



**Australian
Bureau of
Statistics**

CATALOGUE NO. 5301.0

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M 30 November 1995

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER 1995

MAIN FEATURES

Estimates of the main balance of payments aggregates for October 1995 and the two preceding months are shown below. These estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Particular care should be taken in interpreting month-to-month 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.

	1995			Change on previous month(a)
	August	September	October	
		\$ million		%
			<i>Trend</i>	
Balance on current account	-1,818p	-1,585p	-1,389p	12
			<i>Seasonally adjusted</i>	
Balance on current account	-1,422	-1,481	-1,596	-8
Balance on merchandise trade	-112	-37	-114	..
Net services	10	-20	-30	-50
Net income	-1,423	-1,490	-1,552	-4
Net unrequited transfers	103	66	100	52
			<i>Not seasonally adjusted</i>	
Balance on current account	-2,306	-1,712	-2,000	-17
Balance on merchandise trade	-889	80	-473	..
Net services	-152	-368	-53	86
Net income	-1,412	-1,507	-1,615	-7
Net unrequited transfers	147	83	141	70

(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.

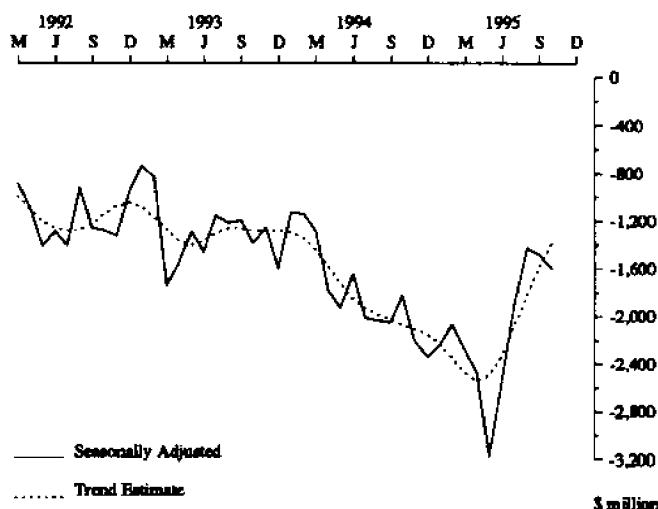
The provisional trend estimate for the October current account deficit was \$1,389 million, down \$196 million, or 12 per cent, on the provisional trend estimate for September. This is the lowest monthly trend estimate of the current account deficit since February 1994.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the current account deficit for October increased \$115 million, or 8 per cent, to \$1,596 million. The increase in the deficit was caused by:

- an increase of \$77 million in the merchandise trade deficit (merchandise exports fell 1 per cent, while merchandise imports remained flat);
- an increase of \$10 million (50 per cent) in the net services deficit; and
- an increase of \$62 million (4 per cent) in the net income deficit.

Partly offsetting these movements in merchandise trade, services and income was an increase of \$34 million (52 per cent) in the net unrequited transfers surplus.

GRAPH 1: BALANCE ON CURRENT ACCOUNT



INQUIRIES

- for further information about these and related unpublished statistics, contact Mr Frank Bingham on Canberra (06) 252 6689 or Mr Graeme Groves on Canberra (06) 252 5540 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

ANALYSIS OF SELECTED MAJOR AGGREGATES

October 1995 compared with September 1995

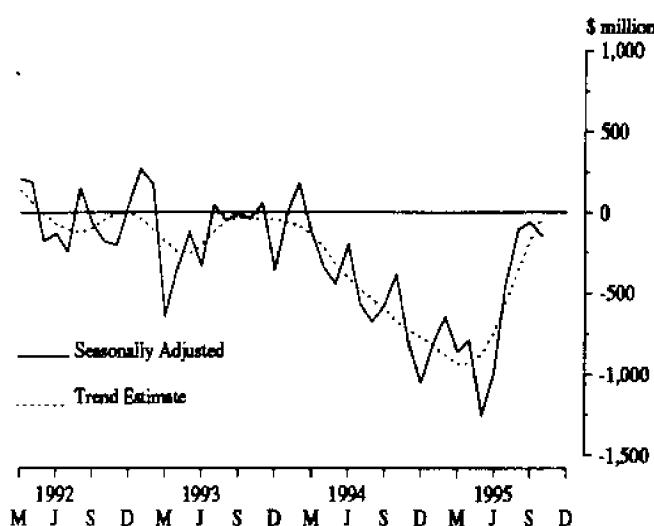
Balance on goods and services

The seasonally adjusted *balance on goods and services* recorded a deficit of \$144 million, an increase of \$87 million on the deficit recorded in September.

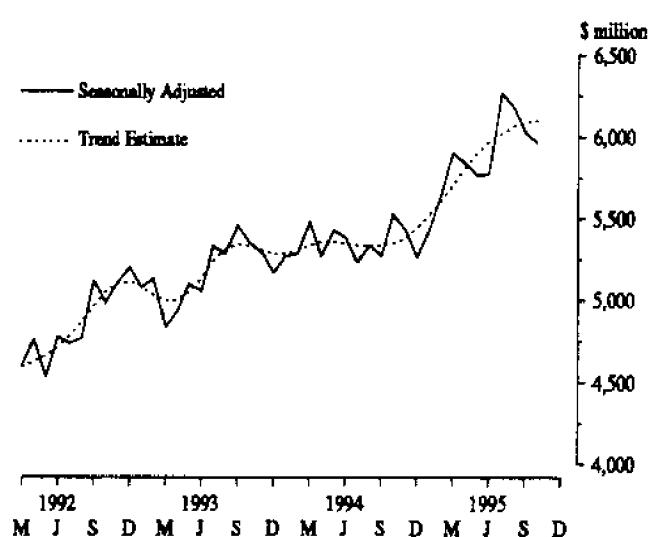
Merchandise exports

In seasonally adjusted terms, *merchandise exports* fell \$66 million, or 1 per cent, to \$5,961 million. *Rural exports* fell \$97 million, or 6 per cent, to \$1,592 million. *Non-rural exports* rose \$31 million, or 1 per cent, to \$4,369 million.

GRAPH 2: BALANCE ON GOODS AND SERVICES



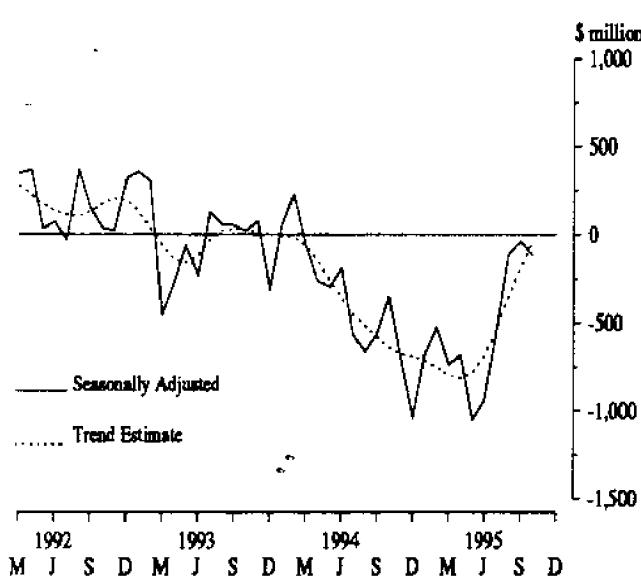
GRAPH 4: MERCHANTISE - EXPORTS FOB



Balance on merchandise trade

The seasonally adjusted *balance on merchandise trade* recorded a deficit of \$114 million, an increase of \$77 million on the deficit recorded in September.

GRAPH 3: BALANCE ON MERCHANDISE TRADE



In original terms, *exports* rose \$30 million to \$6,230 million.

Rural exports, in original terms, rose \$123 million, or 8 per cent, to \$1,707 million. Increases were recorded in all groups except "other" rural exports, which fell \$9 million or 1 per cent. The largest increases occurred in:

- meat, up \$51 million or 21 per cent (due mainly to increased volumes of beef and veal exports);
- wool, up \$39 million or 14 per cent (due mainly to increased volumes of greasy wool exports); and
- cereals, up \$25 million or 13 per cent (due mainly to increased volumes of wheat exports).

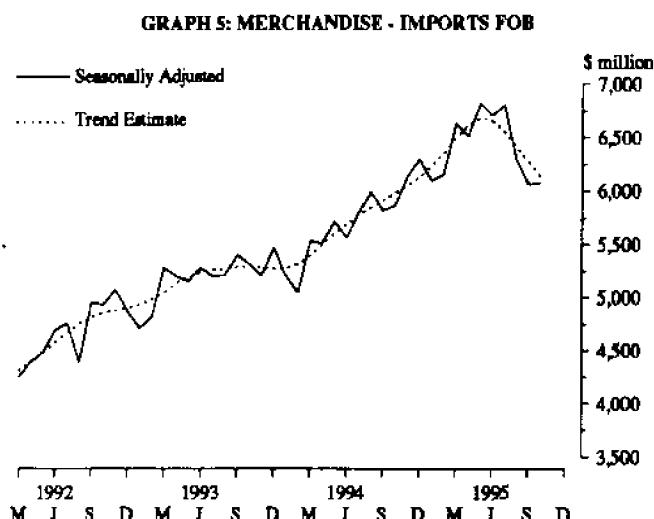
Non-rural exports, in original terms, fell \$93 million, or 2 per cent, to \$4,523 million. The most significant decreases were recorded in:

- "other" manufactures, down \$82 million or 11 per cent;
- machinery, down \$45 million or 7 per cent (with most components recording decreases); and
- "other" mineral fuels, down \$36 million or 11 per cent (due mainly to decreased exports of crude petroleum and LNG).

The most significant increases occurred in coal, coke and briquettes, up \$57 million or 9 per cent (due mainly to increased volumes of exports); and metal ores and minerals, up \$37 million or 6 per cent.

Merchandise imports

In seasonally adjusted terms, *merchandise imports* 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.



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.

Net services

The seasonally adjusted *net services* deficit rose \$10 million, or 50 per cent, to \$30 million. Services credits fell \$27 million (1 per cent), while services debits fell \$17 million (1 per cent).

Net income

The seasonally adjusted *net income* deficit rose \$62 million, or 4 per cent, to \$1,552 million. Income credits rose \$63 million or 10 per cent, while income debits rose \$125 million or 6 per cent. It should be noted that, in accordance with established methodology, the monthly estimates of the non-official sector for October 1995 are based on extrapolations of quarterly results divided by three. These extrapolations will be replaced by preliminary results from the December quarter 1995 ABS Survey of Foreign Investment (SFI) when these results become available. Preliminary results should be available in time for incorporation in the January 1996 issue of this publication, scheduled for release on 29 February 1996. Extrapolations for the three months to September 1995 have been replaced with preliminary results from the September quarter 1995 SFI.

Net unrequited transfers

The seasonally adjusted *net unrequited transfers* surplus rose \$34 million, or 52 per cent, to \$100 million. Unrequited transfers credits fell \$10 million, or 3 per cent, while unrequited transfers debits fell \$44 million or 19 per cent.

Net capital transactions

In original terms, the *net capital transactions of the official sector* recorded a net inflow of \$1,969 million in October, an increase of \$1,921 million on the net inflow recorded in September.

The October estimate consisted of:

- a net inflow of \$2,031 million in general government transactions, a turnaround of \$2,177 million on the net outflow recorded in the previous month; and
- a net outflow of \$62 million in Reserve Bank transactions, a turnaround of \$256 million on the net inflow recorded in the previous month.

The higher net inflow in general government transactions was mainly the result of:

- a net inflow of \$1,085 million in State government borrowing domiciled abroad, a turnaround of \$1,684 million on the net outflow recorded in September; and
- a net inflow of \$1,151 million in general government borrowing domiciled in Australia, an increase of \$680 million on the net inflow recorded in September.

These movements were partly offset by an increase of \$249 million in the net outflow of Commonwealth government borrowing domiciled abroad.

The change in Reserve Bank transactions in October mainly reflected net purchases of reserve assets of \$49 million, a turnaround of \$275 million on the net sales recorded in September.

Exchange rates

Using period average exchange rates, the \$A depreciated by 0.2 per cent on a trade weighted basis during October against the currencies of Australia's major trading partners. The \$A appreciated by 0.5 per cent against the \$US and appreciated by 0.6 per cent against the Japanese yen.

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

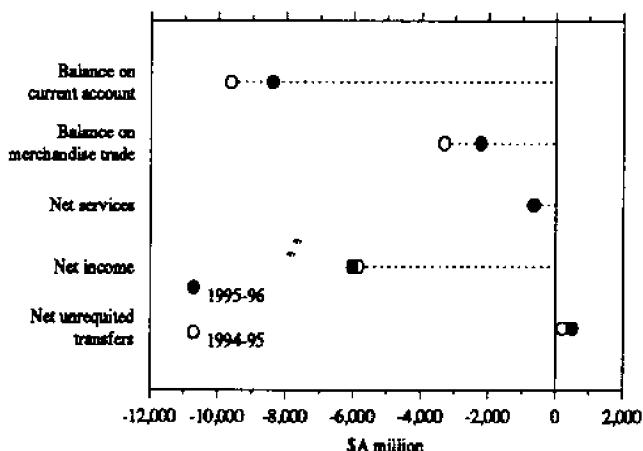
In original terms, the *current account* deficit for the four months ended October 1995 was \$8,392 million, down \$1,233 million, or 13 per cent, on the deficit for the four months ended October 1994.

This result was due to:

- a decrease of \$1,089 million (33 per cent) in the merchandise trade deficit;
- a decrease of \$32 million (5 per cent) in the net services deficit; and
- an increase of \$290 million in the net unrequited transfers surplus.

The movements in merchandise trade, services and unrequited transfers were partly offset by an increase of \$178 million (3 per cent) in the net income deficit.

GRAPH 6: BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AGGREGATES - FOUR MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER

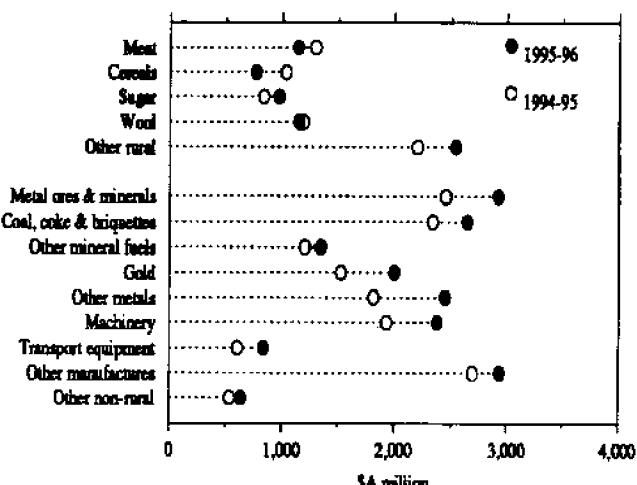


Merchandise exports rose \$3,068 million, or 14 per cent, to \$24,732 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- "other" metals, up \$633 million (35 per cent);
- gold, up \$477 million (31 per cent);
- metal ores and minerals, up \$469 million (19 per cent);
- machinery, up \$454 million (24 per cent);
- "other" rural exports, up \$341 million (15 per cent);
- coal, coke and briquettes, up \$309 million (13 per cent);
- "other" manufactures, up \$239 million (9 per cent); and
- transport equipment, up \$226 million (37 per cent).

The most significant decreases were recorded in cereals, down \$263 million (26 per cent); and meat, down \$156 million (12 per cent).

GRAPH 7: MERCHANDISE EXPORTS - FOUR MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER

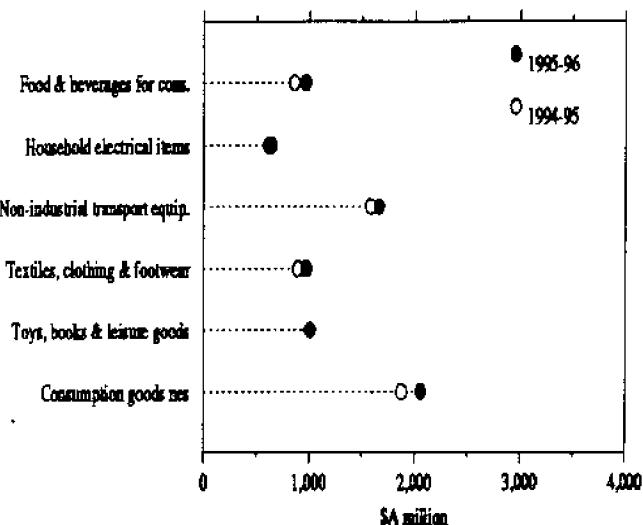


Merchandise imports rose \$1,979 million, or 8 per cent, to \$26,968 million. *Consumption goods* rose \$483 million (7 per cent); *capital goods* rose \$353 million (6 per cent); and *intermediate and other goods* rose \$1,143 million (9 per cent). The largest increases were recorded in:

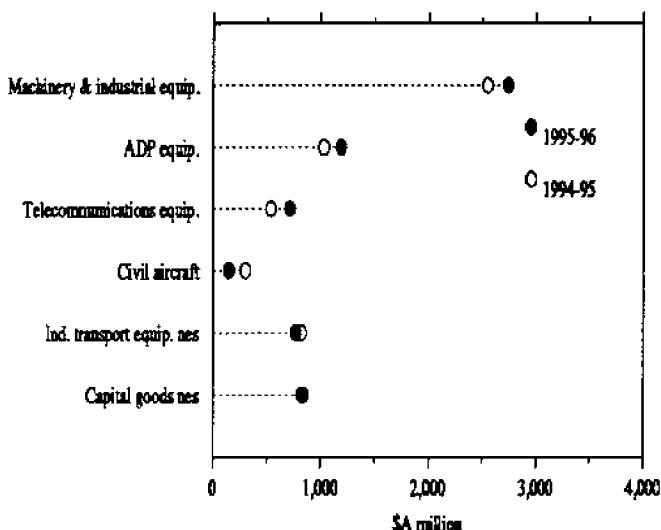
- "other" parts for capital goods, up \$345 million (18 per cent);
- machinery and industrial equipment, up \$194 million (8 per cent);
- organic and inorganic chemicals, up \$184 million (25 per cent);
- processed industrial supplies nes, up \$184 million (6 per cent); and
- consumption goods nes, up \$183 million (10 per cent).

The most significant decrease was recorded in civil aircraft, down \$150 million (50 per cent).

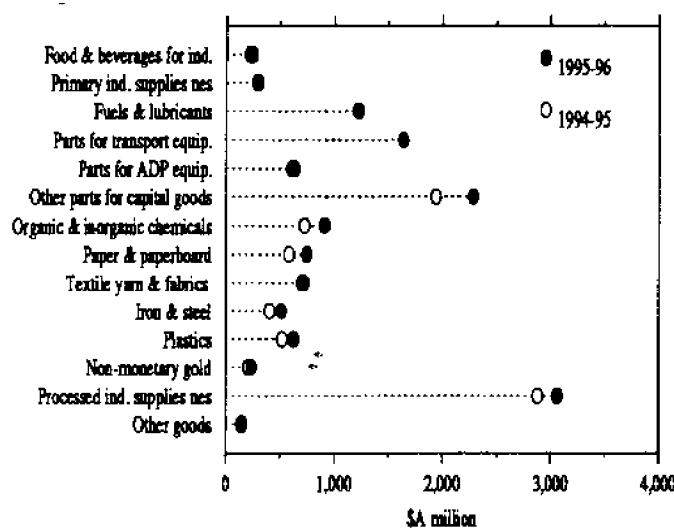
**GRAPH 8: MERCHANTISE IMPORTS - CONSUMPTION GOODS
FOUR MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER**



**GRAPH 9: MERCHANTISE IMPORTS - CAPITAL GOODS
FOUR MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER**



**GRAPH 10: MERCHANTISE IMPORTS - INTERMEDIATE AND OTHER GOODS
FOUR MONTHS ENDED OCTOBER**



The *net services* deficit fell \$32 million, or 5 per cent, to \$624 million. Services credits rose \$799 million, or 12 per cent, due mainly to increases of \$487 million in travel credits and \$149 million in "other" services credits. Services debits rose \$767 million, or 11 per cent, due mainly to increases of \$254 million in "other" transportation debits, \$219 million in "other services" debits and \$201 million in travel debits.

The *net income* deficit rose \$178 million, or 3 per cent, to \$6,030 million. Income credits rose \$157 million, or 7 per cent, due mainly to an increase in reinvested earnings. Income debits rose \$334 million, or 4 per cent, due mainly to increases in investment income payable by the official sector and "other" investment income payable by the non-official sector, which were partly offset by a decrease in reinvested earnings.

The *net unrequited transfers* surplus rose \$290 million to \$498 million. Unrequited transfers credits rose \$271 million, or 27 per cent, due mainly to an increase in migrants' transfers. Unrequited transfers debits fell \$19 million, or 2 per cent.

Official sector capital transactions for the four months ended October 1995 yielded a net inflow of \$3,625 million, compared with a net inflow of \$6,836 million for the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The estimate for the latest period consisted of:

- a net inflow of \$3,350 million in general government transactions, down \$2,073 million on the net inflow for the four months to October 1994; and
- a net inflow of \$275 million in Reserve Bank transactions, down \$1,138 million on the net inflow for the four months to October 1994.

The decreased net inflow from general government transactions was largely due to a turnaround of \$5,054 million in borrowing domiciled in Australia, from a net inflow to a net outflow of \$20 million. This movement was largely offset by a turnaround of \$3,655 million in total borrowing domiciled abroad, from a net outflow to a net inflow of \$3,394 million. This was mainly due to an increase in the net inflow of State government borrowing domiciled abroad.

A decrease in net sales in official reserve assets, from the corresponding period of the previous financial year, was the main factor underlying the decrease in the net inflow arising from Reserve Bank transactions.

REVISIONS

Revisions since the last issue of this publication have decreased the current account deficit for 1994-95 by \$41 million and decreased the current account deficit for the first three months of this financial year by \$337 million.

Revisions to the current account are due to the incorporation of preliminary data from the September quarter 1995 Survey of Foreign Investment, which has resulted in revisions to investment income credits and debits.

Revisions have also been made to the capital account estimates for 1994-95 and the first three months of 1995-96. The revisions were due to the incorporation of preliminary

data from the September quarter 1995 Survey of Foreign Investment.

Release date for November 1995 issue

The expected release date for the November issue of this publication is 5 January 1996.
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.

RELIABILITY OF CONTEMPORARY TREND ESTIMATES

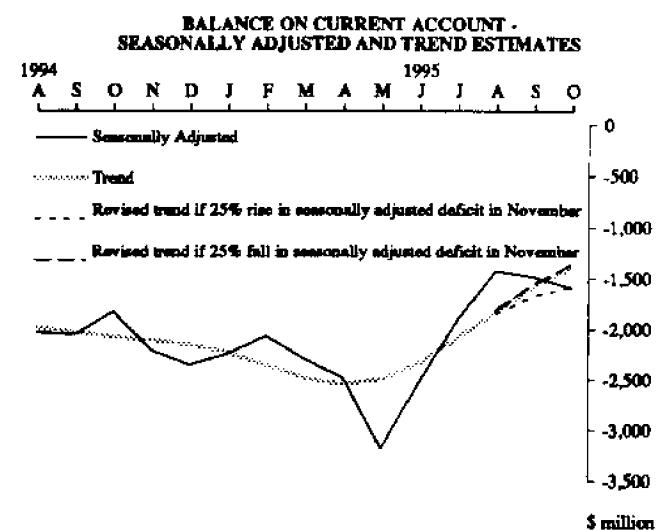
The table below presents trend estimates of the deficit on current account from August 1994 onwards, including provisional trend estimates for the latest three months (August, September and October 1995).

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 (November 1995) 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 November by 25 per cent, to \$1,995 million, the provisional trend movement for that month would be -3.6 per cent. The movements in the trend estimates for August, September and October which are provisionally -12.7 per cent, -12.8 per cent and -12.4 per cent respectively, would be revised to -11.5 per cent, -9.1 per cent and -5.6 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, a 25 per cent decline in the seasonally adjusted deficit next month, to \$1,197 million, would produce a movement of -12.5 per cent in the trend estimate

for November, with the movements in the trend estimates for August, September and October being revised to -13.8 per cent, -13.9 per cent and -12.8 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 November 1995 seasonally adjusted current account deficit is up 25% on October 1995 (a)				is down 25% on October 1995 (a)			
	\$m	% change on previous month	\$m	% change on previous month	\$m	% change on previous month	\$m	% change on previous month		
1994-95 —										
August	1977	2.5	1977	2.5	1977	2.5	1977	2.5	1977	2.5
September	2022	2.3	2022	2.3	2022	2.3	2022	2.3	2022	2.3
October	2071	2.4	2071	2.4	2071	2.4	2071	2.4	2071	2.4
November	2107	1.7	2107	1.7	2107	1.7	2107	1.7	2107	1.7
December	2145	1.8	2145	1.8	2145	1.8	2145	1.8	2145	1.8
January	2222	3.6	2222	3.6	2222	3.6	2222	3.6	2222	3.6
February	2350	5.8	2350	5.8	2350	5.8	2350	5.8	2350	5.8
March	2478	5.4	2478	5.4	2478	5.4	2478	5.4	2478	5.4
April	2541	2.5	2541	2.5	2541	2.5	2541	2.5	2541	2.5
May	2491	-2.0	2486	-2.2	2486	-2.2	2502	-1.5	2502	-1.5
June	2329	-6.5	2317	-6.8	2317	-6.8	2345	-6.3	2345	-6.3
1995-96 —										
July	2083	-10.6	2076	-10.4	2076	-10.4	2090	-10.9	2090	-10.9
August	1818 p	-12.7	1838	-11.5	1838	-11.5	1802	-13.8	1802	-13.8
September	1585 p	-12.8	1670	-9.1	1670	-9.1	1551	-13.9	1551	-13.9
October	1389 p	-12.4	1576	-5.6	1576	-5.6	1353	-12.8	1353	-12.8
November			1520	-3.6	1520	-3.6	1184	-12.5	1184	-12.5

(a) Assumes no revisions to the seasonally adjusted estimates of the current account balance for the 15 months August 1994 to October 1995.

TABLE I. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
(\$ million)

	Years			1994-95			Months			1995-96			July to Oct.			
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Current transactions —																
<i>Goods and services —</i>																
<i>Merchandise (a) —</i>																
Exports fob	60,022	63,852	66,418	5,274	5,281	5,735	5,713	5,492	4,866	5,109	6,135	5,598	6,148	5,693	6,236	6,200
Imports fob	-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
Balance on merchandise trade	355	-548	-8,251	-1,398	-787	-529	-966	-429	-919	-498	-672	-95	-823	-524	-954	-889
<i>Services —</i>																
Credits	16,422	18,688	20,341	1,561	1,472	1,680	1,664	1,748	1,895	2,033	1,727	1,686	1,580	1,606	1,962	1,737
Debits	-18,430	-19,497	-21,239	-1,696	-1,818	-1,732	-1,691	-1,689	-1,858	-1,617	-1,744	-1,810	-1,866	-2,013	-1,889	-1,992
Net services	-2,008	-809	-698	-135	-346	-52	-27	59	37	416	-17	-124	-286	-300	-51	-152
Balance on goods and services	-1,413	-1,357	-9,149	-1,533	-1,133	-581	-993	-370	-882	-82	-689	-219	-1,109	-824	-1,005	-1,041
<i>Income —</i>																
Credits	5,925	6,016	7,305	581	603	601	555	580	621	634	662	641	541	704	604	605
Debits	-19,863	-21,692	-25,653	-1,979	-2,108	-2,129	-2,075	-1,917	-2,191	-2,032	-2,127	-2,365	-2,445	-2,282	-2,100	-2,017
Net income	-13,938	-15,676	-18,348	-1,398	-1,505	-1,529	-1,521	-1,337	-1,570	-1,398	-1,466	-1,724	-1,904	-1,577	-1,496	-1,412
<i>Unrequited transfers —</i>																
Credits	3,119	2,820	3,209	250	225	258	235	288	315	237	295	247	272	364	327	281
Debits	-2,434	-2,624	-2,722	-178	-213	-180	-170	-224	-222	-241	-218	-193	-285	-372	-237	-180
Net unrequited transfers	685	196	487	72	12	78	65	64	93	74	19	102	-38	-100	127	147
Balance on current account	-14,666	-16,837	-27,010	-2,859	-2,626	-2,032	-2,449	-1,643	-2,359	-1,406	-2,136	-1,841	-1,951	-2,501	-2,374	-2,306
<i>Net capital transactions —</i>																
<i>Official —</i>																
General government	11,384	7,869	13,626	-1,003	477	2,774	4,215	2,032	-491	505	-300	-715	774	2,182	3,498	-2,033
Reserve Bank —	3,950	-1,054	1,971	16	483	904	-32	73	13	-93	-441	-138	200	956	-940	1,024
Reserve assets	39	-49	23	-32	31	-44	22	13	-13	19	-4	38	-32	3	56	-32
Other	3,949	-1,103	1,994	-16	514	860	-10	86	—	-74	-445	-100	168	956	-937	1,080
Total	15,373	6,766	15,620	-1,019	991	3,634	4,205	2,118	-491	431	-745	-815	942	3,138	2,561	-953
Total official	-709	10,073	11,391	3,878	1,634	-1,603	-1,757	-173	2,850	973	2,880	2,656	2,009	-636	-187	3,259
Non-official plus balancing item	14,666	16,837	27,010	2,859	2,626	2,032	2,449	1,643	2,359	1,406	2,136	1,841	3,051	2,501	2,374	2,306
Balance on capital account plus balancing item																
(a) Balance of payments basis.																

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

	Ave.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	1995-96 (\$ million)													
	Months														1995-96														
<i>Goods and services —</i>																													
<i>Merchandise —</i>																													
<i>Exports fob —</i>																													
Rural	1,669	1,647	1,674	1,717	1,531	1,463	1,508	1,602	1,476	1,509	1,579	1,711	1,674	1,689	1,592														
Non-rural	3,668	3,622	3,846	3,719	3,728	3,959	4,135	4,304	4,360	4,259	4,194	4,553	4,509	4,338	4,369														
<i>Total</i>	5,337	5,269	5,520	5,436	5,259	5,643	5,906	5,836	5,768	5,773	6,264	6,183	6,027	5,961															
<i>Imports fob —</i>																													
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	-3,395	-3,276	-3,473	-3,136	-3,068	-3,066														
<i>Total</i>	-5,999	-5,824	-5,868	-6,145	-6,301	-6,100	-6,163	-6,641	-6,516	-6,819	-6,713	-6,897	-6,295	-6,064	-6,075														
<i>Balance on merchandise trade</i>																													
	-662	-555	-348	-709	-1,042	-678	-520	-735	-680	-1,051	-940	-543	-112	-37	-114														
<i>Services —</i>																													
Credit	1,680	1,683	1,658	1,625	1,671	1,664	1,731	1,713	1,769	1,726	1,798	1,961	1,879	1,864	1,837														
Debit	-1,691	-1,697	-1,686	-1,716	-1,681	-1,802	-1,853	-1,836	-1,878	-1,931	-1,847	-1,861	-1,869	-1,884	-1,867														
<i>Net services</i>	-11	-14	-28	-91	-10	-138	-122	-123	-109	-205	-49	100	10	-20	-30														
<i>Balance on goods and services</i>																													
	-673	-569	-376	-800	-1,052	-816	-642	-858	-789	-1,216	-989	-443	-102	-57	-144														
<i>Income —</i>																													
Credit	591	605	597	560	580	647	674	698	623	525	683	598	609	620	683														
Debit	-1,986	-2,073	-2,078	-2,031	-1,929	-2,184	-2,148	-2,132	-2,377	-2,442	-2,232	-2,155	-2,032	-2,110	-2,235														
<i>Net income</i>	-1,395	-1,468	-1,481	-1,471	-1,349	-1,537	-1,474	-1,434	-1,754	-1,917	-1,569	-1,557	-1,423	-1,490	-1,552														
<i>Unrequited transfers —</i>																													
Credit	249	237	248	241	279	296	307	238	295	266	285	359	324	299	289														
Debit	-211	-250	-208	-171	-222	-182	-257	-228	-223	-269	-247	-261	-221	-233	-189														
<i>Net unrequited transfers</i>	38	-13	40	70	57	114	50	10	72	-3	38	98	103	66	100														
<i>Balance on current account</i>																													
	-2,030	-2,050	-1,817	-2,201	-2,344	-2,239	-2,066	-2,282	-2,471	-3,176	-2,520	-1,902	-1,422	-1,481	-1,596														
<i>Trend Estimates</i>																													
<i>Merchandise —</i>																													
Exports fob	5,333	5,336	5,348	5,381	5,444	5,521	5,607	5,705	5,809	5,902	5,969	6,019	6,059p	6,081p	6,095p														
Imports fob	-5,850	-5,917	-5,988	-6,058	-6,137	-6,233	-6,358	-6,499	-6,621	-6,682	-6,658	-6,556	-6,415p	-6,264p	-6,136p														
<i>Balance on merchandise trade</i>																													
	-517	-581	-640	-677	-693	-712	-751	-794	-812	-870	-689	-537	-356p	-185p	-41p														
<i>Balance on goods and services</i>																													
	-533	-597	-670	-728	-769	-814	-876	-926	-931	-870	-744	-559	-357p	-174p	-25p														
<i>Balance on current account</i>																													
	-1,977	-2,022	-2,071	-2,107	-2,145	-2,222	-2,350	-2,478	-2,541	-2,491	-2,319	-2,063	-1,810p	-1,585p	-1,389p														

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

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

	Years		Months												July to Oct.					
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	1994-95	1995-96
<i>Rural exports fob (a) —</i>																				
Meat & meat preparations	3,750	4,043	3,653	291	327	370	358	288	230	264	321	302	299	296	328	266	247	298	1,295	1,139
Cereal grains & cereal preparations	2,954	3,206	2,523	286	227	222	209	185	152	190	225	143	212	177	173	198	223	1,030	1,030	767
Sugar, sugar preparations & honey	1,072	1,315	1,730	230	179	212	204	119	92	81	103	129	100	66	235	240	241	258	836	974
Wood & sheepskins	1,367	3,369	4,216	220	307	405	447	423	339	371	468	375	317	284	315	223	286	325	1,192	1,149
Other rural	5,937	6,508	6,910	524	505	582	579	590	470	498	585	582	711	690	682	649	612	603	2,205	2,546
<i>Total rural</i>	17,000	18,441	19,032	1,551	1,545	1,791	1,797	1,605	1,283	1,404	1,702	1,531	1,639	1,513	1,733	1,531	1,584	1,707	6,558	6,775
<i>Non-rural exports fob (a) —</i>																				
Metal ores & minerals	7,943	7,671	7,965	561	655	662	650	603	587	765	652	835	750	785	765	670	707	2,458	2,927	
Coal, coke & briquettes	7,620	7,256	6,938	587	522	613	560	529	556	512	609	596	645	591	666	688	619	676	2,340	2,649
Other mineral fuels	3,913	3,350	3,794	362	290	312	295	386	267	372	297	343	318	391	307	341	305	1,204	1,344	
Gold	4,580	5,548	4,906	403	298	445	397	335	448	440	468	538	430	327	440	383	593	584	1,523	2,000
Other metals	5,210	5,396	6,092	418	453	454	482	497	546	527	561	520	622	520	563	688	607	592	1,817	2,450
Machinery	4,344	5,294	6,078	457	507	487	521	558	344	493	591	435	550	611	631	553	620	575	1,925	2,379
Transport equipment	2,022	2,086	2,008	159	161	142	164	175	133	146	200	184	214	209	205	215	608	834		
Other manufactures	6,026	6,967	7,897	661	686	695	676	661	475	585	717	650	740	696	692	768	779	697	2,697	2,996
Other non-rural	1,284	1,843	1,708	115	164	156	154	172	92	148	150	145	160	153	126	158	182	172	534	638
<i>Total non-rural</i>	42,942	45,411	47,386	3,723	3,736	3,944	3,916	3,887	3,583	3,705	4,433	4,067	4,509	4,180	4,503	4,515	4,616	4,523	15,106	18,157
Total exports fob	60,022	63,852	66,418	5,274	5,281	5,735	5,713	5,492	4,866	5,109	6,135	5,598	6,148	5,693	6,236	6,066	6,200	6,230	21,664	24,732

(a) Definitions of the component series are given in ABS Catalogue No. 5502.0.

TABLE 4. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS -- CURRENT ACCOUNT -- MERCHANTISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS)

	Years												Months												July to Oct.											
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	1994-95	1995-96																
<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	-181	-245	-231	-256	-256	-856	-966																
Household electrical items	-1,382	-1,436	-1,744	-148	-152	-184	-181	-156	-121	-119	-147	-132	-145	-129	-157	-167	-138	-179	-614	-641																
Non-inititrial transport equipment	-3,478	-3,800	-4,756	-378	-428	-392	-407	-409	-337	-313	-462	-390	-446	-412	-469	-426	-346	-423	-1,580	-1,664																
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-2,178	-2,320	-2,566	-249	-223	-208	-225	-192	-246	-249	-235	-179	-189	-157	-266	-274	-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	-193	-246	-252	-260	-1,010	-1,010																	
Consumption goods net	-4,389	-4,751	-5,213	-489	-464	-486	-521	-385	-390	-360	-445	-381	-481	-375	-519	-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	-1,420	-1,420	-1,447	-1,902	-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	-714	-689	-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	-338	-325	-253	-273	-1,027	-1,189																
Telecommunications equipment	-1,224	-1,182	-1,805	-132	-136	-148	-310	-127	-119	-119	-153	-117	-151	-173	-164	-163	-207	-178	-536	-712																
Civil aircraft	-828	-241	-529	-256	-13	-25	-9	-33	-6	-57	-18	-43	-16	-48	-28	-81	-10	-30	-299	-149																
Industrial transport equipment net	-1,838	-2,084	-2,714	-204	-162	-227	-239	-518	-150	-197	-190	-189	-234	-179	-221	-198	-198	-818	-766																	
Capital goods net	-2,000	-2,293	-2,363	-223	-187	-201	-221	-180	-173	-170	-205	-188	-215	-192	-234	-212	-183	-213	-819	-842																
<i>Total capital goods fob</i>	-13,655	-14,843	-16,539	-1,739	-1,388	-1,502	-1,705	-1,695	-1,274	-1,634	-1,396	-1,715	-1,717	-1,699	-1,668	-1,418	-1,615	-6,047	-6,400																	
<i>Intermediate and other goods (a) —</i>																																				
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-436	-509	-773	-59	-44	-59	-58	-57	-110	-90	-59	-53	-67	-61	-65	-65	-65	-55	-218	-250																
Primary industrial supplies net	-677	-701	-901	-76	-71	-66	-96	-55	-80	-79	-63	-62	-83	-85	-73	-71	-66	-83	-298	-293																
Fuels and lubricants	-3,623	-3,317	-3,566	-337	-318	-250	-208	-235	-280	-314	-323	-317	-379	-286	-386	-283	-291	-264	-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	-446	-337	-406	-1,638	-1,637																
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,423	-1,681	-1,857	-156	-152	-165	-136	-133	-138	-171	-142	-189	-172	-158	-155	-158	-161	-611	-633																	
Other parts for capital goods	-4,232	-5,036	-5,92	-502	-479	-482	-510	-438	-459	-453	-559	-481	-579	-516	-622	-585	-511	-564	-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	-194	-223	-724	-906																
Paper and paperboard	-1,381	-1,465	-1,794	-150	-145	-151	-160	-142	-151	-133	-164	-137	-179	-145	-189	-172	-194	-583	-744																	
Textile yarn and fabric	-1,763	-1,869	-2,037	-183	-175	-174	-191	-139	-170	-142	-176	-137	-194	-166	-188	-188	-154	-167	-722	-698																
Iron and steel	-946	-1,039	-1,285	-121	-99	-96	-113	-85	-97	-112	-124	-96	-137	-122	-117	-143	-129	-399	-514																	
Plastics	-1,272	-1,375	-1,646	-136	-125	-131	-149	-127	-140	-134	-155	-133	-160	-129	-170	-154	-146	-158	-628																	
Non-monetary gold	-1,019	-978	-705	-54	-60	-41	-58	-74	-69	-66	-90	-30	-66	-55	-78	-56	-51	-207	-240																	
Processed industrial supplies net	-7,195	-7,783	-8,681	-745	-714	-740	-753	-650	-700	-652	-857	-684	-818	-687	-763	-728	-749	-2,880	-3,064																	
Other goods	-208	-286	-391	-80	-26	-27	-17	-11	-16	-22	-54	-17	-57	-44	-50	-38	-25	-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	-2,009	-2,855	-3,449	-2,877	-3,560	-2,053	-3,589	-3,410	-3,029	-3,228	-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	-4,217	-7,190	-6,955	-6,120	-6,703	-24,989	-26,958																

(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)

TABLE 6. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS—CAPITAL ACCOUNT AND BALANCING ITEM

Official —	Years		Months												July to Oct.	
	1992-93		1993-94		1994-95		1994-95		1994-95		1995-96		1995-96		1995-96	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	July to Oct.	
<i>General government —</i>																
Borrowing —																
Domiciled abroad —																
Commonwealth Government —																
Drawings	1,239	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Repayments	-830	-1,129	-1,573	-1	-2	-1,243	-11	-92	-30	-17	-1	-1	-197	-1	-1	
Total	409	-1,089	-1,573	-1	-2	-1,243	-11	-92	-30	-17	-1	-1	-197	-1	-1,247	
State Government	10,135	4,848	8,992	-1,243	-1,010	2,057	1,148	2,712	-440	1,546	-1,034	517	2,129	1,427	-1,247	
Total domiciled abroad	10,544	3,759	7,419	-1,244	-1,012	814	1,137	2,620	-470	1,529	-1,035	516	1,956	1,426	-1,085	
Domiciled in Australia	831	4,580	5,590	8	1,276	1,950	3,084	-595	-33	-1,019	787	-1,227	-1,179	739	377	
Total borrowing	11,375	8,339	13,009	-1,236	264	2,763	4,221	2,025	-503	510	-248	-711	777	2,165	3,532	
Other	9	-470	617	233	213	11	-6	7	12	-5	-52	-4	-3	17	-34	
<i>Total general government</i>	<i>11,384</i>	<i>7,869</i>	<i>13,626</i>	<i>-1,003</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>2,774</i>	<i>4,215</i>	<i>2,032</i>	<i>-491</i>	<i>505</i>	<i>-300</i>	<i>-715</i>	<i>774</i>	<i>2,182</i>	<i>3,498</i>	<i>-2,033</i>
Reserve Bank —																
Reserve assets —																
Official reserve assets	3,950	-1,054	1,971	16	483	904	-32	73	13	-93	-441	-138	200	956	-940	
Allocation of SDRs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other	39	-49	23	-32	31	-44	22	13	-13	19	-4	38	-32	3	56	
<i>Total Reserve Bank</i>	<i>3,989</i>	<i>-1,103</i>	<i>1,904</i>	<i>-16</i>	<i>514</i>	<i>860</i>	<i>-10</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>-74</i>	<i>-445</i>	<i>-100</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>956</i>	<i>-937</i>	
<i>Total official</i>	<i>15,373</i>	<i>6,766</i>	<i>15,620</i>	<i>-1,019</i>	<i>991</i>	<i>3,634</i>	<i>4,205</i>	<i>2,118</i>	<i>-491</i>	<i>431</i>	<i>-745</i>	<i>-815</i>	<i>942</i>	<i>3,138</i>	<i>2,561</i>	
<i>Non-official plus balancing item —</i>																
Public sector —																
Non equity securities domiciled in Australia (a)	-291	-1,060	-441	1	-19	-55	-84	-73	16	-157	-50	10	71	-66	73	
Accounts receivable/prepayments made	88	-1,215	1,184	412	401	-18	134	57	70	2	29	-33	-119	-61	67	
Other (including balancing item) (b)	-506	12,350	10,649	3,465	1,252	-1,530	-1,807	-458	2,764	1,130	2,901	2,679	2,157	-510	-327	
<i>Total non-official plus balancing item</i>	<i>-709</i>	<i>10,075</i>	<i>11,391</i>	<i>3,878</i>	<i>1,634</i>	<i>-1,603</i>	<i>-1,757</i>	<i>-475</i>	<i>2,850</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>2,880</i>	<i>2,656</i>	<i>2,169</i>	<i>-636</i>	<i>-187</i>	
Balance on capital account plus balancing item	14,664	16,841	27,011	2,859	2,626	2,032	2,449	1,643	2,359	1,406	2,136	1,881	3,051	2,501	1,712	
(a) Excludes bank securities. (b) Includes public sector transactions n.e.c.																

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

TABLE 7. OFFICIAL RESERVE ASSETS AND EXCHANGE RATES

	Years						Months						1995-96									
	1992:	1993:	1994:	93	94	95	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	
Official reserve assets (\$ million) —	20,823	20,661	20,185	20,473	20,308	19,443	16,575	18,417	19,047	19,828	21,240	21,293	21,443	20,185	20,050	18,350	18,659	18,671				
Levels at end of period	-1,417	-162	-476	106	-165	-865	-868	-158	630	781	1,412	53	150	-1,258	-135	-1,700	309	12				
Changes in levels Of which —																						
Changes due to effects of revaluations	2,533	-1,216	1,495	122	318	39	-900	-85	643	688	971	-85	350	-302	-1,075	-676	535	-37				
Changes included in the balance of payments (a)	-3,950	1,054	-1,971	-16	-483	-904	32	-73	-13	93	441	138	-203	-956	940	-1,024	-226	49				
Exchange rates (b) —																						
Units of foreign currency per \$A —																						
End of period (c) —																						
United States dollar	0.67722	0.7291	0.7086	0.7425	0.7393	0.7422	0.7674	0.7768	0.7583	0.7395	0.7280	0.7299	0.7138	0.7086	0.7389	0.7524	0.7550	0.7566				
United Kingdom pound	0.4453	0.4721	0.4452	0.4837	0.4680	0.4575	0.4912	0.4982	0.4752	0.4669	0.4534	0.4515	0.4449	0.4452	0.4611	0.4861	0.4777	0.4800				
German mark	1.137	1.159	0.981	1.170	1.145	1.121	1.206	1.207	1.141	1.084	1.026	1.004	0.993	0.981	1.023	1.109	1.070	1.066				
Japanese yen	71.54	72.20	60.08	73.82	72.88	72.25	75.93	77.56	74.75	71.75	64.92	61.04	59.45	60.08	65.31	73.55	74.22	76.98				
Special drawing right	0.4818	0.5026	0.4539	0.5122	0.5042	0.4971	0.5255	0.5336	0.5144	0.4944	0.4677	0.4621	0.4530	0.4539	0.4753	0.5070	0.5024	0.5031				
Period average (d) —																						
United States dollar	0.7030	0.6919	0.7427	0.7404	0.7414	0.7382	0.7539	0.7740	0.7658	0.7453	0.7346	0.7361	0.7278	0.7196	0.7268	0.7412	0.7542	0.7580				
United Kingdom pound	0.4263	0.4623	0.4705	0.4800	0.4743	0.4599	0.4738	0.4963	0.4869	0.4740	0.4591	0.4574	0.4580	0.4511	0.4557	0.4725	0.4841	0.4800				
German mark	1.103	1.171	1.120	1.158	1.150	1.223	1.159	1.217	1.174	1.115	1.033	1.014	1.040	1.008	1.010	1.071	1.103	1.073				
Japanese yen	84.22	73.52	70.35	73.96	73.24	72.72	73.86	77.49	76.37	73.24	66.66	61.58	61.84	60.84	63.43	70.06	75.79	76.28				
Special drawing right	0.4982	0.4944	0.4972	0.5092	0.5071	0.5000	0.5119	0.5330	0.5231	0.5049	0.4792	0.4670	0.4671	0.4601	0.4665	0.4897	0.5084	0.5056				
Trade weighted index of value of the Australian dollar (May 1970 = 100) (b) —																						
End of period (c)	49.5	53.0	48.4	53.9	53.4	53.1	55.5	56.2	54.5	52.9	50.7	49.6	48.5	48.4	51.0	53.9	53.8	54.3				
Period average (d)	52.3	51.4	52.8	53.8	53.6	53.1	54.3	56.2	55.3	53.6	51.4	50.1	49.8	49.2	50.0	52.5	54.4	54.3				

(e) 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) Those exchange rates and index numbers are derived by averaging figures for each trading day.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains preliminary estimates of Australia's balance of payments for October 1995, together with revised estimates for previous months. More comprehensive quarterly estimates are available in the September quarter 1995 issue of the quarterly balance of payments publication (5302.0) released on 28 November 1995.

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; explanations of seasonal adjustment and trend estimates; and an analysis of the quality of the estimates.

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.

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: 9 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 1995 can be obtained, for \$70.00, from Mr Gary Knox on Canberra (06) 252 5753.

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 Mr 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 October 1995 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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