

**INTERNATIONAL
MERCHANDISE IMPORTS**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 16 MAR 2005

KEY FIGURES

	December 2004	January 2005	February 2005
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Food and live animals	498	469	438
Beverages and tobacco	107	77	60
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	146	165	148
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1 350	982	1 003
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	26	28	22
Chemicals and related products, nes	1 433	1 354	1 508
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 454	1 406	1 415
Machinery and transport equipment	5 587	4 911	4 703
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1 560	1 562	1 635
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	225	203	181
TOTAL	12 384	11 157	11 113

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistics of Australia's merchandise imports classified according to the broadest level (1 digit sections) of the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification. The data are compiled from information submitted by importers or their agents to the Australian Customs Service.

DETAILED DATA

More detailed merchandise imports data are available through the National Information and Referral Service, by subscription to AusStats, a 24 hour Internet access service to all ABS statistics, or by tailored subscription (telephone 1300 135 070).

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The March 2005 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 18 April 2005, and the April 2005 to August 2005 issues are expected to be released on 17 May 2005, 17 June 2005, 18 July 2005, 16 August 2005 and 16 September 2005.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more details on the classifications used and basis of compilation, see the ABS publication *International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 5489.0) which is accessible on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>, select *Themes* then *Economy* then *International Trade* then *Publications*.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Ben Braysher on Canberra (02) 6252 6020.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
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