

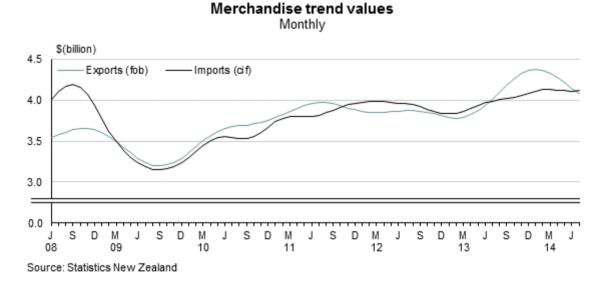
Overseas Merchandise Trade: July 2014

Embargoed until 10:45am - 26 August 2014

Key facts

For July 2014 compared with July 2013:

- Exports fell \$125 million (3.3 percent) to \$3.7 billion.
- Logs, wood, and wood articles led this fall, down \$53 million.
- Exports to China fell \$35 million to \$615 million, and to Australia fell \$53 million to \$687 million.
- The trend for exports appears to be falling.
- Imports fell \$221 million (4.8 percent) to \$4.4 billion.
- There was a trade deficit of \$692 million (19 percent of exports).



Liz MacPherson, Government Statistician ISSN 1178-0320 26 August 2014



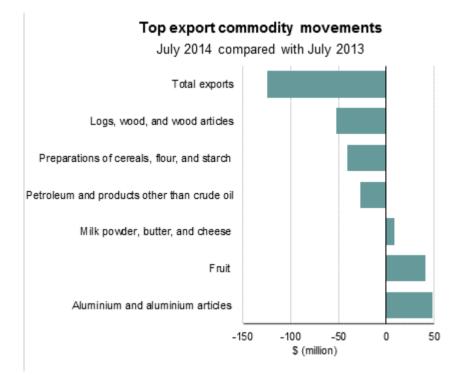
Commentary

- Exports fall 3.3 percent
- Imports fall 4.8 percent
- Trade deficit in July 2014
- Seasonally adjusted exports fall 7.5 percent
- Seasonally adjusted imports fall 1.8 percent
- Exchange rate movements

All comparisons are between July 2014 and July 2013, unless otherwise stated.

Exports fall 3.3 percent

In July 2014, goods exports were valued at \$3.7 billion, down \$125 million (3.3 percent) from July 2013.

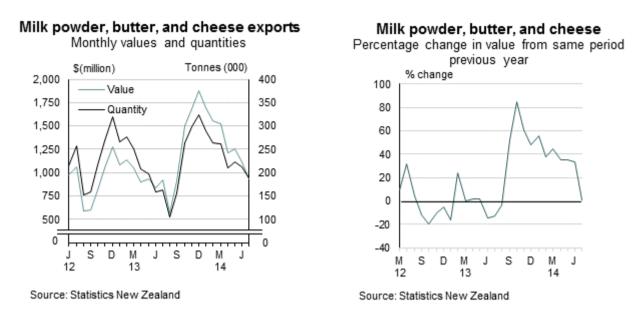


Fall in exports led by logs, wood, and wood articles

Logs, wood, and wood articles exports fell \$53 million (16 percent), with quantities showing little change. The fall was led by pine logs, down \$33 million.

Other key changes in commodity group export values, for July 2014:

- **preparations of cereals, flour, and starch** fell \$41 million (35 percent), led by infant food (which includes infant formula)
- **petroleum and products other than crude** oil fell \$27 million (68 percent), led by residual fuel oil and partly refined petroleum
- aluminium and aluminium articles rose \$48 million, due to unwrought aluminium
- fruit rose \$41 million (24 percent), led by kiwifruit.



Milk powder, butter, and cheese (our main export commodity) rose \$8.2 million (0.9 percent) to \$931 million. The quantity was up 16 percent. The rise was due to milk powder, while butter and cheese fell.

Exports to China fall

The monthly movements for our top export destinations (ranked by total annual exports) were:

- 1. **China** down \$35 million (5.4 percent), led by pine logs and infant food. Milk powder exports partly offset this fall, up \$33 million.
- 2. Australia down \$53 million (7.1 percent), over a range of commodities.
- 3. European Union (EU) down \$56 million, led by butter. Germany and Belgium led this overall decrease.
- 4. **United States** up \$56 million (18 percent), led by casein and caseinates, and frozen beef.
- 5. **Japan** up \$40 million (20 percent), due to unwrought aluminium.
- 6. Korea down \$1.3 million (1.0 percent) led by pine logs.

Other key country movements were:

- Malaysia down \$41 million (38 percent), due to milk powder.
- Singapore down \$39 million (35 percent), led by residual fuel oil.
- Algeria up \$57 million, due to milk powder.

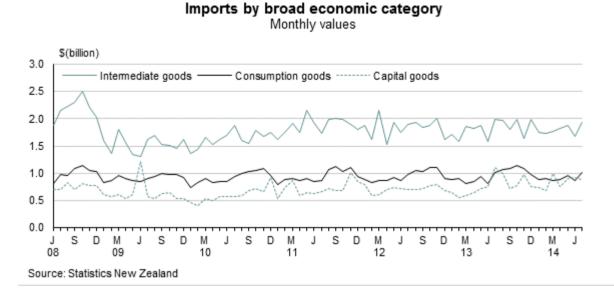
Imports fall 4.8 percent

In July 2014, goods imports were valued at \$4.4 billion, down \$221 million (4.8 percent) from July 2013.

For the July 2014 month, we have excluded certain import items for confidentiality reasons. This exclusion will also apply for the overseas trade indexes information releases published on 1 December 2014. The balance of payments and international investment position, and national accounts information releases are not affected.

Capital goods lead the fall in imports

Of the three main economic categories, the value of both capital goods and intermediate goods fell, and consumption goods rose, compared with the same time last year.



Capital goods fell \$234 million (21 percent). Transport equipment fell \$144 million (37 percent), due to imports of helicopters and railway coaches in July 2013. This fall was partly offset by the rise in trucks. Machinery and plant goods fell \$90 million (12 percent), led by tunnelling machinery.

Intermediate goods fell \$53 million (2.7 percent), due to crude oil (down \$116 million). This decrease was partly offset by an increase in processed fuels and lubricants (including automotive diesel), up \$39 million (85 percent).

Consumption goods rose \$3.0 million (0.3 percent), due to non-durable consumer goods (including medicaments).

In other categories of goods:

- passenger motor cars rose \$79 million (25 percent), led by new motor cars
- petrol and avgas fell \$3.6 million (3.0 percent).

Four of our top import partners show decreases

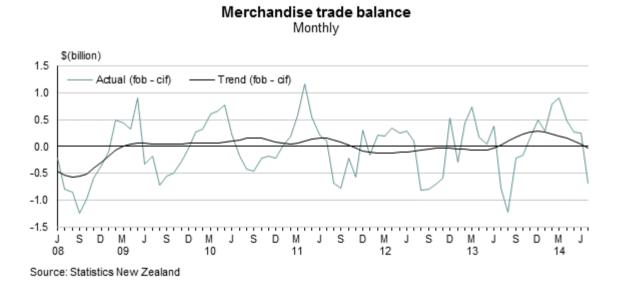
The monthly movements for our top import partners (ranked by total annual imports) were:

- EU down \$16 million (1.7 percent), due to helicopter imports from France in July 2013. This fall was partly offset by Germany, up \$38 million, led by motor cars; and the United Kingdom, up \$36 million, led by turbo jets.
- 2. **China** down \$132 million (16 percent), led by tunnelling machinery and railway coaches.
- 3. Australia down \$21 million (3.7 percent), led by regular motor spirit.
- 4. United States down \$50 million (11 percent), due to regular motor spirit.
- 5. Japan up \$43 million (17 percent), led by trucks and motor cars.

Import shipments of crude oil tend to fluctuate depending on where they come from, which causes large changes in quantities and values. In July 2014, crude oil influenced other significant movements. **Russia, Brunei Darussalam, Saudi Arabia**, and **Nigeria** showed decreases; **Kuwait** and **Qatar** showed increases.

Trade deficit in July 2014

In July 2014, there was a trade deficit of \$692 million (19 percent of exports). This compares with an average surplus of 5.2 percent of exports over the previous five July months.



For the year ended July 2014, there was an annual trade surplus of \$1.3 billion (2.5 percent of exports). This compares with an average deficit of 1.4 percent of exports over the previous five years ending July, although there were surpluses in the July 2010 and 2011 years.

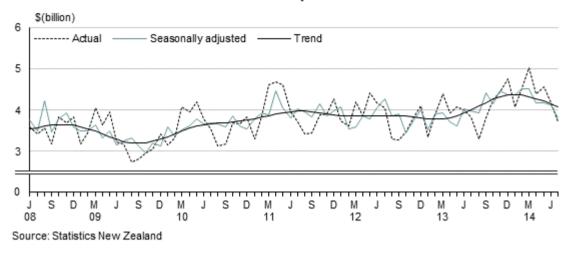
Seasonally adjusted exports fall 7.5 percent

The seasonally adjusted value of exported goods in July 2014 was down 7.5 percent (\$311 million) from June 2014. This follows a 1.1 percent decrease in June 2014.

The trend for exports appears to be falling from high export levels in recent months. It is now 6.7 percent below the recent peak in January 2014.

Merchandise export values

Monthly



Change in seasonally adjusted export values

Milk powder, butter, and cheese showed the largest fall in July 2014, down 8.7 percent (\$106 million), following a 5.3 percent fall in June 2014. The seasonally adjusted quantity fell 4.0 percent.

Crude oil exports fell 38 percent (\$43 million), with the quantity down 37 percent. Crude oil is not seasonally adjusted; exports vary and are affected by the timing of shipments.

Meat and edible offal exports fell 6.7 percent (\$32 million), following an 8.8 percent rise in June 2014. The seasonally adjusted quantity fell 3.4 percent.

Mechanical machinery and equipment exports rose 6.8 percent (\$8.1 million), following a 0.8 percent rise in June 2014.

Trend for milk powder, butter, and cheese continues to fall

The trend for **milk powder, butter, and cheese** exports has been falling in 2014. It is now 17 percent lower than the recent peak in December 2013.

Recent trends for the values of other leading commodity groups show that:

- meat and edible offal has fallen 7.1 percent since the recent high point in February 2014
- logs, wood, and wood articles now 19 percent lower than the recent high point in October 2013
- fruit is 15 percent lower than the most-recent high point in February 2014.

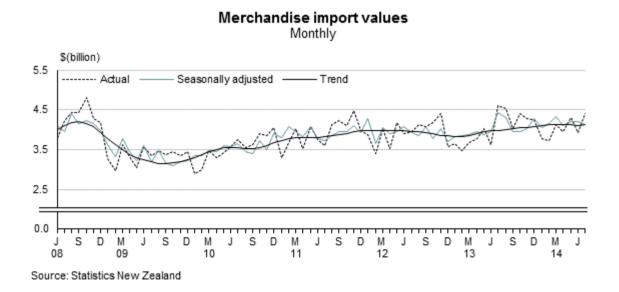
Indexed export trend values by leading commodity groupings Monthly

Base: June 2008 (=1000) Index 2500 2000 1500 1000 500 s D М s D М s D М s D М J s D Μ J s D M J J Л J J 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 ----- Fruit Logs, wood, & Milk powder, ----- Meat & Mechanical wood articles butter, edible offal machinery & & cheese equipment Source: Statistics New Zealand

Seasonally adjusted imports fall 1.8 percent

Seasonally adjusted imports fell 1.8 percent (\$77 million), to \$4.1 billion for July 2014, compared with June 2014. This follows a 0.1 percent decrease in June 2014. Excluding petroleum and products, seasonally adjusted imports fell 4.7 percent in July 2014.

The trend for import values (excluding one-off imports) has generally been increasing for over a year.



Exchange rate movements

According to the Reserve Bank's trade weighted index, the New Zealand dollar was 0.8 percent higher in July 2014 than in June 2014, and 8.2 percent higher than in July 2013.



For more detailed data, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

About the overseas merchandise trade statistics

Overseas merchandise trade statistics provide statistical information on the importing and exporting of merchandise goods between New Zealand and other countries.

Data is obtained from export and import entry documents lodged with the New Zealand Customs Service. The data is processed and passed to Statistics NZ for further editing and compilation.

More definitions

Billion: is 1,000 million.

Capital goods: are produced assets that are used repeatedly or continuously, for longer than one year, in industrial production processes. Examples are machinery, trucks, and aircraft.

cif: is the cost of goods, including insurance and freight to New Zealand.

Consumption goods: are goods used (without further transformation in industrial production processes) by households, government, or non-profit institutions serving households.

Exports (excluding re-exports): are goods of domestic origin exported from New Zealand to another country. Exports in this release are valued fob and are shown in New Zealand dollars. Estimated values may be used for goods that are not already sold at the time of export entry lodgement.

fob: is free on board (the value of goods at New Zealand ports before export).

Imports: are goods imported into New Zealand. Imports in this release are valued at cif and are shown in New Zealand dollars. However, imports in table 1 are also shown at the vfd level, which excludes the insurance and freight component.

Infoshare: is Statistics NZ's free online tool that gives you access to a range of time-series data.

Intermediate goods: are goods used up, or transformed, in industrial production processes.

Merchandise trade: covers exports or imports of goods that alter the nation's stock of material resources. It includes goods leased for a year or more and excludes goods for repair.

Provisional: statistics for the latest three months are provisional, to allow late data and amendments to be included.

Re-exports: are merchandise exports that were earlier imported into New Zealand and have less than 50 percent New Zealand content by value.

Seasonal adjustment: removes the estimated impact of regular seasonal events, such as pre-Christmas purchasing, from time series. This makes the figures for adjacent periods more comparable. **Trade balance:** is calculated by deducting imports (cif) from exports (fob). These two valuations are not entirely comparable, because the cif valuation includes insurance and freight to New Zealand, while the fob valuation excludes insurance and freight from New Zealand.

Trade deficit: occurs when the value of imports is more than the value of exports.

Trade surplus: occurs when the value of exports is more than the value of imports.

Trend: estimates reveal the underlying direction of movement in a series and are used to identify turning points.

Two-way trade: is the sum of goods exported from New Zealand and goods imported into New Zealand (exports + imports).

vfd: is value for duty (the value of imports before insurance and freight costs are added).

Related links

Upcoming releases

Overseas Merchandise Trade: August 2014 will be released on 24 September 2014.

Subscribe to information releases, including this one, by completing the online subscription form.

The release calendar lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

Past releases

Overseas Merchandise Trade has links to past releases.

Related information

<u>Global New Zealand</u> contains comprehensive annual trade statistics.

<u>Overseas Trade Indexes</u> measure the change in the level of prices and volumes of New Zealand's imports and exports.

<u>Balance of Payments and International Investment Position</u> measures the value of New Zealand's transactions with the rest of the world, and provides a snapshot of the country's international financial assets and liabilities.

<u>National Accounts</u> measure the values of a range of economic aggregates such as gross domestic product, capital formation, and government and private consumption.

Economic Survey of Manufacturing provides an economic indicator of how the manufacturing sector is performing.

<u>New Zealand Customs Service</u> is the government agency that ensures the security of our borders.

<u>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</u> is the Government's principal adviser and negotiator on foreign and trade policy issues.

Data quality

Period-specific information

This section contains data information that has changed since the last release.

- <u>Time of recording number of working days</u>
- Foreign currency conversions

General information

This section contains information that does not change between releases.

- Merchandise trade data source
- Crude oil imports effects of timing of recording
- Exports timing of recording and undercoverage
- Seasonally adjusted series
- <u>Trend series</u>
- Broad economic category groups
- New Zealand Harmonised System Classification
- <u>Standard International Trade Classification</u>
- <u>Confidential items</u>
- More information

Period-specific information

Time of recording – number of working days

There were 23 working days in both July 2014 and July 2013.

For the July 2014 month, we have excluded certain import items for confidentiality reasons. This exclusion will also apply for the overseas trade indexes information releases published on 1 December 2014. The balance of payments and international investment position, and national accounts information releases are not affected.

Foreign currency conversions July 2014

Import values are converted from foreign currencies when import documents are processed by New Zealand Customs Service (NZCS).

We convert export values given in foreign currencies into New Zealand dollars, using weekly exchange rates when the statistics are compiled.

Currency conversions										
Foreign currencies	to New Zeala	nd dollars								
Currency	Export line entries	Value in foreign currency \$(million)	Value in NZD \$(million)	Average exchange rate						
USD	37,406	1,861	2,127	0.8749						
AUD	52,470	261	280	0.9312						
EUR	5,220	129	200	0.6437						
GBP	3,218	36	71	0.5119						
JPY	1,105	6,627	75	88.87						
Other currencies	1,783		48							
Total in foreign currency	101,202		2,802							
NZD	75,205		902							
Total	176,407		3,703							
Symbol: not applicable	· · ·		•	•						

Symbol: ... not applicable

In July 2014, 101,202 export line entries worth \$2.8 billion were converted into New Zealand dollars.

See Merchandise trade – data source below for more on using exchange rates.

General information

Merchandise trade – data source

We obtain data from export and import entry documents lodged with NZCS. Once processed by NZCS, we receive this data for further editing and compilation.

We convert export values given in foreign currencies into New Zealand dollars, using weekly exchange rates when the statistics are compiled. For exports, a rise in the New Zealand dollar has a downward influence on prices and, as a consequence, quantities and values reduce.

Import values are converted from foreign currencies when import documents are processed by NZCS. NZCS sets the exchange rates each fortnight. These rates are prepared 11 days before the start of the fortnight, so have a lag of 11 to 25 days compared with the daily rates published by the Reserve Bank. For imports, a rise in the New Zealand dollar has a downward influence on prices and an upward influence on quantities. The combined influence on values can be either positive or negative.

Crude oil imports – effects of timing of recording

Imports are generally compiled by date-of-entry clearance by NZCS. NZCS entries are required from up to five days before, to 20 working days after goods arrive into New Zealand. The exception to this rule is for crude oil imports, which can have entries lodged later than 20 working days after entry into New Zealand.

We estimate crude oil values for the latest month using actual quantities and country-of-origin data (provided by NZCS, based on information from the refinery at Marsden Point), together with estimated prices. These estimates for crude oil are replaced once actual entries are lodged with NZCS.

While all entries are provisional for the latest three months, and have the potential to be changed by the importer/exporter within this period, changes are not common, and generally do not have a material impact on the results. However, New Zealand has only a few ships carrying crude oil arriving each month, and each ship represents a high proportion of the monthly total of imported crude oil. Any variation in the data for crude oil resulting from a later lodgement date can result in a significant revision to the value. Once we receive actual lodgements from NZCS, the value for crude oil can be regarded as robust.

Exports – timing of recording and undercoverage

From the August 1997 reference month, we compile exports by date of export. Previously, exports were generally compiled according to date of clearance by NZCS. This meant that some goods were allocated to the month following their actual month of export. Exports up to July 1997 that were not processed until August 1997 were assigned to the month of August 1997.

From 1 March 2004, NZCS has not allowed goods to be loaded for export until an export entry has been lodged and cleared. A study undertaken in 2001/02 indicated that export entries not being lodged might account for between 1 and 3 percent of exports at that time. The change in NZCS processes may possibly have reduced this undercoverage, although we have not quantified this.

Seasonally adjusted series

We calculated seasonally adjusted series monthly and for calendar quarters using X-12-ARIMA, which adjusts for outlying values and uses a centred moving average.

Seasonal adjustment removes the estimated effect of regular seasonal events, such as pre-Christmas purchasing, from time series. This makes the figures for adjacent periods more comparable. Seasonally adjusted figures are estimates and are subject to revision each period, with the largest changes generally occurring in the latest periods.

Seasonal adjustment in Statistics New Zealand has more information.

Trend series

Time series can be split into trend, seasonal, and irregular components. Seasonal adjustment removes the seasonal component, while trend estimation removes the seasonal and irregular components. Trend estimates reveal the underlying direction of movement in a series and are used to identify turning points.

We calculate the trend series using X-12-ARIMA. The length of the centred moving average is selected automatically and can be 9, 13, or 23 months, depending on the relative variability of the irregular component compared with the trend. A long moving average has the effect of smoothing the trend series but slowing the response to underlying changes in growth rates. A short moving average produces a trend series that is less smooth but quicker to identify turning points.

To improve estimation of the underlying movement, we calculate the imports trend after removing individual import items that have cif values of \$100 million or more, such as large aircraft and ships. The trade balance trend is calculated by subtracting the imports trend from the exports trend.

We calculate trend figures each month. Using new monthly data means that previously published trend estimates are revised. These revisions mainly affect the latest months and can be large if a trade value is initially treated as an outlier but is later found to be part of the underlying trend.

Broad economic category groups

Broad economic category (BEC) groups are arranged, as far as practicable, to align with the System of National Accounts' three basic classes: capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumption goods. We categorise commodities in BEC groups on the basis of their main end use. This means, for example, that all video recorders are treated as consumption goods even though some are used in business. Similarly, all helicopters are treated as transport equipment even though some are military goods (and are treated as such in the national accounts).

New Zealand Harmonised System Classification

From January 2012, we compile overseas merchandise trade data using the Harmonised System classification (HS2012). Before January 2012, HS2007 applies.

See the Excel supplementary table in the 'Downloads' box for a summary of the effect of this change on the overseas merchandise trade data.

The classification change means data users need to take care when analysing time-series data, although changes from this review are not as significant as when HS2007 was introduced. The supplementary table uses the HS2012 classification to estimate January 2011 values for comparison. We made some assumptions to do this, so the results are not perfect, but the process removes most of the effect of the classification change from the data.

We will use HS2012 within overseas merchandise trade statistics until the next five-yearly review in 2017. Minor amendments may still occur on a quarterly basis.

Although the classification change potentially affects the published seasonally adjusted and trend series, our investigations so far show a negligible effect. We will communicate any effects we find when conducting our normal seasonal adjustment or trend series review processes.

HS2012 changes have been implemented in the overseas trade indexes.

See <u>Harmonised System 2012 and trade statistics</u> for more information on how HS2012 has affected overseas merchandise trade data.

See <u>Harmonised System 2012</u> for information about the HS2012 classification.

Standard International Trade Classification

The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) is an output classification that uses Harmonised System (HS) codes at the six-digit level as building blocks. It was designed by the United Nations as an analytical tool for economic analysis, which includes some simple implications regarding level of processing. Published figures are at a high level of aggregation; more disaggregated information is available on <u>Infoshare</u>.

Contact customer services at: <u>info@stats.govt.nz</u> for customised jobs using the SITC Rev 4 classification.

We compile overseas merchandise trade (OMT) statistics in close accordance with the United Nations' International Merchandise Trade Statistics Concepts and Definitions. OMT data, after adjustment, is used in the balance of payments and national accounts. The adjustments are for coverage, timing, valuation, and classification.

See <u>Balance of Payments – Sources and Methods 2004</u> for further explanation.

Confidential items

Under Section 37A (d) of the Statistics Act, the Government Statistician may disclose details of external trade, movement of ships, and cargo handled at ports. However, we understand that the release of merchandise trade commodity information can, in some cases, place commercially sensitive information in the public domain. We can provide a limited form of confidential status for commodity items (at the discretion of the Government Statistician), on application from a company or business.

In practice, all confidential HS codes are aggregated into the code 9809.00.00.00 in order to protect their confidentiality and to maintain total export and import values. Any aggregations of HS codes below this level, which encompass confidential 10-digit codes, exclude the confidential value(s) for these codes.

The only aggregates that include the confidential codes are total exports, total imports, and the total exports and imports by country.

More information

See more information about Overseas Merchandise Trade

Statistics in this release have been produced in accordance with the <u>Official Statistics System</u> <u>principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics</u> for quality. They conform to the Statistics NZ Methodological Standard for Reporting of Data Quality.

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Revisions

Provisional values published on 24 July 2014 are now updated. Merchandise trade statistics for the latest three months are provisional so we can include late data and amendments.

Trade data can be revised for many reasons. For more information see:

Why overseas merchandise trade data can change

Investigating how overseas merchandise trade data can change after publication

Updates to overseas merchandise trade statistics

	Published on 24 July 2014			Published on 26 August 2014		Change					
	\$(million) ⁽¹⁾										
	Exports (fob)	Imports (cif)	Balance (fob-cif)	Exports (fob)	Imports (cif)	Balance (fob-cif)	Exports (fob)	Imports (cif)	Balance (fob-cif)		
Month:	Month:										
Apr 201 4	4,407 P	3,393 P	467 P	4,406 F	3,939 F	467 F	0	0	0		
May 20 14	4,580 P	4,310 P	270 P	4,574 P	4,310 P	265 P	-6	-1	-5		
Jun 20 14	4,195 P	3,947 P	247 P	4,177 P	3,935 P	242 P	-18	-12	-5		
Year ended:											
Apr 2014	50,492 P	49,396 P	1,095 P	50,491 F	49,396 F	1,095 F	0	0	0		
May 2014	50,996 P	49,671 P	1,325 P	50,990 P	49,670 P	1,320 P	-6	-1	-5		
Jun 2014	51,187 P	49,986 P	1,201 P	51,164 P	49,973 P	1,191 P	-23	-13	-10		
Symbols: F final P provisional	e calculated on		ta.								

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Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box. If you have problems viewing the files, see <u>opening files and PDFs</u>.

- 1. Overseas merchandise trade, actual values
- 2. Overseas merchandise trade, seasonally adjusted and trend values monthly
- 3. Exports by destination
- 4. Imports by country of origin
- 5. Exports of main commodities
- 6. Imports of main commodities
- 7. Imports by broad economic category (BEC) group
- 8. Exchange rates
- 9. Related series, livestock, cars, and crude oil
- 10. Exports and imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)
- 11. Exports by top 10 HS categories, values seasonally adjusted
- 12. Exports by top 10 HS categories, quantities seasonally adjusted
- 13. Imports by selected HS categories, values seasonally adjusted
- 14. Exports by top 10 HS categories, values trend
- 15. Exports by top 10 HS categories, quantities trend
- 16. Imports by selected HS categories, values trend

Access more data on Infoshare

Infoshare allows you to organise data in the way that best meets your needs. You can view the resulting tables onscreen or download them.

Use Infoshare

For this release, select the following categories from the Infoshare homepage: Subject category: **Imports and Exports**