



NOVEMBER 2006

**5439.0**

**INTERNATIONAL  
MERCHANDISE IMPORTS**

**AUSTRALIA**

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) MON 18 DEC 2006

**KEY FIGURES**

	<b>September 2006</b>	<b>October 2006</b>	<b>November 2006</b>
	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$m</b>	<b>\$m</b>
Food and live animals	543	602	695
Beverages and tobacco	131	132	157
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	167	253	196
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1 784	1 845	1 628
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	46	45	47
Chemicals and related products, nes	1 619	1 734	1 729
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 750	1 844	1 881
Machinery and transport equipment	6 383	6 955	6 891
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2 159	2 277	2 188
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	395	669	346
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14 977</b>	<b>16 356</b>	<b>15 758</b>

**KEY POINTS**

**PRELIMINARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS GOODS IMPORTS**

- Preliminary analysis shows that goods imports (debits) on a balance of payments basis decreased by 4% in seasonally adjusted terms between October and November 2006.

**CHANGES TO EXPORT AND IMPORT STATISTICAL CODES**

- Details of changes to export and import statistical codes from the January 2007 reference month are provided on page 2.

**CHANGES TO FUTURE RELEASES**

- From the December 2006 issue of this publication, a pdf will not be provided. All the information included in the pdf is available from the summary page of this issue. There will be no change to time series spreadsheets.

**I N Q U I R I E S**

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Olivia Lam on Canberra (02) 6252 7406.

# NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
December 2006	17 January 2007
January 2007	16 February 2007
February 2007	16 March 2007
March 2007	19 April 2007
April 2007	16 May 2007
May 2007	19 June 2007



## 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 *International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 5489.0) on the ABS web site. More detailed merchandise imports data are available on the ABS web site [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) from the Details tab of this issue or by contacting the National Information and Referral Service.

## CHANGES TO EXPORT AND IMPORT STATISTICAL CODES

Statistical codes in the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) and the Customs Tariff will be revised from 1 January 2007. The changes result from the implementation of an update to the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. The changes will not impact directly on statistics presented in or associated with this publication (which are on a SITC or BEC basis) but will impact on detailed import and export statistics provided via ABS Client Services.

More information about these changes is available from the ABS web site *Information Paper: Changes on 1 January 2007 to Statistical Codes in the AHECC and the Customs Tariff, 2007* (cat. no. 1233.0.55.001). Included with the information paper are correspondences between the codes of the current and the updated versions of the AHECC and the Customs Tariff, and correspondences between the updated versions of the AHECC and the Customs Tariff, and related classifications. The correspondences can be used by clients to understand the impact on the detailed import and export statistics.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician



## FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

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## FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All ABS statistics can be downloaded free of charge from the ABS web site.

*WEB ADDRESS* [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)



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