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TRADE

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**ABS publications**

*Consumer Price Index (6401.0)*

*Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities (6403.0)*

*Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6407.0)*

*Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)*

*House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities (6416.0)*

*Consumer Price Index: Special Data Service (6443.0)*

*Consumer Price Index: Effect of Changes in Prices of Imported Items (6444.0)*

*Retail Trade, Australia (8501.0)*

*Retailing in Victoria (8623.2)*

## Introduction

Data contained in this chapter relate to aspects of foreign trade including imports and exports by country and by commodity.

### Overview

Under the Australian Constitution, the Commonwealth Government is responsible for legislation relating to trade and commerce with other countries. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is in turn responsible for developing and maintaining Australia's position as a world trading nation through international trade and commodity commitments and agreements, developing export markets, and formulating proposals for the Government on Australia's international trade policy and trading objectives. It is also responsible for matters relating to the commercial development, marketing, and export of minerals and fuels. It employs Trade Commissioners at many overseas centres.

Both imports to, and exports from Victoria increased in 1994-95, continuing the trend since the 1990-91 recession. Imports increased by 15% over 1993-94, whilst exports increased 5%. Imports into Victoria in 1994-95 accounted for 32% of Australia's total imports of \$74,638 million, whilst exports from Victoria amounted to 19% of Australia's total exports of \$67,036 million.

**TABLE 13.1 OVERSEAS TRADE: RECORDED VALUE OF IMPORTS INTO, AND EXPORTS FROM, VICTORIA**

Year	Imports	Exports	Excess of imports
		\$m	
1989-90	16 790	8 470	8 320
1990-91	14 902	8 803	6 099
1991-92	15 353	9 545	5 808
1992-93	18 147	11 044	7 103
1993-94	20 770	12 323	8 447
1994-95	23 970	12 951	11 019

Source: *International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (5422.0)

### Imports

In 1994-95, Victoria's major import sources were the United States of America (\$5,260 million); Japan (\$3,987 million); Germany (\$2,093 million); China, excluding Taiwan (\$1,576 million); Taiwan (\$811 million); the United Kingdom (\$1,365 million); and New Zealand (\$1,191 million).

The major commodities imported into Victoria were Road Vehicles (including air cushion vehicles) (\$2,767 million); General industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s., and machine parts n.e.s. (\$1,711 million); Electrical machinery, apparatus, and appliances n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof (\$1,576 million); Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s. (\$1,441 million); Machinery specialised for particular industries (\$1,261 million) and Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles n.e.s., and related products (\$1,232 million).

**Exports**

In 1994-95, Victoria's major export destinations were Japan (\$1,852 million); Singapore (\$1,339 million); New Zealand (\$1,241 million); Korea (\$1,096 million); Malaysia (\$756 million) and the United States of America (\$754 million).

The major commodities exported from Victoria in 1994-95 were Textile fibres and their wastes (\$1,285 million); Dairy products and birds' eggs (\$1,146 million); Non-ferrous metals (\$1,016 million); Meat and meat preparations (\$646 million); Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles) (\$421 million) and Power generating machinery and equipment (\$413 million).

Over the two years 1992-93 to 1994-95, Victorian exports of Cereals and cereal preparations and Vegetables and fruit each fell by about one third whilst Petroleum, petroleum products, and related materials fell by over 50%. On the positive side, exports of Other transport equipment rose by 72% over the same period.

**TABLE 13.2 OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND CONSIGNMENT, VICTORIA**

	Imports			Exports		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	\$m					
Bangladesh	10	11	13	36	48	31
Belgium-Luxembourg	166	192	225	53	32	28
Brazil	121	132	167	23	37	60
Canada	266	292	430	147	147	110
China						
Excluding Taiwan Province	1 171	1 416	1 576	539	481	560
Taiwan Province only	765	747	811	514	512	629
Czechoslovakia and Slovak Federal Republic	8	17	14	3	6	8
Denmark	105	107	114	6	8	8
Egypt, Arab Republic of	2	2	3	45	93	44
Fiji	25	31	39	128	132	127
Finland	160	194	237	6	5	6
France	383	432	487	180	132	167
French Polynesia	-	-	-	32	8	30
Germany	1 448	1 550	2 093	254	245	258
Greece	18	20	25	13	10	4
Hong Kong	264	209	205	577	530	563
India	150	171	224	77	106	115
Indonesia	233	324	355	199	241	267
Iran	4	5	6	46	80	29
Iraq	-	-	-	-	2	17
Ireland	50	60	122	5	5	5
Israel	59	55	63	12	16	17
Italy	501	594	718	170	185	259
Japan	3 315	3 779	3 987	1 629	2 178	1 852
Korea, Republic of	465	491	609	689	901	1 096
Kuwait	-	1	-	25	28	32
Macau	9	7	6	6	1	2
Malaysia	284	318	428	346	611	756
Mauritius	1	1	1	25	29	31
Mexico	49	48	55	39	110	61
Nauru, Republic of	10	7	6	24	21	20
Netherlands	173	199	229	45	32	4
New Caledonia	-	1	-	43	65	51
New Zealand	869	1 024	1 191	951	1 093	1 241
Norway	37	51	83	7	7	10
Pakistan	88	83	86	73	41	30
Papua New Guinea	28	92	125	197	209	187
Philippines	46	49	105	235	255	284
Poland	12	10	13	6	6	9
Portugal	26	22	26	9	5	6

**TABLE 13.2 OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AND CONSIGNMENT, VICTORIA - *continued***

	Imports			Exports		
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	\$m					
Samoa (American)	-	-	-	11	23	12
Saudi Arabia	147	173	242	113	133	127
Singapore	370	407	494	1 188	1 125	1 339
Solomon Islands	1	1	1	7	17	15
South Africa	42	71	73	92	115	192
Spain	76	90	149	71	32	29
Sri Lanka	13	20	22	29	46	37
Sweden	318	408	495	30	23	39
Switzerland	223	250	302	13	29	58
Thailand	223	261	323	321	347	439
Turkey	16	17	23	35	30	51
USSR	1	9	7	7	69	39
United Arab Emirates	14	13	14	52	72	63
United Kingdom	1 050	1 229	1 365	334	338	365
United States of America	3 974	4 696	5 260	934	914	754
Yemen Arab Republic	-	-	-	12	1	1
Yugoslavia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other and unknown	374	384	332	373	308	338
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 163</b>	<b>20 773</b>	<b>23 979</b>	<b>11 036</b>	<b>12 275</b>	<b>12 951</b>

Source: ABS unpublished data

**TABLE 13.3 CLASSIFICATION OF OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, VICTORIA**

ITC (a) Number	Description	Imports			Exports		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
		\$m					
00	Live animals chiefly for food	14	25	47	27	33	58
01	Meat and meat preparations	12	14	16	552	619	646
02	Dairy products and birds' eggs	68	63	76	930	1031	1146
03	Fish, crustaceans, and molluscs	127	147	176	120	150	137
04	Cereals and cereal preparations	46	50	64	344	355	233
05	Vegetables and fruit	156	195	195	436	418	288
06	Sugar, sugar preparations, and honey	31	31	43	14	17	14
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	137	172	213	69	121	117
08	Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	15	33	32	122	125	125
09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	92	126	109	32	41	55
11	Beverages	77	78	83	47	61	65
12	Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	43	63	98	5	6	11
21	Hides, skins, and fur skins (raw)	4	1	1	147	105	178
22	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	25	24	40	10	30	15
23	Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	67	79	105	10	9	11
24	Cork and wood	156	168	160	18	73	91
25	Pulp and waste paper	60	42	64	3	3	9
26	Textile fibres and their wastes	86	99	123	1 085	1 034	1 285

TABLE 13.3 CLASSIFICATION OF OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, VICTORIA

- continued

HS Number	Description	Imports			Exports		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
		\$m					
27	Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum, and precious stones)	45	41	45	7	7	15
28	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	5	4	9	25	25	61
29	Crude animal and vegetable materials n.e.s.	48	54	67	61	64	76
32	Coal, coke, and briquettes	2	2	1	10	13	13
33	Petroleum, petroleum products, and related materials	395	430	502	776	681	365
34	Gas, natural and manufactured	-	-	-	-	20	62
41	Animal oils and fats	1	1	1	28	32	53
42	Fixed vegetable oils and fats	61	58	70	1	5	2
43	Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	8	6	4	26	26	30
51	Organic chemicals	416	466	502	40	27	34
52	Inorganic chemicals	83	90	106	25	31	30
53	Dyeing, tanning, and colouring materials	174	186	202	33	48	57
54	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	256	269	307	187	225	244
55	Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet, polishing, and cleansing preparations	99	111	120	31	32	42
56	Fertilisers manufactured	83	100	161	-	-	1
57	Explosives and pyrotechnic products	273	225	275	114	120	151
58	Artificial resins and plastic materials, cellulose esters and ethers	212	240	251	40	43	58
59	Chemical materials and products n.e.s.	243	284	270	118	139	134
61	Leather, leather manufactures n.e.s., and dressed fur skins	67	73	79	75	112	182
62	Rubber manufactures n.e.s.	250	286	315	61	68	85
63	Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	66	69	82	6	6	6
64	Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper, or of paperboard	520	550	619	115	100	85
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles n.e.s., and related products	1 074	1 126	1 232	137	167	210
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures n.e.s.	273	286	305	62	69	75
67	Iron and steel	292	310	407	249	350	387
68	Non-ferrous metals	157	153	179	934	875	1 016
69	Manufactures of metal n.e.s.	562	674	692	139	171	181
71	Power generating machinery and equipment	638	768	745	291	266	413

**TABLE 13.3 CLASSIFICATION OF OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, VICTORIA**

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SITC Number	Description	Imports			Exports		
		1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
		\$m					
72	Machinery specialised for particular industries	708	1 066	1 261	105	131	155
73	Metalworking machinery	111	147	205	37	28	52
74	General industrial machinery and equipment n.e.s. and machine parts n.e.s.	1 240	1 475	1 711	219	263	273
75	Office machines and automatic data processing equipment	656	616	650	40	48	74
76	Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	696	806	1 116	120	120	119
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, and appliances n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof	1 157	1 400	1 576	209	303	330
78	Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)	1 884	2 278	2 767	376	430	421
79	Other transport equipment	401	414	403	133	105	229
81	Sanitary, plumbing, heating, and lighting fixtures and fittings n.e.s.	66	74	80	6	8	11
82	Furniture and parts thereof	110	128	135	16	15	16
83	Travel goods, handbags, and similar containers	82	84	98	1	2	3
84	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	687	742	796	78	90	108
85	Footwear	294	281	325	13	20	22
87	Professional, scientific and controlling instruments, and apparatus n.e.s.	547	636	691	68	97	90
88	Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods n.e.s.; watches and clocks	370	431	538	225	246	305
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.s.	1 082	1 197	1 441	177	200	211
9A	Commodities and transactions of merchandise trade n.e.c.	537	722	980	1 661	2 264	1 997
<b>Total</b>		<b>18 147</b>	<b>20 769</b>	<b>23 966</b>	<b>11 046</b>	<b>12 323</b>	<b>12 968</b>

(a) SITC: Standard International Trade Classification.

Source: ABS unpublished data

## REFERENCES

### Data sources

The foreign trade statistics presented in this chapter are compiled in broad agreement with the United Nations' recommendations for the compilation of international trade statistics. Overseas trade statistics are compiled by the ABS from documentation submitted by exporters and importers or their agents to the Australian Customs Service, as required by the Customs Act.

The statistics presented in this chapter are recorded on a general trade basis, i.e. total exports include both Australian produce and re-exports, and total imports comprise goods entered directly for domestic consumption, together with goods imported into customs warehouses.

State statistics for exports comprise State of origin or State of final shipment. 'State of origin' is defined as the State in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs. For imports, the State is that in which the import entry was lodged with the Australian Customs Service.

### ABS publications

*International Merchandise Trade, Australia* (5422.0)