

International Merchandise Exports (ABS Cat No 5368.0)

Latest month: July 2017

Release date: 7 September 2017

Next release date: 5 October 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 2.2 per cent, to \$2.85 billion, in the year to July 2017 compared to the previous year. Nationally, the nominal value of overseas merchandise exports was estimated to have increased by 21.2 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

In July 2017, the nominal value of Tasmania's exports returned to growth in year-average terms (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 July 2017, accounting for 25.7 per cent of the State's total nominal value of exports (Table 2).

Hong Kong and China together were estimated to have accounted for 30.2 per cent of total Tasmanian exports in the year to July 2017.

The nominal value of exports to China (including Hong Kong) decreased by \$127 million or 12.9 per cent in the year to July 2017 compared to the previous year. The primary driver was decreased exports of non-ferrous metals.

Exports to Thailand were up \$51 million or 60.0 per cent, mainly due to an increase in non-ferrous metals and metallic ores.

Exports to Malaysia, Tasmania's second largest export destination, increased \$38 million or 16.0 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of metallic ores and metal scraps.

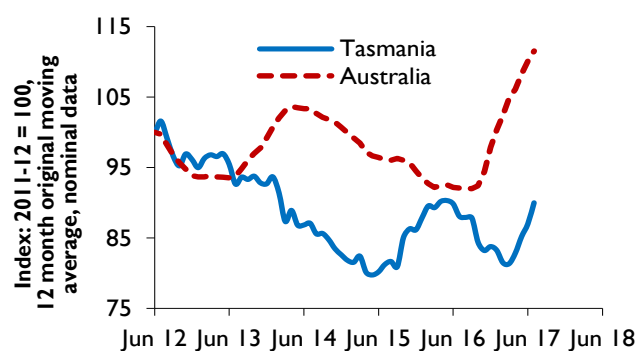
Table 1: Value of exports by jurisdiction, July 2017, nominal original data

	Year to Jul 2017 (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
<i>Original data</i>		
NSW	44 815	23.6
Vic	24 854	5.6
Qld	68 143	43.1
SA	11 610	2.1
WA	121 356	21.9
Tas	2 853	2.2
NT	4 931	6.7
ACT	22	na
Aus	294 526	21.2

na: not applicable

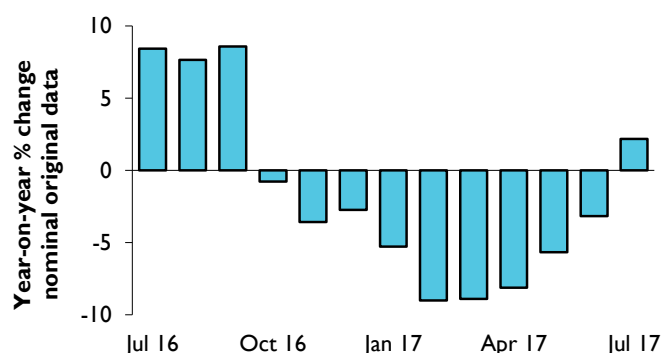
SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 15A

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 Indonesia, increased by \$32 million or 22.1 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals.

Exports to Viet Nam increased by \$31 million or 20.7 per cent, due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals.

Exports to India, also increased \$31 million or 34.1 per cent, due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals, as well as paper and paperboard.

Tasmania's nominal value of exports to ASEAN countries recorded an increase of 24.1 per cent in the year to July 2017 compared to the previous year (Table 4). Tasmanian exports to Developing Countries, APEC and OECD countries also increased. However, Tasmanian exports to the European Union and Least Developed Countries decreased in the same period (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 July 2017, around 55.1 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 July 2017, nominal original data

	Value	Share	Yearly change	
	(\$m)	(%)	(\$m)	(%)
China	732	25.7	-137	-15.8
Malaysia	276	9.7	38	16.0
Taiwan	247	8.7	-23	-8.5
Japan	228	8.0	20	9.6
Viet Nam	181	6.3	31	20.7
Indonesia	177	6.2	32	22.1
USA	168	5.9	23	15.9
Thailand	136	4.8	51	60.0
Hong Kong	128	4.5	10	8.5
India	122	4.3	31	34.1
Korea	112	3.9	-19	-14.5
New Zealand	110	3.9	-3	-2.7
Singapore	43	1.5	-3	-6.5
Sri Lanka	28	1.0	-2	-6.7
All other	165	5.8	12	7.8
Total	2 853	100.0	61	2.2

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

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

Original Commodity	Value	Share	Yearly change	
	(\$m)	(%)	(\$m)	(%)
Non-ferrous metals	1 163	40.8	4	0.4
Other & confidential	647	22.7	79	13.8
Metallic ores and metal scraps	409	14.3	9	2.2
Meat	179	6.3	-27	-13.0
Seafood	159	5.6	-27	-14.6
Dairy products	139	4.9	17	14.0
Paper & paperboard	55	1.9	23	69.3
Wood & woodchips	29	1.0	-2	-7.1
Vehicles (incl vessels)	17	1.9	0	-2.8
Total	2 853	100.0	61	2.2

*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 other and confidential goods (up \$79 million or 13.8 per cent), followed by paper and paperboard (up \$23 million or 69.3 per cent).

The largest annual decreases in exports by commodity group in the year to July 2017 were for seafood (down \$27 million or 14.6 per cent) and meat (also down \$27 million or 13.0 per cent).

In the year to July 2017, 43 per cent of exports of metallic ores and metal scraps and 23 per cent of non-ferrous metals were sold to China (including Hong Kong). Around 28 per cent of metallic ores and metal scraps were sold to Malaysia. In the year to July 2017, around eight per cent of metallic ores and metal scraps and 14 per cent of non-ferrous metals were exported from Tasmania to Taiwan (Table 5).

Table 4: Major Tasmanian export destinations* by value, year to July 2017, nominal original data

<i>Original</i> Country groups	Value (\$m)	Growth (%)
APEC	2 575	1.4
Developing Countries	2 296	1.6
ASEAN	838	24.1
OECD	666	0.9
EU	45	-23.7
Least Developed Countries	16	-11.1

* 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 July 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)	23	43	23	40
Malaysia	6	28	4	9
Taiwan	14	8	2	6
Japan	4	5	19	7
Indonesia	13	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	4
Other	13	16	26	16
Total *	100	100	100	100

* Components may not add to total due to rounding.

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