



**Australian  
Bureau of  
Statistics**

**Manufacturing Production  
Australia**

**Plastics, Rubber, Paints  
Detergents and  
Industrial Chemicals**

**June 1994 - August 1994**

**Catalogue No. 8362.0**

## FINAL ISSUE OF THIS PUBLICATION

This is the final issue of this publication. From 1995 collection and dissemination of items in this publication will be determined by the following factors:

- aggregate monthly Australia-level data for major economic indicator (MEI) items will continue to be released monthly in the bulletin *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary (8301.0)*. The following commodity items which were previously released in this publication, will continue to be collected and released monthly in 8301.0:

- . plastics in primary forms
- . rigid PVC tubes, pipes etc
- . paint
- . sulphuric acid; oleum
- . superphosphates

- quarterly Australia-level data for items required for government policy purposes will be collected quarterly. The collection of these items will be fully funded by the ABS and released to users via a special data service.

- other commodity items will only be collected where users fund their collection. Data for these items will be disseminated to users via a special data service.

If you require further information regarding the above issues or the status of particular items, please contact Rod Smith on (03) 615 7635.

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**MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION, AUSTRALIA**

**PLASTICS, RUBBER, PAINTS, DETERGENTS AND  
INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS**  
**JUNE 1994 - AUGUST 1994**

**IAN CASTLES**  
**Australian Statistician**

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**CATALOGUE NO. 8362.0**

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### INQUIRIES

- *for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Rod Smith on Melbourne (03) 615 7635 or any ABS office.*
  - *for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.*
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TABLE 1. PLASTICS IN PRIMARY FORMS(a)  
(tonnes)

Period	Mixed or compound (b)(c) (576.02)	Not mixed or compound(b)					Other(c) (573.15, 576.01, 576.04, 579.00)	Total(c)
		Poly-ethylene(c) (571.13)	Poly-styrene (572.14)	Poly-propylene (575.14)	Polyvinyl acetate (575.98)			
1991-92	r 51,053	r 233,288	65,230	190,882	11,486	r 457,559	r 1,009,988	
1992-93	r 58,375	r 287,386	62,103	214,790	10,860	r 430,991	r 1,064,505	
1993-94	64,220	301,821	71,403	226,498	14,884	468,119	1,146,945	
1993 —	r	r				r	r	
June	4,988	21,400	6,369	16,756	1,070	38,368	88,951	
July	5,205	24,346	5,740	r 19,069	1,380	39,887	95,627	
August	5,085	26,760	5,876	20,815	1,084	39,134	98,754	
September	5,097	24,674	4,939	19,491	1,261	43,382	98,844	
October	6,007	27,362	5,688	19,337	1,529	39,982	99,905	
November	5,514	27,637	7,276	17,331	1,135	36,571	95,464	
December	5,237	26,145	4,701	18,488	1,178	28,766	84,515	
1994 —	r	r				r	r	
January	3,536	21,847	6,124	18,408	958	31,899	82,772	
February	5,631	24,171	6,310	19,007	1,329	39,761	96,209	
March	6,038	28,739	6,670	18,178	1,403	45,008	106,036	
April	5,220	26,782	6,355	21,091	1,186	40,283	100,917	
May	5,962	18,034	6,010	14,714	1,191	40,966	86,877	
June	5,688	25,324	5,714	20,569	1,250	42,480	101,025	
July	6,278	25,513	6,222	21,358	1,472	44,534	105,377	
August	5,518	29,219	7,240	24,150	1,380	46,224	113,731	
1993-94: July to Aug.	10,290	51,106	11,616	39,884	2,464	79,021	194,381	
1994-95: July to Aug.	11,796	54,732	13,462	45,508	2,852	90,758	219,108	

(a) Primary forms includes liquid, paste, powder, granules, flakes, blocks, irregular shapes, lumps and similar bulk forms. (b) Excludes regranulated scrap. (c) Series has been revised as a result of increased coverage.

TABLE 2. PLASTIC TUBES, PIPES, HOSES, FILM, SHEETING AND COATED MATERIALS

Period	Flexible plates, sheets, foil and strip of plastic(a)								
	Polymers of vinyl chloride (582.32)	Polymers of ethylene			Polymers of propylene (582.33)	Other (582.34)	Plastic coated textile materials (657.32)	Tubes, pipes and hoses	
		Low density(b) (582.31)	High density (582.38)					High density polyethylene (581.82)	Rigid PVC(c) (581.22)
	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	tonnes	'000 sq. m	tonnes	tonnes	
1991-92	13,248	110,404	24,220	20,197	9,656	28,466	24,266	84,313	
1992-93	14,491	117,842	24,270	20,531	13,664	25,653	25,771	97,240	
1993-94	14,370	121,768	24,035	17,740	14,991	27,440	26,272	101,375	
1993 —									
June	1,043	10,385	2,160	1,794	1,297	2,683	2,187	9,046	
July	1,370	10,631	2,137	1,993	1,336	2,000	2,273	9,802	
August	1,372	10,799	2,131	1,938	1,296	2,559	1,863	8,224	
September	1,568	10,458	2,035	1,705	1,266	1,994	1,819	8,896	
October	1,213	10,646	1,974	1,721	1,205	2,639	1,839	7,645	
November	1,189	10,873	2,184	2,018	1,441	2,741	1,853	8,913	
December	1,140	8,838	1,665	1,073	1,338	2,595	1,754	8,863	
1994 —									
January	856	7,543	1,534	645	858	1,063	1,918	5,065	
February	1,082	9,740	1,933	1,283	1,374	2,917	3,064	9,735	
March	1,152	r 10,927	r 2,320	r 1,312	1,260	2,249	r 2,614	r 8,819	
April	1,010	9,526	r 1,935	r 1,204	1,027	1,526	r 2,808	r 6,779	
May	1,218	r 11,022	r 2,138	r 1,453	1,217	r 2,768	r 2,487	r 9,902	
June	1,201	10,765	2,051	1,396	1,374	2,388	1,981	8,732	
July	1,247	10,272	2,005	1,300	1,183	2,425	2,254	9,669	
August	1,411	11,639	2,073	1,572	1,526	2,446	2,689	9,454	
1993-94: July to Aug.	2,742	21,430	4,268	3,931	2,632	4,559	4,136	18,026	
1994-95: July to Aug.	2,658	21,910	4,078	2,872	2,710	4,871	4,942	19,123	

(a) Excludes self-adhesive, floor, wall and ceiling coverings, vulcanised fibre and plastic foam. Also excludes reinforced, laminated or supported with other materials. (b) Includes linear low density polyethylene. (c) Plasticiser content 1 per cent or less by weight of PVC. Excludes electrical conduit.

TABLE 3. RUBBER PRODUCTS

Period	Camel back for retreading rubber tyres (621.21)	Strip (eg orbi-strip) for retreading tyres (621.22)	Tubes, pipes and hoses of un- hardened vulcan- ised rubber(a) (621.41.45.49)
	tonnes	tonnes	'000 metres
1991-92	1,021	17,781	6,884
1992-93	911	18,905	7,569
1993-94	n.p.	20,356	8,195
<i>1991—</i>			
September qtr	n.p.	3,968	1,653
December qtr	289	4,276	1,709
<i>1992—</i>			
March qtr	200	4,508	1,764
June qtr	n.p.	5,029	1,758
September qtr	195	4,667	1,836
December qtr	206	4,739	1,794
<i>1993—</i>			
March qtr	207	4,456	1,969
June qtr	302	5,043	1,970
September qtr	207	5,602	1,871
December qtr	256	4,693	2,093
<i>1994—</i>			
March qtr	205	r 4,777	2,187
June qtr	n.p.	5,284	2,043

(a) Includes with fittings (eg joints, elbows, flanges).

TABLE 4. PAINTS AND OTHER SURFACE COATINGS  
(\*000 litres)

Period	Architectural and decorative paints, enamels and clears(a)							
	Solvent thinned				Water thinned			
	Primers and undercoats (533.65)	Finishing coats		Clears (533.68)	Primers and undercoats (533.69)	Plastic latex		Other water based (533.73)
		Full gloss (533.66)	Other (533.67)			Primer and Flat (533.71)	Other (533.72)	
1991-92	5,111	9,968	3,775	3,063	r 8,305	29,226	37,550	4,709
1992-93	5,123	9,938	3,820	2,660	r 8,294	30,182	40,224	5,292
1993-94	5,101	9,850	3,660	2,963	8,954	33,244	41,779	5,144
<i>1993 —</i>								
June	424	802	330	190	r 713	2,288	3,385	462
July	432	825	344	227	683	2,482	3,421	440
August	406	719	307	218	711	2,325	3,102	460
September	450	925	305	275	799	2,805	3,482	479
October	482	935	349	300	862	3,017	4,076	586
November	479	879	284	311	737	3,122	3,806	479
December	406	903	364	316	845	3,267	4,021	449
<i>1994 —</i>								
January	382	687	237	213	558	2,336	3,040	294
February	400	901	285	246	760	3,033	3,563	507
March	r 407	r 866	r 337	r 215	r 811	r 2,962	r 3,772	r 412
April	415	r 682	r 282	r 178	r 715	r 2,665	r 3,200	r 349
May	r 414	r 750	r 276	r 225	r 763	r 2,851	r 3,242	r 326
June	428	778	291	238	712	2,379	3,053	363
July	428	893	363	258	827	3,226	3,656	340
August	431	866	313	232	674	3,058	3,605	414
1993-94: July to Aug.	838	1,544	651	445	1,394	4,807	6,524	900
1994-95: July to Aug.	859	1,759	675	490	1,501	6,284	7,262	754

For footnotes see end of table



TABLE 4. PAINTS AND OTHER SURFACE COATINGS—continued  
(\*000 litres)

Period	Industrial paints, enamels and clear(b)							
	Automotive				Other industrial			
	Finishing coats			Primers and undercoats (533.78)	Finishing coats		Other	
	Primers and undercoats (533.74)	Nitro-cellulose lacquers (533.75)	Other (533.76)		Nitro-cellulose lacquers	Clears (533.79)	Colours (533.81)	Clears (533.82)
1991-92	4,710	429	9,209	r 8,383	3,383	730	7,321	20,665
1992-93	4,554	402	9,405	r 8,724	3,683	819	7,331	21,525
1993-94	4,431	414	10,011	9,074	3,985	934	7,632	25,434
1993				r				
June	398	39	859	687	341	78	670	1,995
July	421	33	956	726	325	80	583	2,243
August	285	37	715	650	309	83	591	1,904
September	388	29	722	778	375	65	565	2,080
October	480	28	920	847	363	70	662	2,293
November	340	35	814	844	383	106	673	2,144
December	353	32	986	749	373	76	758	2,349
1994				r				
January	239	18	529	635	190	40	519	1,636
February	305	38	841	653	336	77	702	2,005
March	392	48	866	740	362	r 93	r 659	r 2,224
April	r 379	30	973	776	300	r 80	601	r 2,128
May	496	55	882	821	357	83	649	r 2,232
June	353	31	808	858	314	79	671	2,194
July	570	36	1,055	941	336	64	702	2,695
August	369	32	871	972	358	77	642	2,306
1993-94: July to Aug.	706	70	1,671	1,376	634	162	1,174	4,148
1994-95: July to Aug.	939	68	1,926	1,912	694	142	1,344	5,001

TABLE 4. PAINTS AND OTHER SURFACE COATINGS—continued  
(\*000 litres)

Period	Heavy duty coatings(c) (533.77)	Wood stains (oil, spirit, etc.) packed for sale or transfer out(d) (533.84)	Marine coatings(e) (533.85)	Thinners	
				For nitro-cellulose coatings (533.56)	For all other coatings (533.57)
1991-92	r 12,937	1,784	1,884	6,353	18,249
1992-93	r 14,500	1,925	n.p.	6,004	18,587
1993-94	13,990	1,783	n.p.	5,487	18,877
1993 —	r				
June	1,091	154	n.p.	542	1,549
July	1,302	152	n.p.	442	1,728
August	1,507	157	n.p.	447	1,404
September	987	150	130	551	1,480
October	1,196	148	159	441	1,880
November	1,171	144	151	482	1,521
December	1,025	146	n.p.	435	1,465
1994 —	r				
January	860	104	n.p.	368	1,095
February	1,107	156	125	447	1,463
March	1,274	137	n.p.	556	r 1,891
April	1,281	157	n.p.	391	1,667
May	1,161	181	n.p.	500	1,593
June	1,117	153	n.p.	425	1,691
July	1,244	189	n.p.	525	1,825
August	1,076	148	n.p.	453	1,638
1993-94: July to Aug.	2,809	309	n.p.	889	3,131
1994-95: July to Aug.	2,320	337	n.p.	977	3,463

(a) Includes all paints and coatings for use on buildings and structures. Excludes heavy duty coatings. (b) Includes lacquers and water thinned industrial products. (c) Includes specialty coatings specifically designed for the protection of interiors and exteriors of buildings, plant and equipment etc. (d) Includes part-pigmented, Madison and Creosote types. (e) Includes primers and undercoats, underwater compositions, boot-topping, deck paints and marine varnishes. Excludes superstructure paints which are included with architectural and decorative paints.

TABLE 5. GASES

Period	Acetylene gas (511.15)	Carbon dioxide carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide(a) (522.73)	Hydrogen, rare gases, nitrogen and oxygen (522.21)
	'000 cu.m.	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes
1991-92	2,708	97	1,974
1992-93	2,846	99	1,681
1993-94	2,810	108	2,020
<i>1991</i>			
September qtr	790	23	503
December qtr	586	24	620
<i>1992</i>			
March qtr	553	27	465
June qtr	779	23	386
September qtr	798	22	391
December qtr	725	27	456
<i>1993--</i>			
March qtr	615	28	379
June qtr	708	23	455
September qtr	786	27	467
December qtr	646	28	478
<i>1994</i>			
March qtr	624	29	519
June qtr	754	24	556

(a) Excludes dry ice.

TABLE 6. INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS

Period	<i>Acids (in terms of 100 percent acid)</i>					
	Hydrochloric; Chlorosulphuric (522.31)	Sulphuric; Oleum (522.32)			Ammonium sulphate Superphosphate(c)	
		Original	Seasonally adjusted(a)	Trend(b)	Superphosphate (562.13)	Superphosphate(c) (562.23,24,25)
	tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	'000 tonnes	
1991-92	n.p.	816	..	..	233	1,337
1992-93	62,231	868	..	..	280	1,440
1993-94	63,149	n.p.	..	..	223	1,344
<i>1993</i>			r	r		
June	n.p.	75	77	69	28	66
July	4,336	64	75	69	11	54
August	5,437	42	53	70	25	36
September	5,687	61	75	71	14	53
October	5,717	67	74	72	19	92
November	5,220	76	77	72	17	143
December	5,657	83	72	71	20	141
<i>1994</i> .....			r			
January	4,703	82	68	70	17	129
February	4,240	71	66	68	18	150
March	r 5,886	73	64	r 68	16	189
April	r 5,348	75	74	r 69	18	127
May	r 5,011	71	67	r 69	27	133
June	5,907	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	19	97
July	5,189	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	30	69
August	6,105	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	30	47
1993-94: July to Aug.	9,773	105	..	..	37	90
1994-95: July to Aug.	11,294	113	..	..	60	116

(a) See paragraph 5, Explanatory Notes. (b) See paragraph 6 to 8, Explanatory Notes. (c) Double and triple superphosphates expressed in terms of single phosphate i.e. 9 per cent P equivalent.

TABLE 7. ORGANIC SURFACE-ACTIVE AGENTS(a)  
(tonnes)

Period	Anionic(b) (554.24)	Cationic(c) (554.25)	Other(d) (554.26)
1991-92	16,643	2,461	3,956
1992-93	17,606	2,100	3,939
1993-94	20,958	2,009	4,852
1993 —			
June	1,545	185	362
July	1,478	157	397
August	1,696	213	427
September	1,696	121	463
October	1,615	144	390
November	1,838	140	499
December	1,437	131	408
1994 —			
January	1,248	197	310
February	1,658	212	393
March	2,261	177	429
April	1,954	141	342
May	2,251	192	393
June	1,824	184	403
July	1,716	132	432
August	2,000	215	379
1993-94: July to Aug.	3,174	370	823
1994-95: July to Aug.	3,716	347	811

(a) Organic surface-active agents are capable of absorption at an interface and in that state display a number of physico-chemical properties responsible for surface activity (e.g. reduction of surface tension, foaming, emulsifying and wetting). Excludes soap.  
(b) Organic surface-active agents which ionise in aqueous solution to produce negatively charged organic ions responsible for surface activity (e.g. sulphates and sulphonates of fats, vegetable oils or resin acids). (c) Organic surface-active agents which ionise in aqueous solution to produce positively charged organic ions responsible for surface activity (e.g. salts of fatty amines). (d) Includes non-ionic and ampholytic agents.

TABLE 8. DETERGENTS AND SOAP(a)

Period	Soaps in bars, cakes, moulded pieces or shapes for personal use(b)		Surface-active washing or cleaning preparations						
	tonnes (554.12)	tonnes (553.31)	Scouring preparations(c) tonnes (554.39)	Fabric washing		Dish washing preparations		Soaking, rinsing or bleaching preparations tonnes (554.53)	Other(e) tonnes (554.54)
				Liquid '000 litres (554.28)	Other(d) tonnes (554.29)	Liquid '000 litres (554.51)	Other(d) tonnes (554.52)		
1991-92	32,760	19,968	11,865	r 42,459	r 110,065	r 30,725	r 3,640	32,196	35,792
1992-93 r	35,070	21,732	12,107	42,806	97,135	32,531	3,695	33,518	34,163
1993-94	34,082	23,079	12,818	47,454	92,751	34,345	3,228	39,873	33,694
1993 —									
June r	3,157	1,961	920	3,511	8,836	3,281	251	2,508	2,980
July r	3,018	2,040	1,191	4,784	9,359	3,410	266	2,816	2,992
August r	3,046	1,978	910	4,015	9,483	3,085	266	2,930	3,151
September r	2,896	1,980	1,187	4,084	9,296	2,960	292	3,456	2,667
October r	2,789	1,971	1,089	4,740	10,478	3,041	233	3,002	3,093
November r	3,041	2,020	1,242	4,748	8,764	2,828	297	3,417	2,973
December r	2,556	1,533	926	4,273	7,784	2,635	239	3,544	3,012
1994 —									
January r	2,008	1,475	776	3,623	6,363	2,273	254	3,791	2,617
February r	3,190	1,869	1,392	4,316	8,874	2,943	272	3,526	2,563
March r	3,332	2,391	1,277	3,800	5,691	3,231	337	4,011	3,013
April r	2,649	1,876	841	2,969	5,131	2,521	232	3,280	2,659
May r	2,844	1,855	1,027	3,365	5,615	2,848	335	3,241	2,347
June	2,714	2,091	960	2,736	5,913	2,571	205	2,858	2,606
July	2,478	2,033	882	2,652	6,166	2,662	300	2,996	3,189
August	2,920	1,985	780	2,977	7,675	2,445	286	2,489	3,038
1993-94: July to Aug.	6,064	4,018	2,101	8,799	18,842	6,495	532	5,747	6,143
1994-95: July to Aug.	5,398	4,019	1,662	5,628	13,842	5,107	586	5,485	6,227

(a) Data has been revised due to misreporting. (b) Includes abrasive and medicated. (c) Includes abrasive soap not in bars, cakes, moulded pieces or shapes. (d) For example powders. (e) Includes surface-active preparations for use in the processing or preparation of minerals, hides and skins, paper, dyed textiles, textile fibres, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Introduction**

This publication is one of a series of ten containing monthly and quarterly production statistics. The titles of the other publications of this series are shown in paragraph 9.

**Classification**

2. Data contained in these publications are mostly based on monthly or quarterly collections conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Most items are identified by the commodity codes used in Australian Standard Commodity Classification (ASCC), which was developed by the ABS to facilitate greater comparability of manufacturing production commodity statistics with import and export commodity statistics. In cases where data are derived from sources other than ABS collections no commodity code is shown and the source of the data is acknowledged in a footnote.

**Scope and coverage**

3. Manufacturing commodity statistics collected by the ABS exclude details relating to single establishment manufacturing enterprises with fewer than four persons employed and production of establishments predominantly engaged in non-manufacturing activities but which may carry on, in a minor way, some manufacturing. However, except for a few commodities, the effect on production levels and movements is marginal.

4. Annual figures shown in this publication are derived by aggregating monthly/quarterly production and relate to production during the year ended 30 June. They may differ from annual manufacturing census data which relate to the census year and, in the case of businesses unable to report on a June year basis, include details in respect of substitute accounting periods.

**Seasonal adjustment and trend estimates**

5. This publication contains seasonally adjusted statistics. In the seasonal adjustment account has been taken not only of normal seasonal factors but also, where appropriate, of 'working-day' effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in the month) and the influence of Easter and Australia Day which may, in successive years, affect figures for different months. However, care should be exercised in interpreting the figures for those months in which Christmas/New Year and Easter holidays fall as some manufacturers vary holiday shutdowns in the light of prevailing demand for their products. Details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these and other series are available on request. As happens with all seasonally adjusted series the seasonal factors are reviewed annually to take account of each additional year's original data. The results of the latest review were used to compile the revised seasonally adjusted and trend estimates contained in this bulletin. Regular subscribers can obtain a complimentary copy of the full revised series on request.

6. The smoothing of seasonally adjusted series to create trend estimates is a means of reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates have been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

7. While this smoothing technique enables estimates of trend to be produced for the latest month, it does result in revisions to the estimates for the most recent months as data for subsequent months become available. Generally subsequent revisions become smaller and after 3 months have little impact on the series. There will also be revisions as a result of revisions to the original estimates and annual reviews of seasonal and 'working day' factors.

8. Users may wish to refer to the ABS Information Papers *A Guide to Smoothing Time Series — Estimates of 'Trend'* (1316.0) and *Time Series Decomposition — An Overview* (1317.0) for more detailed information on smoothing of seasonally adjusted time series data.

**Related publications**

9. Other ABS publications which may be of interest are:

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*Manufacturing Production, Australia: Principal Commodities Produced, 1989-90*, (8365.0)

*Unpublished production data* is also available from the ABS Sydney office. Please contact Frank Orton on (02) 268 4245.

10. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

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