

International Merchandise Exports (ABS Cat No 5368.0)

Latest month: April 2018

Release date: 7 June 2018

Next release date: 4 July 2018

Data in this release are reported in 12-month moving averages due to data volatility.

Annual movements

The estimated nominal value of overseas merchandise exports from Tasmania increased by 34.8 per cent, to \$3.54 billion, in the year to April 2018 compared to the previous year. Nationally, the nominal value of overseas merchandise exports was estimated to have increased by 9.8 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

The nominal year-average value of Tasmania's exports reversed the downward trend of the previous year from March 2017 and is now at its highest year-average level since mid-2009 (Chart 1). The lower value of Tasmanian exports following 2011 was partly due to a general decline in export commodity prices and the exclusion of some confidential commodities from the Tasmanian total value of exports since July 2013. Nationally, the nominal value of exports has increased since late 2016 following a decrease from a peak in mid-2014.

Export markets

The ABS estimates that mainland China was the largest importer of Tasmanian goods in the year to April 2018, accounting for 29.1 per cent of the State's total nominal value of exports (Table 2).

Hong Kong and China together were estimated to have accounted for 32.8 per cent of total Tasmanian exports in the year to April 2018.

The nominal value of exports to China (including Hong Kong) increased by \$402 million or 53.0 per cent in the year to April 2018 compared to the previous year. The primary drivers were increased exports of non-ferrous metals, seafood, paper and paperboard, and confidential goods.

Exports to Malaysia were up \$123 million or 48.8 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of metallic ores and metal scraps, non-ferrous metals and confidential goods.

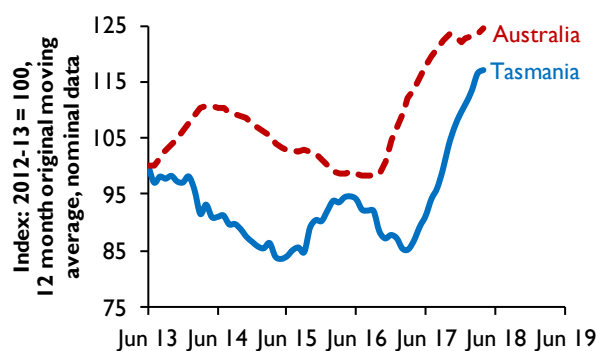
Table 1: Value of exports by jurisdiction, April 2018, nominal original data

	Year to Apr 2018 (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
<i>Original data</i>		
NSW	46 622	10.4
Vic	26 735	11.7
Qld	72 561	17.0
SA	11 779	6.1
WA	126 047	7.7
Tas	3 540	34.8
NT	5 686	20.3
ACT	20	na
Aus	307 631	9.8

na: not applicable

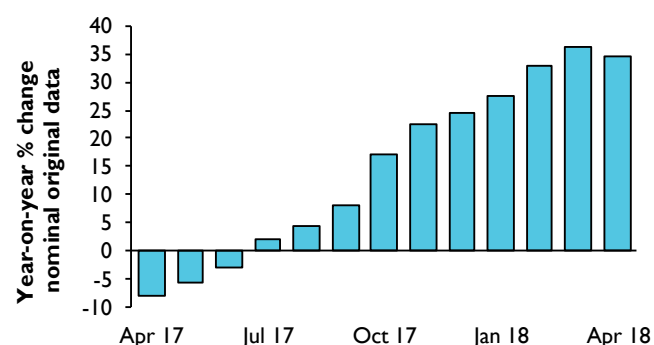
SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 15A

Chart 1: Value of exports, Tasmania and Australia, nominal original data



SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 15A

Chart 2: Year-average percentage change in Tasmanian exports, nominal original data



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Exports to Thailand increased \$81 million or 72.3 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals, dairy products and paper and paperboard.

Exports to Japan were up \$79 million or 35.0 per cent, mainly due to an increase in non-ferrous metals and meat products.

Exports to the USA were up \$47 million or 33.6 per cent, mainly due to an increase in meat products, non-ferrous metals and vegetables and fruit.

Tasmania's nominal value of exports to Developing Countries recorded an increase of 37.3 per cent in the year to April 2018 compared to the previous year (Table 4). Tasmanian exports to APEC, ASEAN, OECD, the EU and Least Developed Countries also increased (Table 4).

Export commodities

Export data by commodity may be misleading due to data confidentiality. As a result, they may not reflect the actual performance in a certain period and part of any increase or decrease may be due to changes to the commodities on the confidential list rather than changes in actual exports.

While some confidentialised exports are included in the 'other and confidential' category and in the State's total value of exports (such as hardwood chips), other confidentialised items (such as exports of vessels, products from poppies and softwood chips), are not included in any commodity group and are excluded from the State's total value of exports.

Caution should be taken when interpreting some commodity exports.

More detailed information about commodity confidentiality can be found in *International Merchandise Trade: Confidential Commodities List* (ABS Cat no 5372.0.55.001).

In the year to April 2018, 56.8 per cent of Tasmania's exports by value were non-ferrous metals or metallic ores (Table 3).

Table 2: Tasmanian major export partners, year to April 2018, nominal original data

	Value (\$m)	Share (%)	Yearly change (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
China	1 030	29.1	399	63.2
Malaysia	375	10.6	123	48.8
Japan	305	8.6	79	35.0
Taiwan	275	7.8	24	9.6
Thailand	193	5.5	81	72.3
Viet Nam	192	5.4	25	15.0
Indonesia	189	5.3	23	13.9
USA	187	5.3	47	33.6
Korea	145	4.1	33	29.5
India	132	3.7	23	21.1
Hong Kong	130	3.7	3	2.4
New Zealand	103	2.9	-14	-12.0
Singapore	40	1.1	-1	-2.4
UK	10	0.3	4	66.7
All other	235	6.6	92	64.3
Total	3 540	100.0	913	34.8

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 36F

Table 3: Tasmanian exports by commodity*, year to April 2018, nominal original data

Original Commodity	Value (\$m)	Share (%)	Yearly change (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
Non-ferrous metals	1 548	43.7	544	54.2
Other & confidential	728	20.6	99	15.8
Metallic ores and metal scraps	464	13.1	29	6.8
Seafood	245	6.9	111	82.7
Meat	235	6.6	65	38.2
Dairy products	101	2.9	-33	-24.6
Paper & paperboard	118	3.3	73	165.2
Fruit & vegetables	77	2.2	17	27.9
Vehicles (incl vessels)	23	0.6	7	42.4
Total	3 540	100.0	913	34.8

*Exports data by commodity may be misleading due to data confidentiality. As a result, they may not reflect the actual performance in a certain period.

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: DATA ON SUBSCRIPTION

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The largest annual increase in exports by value was for non-ferrous metals (\$544 million or 54.2 per cent), followed by seafood (up \$111 million or 82.7 per cent) and other and confidential goods (up \$99 million or 15.8 per cent).

In the year to April 2018, dairy product exports decreased by \$33 million or 24.6 per cent.

In the year to April 2018, 41 per cent of exports of metallic ores and metal scraps and 27 per cent of non-ferrous metals were sold to China (including Hong Kong). Around 32 per cent of metallic ores and metal scraps were sold to Malaysia. In the year to April 2018, around 12 per cent of non-ferrous metals and two per cent of metallic ores and metal scraps were exported from Tasmania to Taiwan (Table 5).

Table 4: Major Tasmanian export destinations* by value, year to April 2018, nominal original data

<i>Original</i> Country groups	Value (\$m)	Growth (%)
APEC	3 210	35.4
Developing Countries	2 878	37.3
ASEAN	1 021	34.9
OECD	795	23.3
EU	51	8.5
Least Developed Countries	21	31.3

* The sum of the values in Table 4 exceeds the value of total Tasmanian exports as several countries are included in more than one country group.

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 36F

Table 5: Tasmanian export commodities – major destinations, percentage share, year to April 2018, nominal original data

<i>Original</i> Destination	Non-ferrous metals %	Metallic ores and metal scrap %	Agriculture and seafood %	All other %
China (including Hong Kong)	27	41	31	40
Malaysia	7	32	2	11
Taiwan	12	2	4	6
Japan	5	7	20	8
Indonesia	11	0	3	1
Viet Nam	11	0	2	0
United States	3	1	17	4
New Zealand	1	0	0	10
India	6	0	0	5
Other	17	17	21	16
Total *	100	100	100	100

* Components may not add to total due to rounding.

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