

International Merchandise Exports (ABS Cat No 5368.0)

Latest month: September 2017

Release date: 2 November 2017

Next release date: 7 December 2017

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 8.3 per cent, to \$3.02 billion, in the year to September 2017 compared to the previous year. Nationally, the nominal value of overseas merchandise exports was estimated to have increased by 24.4 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-2013 (Chart 1). The lower value of Tasmanian exports since 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 September 2017, accounting for 27.3 per cent of the State's total nominal value of exports (Table 2).

Hong Kong and China together were estimated to have accounted for 31.5 per cent of total Tasmanian exports in the year to September 2017.

The nominal value of exports to China (including Hong Kong) decreased by \$19 million or 2.0 per cent in the year to September 2017 compared to the previous year. The primary driver was decreased exports of non-ferrous metals.

Exports to Thailand were up \$59 million or 67.0 per cent, mainly due to an increase in non-ferrous metals and metallic ores.

Exports to the USA were up \$54 million or 41.5 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals.

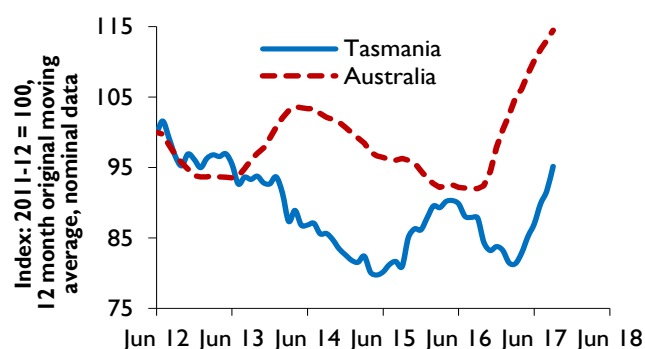
Table 1: Value of exports by jurisdiction, September 2017, nominal original data

	Year to Sep 2017 (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
<i>Original data</i>		
NSW	46 051	26.8
Vic	25 478	9.5
Qld	70 854	46.8
SA	11 924	8.9
WA	124 133	24.2
Tas	3 017	8.3
NT	5 228	19.7
ACT	23	na
Aus	302 291	24.4

na: not applicable

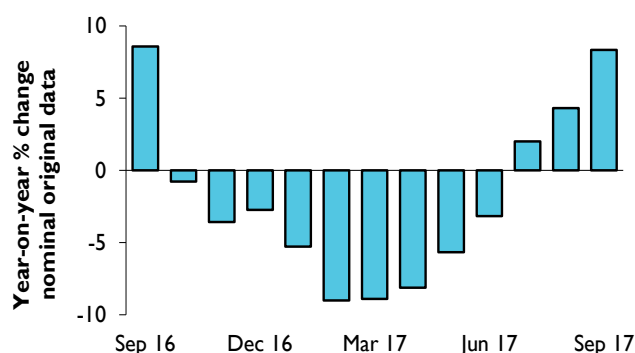
SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 15A

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



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Exports to Malaysia, Tasmania's second largest export destination, increased \$53 million or 22.5 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of metallic ores and metal scraps.

Exports to India were up \$37 million or 38.6 per cent, due to an increase in non-ferrous metals and paper and paperboard.

Exports to Taiwan were down \$31 million or 11.3 per cent, mainly due to a decrease in metallic ores and metal scraps.

Tasmania's nominal value of exports to ASEAN countries recorded an increase of 26.1 per cent in the year to September 2017 compared to the previous year (Table 4). Tasmanian exports to Developing Countries, APEC and OECD countries, also increased. Tasmanian exports to Least Developed Countries remained unchanged and exports to the European Union decreased marginally in the same period. However, exports to these two groups represent a relatively small share of Tasmania's total exports (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 September 2017, 55.3 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 September 2017, nominal original data

	Value (\$m)	Share (%)	Yearly change (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
China	824	27.3	-19	-2.3
Malaysia	289	9.6	53	22.5
Taiwan	244	8.1	-31	-11.3
Japan	232	7.7	12	5.5
Viet Nam	189	6.3	35	22.7
USA	184	6.1	54	41.5
Indonesia	169	5.6	18	11.9
Thailand	147	4.9	59	67.0
India	133	4.4	37	38.6
Hong Kong	126	4.2	0	0.0
New Zealand	112	3.7	-7	-5.9
Korea	107	3.5	-25	-18.9
Singapore	44	1.5	0	0.0
Sri Lanka	26	0.9	-5	-16.1
All other	191	6.3	51	36.4
Total	3 017	100.0	232	8.3

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

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

Original Commodity	Value (\$m)	Share (%)	Yearly change (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
Non-ferrous metals	1 253	41.5	94	8.1
Other & confidential	690	22.9	89	14.7
Metallic ores and metal scraps	415	13.8	10	2.5
Meat	187	6.2	-7	-3.7
Seafood	182	6.0	9	5.2
Dairy products	136	4.5	22	19.4
Paper & paperboard	70	2.3	36	103.8
Fruit & vegetables	67	2.2	-19	-21.7
Vehicles (incl vessels)	16	2.2	-2	-10.5
Total	3 017	100.0	232	8.3

*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 (\$94 million or 8.1 per cent), followed by other and confidential goods (up \$89 million or 14.7 per cent), and paper and paperboard (up \$36 million or 103.8 per cent).

The largest annual decreases in exports by commodity group in the year to September 2017 were for fruit and vegetables (down \$19 million or 21.7 per cent) and meat (down \$7 million or 3.7 per cent).

In the year to September 2017, 43 per cent of exports of metallic ores and metal scraps and 25 per cent of non-ferrous metals were sold to China (including Hong Kong). Around 30 per cent of metallic ores and metal scraps were sold to Malaysia. In the year to September 2017, around 13 per cent of non-ferrous metals and five 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 September 2017, nominal original data

<i>Original</i> Country groups	Value (\$m)	Growth (%)
APEC	2 710	6.6
Developing Countries	2 433	7.6
ASEAN	866	26.1
OECD	688	5.0
EU	49	-2.0
Least Developed Countries	17	0.0

* 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 September 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)	25	43	25	41
Malaysia	6	30	4	9
Taiwan	13	5	2	6
Japan	4	5	19	7
Indonesia	11	0	4	1
Viet Nam	12	0	6	1
United States	5	1	16	4
New Zealand	1	0	1	12
India	8	0	0	5
Other	14	17	24	16
Total *	100	100	100	100

* Components may not add to total due to rounding.

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

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