

International Merchandise Exports (ABS Cat No 5368.0)

Latest month: December 2017

Release date: 6 February 2018

Next release date: 8 March 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 24.5 per cent, to \$3.31 billion, in the year to December 2017 compared to the previous year. Nationally, the nominal value of overseas merchandise exports was estimated to have increased by 16.4 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 April 2017 and is now at its highest year-average level since mid-2012 (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 generally 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 December 2017, accounting for 30.7 per cent of the State's total nominal value of exports (Table 2).

Hong Kong and China together were estimated to have accounted for 34.4 per cent of total Tasmanian exports in the year to December 2017.

The nominal value of exports to China (including Hong Kong) increased by \$346 million or 49.0 per cent in the year to December 2017 compared to the previous year. The primary drivers were increased exports of non-ferrous metals and seafood.

Exports to the USA were up \$66 million or 54.1 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals, meat and vegetables and fruit.

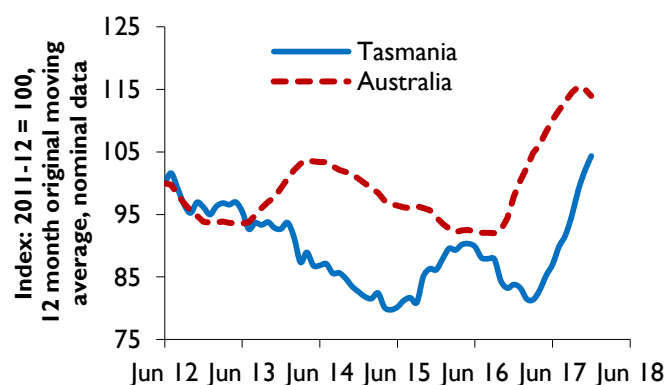
Table 1: Value of exports by jurisdiction, December 2017, nominal original data

	Year to Dec 2017 (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
<i>Original data</i>		
NSW	46 350	20.4
Vic	26 168	12.4
Qld	69 568	25.8
SA	11 884	11.2
WA	123 240	15.7
Tas	3 308	24.5
NT	5 335	21.7
ACT	18	na
Aus	300 840	16.4

na: not applicable

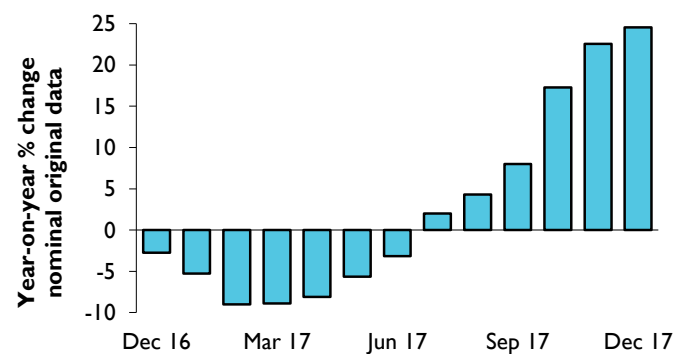
SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 15A

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



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

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Exports to Thailand increased \$65 million or 68.4 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals, metallic ores and metal scraps, and dairy products.

Exports to Malaysia were up \$46 million or 18.3 per cent, mainly due to an increase in confidential items, and metallic ores and metal scraps.

Exports to India were up \$40 million or 37.7 per cent, mainly due to an increase in paper and paperboard, and non-ferrous metals.

Tasmania's nominal value of exports to Developing Countries recorded an increase of 26.5 per cent in the year to December 2017 compared to the previous year (Table 4). Tasmanian exports to APEC, ASEAN, OECD and Least Developed Countries also increased. Tasmanian exports to the European Union decreased marginally in the same period. However, exports to the EU represent a relatively small share of Tasmania's total exports.

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 December 2017, 56.7 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 December 2017, nominal original data

	Value	Share	Yearly change	
	(\$m)	(%)	(\$m)	(%)
China	1014	30.7	351	52.9
Malaysia	297	9.0	46	18.3
Japan	264	8.0	28	11.9
Taiwan	261	7.9	5	2.0
Viet Nam	191	5.8	25	15.1
USA	188	5.7	66	54.1
Indonesia	176	5.3	12	7.3
Thailand	160	4.8	65	68.4
India	146	4.4	40	37.7
Hong Kong	122	3.7	-5	-3.9
Korea	110	3.3	-21	-16.0
New Zealand	108	3.3	-12	-10.0
Singapore	41	1.2	-3	-6.8
Sri Lanka	17	0.5	-19	-52.8
All other	213	6.4	74	53.2
Total	3 308	100.0	652	24.5

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

Table 3: Tasmanian exports by commodity*, year to December 2017, nominal original data

Original	Value	Share	Yearly change	
Commodity	(\$m)	(%)	(\$m)	(%)
Non-ferrous metals	1 466	44.3	466	46.6
Other & confidential	701	21.2	68	10.8
Metallic ores and metal scraps	412	12.4	-18	-4.3
Seafood	232	7.0	86	58.8
Meat	210	6.3	33	18.5
Dairy products	114	3.4	-18	-13.5
Paper & paperboard	88	2.7	49	126.1
Fruit & vegetables	69	2.1	-10	-12.9
Vehicles (incl vessels)	16	0.5	-4	-18.8
Total	3 308	100.0	652	24.5

*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 (\$466 million or 46.6 per cent), followed by seafood (up \$86 million or 58.8 per cent), and paper and paperboard (up \$49 million or 126.1 per cent).

In the year to December 2017, the largest annual decreases were metallic ores and metal scraps (down \$18 million or 4.3 per cent) and dairy products (down \$18 million or 13.5 per cent).

In the year to December 2017, 46 per cent of exports of metallic ores and metal scraps and 30 per cent of non-ferrous metals were sold to China (including Hong Kong). Around 29 per cent of metallic ores and metal scraps were sold to Malaysia. In the year to December 2017, around 12 per cent of non-ferrous metals and four 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 December 2017, nominal original data

<i>Original</i> Country groups	Value (\$m)	Growth (%)
APEC	2 975	23.8
Developing Countries	2 686	26.5
ASEAN	894	21.3
OECD	725	8.9
EU	51	-3.8
Least Developed Countries	19	5.6

* 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 December 2017, nominal original data

<i>Original</i> Country	Non-ferrous metals	Metallic ores and metal scrap	Agriculture and seafood	All other
	%	%	%	%
China (including Hong Kong)	30	46	30	40
Malaysia	6	29	3	10
Taiwan	12	4	3	6
Japan	4	5	20	7
Indonesia	10	0	4	1
Viet Nam	12	0	3	0
United States	4	1	16	4
New Zealand	1	0	0	11
India	7	0	0	5
Other	14	16	22	16
Total *	100	100	100	100

* Components may not add to total due to rounding.

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