1,222 | -1,222 | -1,426 | -1,426 | -6,085 | -6,518 |
| Other | -1,760 | -1,760 | -1,979 | -161 | -171 | -170 | -171 | -165 | -166 | -165 | -163 | -163 | -162 | -172 | -172 | -170 | -172 | -172 | -824 | -858 |
| Labour and other income | -283 | -389 | -441 | -34 | -30 | -32 | -36 | -40 | -40 | -39 | -41 | -35 | -39 | -40 | -42 | -36 | -32 | -34 | -171 | -184 |
| Total income debits | -21,074 | -25,911 | -27,794 | -2,315 | -2,702 | -2,577 | -2,338 | -2,329 | -2,342 | -2,277 | -2,175 | -2,189 | -2,045 | -2,480 | -2,384 | -2,446 | -2,618 | -2,440 | -12,099 | -12,368 |
| Net income | -15,256 | -18,978 | -20,446 | -1,625 | -2,150 | -2,015 | -1,789 | -1,668 | -1,726 | -1,689 | -1,578 | -1,594 | -1,442 | -1,814 | -1,742 | -1,774 | -1,916 | -1,726 | -8,962 | -8,972 |
| Unrequited transfers — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Credits | 2,802 | 3,246 | 3,976 | 282 | 309 | 303 | 327 | 417 | 437 | 298 | 376 | 264 | 322 | 451 | 331 | 281 | 316 | 302 | 1,585 | 1,681 |
| Debits — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Official | -1,583 | -1,591 | -1,572 | -108 | -101 | -135 | -127 | -146 | -112 | -111 | -106 | -135 | -248 | -98 | -83 | -94 | -78 | -67 | -587 | -420 |
| Non-official | -1,041 | -1,131 | -1,195 | -89 | -86 | -99 | -122 | -115 | -98 | -103 | -96 | -92 | -98 | -105 | -104 | -96 | -91 | -104 | -471 | -500 |
| Total | -2,624 | -2,722 | -2,767 | -197 | -187 | -234 | -249 | -261 | -210 | -214 | -202 | -227 | -346 | -203 | -187 | -190 | -169 | -171 | -1,058 | -920 |
| Net unrequited transfers | 178 | 524 | 1,209 | 85 | 122 | 69 | 78 | 156 | 227 | 84 | 124 | 37 | -24 | 248 | 144 | 91 | 147 | 131 | 527 | 761 |

(a) From July 1994, estimates of agency and advertising services provided to resident and non-resident transport operators are included in *Other transportation*. Prior to this they were included in *Other services*. (b) From July 1993, these series are collected on a quarterly basis and then divided by three. Prior to this they were collected annually and divided by twelve.

TABLE 7. OFFICIAL RESERVE ASSETS AND EXCHANGE RATES

| | Years | | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | | | | | |
| Official reserve assets (\$ millions) — | 20,661 | 20,185 | 19,059 | 18,659 | 18,671 | 19,934 | 20,068 | 19,375 | 17,820 | 17,888 | 19,059 | 24,664 | 21,807 | 21,920 | 20,549 | 20,096 | | | |
| Levels at end of period | -162 | -476 | -1,126 | 309 | 12 | 1,263 | 134 | -693 | -825 | -615 | -115 | 68 | 1,171 | 5,605 | -2,857 | 113 | -1,371 | -453 | |
| Changes in levels Of which — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Changes due to effects of revaluations | -1,199 | 1,495 | -1,943 | 535 | -37 | 112 | 36 | -101 | -271 | -359 | -48 | -204 | 145 | 883 | -632 | -356 | -43 | -544 | |
| Changes included in the balance of payments (a) | 1,037 | -1,971 | 817 | -226 | 49 | 1,151 | 98 | -592 | -554 | -256 | -67 | 272 | 1,026 | 4,722 | -2,225 | 469 | -1,328 | 91 | |
| Exchange rates (b) — Units of foreign currency per \$A — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| End of period (c) — | 0.7291 | 0.7086 | 0.7890 | 0.7550 | 0.7566 | 0.7469 | 0.7450 | 0.7447 | 0.7635 | 0.7793 | 0.7854 | 0.7983 | 0.7890 | 0.7731 | 0.7909 | 0.7924 | 0.7919 | 0.8107 | |
| United States dollar | 0.4721 | 0.4452 | 0.5099 | 0.4777 | 0.4800 | 0.4860 | 0.4814 | 0.4943 | 0.4982 | 0.5106 | 0.5206 | 0.5207 | 0.5099 | 0.4964 | 0.5077 | 0.5070 | 0.4849 | 0.4828 | |
| United Kingdom pound | 1.159 | 0.981 | 1.200 | 1.070 | 1.066 | 1.072 | 1.071 | 1.108 | 1.121 | 1.149 | 1.197 | 1.225 | 1.200 | 1.138 | 1.167 | 1.208 | 1.198 | 1.242 | |
| German mark | 72.20 | 60.08 | 86.48 | 74.22 | 76.98 | 75.83 | 76.66 | 79.88 | 79.85 | 83.00 | 81.88 | 86.36 | 86.48 | 83.05 | 85.70 | 88.09 | 90.10 | 92.02 | |
| Japanese yen | 0.5026 | 0.4539 | 0.5476 | 0.5024 | 0.5031 | 0.5020 | 0.5009 | 0.5121 | 0.5182 | 0.5345 | 0.5404 | 0.5519 | 0.5476 | 0.5290 | 0.5420 | 0.5494 | 0.5482 | 0.5598 | |
| Special drawing right | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Period average (d) — | 0.6919 | 0.7427 | 0.7593 | 0.7542 | 0.7580 | 0.7459 | 0.7416 | 0.7420 | 0.7555 | 0.7714 | 0.7868 | 0.7970 | 0.7915 | 0.7893 | 0.7830 | 0.7929 | 0.7918 | 0.7961 | |
| United States dollar | 0.4623 | 0.4705 | 0.4909 | 0.4841 | 0.4800 | 0.4768 | 0.4815 | 0.4846 | 0.4916 | 0.5049 | 0.5192 | 0.5265 | 0.5132 | 0.5081 | 0.5051 | 0.5084 | 0.4999 | 0.4791 | |
| United Kingdom pound | 1.171 | 1.120 | 1.109 | 1.103 | 1.073 | 1.056 | 1.068 | 1.083 | 1.107 | 1.139 | 1.184 | 1.222 | 1.189 | 1.188 | 1.161 | 1.193 | 1.210 | 1.203 | |
| German mark | 73.52 | 70.35 | 77.66 | 75.79 | 76.28 | 76.02 | 75.49 | 77.91 | 79.90 | 81.69 | 84.45 | 84.75 | 86.15 | 86.27 | 84.43 | 87.06 | 88.93 | 89.40 | |
| Japanese yen | 0.4944 | 0.4972 | 0.5156 | 0.5084 | 0.5056 | 0.4988 | 0.4993 | 0.5047 | 0.5157 | 0.5563 | 0.5423 | 0.5516 | 0.5487 | 0.5448 | 0.5368 | 0.5472 | 0.5502 | 0.5480 | |
| Special drawing right | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trade weighted index of value of the Australian dollar (May 1970 = 100) (b) — | 53.0 | 48.4 | 58.1 | 53.8 | 54.3 | 53.8 | 53.9 | 54.7 | 55.5 | 56.8 | 57.1 | 58.7 | 58.1 | 56.5 | 57.9 | 58.5 | 58.6 | 59.9 | |
| End of period (c) | 51.4 | 52.8 | 54.8 | 54.4 | 54.3 | 53.7 | 53.5 | 54.2 | 55.1 | 56.2 | 57.5 | 58.3 | 58.3 | 58.0 | 57.3 | 58.3 | 58.5 | 58.6 | |
| Period average (d) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

(a) The entries carry the opposite sign to corresponding entries in Tables 1 and 6. (b) 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. (c) These exchange rates and index numbers relate to the last trading day of the reference period. (d) These exchange rates and index numbers are derived by averaging figures for each trading day.

TABLE 6. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS — CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND BALANCING ITEM
(\$ million)

| | Months | | | | | | | | | | | | July to Nov. | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------------|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| | Years | | | 1995-96 | | | | | | | | | | July to Nov. | | | | | | | | |
| | 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | | | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | 1995-96 | 1996-97 |
| Official | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General government | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Borrowing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Domiciled abroad | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Commonwealth Government | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drawings | 40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Repayments | -1,129 | -1,573 | -1,088 | -1 | -250 | -24 | -136 | -18 | -1 | -127 | -1 | -261 | -70 | -1 | -20 | -1 | -1 | -60 | -474 | 84 | | |
| Total | -1,089 | -1,573 | -1,088 | -1 | -250 | -24 | -136 | -18 | -1 | -127 | -1 | -261 | -70 | -1 | -20 | -1 | -1 | -60 | -474 | -84 | | |
| State government | 4,848 | 7,554 | 3,794 | -803 | 1,098 | -1,333 | -584 | -1,389 | -1,245 | -1,157 | -1,252 | -394 | -116 | 1,470 | -638 | -650 | -360 | -139 | 2,343 | -317 | | |
| Total domiciled abroad | 3,759 | 5,981 | 4,882 | -804 | 848 | -1,358 | -720 | -1,407 | -1,247 | -1,284 | -1,233 | -655 | -185 | 1,468 | -658 | -651 | -362 | -199 | 1,869 | -401 | | |
| Domiciled in Australia | 3,293 | 3,561 | 7,801 | 549 | 1,008 | 1,360 | 1,257 | -1,555 | 2,845 | 3,162 | -1,961 | 1,875 | 1,314 | 130 | -755 | 366 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 864 | n.y.a. | | |
| Total borrowing | 7,052 | 9,542 | 2,919 | -255 | 1,856 | 2 | 537 | -2,962 | 1,598 | 1,878 | -3,214 | 1,220 | 1,129 | 1,598 | -1,413 | -285 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 2,733 | n.y.a. | | |
| Other | -470 | 617 | -295 | -16 | 60 | - | -148 | 61 | -105 | -56 | -21 | 17 | -34 | 2 | -29 | -79 | -90 | 22 | -9 | -174 | | |
| Total general government | 6,582 | 10,159 | 2,624 | -271 | 1,916 | 2 | 389 | -2,901 | 1,493 | 1,822 | -3,235 | 1,237 | 1,095 | 1,600 | -1,442 | -364 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 2,724 | n.y.a. | | |
| Reserve Bank | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reserve assets | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Official reserve assets | -1,037 | 1,971 | -817 | 226 | -49 | -1,151 | -98 | 592 | 554 | 256 | 67 | -272 | -1,026 | -4,722 | 2,225 | -469 | 1,328 | -91 | -890 | -1,729 | | |
| Allocation of SDRs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other | -49 | 23 | -16 | -32 | -13 | 9 | 5 | -12 | -12 | -32 | 19 | -17 | 10 | -50 | 53 | 72 | -92 | 20 | 23 | 3 | | |
| Total Reserve Bank | -1,086 | 1,994 | -833 | 194 | -62 | -1,142 | -93 | 580 | 542 | 224 | 86 | -289 | -1,016 | -4,772 | 2,278 | -397 | 1,236 | -71 | -867 | -1,726 | | |
| Total official | 5,496 | 12,153 | 1,791 | -77 | 1,854 | -1,140 | 296 | -2,321 | 2,035 | 2,046 | -3,149 | 948 | 79 | -3,172 | 836 | -761 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 1,857 | n.y.a. | | |
| Non-official plus balancing item | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Public sector | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Non equity securities domiciled in Australia (a) | -1,060 | -198 | -125 | -93 | -31 | 4 | -24 | -60 | -115 | 143 | 51 | 70 | -120 | 33 | -20 | -55 | -71 | 39 | -70 | -73 | | |
| Accounts receivable/prepayments made | -1,217 | 1,161 | -18 | 68 | -19 | -78 | -45 | -55 | 13 | -119 | 199 | -1 | -27 | -66 | -10 | 52 | -74 | -13 | 17 | -111 | | |
| Other (including balancing item) (b) | 13,408 | 14,984 | 19,283 | 1,933 | 739 | 4,003 | 519 | 4,274 | -679 | -1,389 | 4,453 | 750 | 946 | 5,155 | 1,156 | 2,998 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 10,410 | n.y.a. | | |
| Total non-official plus balancing item | 11,131 | 15,947 | 19,140 | 1,908 | 689 | 3,929 | 450 | 4,158 | -781 | -1,365 | 4,703 | 819 | 799 | 5,123 | 1,126 | 2,996 | n.y.a. | n.y.a. | 10,357 | n.y.a. | | |
| Balance on capital account plus balancing item | 16,627 | 28,100 | 20,931 | 1,831 | 2,543 | 2,789 | 746 | 1,838 | 1,255 | 681 | 1,554 | 1,768 | 877 | 1,951 | 1,962 | 2,234 | 2,386 | 1,843 | 12,214 | 10,376 | | |

(a) Excludes bank securities. (b) Includes public sector transactions n.e.e.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains preliminary estimates of Australia's balance of payments for November 1996, together with revised estimates for previous months. More comprehensive quarterly estimates are available in the September quarter 1996 issue of the quarterly balance of payments publication (5302.0) which was released on 10 December 1996.

2. 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 *Balance of Payments, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5331.0). The publication also provides item definitions and explanations of seasonal adjustment and trend estimates. Updated, but less detailed, reference material is provided in the 1996 edition of *Balance of Payments, Australia: Summary of Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5351.0).

Accuracy, reliability and volatility

3. Care should be exercised in the use and interpretation of estimates in this publication. The sources available for the production of timely and reliable monthly estimates are limited and the initial estimates are made available very quickly. Consequently, the latest estimates in this publication, to a greater extent than estimates in quarterly and annual balance of payments publications, are **preliminary and subject to revision** as more complete and accurate information becomes available. Certain items are estimated using extrapolation techniques until source data become available. Further, the more detailed estimates may be less accurate in relative terms than broader items and aggregates of which they form components. A detailed assessment of the quality of Australia's balance of payments statistics is provided in the information paper *Quality of Australian Balance of Payments Statistics, 1996* (5342.0) released on 20 February 1996.

4. **Particular 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 2) 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 current account: 9 in 10 months
 Merchandise exports fob: 8 in 10 months
 Merchandise imports fob: 9 in 10 months

5. **The impact of the irregular influences upon the seasonally adjusted series is reduced by smoothing**, as shown by the trend estimates in Table 2 and the graphs. The trend estimates are generally derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

Seasonal adjustment

6. The factors used in seasonally adjusting the monthly balance of payments statistics during 1996 can be obtained, for \$75.00, by contacting Melissa Hunt on Canberra (06) 252 6422.

7. The **seasonally adjusted** statistics in this publication should not be regarded as in any way definitive as results from seasonal adjustment vary according to the method used.

Available longer term series

8. Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication are available and can be obtained by contacting Trevor Jolly on Canberra (06) 252 6820. There may be a charge for this information.

Related products and services

9. More detailed merchandise exports and merchandise imports data, including dissections by commodity and country of origin, are also available on an international merchandise trade basis for November 1996 and previous months. These data can be obtained by contacting information services on Canberra (06) 252 5400.

Symbols and other usages

| | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| fob | free on board |
| n.a. | not available |
| n.e.c. | not elsewhere classified |
| n.e.s. | not elsewhere specified |
| n.p. | not for publication |
| n.y.a. | not yet available |
| — | nil or rounded to zero |
| .. | not applicable |
| p | provisional |

10. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of component items and totals.

W. McLennan
 Australian Statistician

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

Produced by the Australian Government Publishing Service
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Recommended retail price: \$14.00



2530100011968

ISSN 0313-2773