

**INTERNATIONAL
MERCHANDISE IMPORTS**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 16 MAR 2006

KEY FIGURES

	December 2005	January 2006	February 2006
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Food and live animals	532	484	459
Beverages and tobacco	97	87	80
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	158	149	142
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1 686	1 807	1 971
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	30	35	24
Chemicals and related products, nes	1 448	1 488	1 563
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 455	1 461	1 382
Machinery and transport equipment	6 137	5 569	5 054
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1 712	1 740	1 608
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	370	543	403
TOTAL	13 626	13 363	12 685

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 shows that goods imports (debits) on a balance of payments basis decreased by 3% in seasonally adjusted terms between January and February 2006.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

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

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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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

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