

**INTERNATIONAL
MERCHANDISE IMPORTS**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 18 NOV 2003

KEY FIGURES

	<i>August 2003</i>	<i>September 2003</i>	<i>October 2003</i>
	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>	<i>\$m</i>
Food and live animals	383	436	453
Beverages and tobacco	77	95	105
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	168	156	170
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	747	850	776
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	40	31	22
Chemicals and related products, nes	1 214	1 175	1 489
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 309	1 423	1 446
Machinery and transport equipment	5 083	5 209	5 373
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1 618	1 799	1 817
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	235	315	187
Total imports	10 875	11 489	11 839

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.

DETAILED DATA

More detailed merchandise imports data are available through the National Information and Referral Service, by subscription to AusStats, a 24 hour Internet access service to all ABS statistics, or by tailored subscription (telephone 1300 135 070).

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The November 2003 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 16 December 2003, and the December 2003 to April 2004 issues are expected to be released on 19 January 2004, 17 February 2004, 17 March 2004, 20 April 2004 and 18 May 2004.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more details on the classifications used and basis of compilation, see the ABS publication International Merchandise Trade, Australia: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 5489.0) which is accessible on the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>, select Themes then International Trade then Publications.

R.W. Edwards
Acting Australian Statistician

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Christine McLaughlin on Canberra (02) 6252 5313.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

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ISSN 1328 2980

RRP \$18.50