

CATALOGUE NO. 5320.0

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

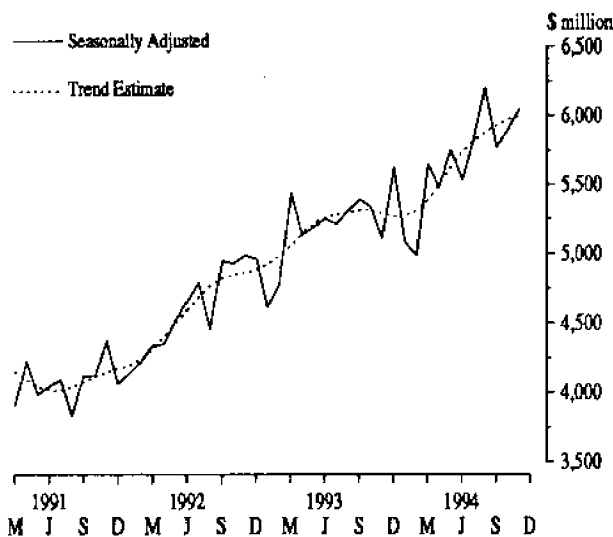
**MAIN FEATURES**

*November 1994 compared with October 1994*

The provisional trend estimate of merchandise imports rose \$23 million to \$5,997 million.

Seasonally adjusted merchandise imports for November rose \$161 million, or 3 per cent, to \$6,048 million. Consumption goods rose \$22 million, or 1 per cent, to \$1,605 million. Capital goods rose \$165 million, or 13 per cent, to \$1,457 million. Intermediate and other goods fell \$26 million, or 1 per cent, to \$2,986 million.

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



In original terms, imports rose \$410 million, or 7 per cent, to \$6,674 million.

Imports of consumption goods, in original terms, rose \$57 million, or 3 per cent, to \$1,841 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- consumption goods nes, up \$34 million or 7 per cent; and
- food and beverages, mainly for consumption, up \$22 million or 9 per cent.

The largest decrease was recorded in toys, books and leisure goods, down \$27 million or 10 per cent.

Imports of capital goods, in original terms, rose \$200 million, or 13 per cent, to \$1,702 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- telecommunications equipment, up \$161 million or 109 per cent (partly due to the importation of a satellite);
- machinery and industrial equipment, up \$28 million or 4 per cent; and
- capital goods nes, up \$21 million or 11 per cent.

Imports of intermediate and other goods, in original terms, rose \$153 million, or 5 per cent, to \$3,131 million. Increases were recorded in 11 of the 14 groups. The largest increases were recorded in:

- primary industrial supplies nes, up \$30 million or 45 per cent;
- "other" parts for capital goods, up \$28 million or 6 per cent; and
- organic and inorganic chemicals, up \$26 million or 14 per cent.

The largest decrease was recorded in fuels and lubricants, down \$46 million or 18 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of crude petroleum).

*Five months ended November 1994 compared with five months ended November 1993*

In original terms, merchandise imports rose \$3,541 million, or 13 per cent, to \$31,666 million:

- consumption goods rose \$861 million (11 per cent);
- capital goods rose \$1,448 million (23 per cent); and
- intermediate and other goods rose \$1,232 million (9 per cent).

**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

	Months												July to Nov							
	Years			1993-94						1994-95						1993-94	1994-95			
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	94	95				
<i>Consumption goods job (a) —</i>																				
Food and beverages, mainly for consumption	-2,028	-2,261	-2,430	-209	-218	-237	-222	-190	-176	-207	-173	-200	-186	-212	-199	-208	-237	-259	-1,076	-1,115
Household electrical items	-1,257	-1,382	-1,436	-132	-151	-155	-126	-102	-97	-112	-105	-122	-104	-130	-148	-152	-184	-181	-668	-795
Non-industrial transport equipment	-2,777	-3,478	-3,800	-282	-365	-327	-314	-250	-250	-359	-302	-327	-323	-382	-378	-428	-392	-407	-1,675	-1,987
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-1,799	-2,178	-2,320	-196	-185	-185	-172	-184	-222	-233	-167	-172	-163	-214	-249	-223	-209	-225	-1,007	-1,120
Toys, books and leisure goods	-2,015	-2,238	-2,496	-244	-245	-244	-189	-172	-160	-189	-177	-215	-192	-233	-262	-238	-276	-249	-1,202	-1,258
Consumption goods nes	-3,793	-4,389	-4,751	-463	-439	-463	-376	-340	-329	-393	-354	-417	-362	-436	-488	-464	-486	-520	-2,180	-2,394
<i>Total consumption goods</i>	<i>-13,669</i>	<i>-15,926</i>	<i>-17,233</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>-1,493</i>	<i>-1,278</i>	<i>-1,453</i>	<i>-1,330</i>	<i>-1,607</i>	<i>-1,724</i>	<i>-1,713</i>	<i>-1,784</i>	<i>-1,841</i>	<i>-7,808</i>	<i>-8,669</i>
<i>Capital goods job (a) —</i>																				
Machinery and industrial equipment	-4,320	-5,446	-6,414	-506	-542	-558	-528	-536	-438	-577	-510	-565	-535	-607	-681	-613	-646	-674	-2,725	-3,221
ADP equipment	-1,915	-2,319	-2,629	-224	-187	-210	-231	-147	-175	-254	-221	-266	-298	-253	-243	-276	-256	-250	-1,037	-1,278
Telecommunications equipment	-949	-1,224	-1,182	-120	-116	-115	-94	-76	-79	-107	-87	-98	-105	-120	-132	-136	-148	-309	-536	-845
Civil aircraft	-1,685	-828	-241	-7	-61	-3	-16	-57	—	-10	4	-4	-3	-5	-256	-13	-25	-9	-147	-308
Industrial transport equipment nes	-1,240	-1,838	-2,084	-264	-156	-238	-138	-130	-137	-207	-154	-225	-178	-225	-204	-162	-227	-239	-915	-1,057
Capital goods nes	-1,788	-2,000	-2,293	-196	-185	-190	-317	-160	-161	-184	-164	-184	-182	-208	-223	-188	-200	-221	-941	-1,040
<i>Total capital goods</i>	<i>-11,897</i>	<i>-13,655</i>	<i>-14,843</i>	<i>-1,317</i>	<i>-1,247</i>	<i>-1,314</i>	<i>-1,224</i>	<i>-1,106</i>	<i>-980</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>-1,502</i>	<i>-1,702</i>	<i>-6,301</i>	<i>-7,749</i>
<i>Intermediate and other goods job (a) —</i>																				
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-388	-436	-509	-47	-36	-35	-30	-57	-46	-50	-42	-44	-38	-56	-59	-44	-59	-58	-202	-276
Primary industrial supplies nes	-586	-677	-701	-53	-65	-51	-55	-42	-58	-69	-53	-80	-52	-85	-76	-71	-66	-96	-292	-394
Fuels and lubricants	-2,715	-3,623	-3,317	-335	-276	-303	-308	-211	-227	-272	-264	-275	-234	-319	-337	-320	-253	-207	-1,526	-1,436
Parts for transport equipment	-2,941	-3,675	-4,183	-356	-352	-377	-310	-305	-317	-392	-332	-376	-351	-409	-409	-401	-418	-437	-1,800	-2,074
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,278	-1,423	-1,681	-145	-121	-141	-141	-110	-119	-157	-123	-177	-169	-151	-156	-152	-151	-165	-685	-775
Other parts for capital goods	-3,558	-4,232	-5,036	-436	-407	-451	-395	-391	-386	-451	-388	-440	-415	-474	-502	-478	-482	-510	-2,170	-2,446
Organic and inorganic chemicals	-1,804	-2,056	-2,102	-193	-172	-169	-161	-166	-166	-191	-168	-178	-185	-176	-200	-157	-190	-216	-884	-939
Paper and paperboard	-1,295	-1,381	-1,465	-129	-136	-137	-114	-127	-109	-128	-109	-120	-101	-137	-150	-145	-151	-160	-657	-743
Textile yarn and fabrics	-1,680	-1,763	-1,869	-160	-153	-163	-133	-142	-134	-160	-144	-173	-162	-190	-183	-174	-174	-191	-821	-912
Iron and steel	-822	-946	-1,039	-103	-104	-78	-70	-90	-80	-91	-71	-87	-85	-83	-121	-103	-96	-113	-465	-516
Plastics	-1,086	-1,272	-1,375	-124	-111	-120	-107	-109	-111	-128	-103	-119	-109	-127	-136	-125	-131	-149	-589	-668
Non-monetary gold	-1,034	-1,019	-978	-100	-80	-61	-94	-62	-66	-105	-68	-68	-62	-52	-54	-60	-41	-58	-453	-265
Processed industrial supplies nes	-6,059	-7,135	-7,783	-663	-662	-665	-613	-612	-542	-730	-632	-672	-606	-681	-746	-714	-739	-754	-3,376	-3,634
Other goods	-243	-208	-286	-15	-26	-23	-25	-28	-29	-37	-12	-34	-25	-20	-80	-26	-27	-17	-96	-170
<i>Total intermediate and other goods</i>	<i>-25,489</i>	<i>-29,846</i>	<i>-32,324</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>-2,061</i>	<i>-2,509</i>	<i>-2,843</i>	<i>-2,594</i>	<i>-2,960</i>	<i>-3,209</i>	<i>-2,970</i>	<i>-2,978</i>	<i>-3,131</i>	<i>-14,016</i>	<i>-15,248</i>
<i>Total imports job</i>	<i>-51,055</i>	<i>-59,427</i>	<i>-64,400</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>-5,793</i>	<i>-4,927</i>	<i>-5,638</i>	<i>-5,225</i>	<i>-5,985</i>	<i>-6,672</i>	<i>-6,071</i>	<i>-6,264</i>	<i>-6,674</i>	<i>-28,125</i>	<i>-31,666</i>
Consumption goods	..	..	..	-1,431	-1,458	-1,382	-1,436	-1,356	-1,323	-1,446	-1,465	-1,578	-1,502	-1,582	-1,557	-1,614	-1,583	-1,605	..	..
Capital goods	..	..	..	-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	-1,292	-1,457	..	..
Intermediate and other goods	..	..	..	-2,775	-2,740	-2,625	-2,733	-2,484	-2,501	-2,753	-2,749	-2,769	-2,756	-2,910	-3,040	-2,857	-3,012	-2,986	..	..
<i>Total imports job</i>	..	..	..	<i>-5,393</i>	<i>-5,340</i>	<i>-5,116</i>	<i>-5,623</i>	<i>-5,090</i>	<i>-4,988</i>	<i>-5,648</i>	<i>-5,481</i>	<i>-5,749</i>	<i>-5,531</i>	<i>-5,817</i>	<i>-6,199</i>	<i>-5,773</i>	<i>-5,887</i>	<i>-6,048</i>	..	..
<i>Total Imports job</i>	..	..	..	<i>-5,314</i>	<i>-5,312</i>	<i>-5,286</i>	<i>-5,268</i>	<i>-5,276</i>	<i>-5,312</i>	<i>-5,390</i>	<i>-5,502</i>	<i>-5,626</i>	<i>-5,739</i>	<i>-5,822</i>	<i>-5,878</i>	<i>-5,930p</i>	<i>-5,974p</i>	<i>-5,997p</i>	..	..

(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 November 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 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 1994 can be obtained, for \$65.00, from Mr Trevor Jolly 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 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 November 1994 are due for release on 4 January 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 information than that shown in this publication is available for November 1994 and earlier months. These data may be obtained by contacting Mr Trevor Jolly on Canberra (06) 252 6820. There may be a charge for this information.

12. More detailed merchandise imports data, including dissections by commodity and country of origin, are also available on a foreign trade basis, for November 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**

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 December 1994 issue**

The expected release date for the December issue of this publication is 19 January 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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