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**MERCHANDISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS)
AUSTRALIA, JULY 1995**

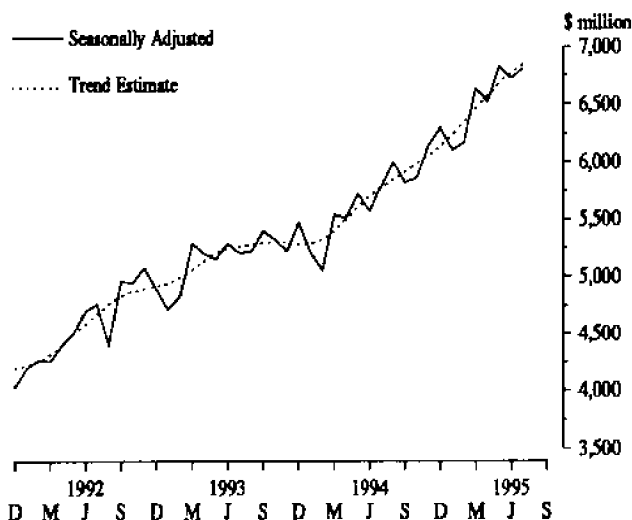
MAIN FEATURES

July 1995 compared with June 1995

The provisional trend estimate of *merchandise imports* rose \$77 million, or 1 per cent, to \$6,851 million.

Seasonally adjusted *merchandise imports* for July rose \$87 million, or 1 per cent, to \$6,812 million. *Consumption goods* rose \$157 million, or 9 per cent, to \$1,813 million. *Capital goods* fell \$263 million, or 15 per cent, to \$1,522 million. *Intermediate and other goods* rose \$193 million, or 6 per cent, to \$3,477 million.

GRAPH 1: MERCHANDISE - IMPORTS F.O.B.



In original terms, *imports* rose \$967 million, or 16 per cent, to \$7,195 million, the highest monthly level recorded to date.

Imports of *consumption goods*, in original terms, rose \$449 million, or 31 per cent, to \$1,902 million. Increases were recorded in all groups. The largest increases were recorded in:

- consumption goods nes, up \$143 million or 38 per cent (with most components recording increases);
- textiles, clothing and footwear, up \$109 million or 69 per cent (with all components recording increases); and
- food and beverages, mainly for consumption, up \$63 million or 35 per cent (with most components recording increases).

Imports of *capital goods*, in original terms, fell \$15 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1,700 million. Decreases were recorded in 4 of the 6 groups. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- ADP equipment, down \$55 million or 14 per cent; and
- civil aircraft, down \$22 million or 44 per cent.

These decreases were partly offset by increases in industrial transport equipment nes, up \$45 million or 25 per cent; and capital goods nes, up \$41 million or 21 per cent.

Imports of *intermediate and other goods*, in original terms, rose \$533 million, or 17 per cent, to \$3,593 million. Increases were recorded in 10 of the 14 groups. The largest increases were recorded in:

- processed industrial supplies nes, up \$138 million or 20 per cent (with most components recording increases);
- "other" parts for capital goods, up \$102 million or 20 per cent (with all components recording increases);
- fuels and lubricants, up \$101 million or 35 per cent (due mainly to increased imports of crude petroleum); and
- parts for transport equipment, up \$98 million or 28 per cent (with most components recording increases).

INQUIRIES • for further information about these and related unpublished statistics, contact Ms Patricia Mahony on Canberra (06) 252 6012, or any ABS State office.
• for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

TABLE 1. MERCHANDISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS) — ORIGINAL, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED AND TREND ESTIMATES
(\$ million)

	Years					Months																			
	1992-		1993-94		1994-95										1995-96										
	93	94	95	96	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July		
<i>Consumption goods fob (a) —</i>																									
Food and beverages, mainly for consumption	-2,261	-2,430	-2,594	-200	-186	-212	-199	-208	-237	-260	-235	-227	-199	-237	-168	-230	-182	-245							
Household electrical items	-1,382	-1,456	-1,744	-122	-104	-130	-148	-152	-184	-181	-156	-121	-119	-147	-132	-145	-129	-157							
Non-industrial transport equipment	-3,478	-3,800	-4,763	-327	-323	-382	-378	-428	-392	-407	-408	-337	-313	-463	-390	-448	-469	-469							
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-2,178	-2,320	-2,567	-172	-163	-214	-249	-223	-208	-225	-192	-246	-249	-235	-179	-190	-157	-266							
Toys, books and leisure goods	-2,238	-2,496	-2,546	-215	-192	-233	-262	-238	-277	-249	-183	-181	-157	-199	-170	-204	-193	-247							
Consumption goods nes	-4,389	-4,751	-5,212	-417	-362	-436	-489	-464	-486	-521	-384	-390	-360	-444	-382	-481	-375	-518							
<i>Total consumption goods</i>	-15,926	-17,233	-19,426	-1,453	-1,330	-1,607	-1,725	-1,713	-1,784	-1,843	-1,558	-1,502	-1,397	-1,725	-1,421	-1,698	-1,453	-1,902							
<i>Capital goods fob (a) —</i>																									
Machinery and industrial equipment	-5,446	-6,414	-7,893	-565	-535	-607	-681	-614	-646	-675	-620	-637	-619	-742	-618	-705	-729	-714							
ADP equipment	-2,319	-2,629	-3,232	-266	-298	-253	-243	-276	-255	-251	-217	-189	-195	-325	-243	-393	-392	-337							
Telecommunications equipment	-1,224	-1,182	-1,805	-98	-105	-120	-132	-136	-148	-310	-127	-119	-119	-153	-117	-151	-173	-164							
Civil aircraft	-828	-241	-531	-4	-3	-5	-256	-13	-25	-9	-33	-6	-57	-18	-43	-16	-50	-28							
Industrial transport equipment nes	-1,838	-2,084	-2,712	-225	-178	-225	-204	-162	-227	-239	-518	-150	-197	-190	-188	-234	-178	-223							
Capital goods nes	-2,000	-2,293	-2,365	-184	-182	-208	-223	-187	-201	-221	-180	-173	-170	-205	-189	-215	-193	-234							
<i>Total capital goods</i>	-13,655	-14,843	-18,538	-1,342	-1,301	-1,418	-1,739	-1,388	-1,502	-1,705	-1,695	-1,274	-1,357	-1,633	-1,398	-1,714	-1,715	-1,700							
<i>Intermediate and other goods fob (a) —</i>																									
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-436	-509	-773	-44	-38	-56	-59	-44	-59	-58	-57	-110	-90	-59	-53	-67	-61	-65							
Primary industrial supplies nes	-677	-701	-902	-80	-52	-85	-76	-71	-66	-96	-55	-80	-79	-64	-62	-83	-85	-73							
Fuels and lubricants	-3,623	-3,317	-3,564	-275	-234	-319	-337	-318	-250	-208	-235	-280	-314	-323	-315	-378	-287	-388							
Parts for transport equipment	-3,675	-4,183	-4,715	-376	-351	-409	-409	-402	-418	-437	-341	-401	-329	-410	-385	-423	-351	-449							
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,423	-1,681	-1,858	-177	-169	-151	-156	-152	-152	-165	-136	-133	-138	-171	-143	-189	-172	-159							
Other parts for capital goods	-4,232	-5,036	-5,938	-440	-415	-474	-502	-479	-482	-510	-438	-459	-453	-559	-481	-581	-520	-622							
Organic and inorganic chemicals	-2,056	-2,102	-2,431	-178	-185	-176	-200	-157	-191	-216	-177	-203	-201	-246	-203	-228	-233	-242							
Paper and paperboard	-1,381	-1,465	-1,798	-120	-101	-137	-150	-145	-151	-160	-142	-151	-133	-164	-137	-181	-147	-189							
Textile yarn and fabrics	-1,763	-1,869	-2,039	-173	-162	-190	-183	-175	-174	-191	-140	-170	-143	-176	-137	-194	-166	-189							
Iron and steel	-946	-1,039	-1,284	-87	-85	-83	-121	-99	-96	-113	-84	-97	-112	-124	-96	-137	-122	-117							
Plastics	-1,272	-1,375	-1,647	-119	-109	-127	-136	-125	-131	-149	-127	-140	-134	-155	-134	-160	-129	-170							
Non-monetary gold	-1,019	-978	-705	-68	-62	-52	-54	-60	-41	-58	-74	-69	-56	-90	-30	-66	-55	-55							
Processed industrial supplies nes	-7,135	-7,783	-8,686	-672	-606	-681	-745	-714	-740	-733	-650	-700	-653	-856	-684	-823	-687	-825							
Other goods	-208	-286	-392	-34	-25	-20	-80	-26	-27	-17	-11	-16	-22	-54	-17	-57	-45	-50							
<i>Total intermediate and other goods</i>	-29,846	-32,324	-36,732	-2,843	-2,594	-2,960	-3,208	-2,967	-2,978	-3,131	-2,667	-3,009	-2,857	-3,451	-2,877	-3,567	-3,060	-3,593							
<i>Total imports fob</i>	-59,427	-64,400	-74,696	-5,638	-5,225	-5,985	-6,672	-6,068	-6,264	-6,679	-5,920	-5,785	-5,611	-6,809	-5,696	-6,979	-6,228	-7,195							
Consumption goods				-1,536	-1,507	-1,568	-1,567	-1,610	-1,576	-1,616	-1,628	-1,601	-1,512	-1,709	-1,699	-1,737	-1,656	-1,813							
Capital goods				-1,380	-1,302	-1,350	-1,477	-1,354	-1,336	-1,574	-1,738	-1,441	-1,630	-1,742	-1,569	-1,690	-1,785	-1,522							
Intermediate and other goods				-2,806	-2,757	-2,874	-2,955	-2,880	-2,956	-2,955	-2,933	-3,058	-3,026	-3,191	-3,251	-3,400	-3,284	-3,477							
<i>Total imports fob</i>				-5,722	-5,566	-5,792	-5,999	-5,824	-5,868	-6,145	-6,299	-6,100	-6,168	-6,642	-6,519	-6,827	-6,725	-6,812							
<i>Total imports fob</i>				-5,607	-5,701	-5,781	-5,850	-5,916	-5,988	-6,057	-6,137	-6,234	-6,349	-6,466	-6,580	-6,686	-6,774	-6,851							

Seasonally Adjusted

Trend Estimates

(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).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains preliminary estimates of Australia's merchandise imports on a balance of payments basis for July 1995, together with estimates for previous months.

2. Descriptions of the classifications used for merchandise imports, detailed item definitions and long term historical data are presented in *Change to Commodity Classification of Merchandise Imports in Balance of Payments Publications* (5344.0).

3. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of merchandise imports on a balance of payments basis and the sources and methods used in compiling the estimates are presented in *Balance of Payments, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5331.0). That publication also provides explanations of seasonal adjustment and trend estimates; and an analysis of the quality of the estimates.

Accuracy, reliability and volatility

4. The latest estimates in this publication are preliminary and subject to revision as more complete and accurate information becomes available.

5. 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 the table) 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 in merchandise imports fob in 9 out of 10 months.

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

Seasonal adjustment

7. The factors used in seasonally adjusting the monthly merchandise imports statistics during 1995 can be obtained, for \$70.00, from Mr David Jenkins on Canberra (06) 252 6128.

8. 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.

More detailed and longer term series

9. More detailed information than that shown in this publication is available for July 1995 and earlier months. Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication are also available. These data can be obtained by contacting Mr Trevor Jolly on Canberra (06) 252 6820. There may be a charge for this information.

Related products and services

10. Preliminary estimates of Australia's balance of payments for July 1995 are due for release on 29 August 1995 in the monthly publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0). The estimates of merchandise imports shown as part of the balance of payments in 5301.0 will normally be the same as those already released in the corresponding issue of this publication.

11. More detailed merchandise imports data, including dissections by commodity and country of origin, are also available on a foreign trade basis, for July 1995 and previous months. These data series can be obtained by contacting International Trade Client Services on Canberra (06) 252 5400.

Symbols and other usages

fob	free on board
nes	not elsewhere specified
—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable
p	provisional

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

Release date for August 1995 issue

The expected release date for the August issue of this publication is 19 September 1995. Any variations which might occur will be notified in the ABS Publications Advice (1105.0) and on DISCOVERY.

The date can be confirmed a few days prior to release by telephoning
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