

**MERCHANDISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS)  
AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1994**

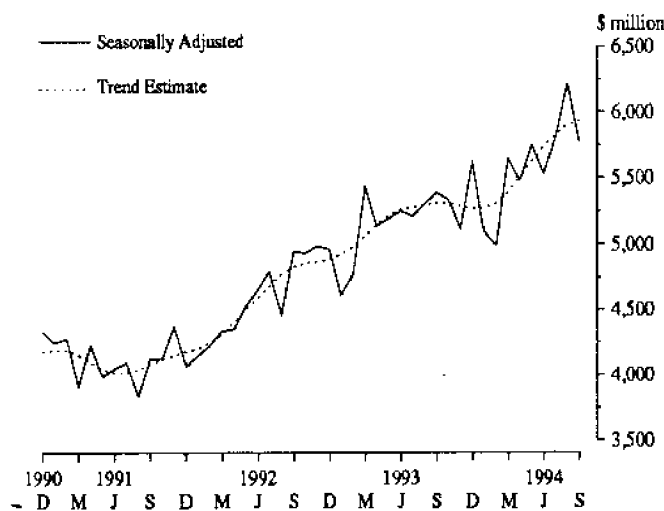
**MAIN FEATURES**

*September 1994 compared with August 1994*

The provisional trend estimate of *merchandise imports* rose \$31 million, or 1 per cent, to \$5,934 million.

Seasonally adjusted *merchandise imports* for September fell \$454 million, or 7 per cent, to \$5,764 million.

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



In *original terms*, imports fell \$631 million, or 9 per cent, to \$6,061 million.

Imports of *consumption goods*, in original terms, fell \$16 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1,711 million. Decreases were recorded in:

- consumption goods nes, down \$27 million or 6 per cent;
- textiles, clothing and footwear, down \$26 million or 10 per cent; and
- toys, books and leisure goods, down \$24 million or 9 per cent.

The largest increase was recorded in non-industrial transport equipment, up \$48 million or 13 per cent (due mainly to increased imports of passenger motor cars).

Imports of *capital goods*, in original terms, fell \$351 million, or 20 per cent, to \$1,388 million. Decreases were recorded in:

- civil aircraft, down \$243 million or 95 per cent on the August figure which included two Qantas aircraft valued at \$248 million;
- machinery and industrial equipment, down \$69 million or 10 per cent;
- industrial transport equipment nes, down \$42 million or 21 per cent; and
- capital goods nes, down \$35 million or 16 per cent.

The most significant increase was recorded in ADP equipment, up \$33 million or 14 per cent.

Imports of *intermediate and other goods*, in original terms, fell \$264 million, or 8 per cent, to \$2,962 million. Decreases were recorded in all groups, except non-monetary gold, which rose \$6 million or 11 per cent. The largest decreases were recorded in:

- "other" goods, down \$54 million or 68 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of military equipment);
- processed industrial supplies nes, down \$45 million or 6 per cent; and
- organic and inorganic chemicals, down \$43 million or 22 per cent.

*Three months ended September 1994 compared with three months ended September 1993*

In *original terms*, *merchandise imports* rose \$1,862 million, or 11 per cent, to \$18,728 million:

- *consumption goods* rose \$448 million (10 per cent);
- *capital goods* rose \$805 million (22 per cent); and
- *intermediate and other goods* rose \$609 million (7 per cent).

Increases were recorded in 23 of the 26 groups. The only significant decrease was recorded in non-monetary gold, which was down \$146 million.

**INQUIRIES** • for further information about these and related unpublished statistics, contact Mr Graeme Groves 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

	Years												Months							
	1991-92			1992-93			1993-94			1993-94			1994-95							
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	1993-94	1994-95			
<i>Consumption goods job (a) —</i>																				
Food and beverages, mainly for consumption	-2,028	-2,261	-2,430	-208	-204	-209	-218	-237	-222	-190	-176	-207	-173	-200	-186	-212	-199	-208	-621	-619
Household electrical items	-1,257	-1,382	-1,436	-118	-112	-132	-151	-155	-126	-102	-97	-112	-105	-122	-104	-130	-148	-152	-362	-430
Non-industrial transport equipment	-2,777	-3,478	-3,800	-357	-344	-282	-365	-327	-314	-250	-250	-359	-302	-327	-323	-381	-379	-427	-983	-1,187
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-1,799	-2,178	-2,320	-219	-222	-196	-185	-185	-172	-184	-222	-233	-167	-172	-163	-213	-249	-223	-637	-685
Toys, books and leisure goods	-2,015	-2,238	-2,495	-227	-242	-244	-245	-244	-189	-172	-160	-189	-177	-215	-191	-233	-262	-238	-713	-733
Consumption goods nes	-3,793	-4,389	-4,753	-414	-401	-463	-439	-463	-376	-340	-329	-394	-354	-417	-363	-435	-490	-463	-1,278	-1,388
<i>Total consumption goods</i>	<i>-13,669</i>	<i>-15,926</i>	<i>-17,234</i>	<i>-1,543</i>	<i>-1,525</i>	<i>-1,526</i>	<i>-1,603</i>	<i>-1,611</i>	<i>-1,399</i>	<i>-1,238</i>	<i>-1,234</i>	<i>-1,494</i>	<i>-1,278</i>	<i>-1,453</i>	<i>-1,330</i>	<i>-1,604</i>	<i>-1,727</i>	<i>-1,711</i>	<i>-4,594</i>	<i>-5,042</i>
<i>Capital goods job (a) —</i>																				
Machinery and industrial equipment	-4,320	-5,446	-6,413	-546	-573	-506	-542	-558	-528	-536	-438	-577	-510	-564	-535	-607	-682	-613	-1,625	-1,902
ADP equipment	-1,915	-2,319	-2,630	-212	-204	-224	-187	-210	-231	-147	-175	-254	-221	-267	-298	-253	-243	-276	-640	-772
Telecommunications equipment	-949	-1,224	-1,182	-99	-86	-120	-116	-115	-94	-76	-79	-107	-87	-98	-105	-120	-131	-136	-305	-387
Civil aircraft	-1,685	-828	-241	-24	-52	-7	-61	-3	-16	-57	-	-10	-4	-4	-3	-5	-256	-13	-83	-274
Industrial transport equipment nes	-1,240	-1,838	-2,084	-139	-118	-264	-156	-238	-138	-130	-137	-207	-154	-225	-178	-225	-204	-162	-521	-591
Capital goods nes	-1,788	-2,000	-2,293	-194	-176	-196	-185	-190	-317	-160	-161	-184	-164	-184	-182	-208	-223	-188	-566	-619
<i>Total capital goods</i>	<i>-11,897</i>	<i>-13,655</i>	<i>-14,843</i>	<i>-1,214</i>	<i>-1,209</i>	<i>-1,317</i>	<i>-1,247</i>	<i>-1,314</i>	<i>-1,324</i>	<i>-1,106</i>	<i>-990</i>	<i>-1,339</i>	<i>-1,140</i>	<i>-1,342</i>	<i>-1,301</i>	<i>-1,418</i>	<i>-1,739</i>	<i>-1,388</i>	<i>-3,740</i>	<i>-4,545</i>
<i>Intermediate and other goods job (a) —</i>																				
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-388	-436	-509	-45	-39	-47	-36	-35	-30	-57	-46	-50	-42	-44	-38	-56	-59	-44	-131	-159
Primary industrial supplies nes	-586	-677	-701	-63	-60	-53	-65	-51	-55	-42	-58	-69	-53	-80	-52	-85	-76	-71	-176	-232
Fuels and lubricants	-2,715	-3,623	-3,317	-219	-393	-335	-276	-303	-308	-211	-227	-272	-264	-275	-234	-319	-339	-320	-947	-978
Parts for transport equipment	-2,941	-3,675	-4,183	-405	-340	-356	-352	-377	-310	-305	-317	-392	-332	-376	-351	-408	-417	-400	-1,071	-1,225
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,278	-1,423	-1,682	-142	-136	-145	-121	-141	-141	-110	-119	-157	-123	-177	-170	-151	-156	-152	-423	-459
Other parts for capital goods	-3,558	-4,232	-5,036	-454	-422	-436	-407	-451	-395	-391	-386	-451	-388	-440	-415	-473	-503	-478	-1,312	-1,454
Organic and inorganic chemicals	-1,804	-2,056	-2,102	-185	-156	-193	-178	-172	-169	-161	-166	-191	-168	-178	-185	-176	-200	-157	-534	-533
Paper and paperboard	-1,295	-1,381	-1,465	-130	-125	-129	-136	-137	-114	-127	-109	-128	-109	-120	-101	-137	-150	-145	-384	-432
Textile yarn and fabrics	-1,680	-1,763	-1,868	-183	-162	-160	-153	-163	-133	-142	-134	-160	-144	-173	-161	-190	-183	-174	-505	-547
Iron and steel	-822	-946	-1,039	-92	-88	-103	-104	-78	-70	-80	-80	-91	-71	-87	-85	-83	-121	-103	-283	-307
Plastics	-1,086	-1,272	-1,375	-124	-110	-124	-111	-120	-107	-109	-111	-128	-102	-120	-109	-127	-136	-125	-358	-388
Non-monetary gold	-1,034	-1,019	-978	-92	-120	-100	-80	-61	-94	-62	-66	-105	-68	-62	-62	-52	-54	-60	-312	-166
Processed industrial supplies nes	-6,059	-7,135	-7,782	-705	-681	-663	-662	-665	-613	-612	-542	-730	-632	-671	-606	-676	-752	-707	-2,049	-2,135
Other goods	-243	-208	-286	-12	-20	-15	-26	-23	-25	-28	-29	-37	-12	-34	-25	-20	-80	-26	-47	-126
<i>Total intermediate and other goods</i>	<i>-25,489</i>	<i>-29,846</i>	<i>-32,323</i>	<i>-2,821</i>	<i>-2,852</i>	<i>-2,859</i>	<i>-2,707</i>	<i>-2,777</i>	<i>-2,564</i>	<i>-2,447</i>	<i>-2,390</i>	<i>-2,961</i>	<i>-2,508</i>	<i>-2,843</i>	<i>-2,594</i>	<i>-2,953</i>	<i>-3,226</i>	<i>-2,962</i>	<i>-8,532</i>	<i>-9,141</i>
<i>Total imports job</i>	<i>-51,055</i>	<i>-59,427</i>	<i>-64,400</i>	<i>-5,578</i>	<i>-5,586</i>	<i>-5,702</i>	<i>-5,557</i>	<i>-5,702</i>	<i>-5,287</i>	<i>-4,791</i>	<i>-4,614</i>	<i>-5,794</i>	<i>-4,926</i>	<i>-5,638</i>	<i>-5,225</i>	<i>-5,975</i>	<i>-6,692</i>	<i>-6,061</i>	<i>-16,866</i>	<i>-18,728</i>
<i>Consumption goods</i>	..	..	..	-1,450	-1,419	-1,431	-1,458	-1,382	-1,436	-1,356	-1,323	-1,447	-1,465	-1,578	-1,502	-1,579	-1,560	-1,612	..	..
<i>Capital goods</i>	..	..	..	-1,081	-1,155	-1,187	-1,142	-1,109	-1,454	-1,250	-1,164	-1,449	-1,267	-1,402	-1,273	-1,325	-1,602	-1,302	..	..
<i>Intermediate and other goods</i>	..	..	..	-2,682	-2,733	-2,775	-2,740	-2,625	-2,733	-2,484	-2,501	-2,753	-2,748	-2,769	-2,756	-2,903	-3,056	-2,850	..	..
<i>Total imports job</i>	..	..	..	-5,213	-5,307	-5,393	-5,340	-5,116	-5,623	-5,090	-4,988	-5,649	-5,480	-5,749	-5,531	-5,807	-6,218	-5,764	..	..
<i>Total imports job</i>	..	..	..	-5,284	-5,301	-5,314	-5,312	-5,286	-5,268	-5,276	-5,312	-5,390	-5,500	-5,622	-5,738	-5,830p	-5,903p	-5,934p	..	..

(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 September 1994, 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 f.o.b. 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 1994 can be obtained, for \$65.00, from Mr Damian Dwyer on Canberra (06) 252 6820.

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.

**Available longer term series**

9. Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication are available and can be obtained by contacting Mr Damian Dwyer 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 September 1994 are due for release on 1 November 1994 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 September 1994 and previous months. These data series can be obtained by contacting International Trade Client Services on Canberra (06) 252 5400.

**Symbols and other usages**

f.o.b.	free on board
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable
p	provisional

**RICHARD MADDEN**  
Acting Australian Statistician



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