

**INTERNATIONAL
MERCHANDISE IMPORTS**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 18 JAN 2006

KEY FIGURES

	October 2005	November 2005	December 2005
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Food and live animals	478	572	532
Beverages and tobacco	106	119	98
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	138	172	161
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1 694	1 615	1 701
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	29	38	31
Chemicals and related products, nes	1 368	1 684	1 446
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 505	1 709	1 447
Machinery and transport equipment	5 846	6 845	6 141
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2 065	2 150	1 716
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	130	269	370
TOTAL	13 360	15 173	13 642

NOTES

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents statistics of Australia's merchandise imports classified according to the broadest level (1 digit sections) of the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification. The data are compiled from information submitted by importers or their agents to the Australian Customs Service. For more details see the ABS publication *International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 5489.0) which is accessible on the ABS web site. More detailed merchandise imports data are available from AusStats or by contacting the National Information and Referral Service.

PRELIMINARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS GOODS IMPORTS

Preliminary analysis show that goods imports (debits) on a balance of payments basis decreased by 2% in seasonally adjusted terms between November and December.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The January 2006 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 16 February 2006, and the February 2006 to June 2006 issues are expected to be released on 16 March 2006, 20 April 2006, 16 May 2006, 19 June 2006 and 18 July 2006.

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Australian Statistician

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Ben Braysher on Canberra (02) 6252 6020.

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