

# Overseas Merchandise Trade: June 2015

Embargoed until 10:45am – 24 July 2015

## Key facts

### June 2015 quarter:

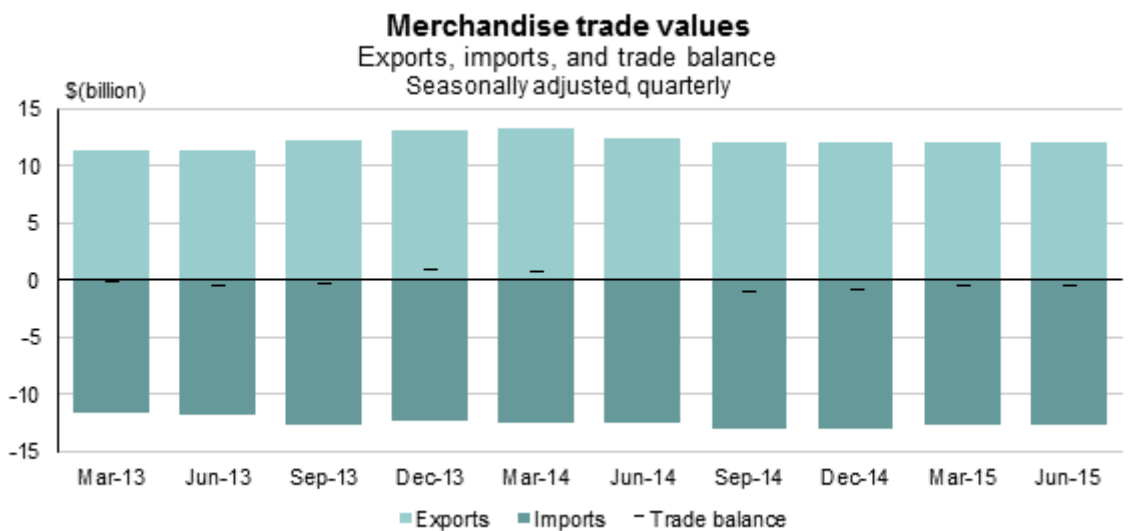
Values are seasonally adjusted and compared with the March 2015 quarter.

- Exports rose 0.4 percent (to \$12 billion).
- Fruit led the rise, up 13 percent (\$64 million).
- Imports rose 0.4 percent (to \$13 billion).
- The trade deficit was \$460 million (3.8 percent of exports).

### June 2015 month:

Values are actual and compared with the June 2014 month.

- Exports rose 1.3 percent (to \$4.2 billion), led by logs.
- Imports were up 9.0 percent (\$355 million) to \$4.3 billion.
- Monthly exports to Australia were higher than to China.
- The trade deficit was \$60 million (1.4 percent of exports).
- Largest annual trade deficit since year ended July 2009.
- New Zealand dollar was 10.5 percent lower than in June 2014.



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## Commentary

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- [Exchange rate movements](#)

This commentary refers to trade in goods only.

See [Goods and Services Trade by Country: Year ended March 2015](#) for information on trade in goods and services.

### Fruit helps quarterly exports rise 0.4 percent

The seasonally adjusted value of exported goods rose 0.4 percent (\$49 million) to reach \$12.2 billion in the June 2015 quarter. This followed a 0.5 percent fall in the March 2015 quarter.

The trend, which reflects the long-term behaviour of export values, has fallen 7.9 percent from its record high in the March 2014 quarter.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

### Fruit leads rise in seasonally adjusted exports

Comparisons are between the June 2015 quarter and the March 2015 quarter.

**Fruit** (our fourth-largest annual export commodity group) rose 13 percent (\$64 million). The value of fruit exports in the June 2015 quarter was \$552 million, the highest ever for a quarter.

**Logs, wood, and wood articles** rose 5.3 percent (\$47 million). Quantities rose 0.4 percent in the June 2015 quarter, compared with a 5.0 percent fall in the March 2015 quarter.

Export values and quantities fell for:

- **meat and edible offal** – down \$75 million, with quantities down 4.2 percent.
- **milk powder, butter, and cheese** – down 1.8 percent (\$50 million), with quantities down 5.2 percent.

The value of exports rose for **crude oil** (not seasonally adjusted), up 61 percent (\$86 million), with quantities up 50 percent. The value and quantity exported in the March 2015 quarter were the lowest since 2007.

### **China leads rise in quarterly exports**

In the June 2015 quarter, our main export destinations were:

- **China** – up 21 percent (\$381 million) to \$2.2 billion.
- **Australia** – down 1.9 percent (\$40 million) to \$2.1 billion.
- **European Union (EU)** – up 3.2 percent (\$39 million) to \$1.3 billion.

### **Quarterly imports rise 0.4 percent**

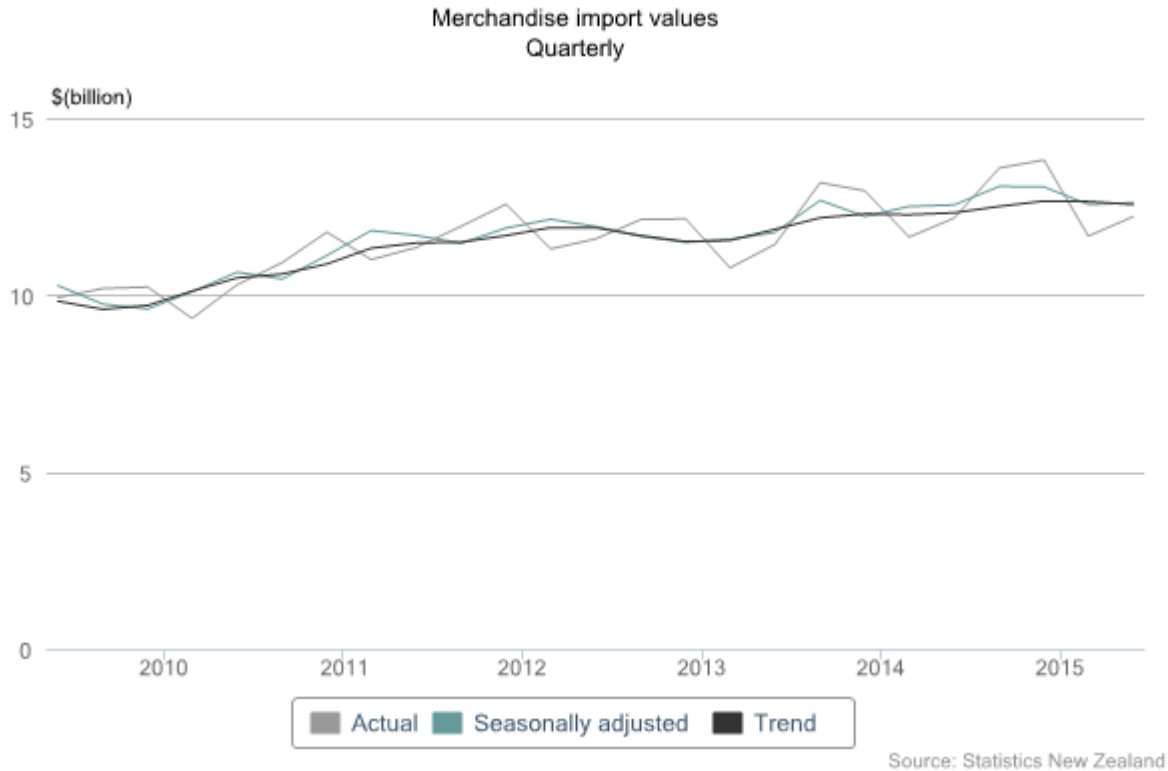
The seasonally adjusted value of imported goods rose 0.4 percent (\$45 million) to \$12.6 billion in the June 2015 quarter. This followed a 3.8 percent (\$494 million) fall in the March 2015 quarter.

A maintenance shutdown at the Marsden Point refinery reduced crude oil processing capacity in May.

See [May maintenance for Refinery \(PDF\)](#).

This shutdown explains the lower quantity of crude oil imported in the June 2015 quarter (20 percent less), and led to a larger quantity of refined diesel (40 percent more) and refined petrol (27 percent more) being imported.

The trend for imports remains high, 0.8 percent below its peak in the December 2014 quarter.



### **Petrol and capital goods lead the rise in seasonally adjusted imports**

For the three main broad economic categories, capital goods increased in value in the June 2015 quarter, while intermediate and consumption goods decreased.

**Capital goods** (not seasonally adjusted) rose 3.4 percent (\$90 million). This follows a 6.9 percent fall in the March 2015 quarter, influenced by aircraft imports in December 2014. Machinery and plant rose 3.7 percent (\$71 million), led by mobile phones and communications equipment.

**Intermediate goods** fell 1.3 percent (\$66 million) in the latest quarter, following a fall of 9.2 percent (\$527 million) in the March 2015 quarter. Crude oil led the fall, down \$77 million (quantity-driven), following the March quarter's fall of \$330 million (price-driven). Processed fuels and lubricants (such as automotive diesel) rose \$82 million, after a \$198 million fall in the March 2015 quarter.

**Consumption goods** fell 1.2 percent (\$40 million) in the June 2015 quarter. Semi-durable consumer goods (such as clothing) led the fall, down \$44 million from its highest value ever in the March 2015 quarter. Durable consumer goods (such as televisions) fell \$26 million and non-durable consumer goods (goods to be consumed within a year) rose \$17 million.

In other categories of goods:

- **petrol and avgas**, which is not seasonally adjusted, rose 67 percent (\$152 million), following a 26 percent fall in the March 2015 quarter.
- **passenger motor cars** fell 1.0 percent (\$11 million) in the June 2015 quarter, after an 8.3 percent rise in the March 2015 quarter.

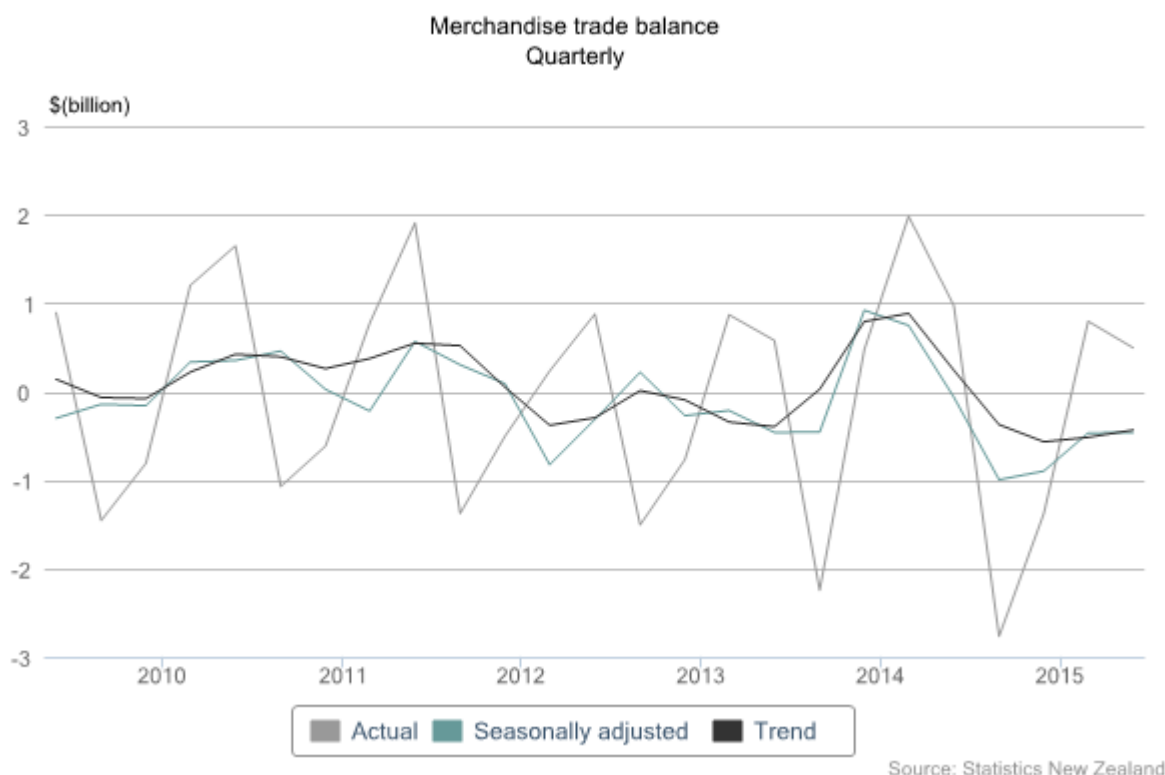
## Imports from China fall less than those from the EU

In the June 2015 quarter, compared with the March 2015 quarter, the top import sources (ranked by total annual imports) for New Zealand were:

- **China** – down 1.0 percent (\$25 million) to \$2.4 billion.
- **European Union (EU)** – down 8.2 percent (\$199 million) to \$2.2 billion.
- **Australia** – down 2.2 percent (\$34 million) to \$1.5 billion.

## Trade deficit shows little change in June 2015 quarter

In the June 2015 quarter, the seasonally adjusted trade deficit was \$460 million, equivalent to 3.8 percent of exports. In the March 2015 quarter, the deficit was \$465 million. This is the fifth consecutive quarterly trade deficit. The last trade surplus was \$750 million in the March 2014 quarter.



## Monthly exports at highest June month value

In June 2015, goods exports were valued at \$4.2 billion, up \$56 million (1.3 percent) from June 2014. This was the highest value ever for goods exported in a June month.

### Logs, meat and fruit lead exports' rise

**Logs, wood, and wood articles** (New Zealand's third-largest export commodity group) rose \$112 million (41 percent) to \$384 million in June 2015. The rise was driven by higher prices, with the quantity exported being up 10 percent.

The rise was led by pine logs to Korea, up \$92 million.

**Meat and edible offal** (New Zealand's second-largest export commodity group) rose \$89 million (17 percent). The rise was due to higher prices, with the quantity being up 2.7 percent. Frozen beef led the rise, up \$64 million (28 percent).

Other key changes in commodity group export values, for June 2015:

- **fruit** rose \$87 million (31 percent), led by kiwifruit.
- **milk powder, butter, and cheese** fell \$320 million (29 percent), led by milk powder, down \$229 million (33 percent).

### **Australia top destination for monthly exports**

Australia has regained its position from China as New Zealand's largest goods export destination – on a monthly basis. Monthly exports to China had been ahead of Australia since December 2014.

Annual two-way trade with China was 12 percent lower than the peak in the year ended May 2014. For the year ended June 2015 it was \$17.6 billion.

The monthly movements for June 2015 for these export destinations (ranked by total annual exports) were:

1. **Australia** – down \$22 million (2.9 percent), led by vessels (down \$31 million).
2. **China** – up \$20 million (2.9 percent), led by a 96 percent rise in frozen beef (up \$27 million).
3. **United States** – up \$51 million (11 percent), led by frozen beef (up \$32 million).
4. **European Union (EU)** – up \$27 million (6.2 percent), due to fruit.
5. **Japan** – up \$9 million (3.5 percent), led by kiwifruit.

### **Monthly imports rise 9.0 percent**

In June 2015, imported goods were valued at \$4.3 billion, up \$355 million (9.0 percent) from June 2014. Consumption and intermediate goods rose. Capital goods recorded a small fall (2.2 percent) as transport equipment fell and machinery and plant rose.

Significant movements include:

- **Consumption goods** from **China** rose \$56 million, led by clothing.
- **Machinery and plant** from **China** rose \$54 million, led by mobile phones.
- **Machinery and plant** from **Singapore** rose \$37 million, led by communication devices.
- **Transport equipment** from **Thailand** rose 31 million, led by goods vehicles.
- **Transport equipment** from the **United States** fell \$205 million, as a large aircraft was imported in June 2014 with no similar imports in June 2015.

**Crude oil** imports increased from **Russia** (up \$124 million) and **Qatar** (up \$46 million). We didn't import crude oil from those countries in June 2014. Crude oil imports fell from **Saudi Arabia** (down \$152 million), and the **United Arab Emirates** (down \$100 million).

**Processed fuels and lubricants** (such as diesel) from **Japan** rose \$44 million, and fell \$26 million from **Korea**.

## Trade deficit in June 2015 is \$60 million

In June 2015, there was a trade deficit of \$60 million (1.4 percent of exports). The previous five June months were surpluses, averaging 6.6 percent of exports.

For the year ended June 2015, the annual trade deficit was \$2.8 billion (5.9 percent of exports). This was the largest since the year ended June 2009, which was \$3.1 billion (7.2 percent of exports).

## Exchange rate movements

According to the Reserve Bank's trade weighted index, the New Zealand dollar was 4.6 percent lower in June 2015 than in May 2015, and 10.5 percent lower than in June 2014.



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.

We obtain data from export and import entry documents lodged with the New Zealand Customs Service. The data is processed and passed to us 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.

**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**

### **Next release**

*Overseas Merchandise Trade: July 2015* will be released on 26 August 2015.

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### **Past releases**

[Overseas Merchandise Trade](#) has links to past releases.

[Overseas Merchandise Trade by country](#) was a trial one-off release using August 2014 data for our top 50 trading partner countries. We're still seeking feedback on this format and information.

## **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.

[Balance of Payments and International Investment Position](#) 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.

[National Accounts](#) 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.

[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.

- [Number of working days](#)
- [Foreign currency conversions – June 2015](#)

### General information

This section contains information that does not change between releases.

- [Merchandise trade – data source](#)
- [Crude oil imports – effects of timing of recording](#)
- [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

### Number of working days

There were 21 working days in June 2015, compared with 20 in June 2014.

### Foreign currency conversions – June 2015

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

We convert values given in foreign currencies into New Zealand dollars (NZD), using weekly exchange rates, when we compile the statistics.

<b>Currency conversions – June 2015</b>				
Foreign currencies to New Zealand dollars				
Currency	Number of exports	Value in foreign currency \$(million)	Value in NZD \$(million)	Average exchange rate
USD	38,696	1,733	2,454	0.7062
AUD	41,647	256	281	0.9141
EUR	6,193	175	277	0.6328
GBP	2,532	45	98	0.4557
JPY	1,058	8,497	97	87.21
Other currencies	2,123	...	72	...
<b>Total in foreign currency</b>	92,249	...	3,279	...
NZD	72,341	...	952	...

<b>Total</b>	164,590	...	4,231	...
Symbol: ... not applicable				

In June 2015, we converted 92,249 export line entries worth \$3.3 billion into NZD.

See [Merchandise trade – data source](#) for more information on the use of 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.

We convert export values given in foreign currencies into NZD, using weekly exchange rates when the statistics are compiled. For exports, a rise in the NZD 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 NZD 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.

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.

### Seasonally adjusted series

We calculate seasonally adjusted series monthly and for calendar quarters using X-13ARIMA-SEATS, which adjusts for outlying values and uses a centred moving average. The X-13ARIMA-SEATS package is an updated version of X-12-ARIMA, developed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

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.

We calculate the trend series using X-13ARIMA-SEATS. 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 smoothes the trend series but slows 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 recalculate 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 (OMT) data using the Harmonised System classification (HS2012). Before January 2012, HS2007 applies.

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.

We will use HS2012 within OMT 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 overseas trade indexes (OTI).

See [Harmonised System 2012 and trade statistics](#) for more information on how HS2012 has affected overseas merchandise trade data.

See [Harmonised System 2012](#) 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, and includes some simple implications regarding level of processing. Published figures are at a high level of aggregation; more disaggregated information is available on [Infoshare](#).

Contact customer services at: [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz) for customised jobs using the SITC Rev 4 classification.

We compile 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 [New Zealand's international statistics: user guide](#) (published 2015) for more 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 by a company or business.

In practice, all confidential HS codes are aggregated into the code 9809.00.00.00 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 [Official Statistics System principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics for quality](#). They conform to the Statistics NZ Methodological Standard for Reporting of Data Quality.

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## Revisions

We have updated provisional values published on 26 June 2015. 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 26 June 2015			Published 24 July 2015			Change		
	\$(million) <sup>(1)</sup>								
	Exports (fob)	Imports (cif)	Balance (fob-cif)	Exports (fob)	Imports (cif)	Balance (fob-cif)	Exports (fob)	Imports (cif)	Balance (fob-cif)
Month:									
Mar 20 15	4,905 P	4,244 P	661 P	4,905 F	4,244 F	661 F	-1	0	0
Apr 201 5	4,134 P	3,951 P	183 P	4,135 P	3,951 P	184 P	1	0	1
May 20 15	4,360 P	4,010 P	350 P	4,359 P	3,988 P	371 P	0	-22	21
Year ended:									
Mar 20 15	48,916 P	51,287 P	- 2,372 P	48,915 F	51,287 F	-2,372 F	-1	0	0
Apr 201 5	48,643 P	51,299 P	-2,656 P	48,644 P	51,299 P	-2,655 P	0	0	1
May 20 15	48,429 P	51,000 P	-2,570 P	48,429 P	50,978 P	-2,549 P	0	-22	22
1. Figures are calculated on unrounded data.									
<b>Symbols:</b>									
F final									
P provisional									
<b>Source:</b> Statistics New Zealand									



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## Tables

See [Overseas Merchandise Trade: June 2015 – tables](#) (Excel, 21 sheets, 503kB) for the following tables, which are also available from the ‘Downloads’ box on this page. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

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### 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.

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Subject category: **Imports and Exports**

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