



Overseas Merchandise Trade: March 2013

Embargoed until 10:45am - 26 April 2013

Key facts

March 2013 quarter:

Values are seasonally adjusted and compared with the December 2012 quarter.

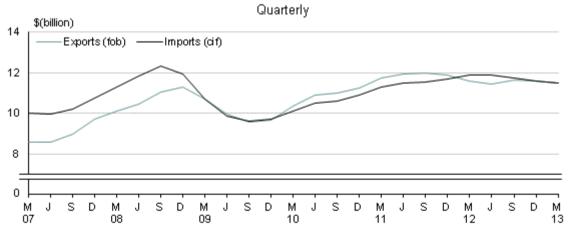
- Exports rose 0.8 percent to \$11.6 billion.
- The increase in exports was led by a rise of 3.5 percent (\$96 million) in the value of milk powder, butter, and cheese.
- The trend for exports is 4.1 percent lower than the record high of the September 2011 quarter.
- Imports fell 0.2 percent to \$11.5 billion.
- The trend for imports is 6.6 percent lower than the overall peak of the September 2008 quarter.
- There was a trade surplus of \$52 million (0.4 percent of exports).

March 2013 month:

Values are actual and compared with the March 2012 month.

- Exports were up \$213 million (5.1 percent) to \$4.4 billion.
- Meat and edible offal recorded the largest increase, up \$100 million (18 percent).
- Imports fell \$319 million (7.9 percent) to \$3.7 billion.
- There was a trade surplus of \$718 million (16 percent of exports).

Merchandise trend values



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Geoff Bascand Government Statistician

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Commentary

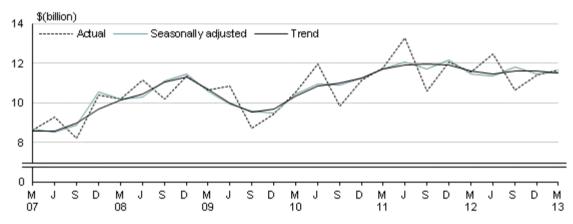
- Seasonally adjusted exports rise 0.8 percent in March 2013 quarter
- Seasonally adjusted imports show little change in March 2013 quarter
- Seasonally adjusted trade surplus in March 2013 quarter
- China top country for exports and imports
- Exports rise 5.1 percent in March month
- Imports fall 7.9 percent in March month
- March 2013 trade balance in surplus
- Exchange rate movements

Seasonally adjusted exports rise 0.8 percent in March 2013 quarter

The seasonally adjusted value of exported goods rose 0.8 percent (\$93 million) to \$11.6 billion in the March 2013 quarter. This followed a 2.9 percent (\$340 million) decrease in the December 2012 quarter.

The trend for goods exported, which reflects the long-term behaviour of export values, remains at a high level, just 4.1 percent lower than the record high of the September 2011 quarter.

Merchandise export values Quarterly



Source: Statistics New Zealand

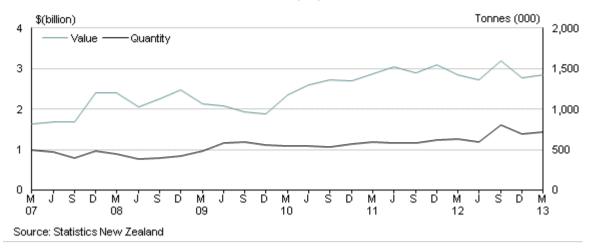
Milk powder, butter, and cheese lead rise in seasonally adjusted exports

Milk powder, butter, and cheese (New Zealand's largest export commodity group) led the rise in seasonally adjusted exports in the March 2013 quarter, up 3.5 percent (\$96 million). This followed a 14 percent (\$434 million) fall in the December 2012 quarter and a 17 percent (\$461 million) increase in the September 2012 quarter. Quantities for the March 2013 quarter rose 3.6 percent, following a 15 percent decrease in the December 2012 quarter and a 36 percent increase in the September 2012 quarter.

The trend for **milk powder**, **butter**, **and cheese** values is 6.3 percent lower than its highest point, which was in the September 2011 quarter.

Milk powder, butter, and cheese exports

Quarterly values and quantities Seasonally adjusted



Other key changes in commodity export values

In the March 2013 quarter, compared with the December 2012 quarter, the value of exports rose for:

- casein and caseinates up 19 percent (\$38 million), with quantities up 18 percent
- fruit up 7.9 percent (\$27 million), with quantities down 4.7 percent
- **electrical machinery and equipment** up 7.5 percent (\$20 million)
- **meat and edible offal** (New Zealand's second-largest export commodity group) up 1.2 percent (\$16 million), with quantities up 6.8 percent.

By commodity group, the value of exports fell for:

- **crude oil**, which is not seasonally adjusted, down 14 percent (\$59 million)
- **aluminium and aluminium articles**, which is also not seasonally adjusted, down 13 percent (\$35 million).

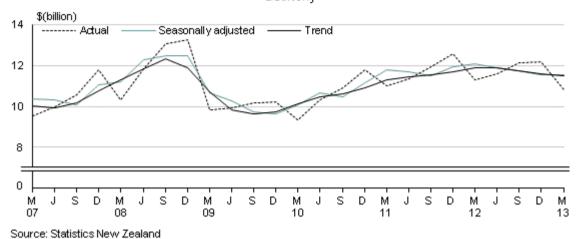
Seasonally adjusted imports show little change in March 2013 quarter

The seasonally adjusted value of imported goods decreased 0.2 percent (\$17 million) to \$11.5 billion in the March 2013 quarter. This followed a 1.6 percent (\$182 million) decrease in the December 2012 quarter.

The trend for imports has increased 20 percent from the September 2009 quarter, the most recent low point. The level of the trend is now 6.6 percent below the overall peak of the September 2008 quarter.

Merchandise import values

Quarterly



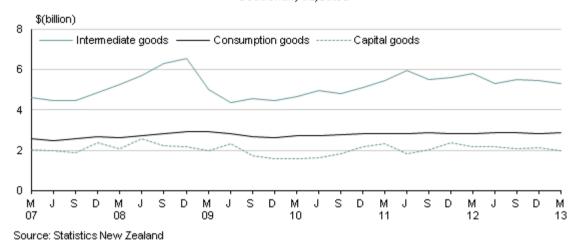
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Intermediate goods and capital goods lead decrease in seasonally adjusted imports

For the three main broad economic categories, intermediate goods and capital goods decreased in value in the March 2013 quarter, and consumption goods showed little change.

Imports by broad economic category

Quarterly values Seasonally adjusted



Intermediate goods decreased 2.8 percent (\$152 million), following a decrease of 0.8 percent (\$45 million) in the December 2012 quarter. Processed industrial supplies fell 3.9 percent (\$93 million) and crude oil fell 5.7 percent (\$83 million). Crude oil is not seasonally adjusted. Processed fuels and lubricants rose 70 percent (\$121 million).

Capital goods decreased 5.4 percent (\$115 million). Transport equipment fell 25 percent (91 million) and machinery and plant fell 1.4 percent (\$24 million).

Consumption goods showed little change, up 0.2 percent (\$6.2 million) in the March 2013 quarter, following a decrease of 0.9 percent (\$27 million) in the December 2012 quarter.

In other categories of goods:

- petrol and avgas, which is not seasonally adjusted, increased 30 percent (\$92 million) down 8.9 percent from the previous quarter
- **passenger motor cars** increased 5.7 percent (\$46 million) down 0.8 percent from the previous quarter.

Seasonally adjusted trade surplus in March 2013 quarter

In the March 2013 quarter, there was a seasonally adjusted trade surplus of \$52 million, equivalent to 0.4 percent of exports. This followed a trade deficit of \$59 million (0.5 percent of exports) in the December 2012 quarter.



China top country for exports and imports

Country data is not seasonally adjusted. All comparisons are between the March 2013 quarter and the March 2012 quarter.

China became New Zealand's top export destination in the March 2013 quarter, overtaking Australia for the first time. Twenty percent of goods exported went to China, compared with 15 percent in the same quarter of the previous year.

In the March 2013 quarter, the top three countries that New Zealand exported goods to were:

- China \$2.3 billion worth of exports, up \$554 million (32 percent)
- Australia \$2.2 billion, down \$170 million (7.3 percent)
- United States \$1.2 billion, up \$107 million (10 percent).

In the March 2013 guarter, the top three countries that New Zealand imported goods from were:

- **China** \$1.8 billion worth of imports, up \$48 million (2.8 percent)
- Australia \$1.5 billion, down \$85 million (5.3 percent)
- United States \$1.0 billion, down \$167 million (14 percent).

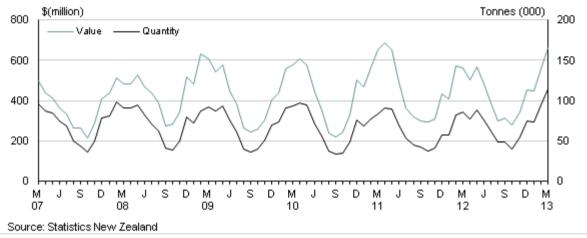
Exports rise 5.1 percent in March month

In March 2013, merchandise exports were valued at \$4.4 billion, up \$213 million (5.1 percent) from March 2012.

Rise in exports led by meat and edible offal

Meat and edible offal exports rose \$100 million (18 percent) to \$662 million. This was led by boneless frozen beef cuts, up \$81 million (47 percent).

Meat and edible offal exports Monthly values and quantities



Other key changes in commodity export values, for March 2013

Logs, wood, and wood articles rose \$73 million (28 percent) to \$336 million, due to pine logs.

Ships, boats, and floating structures rose \$41 million due to exports of pleasure boats, up \$39 million. There were no similar exports in March 2012.

Milk powder, butter, and cheese, New Zealand's largest export commodity group, showed little change, increasing \$1.3 million (0.1 percent).

Petroleum and products other than crude oil showed the largest decrease, down \$37 million (89 percent). This was led by partly refined petroleum, down \$18 million, and bituminous road surface preparations, down \$16 million.

Other decreases included:

- aluminium and aluminium articles, down \$31 million (21 percent)
- mechanical machinery and equipment, also down \$31 million (19 percent).

Exports to China lead increase

Exports to China showed the largest increase, up \$278 million (47 percent). This was led by meat and edible offal, up \$91 million (247 percent), whole milk powder, up \$78 million (66 percent), and pine logs, up \$74 million (102 percent).

In March 2013, the value also rose for exports to:

- United States up \$63 million (16 percent), led by boneless frozen beef cuts, up \$56 million (62 percent)
- Fiji up \$40 million, due to exports of pleasure boats.

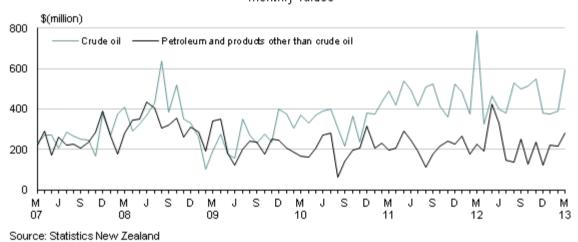
Japan showed the largest decrease, down \$46 million (13 percent), led by naphthalene, down \$26 million.

Venezuela showed the second-largest decrease, down \$42 million (94 percent) due to whole milk powder.

Imports fall 7.9 percent in March month

In the March 2013 month, imported goods were valued at \$3.7 billion, down \$319 million (7.9 percent) from March 2012.





Petroleum and products fall 14 percent

The value of petroleum and products fell \$139 million (14 percent) in March 2013 compared with March 2012. The fall was mainly due to a decrease in crude oil, down \$191 million. This was partly offset by an increase in automotive diesel, up \$43 million, and regular motor spirit, up \$26 million.

Other key changes in import values were seen for:

- mechanical machinery and equipment down \$50 million (10 percent), led by excavators and cranes
- salt, earths, stone, lime, and cement down \$24 million (42 percent), due to natural calcium phosphates
- vehicles up \$16 million (4.1 percent), due to goods transport vehicles.

Imports of petroleum and products lead country-of-origin changes

Import shipments of petroleum and products tend to fluctuate depending on where they come from, which causes large changes in quantities and values. In March 2013, compared with March 2012, petroleum and products influenced the value of imports from:

- Brunei, down \$141 million, Russia, down \$113 million, Qatar, down \$109 million,
 Malaysia, down \$82 million, and Indonesia, down \$40 million, all due to crude oil
- Singapore, down \$94 million, over a range of petroleum and products
- United Arab Emirates, up \$229 million, and Oman, up \$91 million, both due to crude oil
- Korea, up \$74 million, over a range of petroleum and products
- Japan, up \$38 million, due to regular motor spirit.

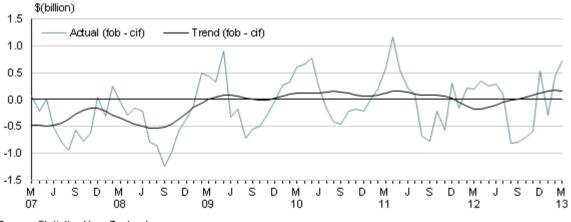
Other significant import movements were seen for:

- China down \$47 million (8.9 percent), led by textiles and textile articles
- Morocco down \$33 million, due to natural calcium phosphates
- Australia down \$30 million (5.5 percent) over a range of commodities
- **Togo** up \$12 million, due to natural calcium phosphates.

March 2013 trade balance in surplus

In the March 2013 month, there was a trade surplus of \$718 million (16 percent of exports). This compares with an average deficit of \$354 million (8.3 percent of exports) over the previous five March months.





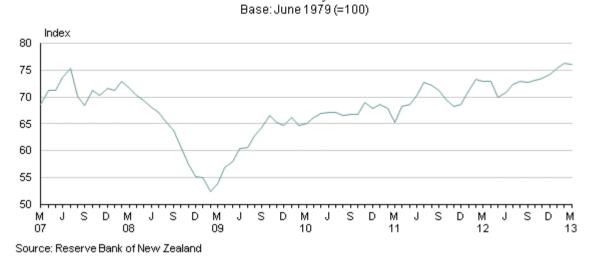
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Exchange rate movements

According to the Reserve Bank's trade weighted index (TWI), the New Zealand dollar was 0.3 percent lower in March 2013 than in December 2012, and 4.2 percent higher than in March 2012.

The TWI rose 3.1 percent in the March 2013 quarter, compared with the December 2012 quarter. The TWI was 4.7 percent higher in the March 2013 quarter than it was in the same quarter in 2012.

Trade weighted index Monthly



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 (including 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.

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

Related links

Upcoming releases

Overseas Merchandise Trade: April 2013 will be released on 24 May 2013.

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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

Global New Zealand contains comprehensive annual trade statistics.

Overseas Trade Indexes 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.

<u>Economic Survey of Manufacturing</u> provides an economic indicator of how the manufacturing sector is performing.

New Zealand Customs Service is the government agency that ensures the security of our borders.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade 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.

- Time of recording number of working days
- 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
- Trend series
- Broad economic category groups
- New Zealand Harmonised System Classification
- Standard International Trade Classification
- Confidential items
- More information

Period-specific information

Time of recording - number of working days

There were 20 working days in March 2013, compared with 22 working days in March 2012.

Foreign currency conversions

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

Export values given in foreign currencies are converted by Statistics NZ into New Zealand dollars, using weekly exchange rates when the statistics are compiled.

Currency conversions Foreign currencies to New Zealand dollars											
Currency	Number of exports	Value in foreign currency \$(million)	Value in NZD \$(million)	Average exchange rate							
USD	39,153	2,033	2,431	0.8362							
AUD	19,367	226	279	0.8106							
EUR	4,929	126	201	0.6248							
GBP	3,723	54	100	0.5342							
JPY	1,097	3,277	42	77.56							
Other currencies	1,895	•••	48	•••							
Total in foreign currency	70,164		3,101								
NZD	61,354	•••	801								
Total	131,518	***	3,902								
Symbol: not applicable											

In March 2013, 70,164 export line entries worth \$3.1 billion were converted into New Zealand dollars.

For more information on the use of exchange rates, see the <u>Merchandise trade – data</u> source section.

General information

Merchandise trade – data source

Data is obtained from export and import entry documents lodged with NZCS. The data is processed and passed to Statistics NZ for further editing and compilation.

Export values given in foreign currencies are converted by Statistics NZ 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. The exchange rates used are set by NZCS 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, arrival of goods 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.

Crude oil values for the latest month are estimated 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 actual lodgements are received by Statistics NZ from NZCS, the value for crude oil can be regarded as robust.

Exports – timing of recording and undercoverage

From the August 1997 reference month, exports are compiled 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. There is a possibility that the change in NZCS processes may have reduced this undercoverage, although this has not been quantified.

Seasonally adjusted series

Seasonally adjusted series are calculated 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 impact 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.

The trend series are calculated 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, the imports trend is calculated after removal of 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.

Trend figures are recalculated 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. Commodities in BEC groups are categorised 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, overseas merchandise trade data is compiled 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 impact 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. Some assumptions had to be made 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.

Implementing HS2012 will also affect the overseas trade indexes (OTI). However, due to the way the OTI is calculated, the full effect of the change will not be seen until the September 2013 quarter.

For more information on how HS2012 has affected overseas merchandise trade data, see Harmonised System 2012 and trade statistics.

For information about the HS2012 classification, see Harmonised System 2012.

Standard International Trade Classification

The Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) is an output classification, which 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 lnfoshare. For customised jobs using the SITC Rev 4 classification, contact customer services at: info@stats.govt.nz.

Overseas merchandise trade (OMT) statistics are compiled 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, and are explained in Balance of Payments – Sources and Methods 2004.

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, Statistics NZ understands that the release of merchandise trade commodity information can, in some cases, place commercially sensitive information in the public domain. Statistics NZ is able to provide a limited form of confidential status for commodity items (at the discretion of the Government Statistician), upon application by 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

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Revisions

Provisional values published on 26 March 2013 were updated. Merchandise trade statistics for the latest three months are provisional to allow for the inclusion of 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 26 March 2013			Published on 26 April 2013		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:										
Dec 2012	4,099 P	3,568 P	530 P	4,102 F	3,567 F	535 F	3	-1	4	
Jan 2013	3,348 P	3,635 P	-287 P	3,348 P	3,641 P	-293 P	0	6	-6	
Feb 2013	3,908 P	3,494 P	414 P	3,902 P	3,461 P	441 P	-6	-32	27	
Year ended:										
Dec 2012	46,061 P	47,220 P	-1,159 P	46,064 F	47,219 F	-1,155 F	3	-1	4	
Jan 2013	45,682 P	46,968 P	-1,286 P	45,685 P	46,973 P	-1,287 P	3	5	-2	
Feb 2013	45,972 P	47,054 P	-1,082 P	45,969 P	47,027 P	-1,057 P	-3	-27	25	

^{1.} Figures are calculated on unrounded data.

Symbols:

F final

P provisional

Source: Statistics New Zealand

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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
- 17. Overseas merchandise trade, seasonally adjusted and trend values quarterly
- 18. Exports by top 10 HS categories, values seasonally adjusted quarterly
- 19. Exports by top 10 HS categories, quantities seasonally adjusted quarterly
- 20. Imports by broad economic category (BEC) group, values seasonally adjusted quarterly

Access more data on Infoshare

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