

CATALOGUE NO. 5320.0

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

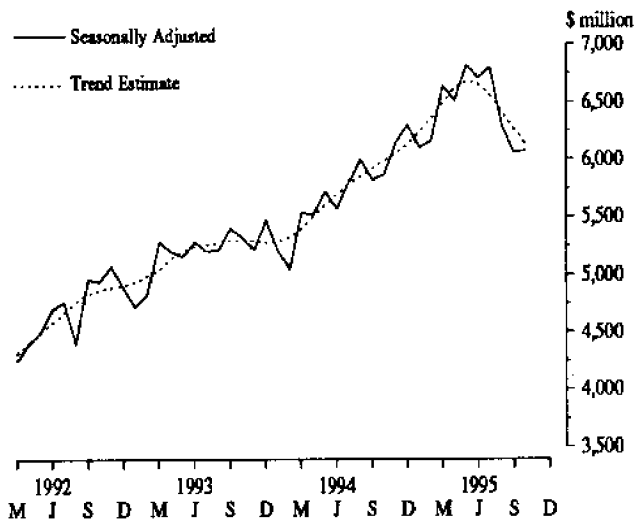
**MAIN FEATURES**

*October 1995 compared with September 1995*

The provisional trend estimate of merchandise imports fell \$130 million, or 2 per cent, to \$6,136 million.

In seasonally adjusted terms, merchandise imports for October rose \$11 million to \$6,075 million. Consumption goods fell \$62 million, or 4 per cent, to \$1,564 million. Capital goods rose \$75 million, or 5 per cent, to \$1,445 million. Intermediate and other goods fell \$2 million to \$3,066 million.

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



In original terms, imports rose \$583 million, or 10 per cent, to \$6,703 million.

Imports of consumption goods, in original terms, rose \$187 million, or 11 per cent, to \$1,860 million. Increases were recorded in all groups except textiles, clothing and footwear, which fell \$7 million or 3 per cent. The largest increases were recorded in:

- non-industrial transport equipment, up \$77 million or 22 per cent (due mainly to increased imports of passenger motor cars);

- consumption goods nes, up \$43 million or 9 per cent (with most components recording increases); and

- household electrical items, up \$41 million or 30 per cent.

Imports of capital goods, in original terms, rose \$197 million, or 14 per cent, to \$1,615 million. Increases were recorded in all groups except telecommunications equipment, which fell \$29 million or 14 per cent. The largest increases were recorded in:

- machinery and industrial equipment, up \$107 million or 17 per cent (with most components recording increases); and

- industrial transport equipment nes, up \$49 million or 33 per cent (due mainly to increased imports of motor vehicles for transporting goods).

Imports of intermediate and other goods, in original terms, rose \$199 million, or 7 per cent, to \$3,228 million. Increases were recorded in 10 of the 14 groups. The largest increases were recorded in:

- parts for transport equipment, up \$69 million or 20 per cent (with most components recording increases);

- "other" parts for capital goods, up \$53 million or 10 per cent; and

- organic and inorganic chemicals, up \$29 million, or 15 per cent.

The most significant decrease was recorded in fuels and lubricants, down \$27 million or 9 per cent.

*Four months ended October 1995 compared with four months ended October 1994*

In original terms, merchandise imports rose \$1,979 million, or 8 per cent, to \$26,968 million:

- consumption goods rose \$483 million (7 per cent);

- capital goods rose \$353 million (6 per cent); and

- intermediate and other goods rose \$1,143 million (9 per cent).

**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)

	Months																		
	Years				1994-95				1995-96				July to Oct.						
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95	1994-95				
<i>Consumption goods fob (a) —</i>																			
Food and beverages, mainly for consumption	-2,261	-2,430	-2,592	-199	-208	-237	-260	-235	-227	-199	-236	-168	-230	-234	-231	-256	-856	-966	
Household electrical items	-1,382	-1,436	-1,744	-148	-152	-184	-181	-156	-121	-119	-147	-132	-145	-167	-138	-179	-614	-641	
Non-industrial transport equipment	-3,478	-3,800	-4,756	-378	-428	-392	-407	-409	-337	-313	-462	-390	-446	-426	-346	-423	-1,664	-1,664	
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-2,178	-2,320	-2,566	-249	-223	-208	-225	-192	-246	-249	-235	-179	-189	-266	-220	-213	-894	-973	
Toys, books and leisure goods	-2,238	-2,496	-2,546	-262	-238	-277	-249	-183	-181	-156	-199	-170	-205	-246	-252	-260	-1,010	-1,010	
Consumption goods nes	-4,389	-4,751	-5,213	-489	-464	-486	-521	-385	-390	-360	-445	-381	-481	-524	-486	-529	-1,875	-2,058	
<i>Total consumption goods</i>	-15,926	-17,233	-19,417	-1,725	-1,713	-1,784	-1,843	-1,560	-1,502	-1,396	-1,724	-1,420	-1,696	-1,877	-1,673	-1,860	-6,829	-7,312	
<i>Capital goods fob (a) —</i>																			
Machinery and industrial equipment	-5,446	-6,414	-7,896	-681	-614	-646	-675	-620	-637	-618	-743	-616	-706	-733	-616	-723	-2,548	-2,742	
ADP equipment	-2,319	-2,629	-3,232	-243	-276	-255	-251	-217	-189	-195	-325	-243	-393	-392	-253	-273	-1,027	-1,189	
Telecommunications equipment	-1,224	-1,182	-1,805	-132	-136	-148	-310	-127	-119	-119	-153	-117	-151	-163	-207	-178	-536	-712	
Civil aircraft	-828	-241	-529	-256	-13	-25	-9	-33	-6	-57	-18	-43	-16	-48	-28	-81	-30	-299	-149
Industrial transport equipment nes	-1,838	-2,084	-2,714	-204	-162	-227	-239	-518	-150	-197	-190	-189	-234	-179	-221	-198	-818	-766	
Capital goods nes	-2,000	-2,293	-2,363	-223	-187	-201	-221	-180	-173	-170	-205	-188	-215	-192	-183	-213	-819	-842	
<i>Total capital goods</i>	-13,655	-14,843	-18,539	-1,739	-1,388	-1,502	-1,705	-1,695	-1,274	-1,356	-1,634	-1,396	-1,715	-1,717	-1,699	-1,668	-6,047	-6,400	
<i>Intermediate and other goods fob (a) —</i>																			
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-436	-509	-773	-59	-44	-59	-58	-57	-110	-90	-59	-53	-67	-61	-65	-55	-218	-250	
Primary industrial supplies nes	-677	-701	-901	-76	-71	-66	-96	-55	-80	-79	-63	-62	-83	-85	-73	-83	-298	-293	
Fuels and lubricants	-3,623	-3,317	-3,566	-337	-318	-250	-208	-235	-280	-314	-323	-317	-379	-286	-283	-291	-1,224	-1,224	
Parts for transport equipment	-3,675	-4,183	-4,714	-409	-402	-418	-437	-340	-401	-329	-409	-385	-424	-351	-448	-406	-1,638	-1,637	
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,423	-1,681	-1,857	-156	-152	-152	-165	-136	-133	-138	-171	-142	-189	-172	-159	-158	-161	-633	
Other parts for capital goods	-4,232	-5,036	-5,932	-502	-479	-482	-510	-438	-459	-453	-559	-481	-579	-516	-622	-585	-1,937	-2,282	
Organic and inorganic chemicals	-2,056	-2,102	-2,431	-200	-157	-191	-216	-177	-203	-201	-245	-203	-228	-234	-242	-249	-724	-908	
Paper and paperboard	-1,381	-1,465	-1,794	-150	-145	-151	-160	-142	-151	-133	-164	-137	-179	-145	-189	-189	-722	-744	
Textile yarn and fabrics	-1,763	-1,869	-2,037	-183	-175	-174	-191	-139	-170	-142	-176	-137	-194	-166	-189	-188	-194	-698	
Iron and steel	-946	-1,039	-1,285	-121	-99	-96	-113	-85	-97	-112	-124	-96	-137	-122	-117	-143	-399	-514	
Plastics	-1,272	-1,375	-1,646	-136	-125	-131	-149	-127	-140	-134	-155	-133	-160	-129	-170	-154	-519	-628	
Non-monetary gold	-1,019	-978	-705	-54	-60	-41	-58	-74	-69	-56	-90	-30	-66	-55	-78	-56	-51	-207	-240
Processed industrial supplies nes	-7,135	-7,783	-8,681	-745	-714	-740	-753	-650	-700	-652	-857	-684	-818	-687	-824	-763	-2,880	-3,064	
Other goods	-208	-286	-391	-80	-26	-27	-17	-11	-16	-22	-54	-17	-57	-44	-50	-38	-28	-153	-141
<i>Total intermediate and other goods</i>	-29,846	-32,324	-36,713	-3,208	-2,967	-2,978	-3,131	-2,666	-3,099	-2,855	-3,449	-2,877	-3,560	-3,053	-3,589	-3,410	-12,113	-13,256	
<i>Total Imports fob</i>	-59,427	-64,400	-74,669	-6,672	-6,068	-6,264	-6,679	-5,921	-5,785	-5,607	-6,807	-5,693	-6,971	-6,217	-7,190	-6,955	-24,989	-26,968	
Consumption goods	..	..	..	-1,567	-1,610	-1,576	-1,616	-1,631	-1,601	-1,511	-1,708	-1,698	-1,735	-1,650	-1,813	-1,715	-1,626	-1,564	
Capital goods	..	..	..	-1,477	-1,334	-1,336	-1,574	-1,738	-1,441	-1,629	-1,744	-1,567	-1,691	-1,787	-1,521	-1,444	-1,370	-1,445	
Intermediate and other goods	..	..	..	-2,955	-2,880	-2,956	-2,955	-2,932	-3,058	-3,023	-3,189	-3,251	-3,393	-3,276	-3,473	-3,136	-3,068	-3,066	
<i>Total Imports fob</i>	..	..	..	-5,999	-5,824	-5,868	-6,145	-6,301	-6,100	-6,163	-6,641	-6,516	-6,819	-6,713	-6,807	-6,295	-6,064	-6,075	
<i>Total Imports fob</i>	..	..	..	-5,850	-5,917	-5,988	-6,058	-6,137	-6,233	-6,358	-6,499	-6,621	-6,682	-6,558	-6,415	-6,266	-6,136	-6,136	

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. 5344.10).

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Introduction**

1. This publication contains preliminary estimates of Australia's merchandise imports on a balance of payments basis for October 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 Gary Knox on Canberra (06) 252 5753.

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 October 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 October 1995 are due for release on 30 November 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 October 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

Richard Madden  
Acting Australian Statistician

**Release date for November 1995 issue**

The expected release date for the November issue of this publication is 19 December 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 Canberra (06) 252 6627.



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