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**MERCHANDISE IMPORTS (BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BASIS)
AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1995**

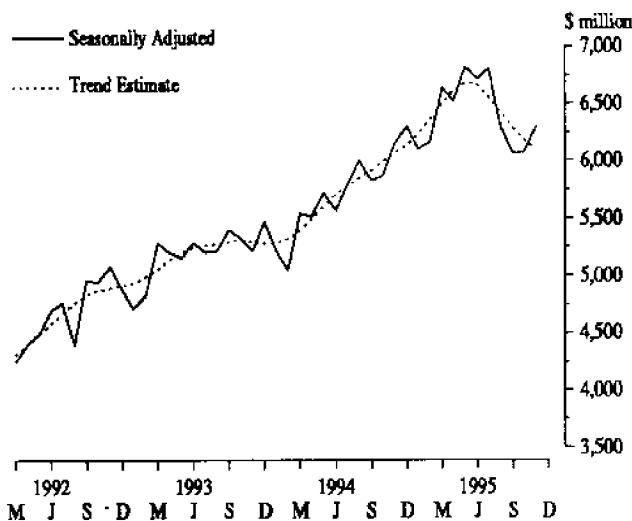
MAIN FEATURES

November 1995 compared with October 1995

The provisional trend estimate of *merchandise imports* fell \$88 million, or 1 per cent, to \$6,097 million.

In *seasonally adjusted terms*, *merchandise imports* for November rose \$226 million, or 4 per cent, to \$6,302 million. *Consumption goods* rose \$98 million, or 6 per cent, to \$1,662 million. *Capital goods* rose \$104 million, or 7 per cent, to \$1,550 million. *Intermediate and other goods* rose \$24 million, or 1 per cent, to \$3,090 million.

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



In *original terms*, *imports* rose \$134 million, or 2 per cent, to \$6,838 million.

Imports of *consumption goods*, in original terms, rose \$9 million to \$1,869 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- textiles, clothing and footwear, up \$16 million or 8 per cent (with most components recording increases); and

- consumption goods nes, up \$11 million or 2 per cent. The largest decrease was recorded in non-industrial transport equipment, down \$19 million or 4 per cent (due mainly to decreased imports of passenger motor cars).

Imports of *capital goods*, in original terms, rose \$89 million, or 6 per cent, to \$1,705 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- civil aircraft, up \$73 million (which includes the import of an Ansett aircraft valued at \$33 million); and
- telecommunications equipment, up \$22 million, or 12 per cent.

These increases were partly offset by a decrease in industrial transport equipment nes, down \$18 million or 9 per cent.

Imports of *intermediate and other goods*, in original terms, rose \$36 million, or 1 per cent, to \$3,264 million. The largest increases were recorded in:

- fuels and lubricants, up \$90 million or 34 per cent (with most components recording increases); and
- non-monetary gold, up \$23 million or 45 per cent. The most significant decrease was recorded in parts for transport equipment, down \$66 million or 16 per cent.

Five months ended November 1995 compared with five months ended November 1994

In *original terms*, *merchandise imports* rose \$2,120 million, or 7 per cent, to \$33,808 million:

- *consumption goods* rose \$509 million (6 per cent);
- *capital goods* rose \$362 million (5 per cent); and
- *intermediate and other goods* rose \$1,249 million (8 per cent).

INQUIRIES • for further information about these and related unpublished statistics, contact Ms Patricia Mahony 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. 1994-1995- 95							
	Years		1994-95											1995-96						
	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.		Oct.	Nov.					
(\$ million)																				
<i>Consumption goods fob (a) —</i>																				
Food and beverages, mainly for consumption	-2,261	-2,430	-2,592	-208	-237	-260	-235	-227	-199	-236	-168	-230	-181	-245	-233	-231	-256	-263	-1,116	-1,228
Household electrical items	-1,382	-1,436	-1,744	-152	-184	-181	-156	-121	-119	-147	-132	-145	-129	-157	-167	-138	-179	-177	-795	-818
Non-industrial transport equipment	-3,478	-3,800	-4,758	-428	-392	-407	-409	-337	-313	-462	-391	-446	-413	-469	-426	-346	-423	-404	-1,987	-2,068
Textiles, clothing and footwear	-2,178	-2,320	-2,566	-223	-208	-225	-192	-246	-249	-235	-179	-189	-157	-266	-274	-220	-213	-229	-1,119	-1,202
Toys, books and leisure goods	-2,238	-2,496	-2,546	-238	-277	-249	-183	-181	-156	-199	-170	-205	-193	-247	-252	-252	-260	-256	-1,259	-1,267
Consumption goods nes	-4,389	-4,751	-5,213	-464	-486	-521	-385	-390	-360	-445	-381	-481	-375	-519	-524	-486	-529	-540	-2,396	-2,598
Total consumption goods	-15,926	-17,233	-19,419	-1,713	-1,784	-1,843	-1,560	-1,502	-1,396	-1,724	-1,421	-1,696	-1,448	-1,903	-1,876	-1,673	-1,860	-1,869	-8,672	-9,181
<i>Capital goods fob (a) —</i>																				
Machinery and industrial equipment	-5,446	-6,414	-7,897	-614	-646	-675	-620	-637	-618	-745	-616	-705	-733	-719	-691	-616	-723	-727	-3,223	-3,476
ADP equipment	-2,319	-2,629	-3,232	-276	-255	-251	-217	-189	-195	-325	-243	-393	-392	-338	-325	-233	-273	-281	-1,278	-1,470
Telecommunications equipment	-1,224	-1,182	-1,805	-136	-148	-310	-127	-119	-119	-153	-117	-151	-173	-164	-163	-207	-178	-200	-846	-912
Civil aircraft	-828	-241	-529	-13	-25	-9	-33	-6	-57	-18	-43	-16	-48	-28	-81	-11	-31	-104	-308	-255
Industrial transport equipment nes	-1,838	-2,084	-2,714	-162	-227	-239	-518	-150	-197	-190	-189	-234	-179	-221	-198	-148	-198	-180	-1,057	-945
Capital goods nes	-2,000	-2,293	-2,365	-187	-201	-221	-180	-173	-170	-205	-189	-215	-193	-234	-213	-183	-213	-213	-1,040	-1,056
Total capital goods	-13,655	-14,843	-18,542	-1,388	-1,502	-1,705	-1,695	-1,274	-1,356	-1,636	-1,397	-1,714	-1,718	-1,704	-1,671	-1,418	-1,616	-1,705	-7,752	-8,114
<i>Intermediate and other goods fob (a) —</i>																				
Food and beverages, mainly for industry	-436	-509	-774	-44	-59	-58	-57	-110	-90	-59	-53	-68	-61	-65	-65	-65	-55	-77	-276	-327
Primary industrial supplies nes	-677	-701	-901	-71	-66	-96	-55	-80	-79	-63	-62	-83	-85	-73	-71	-66	-83	-76	-394	-369
Fuels and lubricants	-3,623	-3,317	-3,566	-318	-250	-208	-235	-280	-314	-323	-317	-379	-286	-385	-284	-290	-264	-354	-1,432	-1,577
Parts for transport equipment	-3,675	-4,183	-4,714	-402	-418	-437	-340	-401	-329	-409	-385	-424	-351	-448	-446	-338	-406	-340	-2,075	-1,978
Parts for ADP equipment	-1,423	-1,681	-1,857	-152	-152	-165	-136	-133	-138	-171	-142	-189	-172	-159	-158	-155	-161	-161	-776	-794
Other parts for capital goods	-4,236	-5,047	-5,975	-483	-486	-514	-442	-462	-456	-561	-484	-582	-521	-619	-582	-511	-564	-551	-2,467	-2,827
Organic and inorganic chemicals	-2,056	-2,102	-2,431	-157	-191	-216	-177	-203	-201	-245	-203	-228	-234	-242	-249	-194	-223	-245	-940	-1,153
Paper and paperboard	-1,381	-1,465	-1,794	-145	-151	-160	-142	-151	-133	-164	-137	-179	-145	-189	-189	-171	-194	-174	-743	-917
Textile yarn and fabrics	-1,763	-1,869	-2,036	-175	-174	-191	-139	-170	-142	-176	-137	-194	-165	-189	-187	-154	-167	-172	-913	-869
Iron and steel	-946	-1,039	-1,285	-99	-96	-113	-85	-97	-112	-124	-96	-137	-122	-117	-143	-129	-125	-125	-512	-639
Plastics	-1,272	-1,375	-1,646	-125	-131	-149	-127	-140	-134	-155	-133	-160	-129	-170	-155	-146	-158	-149	-668	-778
Non-monetary gold	-1,019	-978	-705	-60	-41	-58	-74	-69	-56	-90	-30	-66	-55	-55	-78	-56	-51	-74	-265	-314
Processed industrial supplies nes	-7,135	-7,783	-8,681	-714	-740	-753	-650	-700	-652	-857	-684	-818	-687	-824	-763	-728	-749	-752	-3,816	-3,816
Other goods	-208	-286	-391	-26	-27	-17	-11	-16	-22	-54	-17	-57	-44	-50	-38	-25	-28	-14	-170	-155
Total intermediate and other goods	-29,850	-32,335	-36,756	-2,971	-2,982	-3,135	-2,670	-3,012	-2,858	-3,451	-2,880	-3,564	-3,057	-3,585	-3,408	-3,028	-3,228	-3,264	-15,264	-16,513
Total imports fob	-59,431	-64,411	-74,717	-6,072	-6,268	-6,683	-5,925	-5,788	-5,610	-6,811	-5,698	-6,974	-6,223	-7,192	-6,955	-6,119	-6,704	-6,838	-31,688	-33,808
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>																				
Consumption goods	..	..	..	-1,610	-1,576	-1,616	-1,631	-1,601	-1,511	-1,708	-1,699	-1,735	-1,651	-1,813	-1,714	-1,626	-1,564	-1,662	..	..
Capital goods	..	..	..	-1,334	-1,336	-1,574	-1,738	-1,441	-1,629	-1,746	-1,568	-1,690	-1,788	-1,525	-1,446	-1,370	-1,446	-1,550	..	..
Intermediate and other goods	..	..	..	-2,884	-2,940	-2,959	-2,937	-3,061	-3,027	-3,191	-3,255	-3,397	-3,280	-3,470	-3,135	-3,066	-3,066	-3,090	..	..
Total imports fob	..	..	..	-5,828	-5,872	-6,149	-6,306	-6,103	-6,167	-6,645	-6,522	-6,822	-6,719	-6,808	-6,295	-6,062	-6,076	-6,302	..	..
<i>Trend Estimates</i>																				
Total imports fob	..	..	..	-5,921	-5,992	-6,062	-6,141	-6,237	-6,363	-6,503	-6,625	-6,688	-6,665	-6,559	-6,418	-6,288p	-6,185p	-6,097p	..	..

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

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.

More detailed and longer term series

9. More detailed information than that shown in this publication is available for November 1995 and earlier months. Estimates for months prior to those shown in this publication are also available. These data 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 1995 are due for release on 5 January 1996 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 November 1995 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

W. McLennan
Australian Statistician

Release date for December 1995 issue

The expected release date for the December issue of this publication is 18 January 1996. Any variations which might occur will be notified in the ABS Publications Advice (1105.0) and on DISCOVERY

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