

EXTERNAL TRADE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Historical background

From a traditional pattern of partnership with the United Kingdom, Australia has become in recent years more a trading partner of Japan and the United States of America and this is also the trading pattern in Victoria. Similarly, the place occupied by European countries such as France and Italy in the 1950s has diminished proportionately in Victoria's trading pattern since the implementation of the European Economic Community. In 1983-84, the proportion of Australian trade at Victorian ports was 34.0 per cent of imports and 20.7 per cent of exports. Major imports were road vehicles, textile yarns, and industrial machinery, while major exports were wool, meat, wheat, dairy products, textile fibres, and petroleum products. The major countries contributing to imports were the United States of America, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the Federal Republic of Germany, while the major countries receiving exports were Japan, New Zealand, the United States of America, and Singapore.

Further references: *Victorian Year Book* 1977, pp. 527-8; 1984; pp. 403-13

Constitutional provisions and legislation

Constitutional provisions

By the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, section 51 (1), the power to make laws with respect to trade and commerce with other countries was conferred on the Australian Parliament. Under section 86 of the Constitution, the collection and control of duties of customs and excise passed to the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on 1 January 1901. Other references to trade and commerce are contained in sections 87 to 95 of the Constitution.

Commonwealth Government legislation

Commonwealth Government legislation affecting overseas trade includes the *Customs Act* 1901, the *Customs Tariff Act* 1966, and the *Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Act* 1975. The *Customs Tariff Act* 1966 provides the statutory authority for imposing the actual rates of duty operative from time to time, while the *Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Act* 1975 provides protection for Australian industry against various forms of unfair trading.

Customs Tariff

The first Australian Customs Tariff was introduced by Resolution on 8 October 1901, from which date uniform duties came into effect throughout Australia.

The Australian Customs Tariff was developed in a period when government industry policy was influenced by a desire to protect Australian industries from import competition. More recently, however, governments have held the view that for Australia to maximise its national income, it must encourage industries which are capable of operating under lower levels of protection. While customs collections are still a major source of revenue, the reliance on tariffs as an industry assistance measure is diminishing, with more emphasis being placed on measures which actively assist industry to improve its efficiency.

The tariff has recently been simplified and it is anticipated that on 1 January 1987 Australia will introduce a new tariff based on the Customs Co-operation Council Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

The customs value of imported goods is established in accordance with the principles of Article VII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. This system is given effect by section 154 and section 161(D) of the Customs Act. The system provides several methods of valuing goods for customs purposes as provided in section 157(1) – section 157(8).

The customs value of imported goods will be based as far as possible on the transaction value method. This method provides for the acceptance of the price actually paid or payable to the vendor, provided sufficient and reliable information is available for this purpose. This price may be subject to adjustments—*vide* section 154(2) and section 159(3). If there is no price paid or payable or the price is unacceptable, the other valuation methods must be attempted sequentially.

The *Customs Tariff Act* 1982 provides for three distinct types of rates:

General rates. These are set out in Schedule 3 to the Customs Tariff Act and apply to goods from all countries that do not qualify for either special rates of duty or concessional rates of duty for a particular tariff classification.

Special rates. These are set out in Schedule 3 to the Customs Tariff Act and apply to goods the produce or manufacture of specified countries being:

(1) *Forum Island countries.* These countries are set out in Part II of Schedule 1 to the Customs Tariff Act and preference is given to goods the subject of the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA).

(2) *Declared preference countries.* These countries are set out in Part II of Schedule 1.

(3) *Developing countries.* These countries are set out in Part III of Schedule 1.

(4) *Papua New Guinea.* The rates of duty are set out in Schedule 3 and preference is given to goods the subject of the Papua New Guinea/Australia Trade and Commercial Relations Agreement (PATCRA). Wherever PNG is not mentioned in Schedule 3, goods take a *free* rate of duty.

(5) *New Zealand.* The rates of duty are set out in Schedule 5 to the *Customs Tariff Act* 1982 and preference is given to goods the subject of the Australia/New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Agreement (CER). Wherever a tariff classification does not appear in relation to goods in Schedule 5 a *free* rate of duty shall apply.

(6) *Canada.* The rates of duty are set out in Schedule 3 and preference is given to goods the subject of the Canada/Australia Trade Agreement (CANATA).

Concessional rates. The rates of duty are set out in Schedule 4 to the *Customs Tariff Act* 1982. Part I applies to special concessional rates of duty and is applicable to imports from all sources complying with particular ownership or other provisions. Part II applies to substituted concessional rates of duty and is applicable to goods subject to tariff quotas.

The Tariff Concession System

The Tariff Concession System is the machinery whereby importers may obtain relief from protective rates of duty where goods serving similar functions to the imported goods are not produced in Australia or are not capable of being produced in Australia in the normal course of business and where no substantially adverse effect would be caused to the market for any goods produced in Australia.

The system provides for the publication of applications for concession in special weekly editions of the Commonwealth Gazette (available for perusal at Customs Houses and major Post Offices). Anyone opposing an intended concession has twenty-eight days to inform the Australian Customs Service of objections.

Concessions finally approved are published in schedule form called 'Schedule of Commercial Tariff Concessions' and are available to any person importing the goods described therein.

Enquiries in respect of any aspect of the system should be directed either to the Tariff Concession Branch of the Australian Customs Service, Canberra or to the Tariff Concession Liaison Officer, Customs Houses in the capital cities. An explanatory booklet, which is regarded as the primary guide on the system, is also available from these locations.

Anti-dumping duties

The *Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Act* 1975 provides protection for Australian industry against various forms of unfair trading. Under this Act, dumping duty may be imposed on goods that are sold to Australian importers at a price which is less than the normal value of the goods, where this causes or threatens material injury to an Australian industry.

For details on the calculation of dumping or countervailing duties see the *Customs Tariff (Anti-Dumping) Act* 1975 and the publication *Facts about the Australian Dumping Law* which is available from the Australian Customs Service, Canberra.

Import controls

Import controls, by global tariff quotas or import licensing, are introduced to assist local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission. At present, the textile, footwear, and clothing industries are assisted by tariff quotas, while the motor vehicle industry had, until 31 December 1984, been assisted by import licensing. From 1 January 1985, the control of the motor vehicle industry was altered to tariff quotas. Import licensing firmly limits import quantities, provides for penal and seizure action, and may be selectively applied to particular goods or countries. As such, it differs from global tariff quotas which allow imports up to a predetermined level, above which additional duties may be imposed. At present, some 58 commodities or groups of commodities are subject to import controls. Goods subject to these import controls are listed in the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations. Import prohibitions may also be imposed under the Quarantine Act, the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act, and sundry allied Commonwealth and State legislation. Further information on import controls may be obtained from the Quota Control Branch of the Australian Customs Service, Canberra.

*Export controls**Export restrictions*

Section 112 of the *Customs Act* 1901 provides that the Governor-General may, by regulation, prohibit the exportation of goods from Australia and that this power may be exercised by: (1) prohibiting the exportation of goods absolutely; (2) prohibiting the exportation of goods to a specified place; and (3) prohibiting the exportation of goods unless prescribed conditions or restrictions are complied with. Goods subject to this export control are listed in the Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations. Export prohibitions may also be imposed under the Export Control Act administered by the Department of Primary Industry; the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act administered by the Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment; the Quarantine Act; and sundry allied Commonwealth and State legislation.

Trade descriptions

The Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905, administered by the Australian Customs Service of the Department of Industry and Commerce, gives power to require the application of a proper trade description to certain prescribed goods imported into or exported from Australia. Goods which must bear a prescribed trade description upon importation into Australia are specified in the Commerce (Imports) Regulations. As regards exports from Australia, marking requirements are prescribed in regulations issued under the Act and in relation to specified export commodities.

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book* 1981, pp. 422-7

Trade promotion and incentives

Each year the Commonwealth Government through the Department of Trade undertakes an extensive overseas trade promotion and publicity programme.

Trade displays, fairs, and exhibitions

For many years Australia has organised or participated in numerous major trade displays, fairs, and exhibitions throughout the world.

Initially, the emphasis was on participation in general trade fairs directed toward the public and the general commercial community. However, with the development of specialised export promotion techniques and the diversity of goods available for export, emphasis is now being placed on individual Australian trade displays and participation in specialised trade shows directed almost entirely at the business community. In addition, display rooms in Trade Commissioner offices are currently in use in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Seoul, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Port Moresby, Suva, Bangkok, Wellington, and Auckland. Limited display space is also available in Tokyo.

Trade missions

At present, the following types of trade missions are in use:

Survey missions. These are organised to obtain precise knowledge about the export trade potential for specific products in one or more overseas markets. Such methods are used to explore export prospects in new or developing areas where commercial intelligence is not readily available or where a complex industry is involved and the industry requires special export knowledge.

Specialised and general trade missions. Arrangements are made for specific industries or groups of firms representing a number of industries to participate in a planned selling campaign in overseas

markets with known sales potential. The mission visits the market, publicises its products, and negotiates sales.

Publications and advertising

The Department of Trade produces a range of English and multi-lingual publications for distribution overseas through its Trade Commissioner posts. Special publications are produced for major Australian promotional activities overseas. The promotional activities are also supported by appropriate editorial publicity and advertising in foreign media publications.

Market advisory services

The Australian Government has established a Market Advisory and Preferences Section in the Department of Trade to advise and assist developing countries, and countries with centrally planned economies, in the marketing of their products in Australia. The Section, which is located in Canberra, is supported by two Australian Trade Commissioners—one located in Sydney and the other in Melbourne—to maintain contact with the commercial sector and provide direct practical assistance.

Export awards

The Department of Trade in conjunction with the Confederation of Australian Industry runs an annual programme of Export Awards for Outstanding Export Achievement. In addition, various other awards are also given from time to time.

Export incentives

The Commonwealth Government provides financial incentives to encourage exports. The Export Market Development Grants Act was introduced in 1974 and will operate until 30 June 1988. The scheme resulting from the Act, administered by the Export Development Grants Board which is responsible to the Minister for Trade, is designed to encourage exporters and potential exporters to seek out and develop overseas markets. The scheme covers exporters of primary products, industrial goods, certain services including tourism, technical expertise, and industrial property rights, whether the exporter is an individual, partnership, company, or marketing organisation.

The scheme operates by way of taxable grants, to a maximum of \$200,000 in respect of eligible expenditure incurred on overseas market research and development.

Promotion of high technology products and services

The Department of Trade is continuing the special promotion of exports of high technology products and services. Audio-visual displays and prestige publications, as well as a catalogue of Australian technology, have been produced.

Specialised Trade Commissioners are also being appointed to stimulate exports of selected advanced technology products and services (e.g. computer software, and professional and scientific services).

Government authorities

Export Finance and Insurance Corporation

The Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC) was established by the Commonwealth Government in 1975 to provide Australian exporters with a specialised range of insurance indemnity guarantee and finance facilities not normally available from commercial sources. The EFIC took over the functions of the Export Payments Insurance Corporation which had been operating since 1956.

Australian Overseas Projects Corporation

The Australian Overseas Projects Corporation was established in November 1978 as a statutory authority of the Commonwealth Government to encourage the export of Australian goods and services. Its prime objective is to assist Australian consultancy and construction organisations to compete for contracts for overseas development projects, particularly those which are beyond the resources of individual organisations and require an introduction and multi-disciplinary approach, or require a government-to-government involvement. The Corporation's major functions are, on request, to act as prime contractor, consortium member, or agent on behalf of Australian organisations.

Trade relations

Trade policy

Australia is reliant on international trade for its economic well-being. A substantial proportion of Australia's agricultural and mineral production is exported. Australia is a major world exporter of a range of commodities including coal, iron ore, bauxite, alumina, manganese, mineral sands, wool,

meat, wheat, and sugar. Imports, particularly capital equipment, play a vital role in the country's economic development. Consequently, Australia is dependent on a stable international trade and payments system to secure its general trading objectives.

Australia's fundamental trade policy objectives include:

- (1) the maintenance of an open international trade and payments system;
- (2) the maintenance of an equitable framework of rates based on the principles of multilateralism, non-discrimination, predictability and transparency, and which provides for progressive trade liberalisation;
- (3) in relation to agricultural trade, fair and predictable access to major markets, restraints on subsidised competition in third markets, and stability in commodity markets;
- (4) the maintenance of secure and stable markets for minerals and assistance in obtaining stable and remunerative prices for mineral exports; and
- (5) the promotion of employment through increased exports, and in particular, increased exports of manufactures.

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is a multilateral treaty which provides the main framework of rules for the conduct of world trade. It also provides a forum in which countries can discuss and seek to overcome their trade problems as well as negotiate to enlarge world trade and place it on a secure basis, thereby contributing to economic growth and development.

GATT entered into force in January 1948 with Australia being an original signatory. Since that date GATT membership has expanded to 90 countries, with a further 30 countries applying its rules on a *de facto* basis.

Seven rounds of multilateral negotiations to liberalise world trade have been held under GATT, the most recent of which was the Tokyo Round (1973–1979). Concessions negotiated by member countries are incorporated in their 'Schedules of Concessions' which form an integral part of each country's obligations under GATT. These concessions generally involve commitment not to increase tariffs on specific products above specified levels. The Tokyo Round negotiations also resulted in a number of agreements on non-tariff measures which clarified and expanded the existing rules of GATT. These agreements included codes of conduct on subsidies and countervailing duties, government procurement, customs valuation, standards, import licensing, anti-dumping, trade in civil aircraft, and a group of texts under the heading 'Framework for the Conduct of International Trade'. The latter includes texts which deal with reciprocity, more favourable treatment and fuller participation for developing countries, trade measures for balance of payments purposes, safeguard action for development purposes, consultation, dispute settlement, and surveillance. There are also arrangements relating to bovine meat and dairy products.

All major developed countries have acceded or intend to accede to most of these agreements and Australia has already acceded or intends to accede to those on customs valuation, anti-dumping, import licensing, standards, subsidies, countervailing duties, the 'Framework' texts, and the arrangements on bovine meat and dairy products.

An important aspect of GATT's work is to oversee the application of the trade rules established under its auspices. The main features of the General Agreement are:

- (1) trade without discrimination: the guarantee of most-favoured-nation tariff treatment to all contracting parties;
- (2) agreement on commercial policy rules for international trade, including restrictions on the use of subsidies and quantitative restrictions;
- (3) provision of a mechanism for consultations and dispute settlement;
- (4) safeguard, or emergency protection provisions, enabling countries to apply temporary measures to industries seriously threatened by imports; and
- (5) special recognition of the needs and capabilities of developing countries.

The highest body of GATT is the Session of Contracting Parties which usually meets annually. GATT decisions are generally arrived at by consensus rather than vote, although two-thirds majority votes are required for the granting of 'waivers' (authorisations for members to depart from specific GATT obligations). Between Sessions of the contracting parties the Council of Representatives is authorised to act on both routine and urgent matters. The Council meets about six times a year.

In 1975, a Consultative Group of 18 comprising high level officials from key member countries was established to operate essentially as an executive steering group to assist GATT members carry out some of their major responsibilities more effectively.

The Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) reflects GATT's increased focus on the problem of developing countries and has the duty of following all activities of GATT to ensure that problems of concern to developing countries are given priority attention. The CTD was formed after the introduction, in 1965, of Part IV of GATT which embodies commitments to individual and joint action by Contracting Parties, aimed at ensuring that the developing countries can increasingly find the means to raise living standards and promote rapid economic development through increased participation in international trade. This commitment has been elaborated by the 'Framework' agreement enabling differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries, as a permanent legal feature of the world trading system.

A number of other committees have also been established to supervise implementation of the Tokyo Round agreements, examine the situation of countries using trade restrictions for balance of payments purposes, multi-fibre arrangements, anti-dumping practices, and financial/administrative questions. Working parties are set up to deal with current questions, such as requests for accession, verification that agreements concluded by members are in conformity with GATT, and to investigate disputes.

The developed country contracting parties to GATT have introduced tariff preferences for developing country products under the Generalised System of Preferences.

The Australian System of Tariff Preferences for Developing Countries, in common with those of other donors, is a unilateral, non-reciprocal, and non-contractual provision of specified preferential tariff advantages. Accordingly, Australia reserves the right at any time to modify, withdraw, suspend, or limit the preferential treatment for any item or with respect to any beneficiary.

Australia's system of tariff preferences was introduced in 1966 (the first in the world) and has since been substantially revised and expanded through reviews in 1974, 1976, and 1979. On 1 January 1981, the system was further extended to include most textile, clothing, and footwear products. Most dutiable manufactured and substantially processed primary products are now covered by the system. Margins of preference offered under the system are generally 10 to 15 per cent below the General Tariff rate.

The system is designed to assist developing countries to overcome their disadvantages in competing with other countries in the Australian market, providing always that such imports do not cause or threaten injury to Australian industry. A range of products where developing countries generally are already competitive on the Australian market are excluded from the system and preferences on a number of additional products have been withdrawn because of disruption to local industry. In some cases specific beneficiaries have been excluded from a preference.

Proposals for the addition or withdrawal of products from the system are referred to the Industries Assistance Commission for inquiry and report within forty-five days. This procedure gives all interested parties the opportunity to submit their views in evidence to a public inquiry.

Bilateral arrangements

Western Europe

Although the European Economic Community (EEC) has formal trading arrangements with a large number of countries providing either free trade or preferential treatment, no such arrangement has been concluded with Australia.

In recent years Australia has experienced a large and growing trade-deficit with the EEC which has reflected an imbalance of trading opportunities. In the context of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, finalised in 1979, Australia was able to negotiate with the EEC improved access into Community markets for a number of agricultural products. However the benefits Australia expected to receive from these arrangements have not been fully realised due to EEC policies.

Proposals for reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are being considered by the EEC. While welcoming suggestions for CAP reform, Australia has expressed concern to the EEC about proposals to further reduce access into the Community for imports of some products as part of the adaptation of CAP.

While the bilateral relationship has been overshadowed by the operations of CAP and agricultural issues, there is significant potential for developing Australia's role as supplier of minerals and energy to the EEC and in attracting increased European investment to resource-based development projects in Australia.

The Commonwealth Government has indicated that it wishes to pursue a new and more constructive approach in order to improve the relationship with the EEC. Senior Australian officials met with the EEC Commission in July 1983 with this objective and further consultations at Ministerial level are planned.

Trade agreements

Asia

People's Republic of China — signed in 1973. The Agreement provides, *inter alia*, for reciprocal most favoured nation treatment for imports, while recognising the preferential arrangements extended by both countries. The Agreement includes schedules of goods which each country is interested in exporting to the other. It also provides that exchanges of goods and technical services under contracts and agreements will be at reasonable international market prices; that payments in relation to trade will be in freely convertible currency; and that each country will promote the inter-change of trade representatives, groups, and delegations, and encourage the commercial exchange of industrial and technical expertise. The Agreement also established a Joint Trade Committee to further the aims of the Agreement. A protocol of Economic Co-operation to the Trade Agreement was signed in September 1981. The Protocol has the objective of notifying to enterprises and organisations of the two countries that their governments have agreed on a range of industry and industry sectors regarded as holding prospects for co-operation between the two countries, and the form in which co-operation projects may be implemented. In 1984, an Agreement on Economic and Technical Co-operation in the iron and steel industry between Australia and China was signed. The main objective of the Agreement is to facilitate and promote economic and technical co-operation in trade in raw materials, iron and steel and related products, equipment and services, technology transfer, and training.

Japan — signed in 1957. The current Agreement on Commerce between Australia and Japan was initially signed in 1957, amended in 1963, and formally ratified on 27 May 1964. It provides for reciprocal most favoured nation treatment of imports while recognising the preferential arrangements of both countries; for certain commitments by Japan in regard to some important Australian export commodities including wool, soft wheat, sugar, canned meat, leather, butter, and cheese; and for equal opportunity for Japanese products in relation to Commonwealth Government purchases from suppliers overseas. It also provides for close consultation between the two countries on matters relating to trade.

Republic of Korea — signed in 1975. The current Agreement replaces an earlier Agreement entered into by Australia and the Republic of Korea in 1965. The present Agreement states that the two governments are to take all appropriate measures to facilitate, strengthen, and diversify bilateral trade in accordance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade; recognises the need to improve the conditions of world commodity trade; declares support in principle for international commodity agreements; and expresses support in principle for the conclusion of long-term commercial contracts between organisations and enterprises of the two countries. The Agreement also established a Joint Trade Committee to further the aims of the Agreement.

Philippines — signed 1975. The current Agreement replaces an earlier Agreement entered into in 1965. It provides, *inter alia*, for reciprocal most favoured nation treatment of imports from either country; recognises preferential agreements of both countries; and encourages Australian investment and joint ventures in the Philippines. It provides for a Joint Commission to meet annually, or more frequently if required. The Agreement came into operation in May 1979.

Thailand — signed in 1979. It provides, *inter alia*, for strengthening and diversification of bilateral trade; supports trading arrangements among Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries; supports international commodity agreements; and encourages economic, commercial, and industrial co-operation, including investment in joint ventures. It provides for a Joint Trade Committee to meet annually or as required.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam — signed 1974. It provides, *inter alia*, for reciprocal most favoured nation treatment for imports and expresses support for the principle of long-term commercial contracts.

Indonesia — signed 1972. The current Agreement replaces an earlier Agreement signed in 1959. It provides, *inter alia*, for reciprocal most favoured nation treatment of imports; expresses support for trade initiatives and arrangements among member countries of ASEAN; declares support in principle for international commodity agreements and encouragement for Australian commercial investment in Indonesia; and provides for consultation as required on trade matters.

Malaysia — signed 1958. The Agreement provides for each country to accord preferences to the other on certain specified goods. The exchange of these preferences was placed on a more flexible basis by an Exchange of Letters on 21 February 1975. The Agreement further provides for protection of Malaysia's tin and rubber exports to Australia and of Australia's wheat exports to Malaysia against dumped or subsidised competition. There are also certain guarantees of market access for Australian

wheat in the Malaysian market and for natural rubber in the Australian market provided that the Papua New Guinea natural rubber crop is absorbed. The Agreement also assures Malaysia that Australian tariff or import licensing treatment of natural rubber will be the same as for synthetic rubber.

Pacific

New Zealand — The Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement, which came into operation on 1 January 1983, is designed to complete the process to free trade between Australia and New Zealand which was commenced under the New Zealand Australia Free Trade Agreement. Remaining tariffs and quantitative restrictions on goods traded between Australia and New Zealand are to be progressively eliminated by 1995 at the latest, under conditions of fair competition.

The Agreement also addresses other factors affecting trans-Tasman trade such as export incentives, government purchasing and investment policies, and provides a framework for the harmonisation of matters such as standards, technical specifications, and restrictive trade practices. A general review of the operation of the Agreement is scheduled for 1988.

Papua New Guinea — The Papua New Guinea Australia Trade and Commercial Relations Agreement (PATCRA) which came into force in 1977 provides, *inter alia*, that subject to certain exceptions, trade between Australia and Papua New Guinea shall be free of duties and other restrictions.

Pacific Islands — The South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement (SPARTECA) which came into force in January 1980 provides, *inter alia*, that Australia will progressively provide duty free and unrestricted access for as wide a range of Forum Island country products as possible.

Americas

Canada — signed 1960. It provides for each country to give the other tariff preferences on specific goods and for the exchange of preferences in each country's tariff derived from the preferential agreements each had with Britain. The termination of these agreements with Britain created a need for Canada and Australia to review their own preferential trading arrangements. An Exchange of Letters governing the future operation of the 1960 Agreement was signed on 25 October 1973. The Exchange provides for a continuation of the tariff preferences, but on a more flexible basis, with some other modifications of provisions of the 1960 Agreement, particularly those relating to indirect shipment of goods and to anti-dumping procedures.

Brazil — signed 1978. The Agreement represented a significant development in strengthening trade and economic links between Australia and Brazil. It basically confirms GATT rights and obligations and emphasises industrial co-operation including investment. A significant feature is the ten year initial life of the Agreement to cover long-term commodity contracts. It also establishes a Joint Consultative Committee.

Europe

Eastern Europe — The development of Australia's trade relations with the countries of Eastern Europe began as part of a policy of market diversification in the mid-1960s. Since 1965 Australia has signed trade agreements with Yugoslavia and all Eastern European centrally planned economies, except Albania.

Australia's trade agreement with the USSR (signed in 1965) provides for reciprocal most favoured nation treatment. A supplementary agreement on the Development of Trade and Economic Relations was signed in 1973. This agreement provides for the encouragement and facilitation of trade, industrial, and technical co-operation, support for international commodity agreements, and the establishment of a Mixed Commission on Trade and Economic Co-operation to meet once every two years. At the third session of the Mixed Commission in 1976, a Working Group on Trade in Machinery and Equipment was established to promote two-way trade in machinery and equipment. In 1983-84, committees comprised of Commonwealth and State officials and businessmen were established in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia to advise on the development of Australia/USSR trade.

Australia's trade agreement with Yugoslavia (signed in 1970) provides for mutual exchange of most favoured nation treatment under GATT, mutual encouragement of economic and technical co-operation, and consultations upon request. The agreement does not provide for meetings of a Mixed Commission but informal meetings are held periodically.

Australia's trade agreements with Poland (signed in 1966, with a supplementary agreement signed

in 1978), Czechoslovakia (signed in 1972), the German Democratic Republic (GDR) (signed in 1974 with a supplementary protocol signed in 1977), Hungary and Bulgaria (both signed in 1974), and Romania (signed in 1975) are all broadly similar in their provisions. All of the agreements provide for the establishment of, and regular meetings (usually every two years) of, a Mixed Commission or Joint Trade Committee; and either confirm reciprocal MFN treatment, as in the trade agreements with the GDR and Bulgaria, or acknowledge that trade will be in accordance with the rights and obligations of both countries under GATT, as in the trade agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. The agreements also provide for the encouragement and facilitation of trade, and industrial and technical co-operation; the negotiation of long-term commercial contracts; as well as support for international commodity agreements.

Other Europe — An agreement with Cyprus (signed in 1983) provides a basis for the strengthening and diversification of trade and encouragement and facilitation of commercial and technical co-operation between Australia and Cyprus.

An Economic and Commercial Co-operation Agreement with Italy was signed in 1984. This agreement provides for the continuing expansion of mutually beneficial economic and commercial relations between Australia and Italy.

Middle East

Bahrain — The Agreement on Trade, Economic, and Technical Co-operation was signed in May 1979. The Agreement expresses the intention of the two governments to develop and expand trade and economic relations by the establishment of a Joint Committee, the facilitation of joint ventures in the two countries, and encouraging the exchange of technology and technical expertise between commercial enterprises.

Iraq — The Agreement on Trade, Economic, and Technical Co-operation was signed in March 1980. The Agreement provides, *inter alia*, for the exchange of most favoured nation treatment between Australia and Iraq, encouragement to the negotiation of commercial contracts between relevant organisations and commercial enterprises, and the establishment of a Joint Governmental Commission.

Saudi Arabia — The Agreement on Economic and Technical Co-operation was signed in March 1980 and provides for the facilitation of joint ventures in each country, encouraging the exchange of scientific and technological research, and the establishment of a Joint Commission.

Oman — The Agreement on Trade, Economic, and Technical Co-operation was signed in October 1981. The Agreement expresses the intention of the two governments to develop and expand trade and economic relations, provides for the facilitation of joint ventures in the two countries, and encourages the exchange of technology and technical expertise. The Agreement also establishes a Joint Commission.

Kuwait — The Agreement on Economic and Technical Co-operation was signed in April 1982 and expresses the intention of the two governments to develop and expand trade and economic relations. The Agreement provides for the facilitation of joint ventures in the two countries, encourages the exchange of technology and technical expertise, and establishes a Joint Commission.

Others

India — The Agreement was signed in 1976 and confirms that trade between the two countries shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of GATT. It provides for encouragement and co-operation between India and Australia and establishes a Joint Trade Committee to meet annually and review the operation of the Agreement and advance its objectives.

Trade services

Trade Commissioner Service

The stimulation of interest abroad in Australia's exports is an important government activity in which the Australian Trade Commissioner Service plays a prominent part. There were 166 Trade Commissioners and Assistant Trade Commissioners in Australia at 54 posts in 43 countries by late 1984.

Trade Commissioners are responsible for providing commercial information in their territories in the fields of manufactured goods, rural commodities, resources, energy, and technical and allied services. Particular facilities provided for Australian exporters and export organisations include: surveying market prospects; advising on selling and advertising methods; arranging introductions with buyers and agents; providing reports on the standing of overseas firms; advising and assisting business visitors; helping to organise and carry through trade missions, trade displays, newspaper

supplements, and other promotion and publicity media; providing information on import duties, import licensing, economic conditions, quarantine and sanitary requirements, and other factors affecting the entry and sale of goods and services; and helping to attract desirable investment.

In some countries Trade Commissioners also participate in inter-governmental negotiations in the resources and commercial fields. In certain countries where there is no diplomatic or consular mission, Trade Commissioners are called upon to act as the Australian Government representative.

Trade Commissioners and Assistant Trade Commissioners are drawn from both private enterprise and the Public Service. Applications for entry are invited periodically by public advertisement.

The Trade Commissioner Service is administered by the Department of Trade (as distinct from the diplomatic and consular services administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs), but in countries where there is an Australian diplomatic or consular mission, it is the practice for Trade Commissioners to be attached to that mission and to hold an appropriate diplomatic or consular rank—Minister (Commercial), Counsellor (Commercial), or First or Second Secretary (Commercial).

The countries where Australian Trade Commissioner posts are located are (except where indicated the missions are located in capital cities only); Algeria; Argentina; Austria; Bahrain; Belgium; Brazil (Rio de Janeiro); Britain; Canada (Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa); China, People's Republic of; Egypt, Arab Republic of; Fiji; France; Germany, Federal Republic of; Hong Kong; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Italy (Rome, Milan); Japan (Tokyo, Osaka); Kenya; Korea, Republic of; Kuwait; Malaysia; Mexico; Netherlands; New Zealand (Wellington, Auckland); Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Saudi Arabia (Jeddah, Riyadh); Singapore; South Africa (Johannesburg); Spain; Sweden; Switzerland (Geneva); Thailand; United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi); United States of America (Washington DC, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco); USSR; Venezuela; and Yugoslavia, Socialist Federal Republic of.

Full details of the Australian Trade Commissioner posts are available from the Department of Trade, Canberra.

Australian Trade Correspondents and Marketing Officers

Detached Australian Trade Correspondents and Marketing Officers supplement the work of the Trade Commissioner in whose territory they are located. Correspondents are situated in various locations throughout the world.

Further references: *Victorian Year Book* 1981, pp. 427-30; 1984, pp. 405-12

Victoria's business representation overseas

Victoria is represented overseas by the Agent-General's Office in London and other representative offices in Frankfurt, Los Angeles, and Tokyo. Prior to October 1984, the Agent-General's Office and Tokyo office were administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Frankfurt and Los Angeles offices by the Victorian Economic Development Corporation's Development Division. In 1984, this Division was integrated into the Department of Industry, Commerce and Technology and the Department assumed direct responsibility for all four offices. In addition, a new position covering the Western Pacific (including Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, and the Philippines) was created. This office is located in Melbourne and regular visits are made to the region.

In various ways, these offices seek to promote investment in Victoria and trade with other countries. Direct liaison with a number of government departments and other organisations is maintained. Job creation through the attraction of overseas investment into industries identified as priority industries, which can cover manufacturing, financial services, tourism, and construction projects, is emphasised. Topics discussed with overseas inquirers include the extent of investment opportunities in Victoria, economic analyses of industrial and commercial proposals, industrial locations, and the utilisation of Victorian expertise and skills.

In order to maintain and promote an awareness of the export potential of the State, Victorian Government officers organise and conduct overseas promotional projects and displays in important overseas markets. Assistance is also provided to co-ordinate and service incoming and outgoing overseas trade missions and group visits. The overseas offices are placing more emphasis than in the

past on identifying export opportunities for Victorian goods and services and providing support to develop these opportunities into sales. As well as promoting Victorian technology overseas, they also seek out advanced technology to introduce into Victorian industry to improve its efficiency.

Further references: Victoria's pattern of trade, *Victorian Year Book* 1964, pp. 781-5; Export Payments Insurance Corporation, 1975, pp. 531-2; Historical background, 1977, pp. 527-8; World Trade Centre, Melbourne, 1980, pp. 431-2; Industries Assistance Commission, 1981, pp. 423-4; Temporary Assistance Authority, 1981, p. 424; Victoria's overseas representation, 1984, pp. 412-13

EXTERNAL TRADE STATISTICS

Collection and presentation of statistics

Source of data

Overseas trade statistics are compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from documentation submitted by exporters or importers or their agents to the Australian Customs Service as required by the Customs Act.

Scope of the statistics

The statistics presented in the following tables are recorded on a *general trade basis*, i.e. total exports include both Australian produce and re-exports, and total imports comprise goods entered directly for domestic consumption together with goods imported into Customs warehouses.

Exports of Australian produce are goods, materials, or articles which have been produced, manufactured, or partly manufactured in Australia.

Re-exports are goods, materials, or articles originally imported which are exported either in the same condition in which they were imported or after undergoing repair or minor operations which leave them essentially unchanged.

Total exports are the aggregate of exports of Australian produce and re-exports.

The statistics are not confined to goods which are the subject of a commercial transaction; generally, all goods imported into or exported from Australia are recorded. Among the items included are exports and imports on government account, including defence equipment. For exports, the value recorded for each item includes the value of the outside package or covering in which the goods were exported. Since 1 July 1976, the recorded value of imports also includes the value of the outside package.

State statistics

From 1 July 1978, State statistics for exports comprise State of origin and State of final shipment. State of origin is defined as the State in which the final stage of production or manufacture occurs. Previously, State was defined as the State in which the export document was lodged with the Australian Customs Service (then known as the Bureau of Customs). Because of this change, figures from 1 July 1978 are not directly comparable with those for previous periods.

For imports, the State is that in which the import entry was lodged with the Australian Customs Service.

Statistical period

Exports and imports are recorded statistically in the month in which the documentation is processed. Normally this is within a few days of shipment or discharge of cargo. However, delays may occur in the processing of documentation, and in some cases the documentation may be cleared prior to discharge or shipment of cargo.

Valuation

Exports

Goods sold to overseas buyers before export are valued at the free on board (f.o.b.) Australian port of shipment equivalent of the actual price paid to the exporter. Goods shipped on consignment are valued at the f.o.b. Australian port of shipment equivalent of the current price offering for similar goods of Australian origin in the principal markets of the country to which they are dispatched for sale. The value of outside packages is included.

Imports

The recorded value is the value for duty for Customs purposes. On 1 July 1976, Australia adopted the internationally recognised Brussels Definition of Value (BDV) on a f.o.b. basis, i.e. charges and

expenses involved in delivering the goods from the place of exportation to the place of introduction in Australia are excluded. The value for duty is based on the normal price, i.e. the price the goods would fetch at the time when duty becomes payable on a sale in the open market between a buyer and a seller independent of each other.

Merchandise and non-merchandise trade

Total trade is divided into merchandise and non-merchandise trade in accordance with international standards recommended by the United Nations. Merchandise trade is the equivalent of total exports or imports less certain items specified as non-merchandise. Complete descriptions of commodities classified as non-merchandise are contained in the *Australian Export and Import Commodity Classifications* (1203.0, 1204.0) published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Country

A country is defined as a geographical entity which trades, or has the potential to trade, with Australia in accordance with Australian Customs provisions. For exports, *country* refers to the country to which the goods were consigned at the time of export. Where the country of consignment is not determined at the time of export, goods are recorded as exported *For orders* and in those cases where it was found to be impossible to determine the destination, as *Destination unknown*. For imports, *country* refers to the country of origin of the goods which is defined as the country of production for Customs purposes.

Commodity classification

Exports and imports are classified according to the Australian Export Commodity Classification (AECC) and the Australian Import Commodity Classification (AICC) which from 1 July 1978 have been based on the second revision of the Standard International Trade Classification.

Overseas trade statistics

OVERSEAS TRADE: RECORDED VALUES OF IMPORTS INTO, AND EXPORTS FROM, VICTORIAN PORTS (\$'000)

Year	Imports	Exports		Excess of imports
		Victorian Origin (a)	Total (b)	
1978-79	4,693,631	3,129,109	3,254,582	1,439,049
1979-80	5,506,400	3,570,304	3,782,932	1,723,468
1980-81	5,929,278	3,786,553	3,989,429	1,939,849
1981-82	7,175,772	3,981,604	4,177,187	2,998,585
1982-83	6,989,815	3,991,396	4,321,674	2,668,141
1983-84	8,185,953	4,708,310	5,059,214	3,126,739

(a) Exports for which the final stage of production or manufacture occurred in Victoria.

(b) Includes re-exports.

VALUE OF AUSTRALIAN TRADE AND PROPORTION HANDLED AT VICTORIAN PORTS

Year	Australian trade			Proportion of Australian trade handled at Victorian ports		
	Imports	Exports	Total	Imports	Exports	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	per cent	per cent	per cent
1978-79	13,751,845	14,242,747	27,994,592	34.1	22.9	28.4
1979-80	16,217,505	18,870,079	35,087,584	34.0	20.0	26.5
1980-81	18,964,266	19,169,243	38,133,509	31.3	20.8	26.0
1981-82	23,004,685	19,575,206	42,579,891	31.2	21.3	26.7
1982-83	21,806,015	22,060,306	43,866,321	32.1	19.6	25.8
1983-84	24,060,997	24,766,639	48,827,636	34.0	20.4	27.1

Classification of overseas imports and exports

The value of trade according to AICC and AECC classifications is shown in the following table for the years 1981-82 to 1983-84:

CLASSIFICATION OF OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, VICTORIA
(\$'000)

Division number	Description	Imports			Exports (a)		
		1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
00	Live animals chiefly for food	11,635	8,076	12,574	18,712	44,027	58,557
01	Meat and meat preparations	1,356	2,944	3,029	320,869	410,772	220,821
02	Dairy products and birds' eggs	21,408	27,635	29,770	252,628	274,662	310,488
03	Fish, crustaceans, and molluscs	60,434	60,937	69,881	31,538	29,335	30,126
04	Cereals and cereal preparations	10,418	13,971	16,052	610,712	239,428	412,255
05	Vegetables and fruit	54,617	55,248	83,891	117,730	133,389	121,388
06	Sugar, sugar preparations, and honey	5,612	5,682	7,291	4,212	4,221	3,577
07	Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof	57,510	73,265	85,040	25,653	29,831	30,961
08	Feeding stuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals)	6,147	15,863	7,647	16,404	23,696	25,839
09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	8,114	10,245	14,710	2,557	3,206	3,958
11	Beverages	25,965	27,579	27,231	6,442	5,530	3,885
12	Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	19,343	21,422	28,253	1,644	1,810	1,420
21	Hides, skins, and fur skins, raw	2,660	2,251	2,861	95,944	99,925	98,977
22	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit	3,923	6,572	4,156	533	802	715
23	Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)	34,351	29,500	40,773	1,266	1,083	954
24	Cork and wood	49,622	47,115	69,542	326	619	557
25	Pulp and waste paper	32,862	29,010	27,460	274	1,125	1,129
26	Textile fibres and their wastes	51,525	43,206	60,138	605,114	588,605	655,211
27	Crude fertilisers and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum, and precious stones)	48,624	48,067	40,724	476	1,911	921
28	Metalliferous ores and metal scrap	1,732	1,957	1,807	9,996	15,576	11,637
29	Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.	16,462	17,135	19,421	15,465	13,278	10,110
32	Coal, coke, and briquettes	265	221	568	5,708	6,835	8,054
33	Petroleum, petroleum products, and related materials	292,399	391,820	269,276	313,665	476,955	726,258
34	Gas, natural and manufactured	33	83	63	(b)	(b)	(b)
41	Animal oils and fats	197	168	222	24,691	21,944	22,768
42	Fixed vegetables oils and fats	26,034	23,977	33,469	1,150	861	2,769
43	Animal and vegetable oils and fats, processed, and waxes of animal or vegetable origin	9,862	14,122	19,899	2,484	2,818	2,640
51	Organic chemicals	150,782	154,317	183,917	20,179	24,756	2,423
52	Inorganic chemicals	38,279	33,749	39,720	14,599	12,639	16,995
53	Dyeing, tanning, and colouring materials	41,001	37,962	53,937	6,370	6,066	7,679
54	Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	41,266	47,580	48,453	25,087	31,858	33,602
55	Essential oils and perfume materials; toilet, polishing, and cleansing preparations	23,936	23,928	32,483	4,107	4,748	6,237
56	Fertilisers, manufactured	14,847	17,364	21,911	86	135	149
57	Explosives and pyrotechnic products	6,350	2,466	5,054	4	3	10
58	Artificial resins and plastic materials, and cellulose esters and ethers	213,990	178,255	227,734	22,438	19,411	20,821
59	Chemical materials and products, n.e.s.	83,888	87,874	99,998	29,605	36,022	33,049
61	Leather, leather manufactures, n.e.s., and dressed fur skins	25,472	27,139	50,000	7,097	10,253	9,955
62	Rubber manufactures, n.e.s.	84,576	71,526	96,243	4,603	4,219	4,334
63	Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)	28,961	26,795	35,406	1,318	1,457	1,699
64	Paper, paperboard, and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	206,580	206,875	261,854	16,031	12,509	13,702
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s. and related products	527,436	493,223	664,705	28,940	24,938	34,012
66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	126,391	113,957	125,941	14,290	14,917	23,344
67	Iron and steel	186,541	154,213	154,102	71,651	73,836	94,241
68	Non-ferrous metals	45,538	34,821	40,219	29,443	21,540	26,039
69	Manufactures of metal, n.e.s.	223,166	212,004	233,816	72,255	68,055	81,641
71	Power generating machinery and equipment	269,069	232,009	213,524	64,964	94,212	142,657
72	Machinery specialised for particular industries	426,742	335,401	415,793	44,924	31,534	38,147
73	Metalworking machinery	94,701	76,629	69,014	4,298	4,961	6,151
74	General industrial machinery and equipment, n.e.s., and machine parts, n.e.s.	453,311	394,413	443,884	42,520	47,558	54,466
75	Office machines and automatic data processing equipment	109,926	112,482	162,982	3,222	4,166	8,535
76	Telecommunications, and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment	226,711	247,539	310,015	16,571	13,598	16,208

CLASSIFICATION OF OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, VICTORIA — *continued*
(\$'000)

Division number	Description	Imports			Exports (a)		
		1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, and appliances, n.e.s. and electrical parts thereof	368,752	352,263	408,948	27,459	34,169	49,040
78	Road vehicles (including air cushion vehicles)	702,423	678,417	907,123	122,792	116,431	158,606
79	Other transport equipment	386,799	256,843	253,076	16,056	6,715	15,149
81	Sanitary, plumbing, heating, and lighting fixtures and fittings, n.e.s.	16,458	16,177	19,251	1,130	2,602	2,614
82	Furniture and parts thereof	46,496	41,025	55,672	5,080	5,577	7,015
83	Travel goods, handbags, and similar containers	28,135	31,732	38,668	150	55	78
84	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	179,666	191,733	218,595	5,881	6,609	8,134
85	Footwear	66,122	73,667	79,680	1,891	1,802	1,868
87	Professional, scientific, and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.	153,556	161,639	172,370	25,150	29,283	38,276
88	Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies, and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches and clocks	158,395	154,391	158,606	63,701	91,926	99,531
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	326,503	355,025	406,602	42,218	49,427	48,866
9A	Commodities and transactions of merchandise trade, n.e.c.	166,616	197,255	392,404	(c)565,148	(c)631,411	(c)782,794
	Total merchandise	7,102,493	6,810,758	8,077,451	3,907,454	3,971,638	4,654,045
9B	Commodities and transactions not included in merchandise trade	73,279	179,058	108,503	74,150	19,758	54,265
	Total	7,175,772	6,989,815	8,185,953	3,981,604	3,991,396	4,708,310

(a) State of origin. For further information dealing with State statistics, see page 429.

(b) Included in Division 9A.

(c) Includes Division 34.

NOTE. n.e.s. = not elsewhere specified.

Trade with overseas countries

The value of trade with overseas countries for the years 1981-82 to 1983-84 is shown in the following table:

OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, COUNTRIES OF
ORIGIN AND CONSIGNMENT, VICTORIA
(\$'000)

Country	Imports			Exports (a)		
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Arab Republic of Egypt	63	76	84	103,675	46,730	83,391
Belgium-Luxembourg	53,021	45,648	63,581	18,773	29,271	16,742
Brazil	34,646	49,215	63,663	1,765	3,011	6,252
Canada	165,600	126,330	136,420	45,043	40,631	43,038
China—						
Excluding Taiwan Province	97,126	93,124	123,556	176,800	111,758	132,870
Taiwan Province only	273,460	284,827	383,845	96,238	127,660	145,656
Denmark	21,605	24,940	33,687	4,075	2,094	2,388
Fiji	2,141	3,413	5,975	81,244	94,045	93,750
Finland	50,029	48,302	66,963	2,550	3,155	1,880
France	145,758	190,702	219,457	80,178	83,663	81,627
Germany, Federal Republic of	576,533	609,184	675,742	80,849	86,308	125,065
Hong Kong	210,071	210,587	243,423	115,773	111,862	147,311
India	48,789	54,651	45,643	82,872	30,759	35,255
Indonesia	103,058	131,109	98,597	115,523	125,662	69,466
Iran	17,956	13,748	1,053	52,661	34,558	76,353
Italy	176,490	180,065	223,116	95,468	71,865	87,061
Japan	1,287,142	1,429,170	1,718,311	749,115	752,430	818,077
Korea, Republic of	121,547	122,909	164,404	121,491	125,811	134,540
Kuwait	97,704	114,626	108,966	20,818	32,314	47,017
Malaysia	67,995	69,460	95,442	76,430	86,306	103,681
Nauru, Republic of	19,158	21,105	15,358	9,422	9,160	9,908
Netherlands	72,438	94,799	108,876	21,008	30,855	20,248
New Zealand	277,686	261,232	343,132	345,757	339,257	445,535
Pakistan	17,295	11,275	15,086	18,024	5,005	17,066
Papua New Guinea	33,033	39,849	38,869	132,590	184,544	151,663
Philippines	34,113	32,754	34,391	74,273	66,835	53,948
Poland	5,906	3,702	4,346	18,199	16,140	29,149
Saudi Arabia	42,484	48,947	13,583	93,969	117,798	114,951
Singapore	72,325	77,344	91,760	133,651	152,945	343,800
South Africa	28,478	27,298	39,738	44,002	30,764	37,163

OVERSEAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, COUNTRIES OF
ORIGIN AND CONSIGNMENT, VICTORIA — *continued*
(\$'000)

Country	Imports			Exports		
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
Spain	26,827	23,869	31,785	21,337	21,761	11,854
Sweden	129,002	115,153	139,933	10,548	7,114	6,067
Switzerland	80,611	68,920	71,671	4,545	8,595	4,593
Thailand	25,882	30,809	49,807	33,718	63,053	69,566
United Kingdom	632,721	515,643	597,677	116,714	136,094	154,857
United States of America	1,907,897	1,565,179	1,820,797	272,825	326,547	441,842
U.S.S.R.	1,440	1,916	3,694	177,952	76,901	123,277
Yugoslavia	4,876	4,958	6,237	20,606	21,889	7,678
Other and unknown	212,866	242,977	287,285	311,123	376,246	413,725
Total	7,175,772	6,989,815	8,185,953	3,981,604	3,991,396	4,708,310

(a) State of origin. For further information dealing with State statistics, see page 429.

Interstate trade statistics

Statistics of trade between Victoria and other Australian States are incomplete and relate mainly to seaborne trade. Although a substantial quantity of freight is carried by road and rail transport between Victoria and neighbouring States, no details of this traffic are available. A small tonnage of freight is carried interstate by air.

Interstate trade by sea

In terms of quantity, the principal cargoes carried interstate by ship to and from Victorian ports are petroleum and petroleum products, steel, sugar and sugar preparations, and timber. However, there is also a considerable trade in foodstuffs, motor vehicles, and other manufactured goods, particularly through the Port of Melbourne.

Port of Melbourne

Interstate exports during 1981-82 totalled 2,806,584 tonnes. The principal commodities were petroleum products, 868,213 tonnes; miscellaneous manufactures, 715,303 tonnes; transport equipment (including touring passenger cars), 392,099 tonnes; fruit and vegetables, 50,667 tonnes; chemicals, 45,521 tonnes; food preparations, 56,963 tonnes; iron and steel, 33,558 tonnes; and beverages, 39,623.

Interstate imports during the same period totalled 3,127,018 tonnes, the principal commodities being iron and steel, 314,776 tonnes; paper and newsprint, 301,262 tonnes; petroleum products, 193,246 tonnes; timber, 179,616 tonnes; gypsum, 165,519 tonnes; raw sugar, 263,615 tonnes; touring passenger cars, 233,023 tonnes; and fruit and vegetables, 178,088 tonnes.

Interstate exports during 1982-83 totalled 2,772,231 tonnes. The principal commodities were petroleum products, 1,113,643 tonnes; miscellaneous manufactures, 667,322 tonnes; transport equipment (including touring passenger cars), 328,254 tonnes; crude oil, 84,015 tonnes; fruit and vegetables, 45,551 tonnes; paper and newsprint, 30,702 tonnes; beverages, 29,195 tonnes; and food preparations, 26,324 tonnes.

Interstate imports during the same period totalled 2,652,412 tonnes, the principal commodities being paper and newsprint, 265,460 tonnes; petroleum products, 243,399 tonnes; raw sugar, 248,052 tonnes; touring passenger cars, 217,054 tonnes; iron and steel, 188,738 tonnes; timber, 160,511 tonnes; fruit and vegetables, 148,814 tonnes; and gypsum, 140,741 tonnes.

Interstate exports during 1983-84 totalled 2,673,824 tonnes. The principal commodities were petroleum products, 937,876 tonnes; miscellaneous manufactures, 778,380 tonnes; transport equipment (including touring passenger cars), 360,249 tonnes; crude oil, 145,675 tonnes; fruit and vegetables 48,632 tonnes; paper and newsprint, 30,752 tonnes; food preparations, 25,385 tonnes; and cereal products, 21,857 tonnes.

Interstate imports during the same period totalled 2,619,606 tonnes, the principal commodities being paper and newsprint, 313,853 tonnes; fruit and vegetables, 297,566 tonnes; gypsum, 225,988 tonnes; raw sugar, 208,575 tonnes; petroleum products, 201,320 tonnes; timber, 191,905 tonnes; touring vehicles, 185,503 tonnes; cement, 138,950 tonnes; chemicals, 109,846 tonnes; and miscellaneous manufactures, 104,874 tonnes.

Port of Geelong

Total interstate exports during 1982 amounted to 1,705,478 tonnes, of which petroleum and petroleum products accounted for 1,704,238 tonnes. Total interstate imports for the same period

amounted to 520,124 tonnes, and consisted mainly of alumina, 342,580 tonnes; crude oil and petroleum products, 114,282 tonnes; and dry bulk products, 19,092 tonnes.

Total interstate exports during 1983 amounted to 1,376,766 tonnes, of which petroleum and petroleum products accounted for 1,375,797 tonnes. Total interstate imports for the same period amounted to 620,814 tonnes, and consisted mainly of alumina, 344,246 tonnes; crude oil and petroleum products, 159,178 tonnes; and bulk grain, 90,550 tonnes.

Trade of Victoria with Tasmania

Details of trade between Victoria and Tasmania include both air and sea trade. Both exports and imports are valued on an f.o.b. basis.

For 1979–80 exports by sea and air from Victoria to Tasmania were valued at \$709.8m. Petroleum products, \$172.7m; transport equipment, \$65.6m; clothing and accessories, \$19.3m; and machinery other than electric, \$54.8m, were the main types of commodities exported. The value of tourists' motor vehicles included in the total for 1979–80 was approximately \$51.4m.

Imports from Tasmania during the same period amounted to \$441.4m. Major items for which no figures can be released were confectionery, newsprint, and printing and writing papers. Values for other main imports were timber, \$61.4m; preserved vegetables, \$40.7m; and refined zinc, \$23.5m. The value of tourists' motor vehicles included in the total for 1979–80 was approximately \$51.1m.

For 1980–81 exports by sea and air from Victoria to Tasmania were valued at \$737.5m. Petroleum products, \$186.2m; transport equipment, \$75.8m; clothing and accessories, \$22.2m; and machinery other than electric, \$48.9m, were the main types of commodities exported. The value of tourists' motor vehicles included in the total for 1980–81 was approximately \$60.3m.

Imports from Tasmania during the same period amounted to \$484.2m. Major items for which no figures can be released were confectionery, newsprint, and printing and writing papers. Values for other main imports were timber, \$61.0m; preserved vegetables, \$45.2m; and refined zinc, \$27.3m. The value of tourists' motor vehicles included in the total for 1980–81 was approximately \$61.5m.

For 1981–82 exports by sea and air from Victoria to Tasmania were valued at \$769.9m. Petroleum products, \$222.5m; transport equipment, \$73.1m; clothing and accessories, \$18.8m; and machinery other than electric, \$50.8m, were the main types of commodities exported. The value of tourists' motor vehicles included in the total for 1981–82 was approximately \$66.0m.

Imports from Tasmania during the same period amounted to \$536.2m. Major items for which no figures can be released were confectionery, newsprint, and printing and writing papers. Values for other main imports were timber, \$56.8m; preserved vegetables, \$42.5m; and refined zinc, \$29.6m. The value of tourists' motor vehicles included in the total for 1981–82 was approximately \$69.2m.

For 1982–83 exports by sea and air from Victoria to Tasmania were valued at \$832.4m. Petroleum products, \$252.4m; transport equipment, \$71.8m; clothing and accessories, \$23.4m; and machinery other than electric, \$79.8m, were the main types of commodities exported. The value of tourists' motor vehicles included in the total for 1982–83 was approximately \$74.0m.

Imports from Tasmania during the same period amounted to \$535.4m. Major items, for which no figures can be released, were confectionery, newsprint, and printing and writing papers. Values for other main imports were timber, \$47.8m; preserved vegetables, \$33.8m; and refined zinc, \$21.1m. The value of tourists' motor vehicles included in the total for 1982–83 was approximately \$73.4m.

Further references: Customs and excise revenue, *Victorian Year Book* 1979, pp. 418–19; Interstate trade, 1984, pp. 403–4

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ABS publications

- Monthly Summary of Statistics, Victoria (1303.2)
- Balance of Payments, Australia (5301.0)
- Exports by Commodity Divisions, Australia, Preliminary (5402.0)
- Exports of Major Commodities and Their Principal Markets, Australia (monthly) (5403.0)
- Imports by Commodity Divisions, Australia (5405.0)
- Foreign Trade, Australia, Part 1: Exports and Imports (5409.0)
- Foreign Trade, Australia, Part 2: Comparative and Summary Tables (5410.0)
- Australian Exports, Country by Commodity (5411.0)
- Imports Cleared for Home Consumption; Part 1 chapters 1–67 of Customs Tariff (5412.0) (microfiche only)
- Imports Cleared for Home Consumption; Part 2 chapters 68–99 of Customs Tariff (5413.0) (microfiche only)
- Australian Imports, Country by Commodity (5414.0)
- Imports of Assembled New Passenger Motor Cars, Australia (5416.0)
- Exports and Imports, Australia: Trade with Selected Countries and Major Country Groups (5422.0)
- Exports of Major Commodities and Their Principal Markets, Australia (annual) (5423.0)
- Customs and Excise Revenue, Australia (5425.0)