



AUGUST 2006

5439.0

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS

AUSTRALIA

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

KEY FIGURES

	June 2006	July 2006	August 2006
	\$m	\$m	\$m
Food and live animals	483	495	546
Beverages and tobacco	90	94	113
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	183	152	250
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	2 252	1 858	2 044
Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	42	35	53
Chemicals and related products, nes	1 491	1 556	1 684
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	1 595	1 556	1 801
Machinery and transport equipment	6 546	5 843	6 385
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	1 841	2 014	2 122
Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere in the SITC	589	587	221
TOTAL	15 112	14 189	15 220

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 *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 from the Details tab of this issue or by contacting the National Information and Referral Service.

INFORMATION PAPER

An information paper *Proposed classification changes from 1 January 2007 to statistical codes of the Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification and the Customs Tariff* (cat no. 5368.0.55.007) was released on 8 September 2006.

PRELIMINARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS GOODS IMPORTS

Preliminary analysis shows that goods imports (debits) on a balance of payments basis increased by 1% in seasonally adjusted terms between July and August 2006.

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The September 2006 issue of this publication is expected to be released on 18 October 2006, and the October 2006 to February 2007 issues are expected to be released on 16 November 2006, 18 December 2006, 17 January 2007, 16 February 2007 and 16 March 2007.

Susan Linacre
Acting Australian
Statistician

INQUIRIES

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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

INTERNET **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

LIBRARY A range of ABS publications are 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.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our web site, or purchase a hard copy publication. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

PHONE 1300 135 070

EMAIL client.services@abs.gov.au

FAX 1300 135 211

POST Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

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

WEB ADDRESS www.abs.gov.au



2543900008069

ISSN 1328 2980

RRP \$22.00