

# International Merchandise Exports

**Latest month: March 2021**

**Release date: 4 May 2021**

**Next release date: 3 June 2021**

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 3.2 per cent to \$3.70 billion, in the year to March 2021 compared to the previous year. Nationally, the nominal value of overseas merchandise exports was estimated to have decreased by 5.1 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

The nominal value of Tasmania's exports in year-average terms experienced strong growth from late 2016 to mid-2018, with the level of exports reaching a series peak in the year to November 2018. Nationally, the nominal value of exports increased from early 2018 until March 2020 (Chart 1).

## Export markets

The ABS estimates that mainland China was the largest importer of Tasmanian goods in the year to March 2021, accounting for 42.0 per cent of the State's total nominal value of exports (Table 2).

Hong Kong and China together were estimated to have accounted for 44.8 per cent of total Tasmanian exports in the year to March 2021.

The nominal value of exports to China (including Hong Kong) was up \$282 million or 20.5 per cent in the year to March 2021 compared to the previous year. The primary driver was an increase in metallic ores and metal scraps, as well as non-ferrous metals.

The second largest increase in exports, after China, was to the USA (up \$24 million or 11.2 per cent), mainly due to an increase in meat exports.

The largest decrease in exports was to Japan, down \$70 million or 23.5 per cent, mainly due to decreased exports of confidential goods and non-ferrous metals.

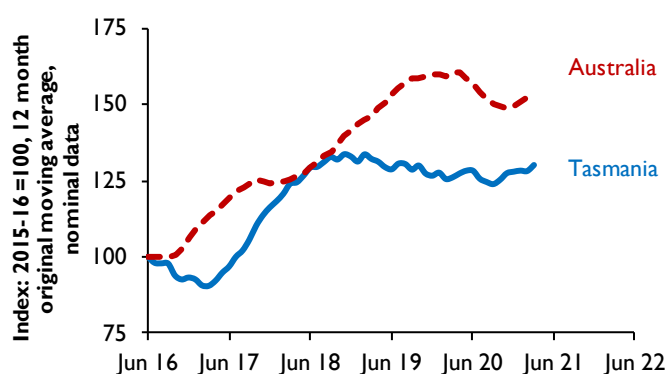
Exports to Indonesia were down \$57 million or 28.9 per cent, mainly due to a decrease in non-ferrous metals.

**Table 1: Value of exports by jurisdiction, year to March 2021, nominal original data**

<i>Original data</i>	<b>Year to Mar 21 (\$m)</b>	<b>Yearly change (%)</b>
NSW	43 941	-14.3
Vic	25 296	-12.7
Qld	58 702	-27.9
SA	12 113	9.5
WA	200 553	8.5
<b>Tas</b>	<b>3 698</b>	<b>3.2</b>
NT	10 084	-17.9
ACT	28	na
<b>Aus</b>	<b>371 267</b>	<b>-5.1</b>

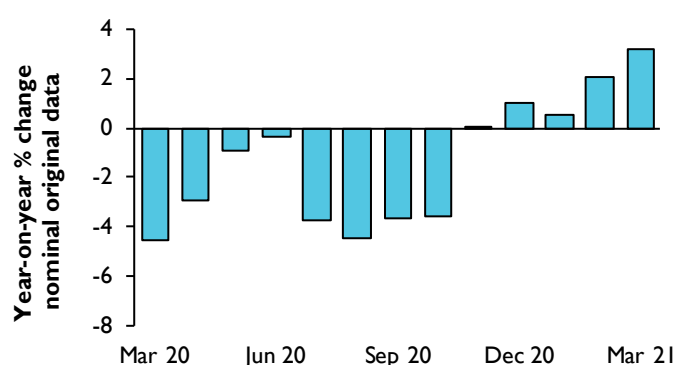
SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 15A

**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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Tasmania's nominal value of exports to APEC and developing countries both recorded increases of 5.9 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively in the year to March 2021 compared to the previous year (Table 4). Tasmanian exports to least developed countries have also increased. Tasmanian exports to the EU, the OECD and ASEAN have declined.

### Export commodities

Caution should be taken when interpreting some commodity exports.

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.

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 March 2021, 57.7 per cent of Tasmania's exports by value were non-ferrous metals and metallic ores (Table 3).

The largest annual increases in exports by value were for metallic ores and metal scraps (up \$192 million or 28.3 per cent), and seafood (up \$11 million or 4.2 per cent).

The largest annual decrease in exports by value was for other and confidential items (down \$32 million or 4.2 per cent), followed by paper and paperboard (down \$28 million or 51.0 per cent).

**Table 2: Tasmanian major export partners, year to March 2021, nominal original data**

	Value (\$m)	Share (%)	Yearly change (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
China	1 555	42.0	283	22.2
Korea	265	7.2	18	7.3
USA	239	6.5	24	11.2
Taiwan	229	6.2	21	10.1
Japan	228	6.2	- 70	-23.5
Viet Nam	208	5.6	19	10.1
Malaysia	187	5.1	10	5.6
Thailand	184	5.0	- 18	-8.9
Indonesia	140	3.8	- 57	-28.9
Hong Kong	102	2.8	- 1	-1.0
New Zealand	88	2.4	- 22	-20.0
Singapore	57	1.5	7	14.0
India	31	0.8	- 19	-38.0
Bangladesh	25	0.7	13	108.3
All other	160	4.3	9	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 698</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>3.2</b>

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

**Table 3: Tasmanian exports by commodity\*, year to March 2021, nominal original data**

Original Commodity	Value (\$m)	Share (%)	Yearly change (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
Non-ferrous metals	1 262	34.1	- 5	-0.4
Metallic ores and metal scraps	871	23.5	192	28.3
Other & confidential <sup>^</sup>	727	19.7	- 32	-4.2
Seafood	275	7.4	11	4.2
Meat	275	7.4	- 1	-0.4
Dairy products	156	4.2	0	0.3
Fruit & vegetables	81	2.2	- 3	-3.6
Paper & paperboard	27	0.7	- 28	-51.0
Vehicles (incl vessels)	23	0.6	- 21	-47.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 698</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>3.2</b>

\* 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.

<sup>^</sup> The 'other and confidential' category includes wood and woodchips.

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

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In the year to March 2021, exports to China (including Hong Kong) accounted for 83 per cent of metallic ores and metal scraps, 25 per cent of agricultural goods and seafood, and 22 per cent of non-ferrous metals. Around 21 per cent of agricultural goods and seafood were exported to the USA and around 19 per cent to Japan. In the year to March 2021, around 15 per cent of non-ferrous metals were exported to Korea and around 12 per cent to Taiwan and Viet Nam (Table 5).

**Table 4: Major Tasmanian export destinations\* by value, year to March 2021, nominal original data**

<i>Original</i> Country groups	Value (\$m)	Growth (%)
APEC	3 505	5.9
Developing Countries	3 081	7.1
OECD	879	-6.9
ASEAN	790	-5.0
EU	43	-14.0
Least Developed Countries	31	72.2

\*The sum of the values in Table 4 exceeds the value of total Tasmanian exports as several countries are included in more than one destination 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 March 2021, nominal original data**

<i>Original</i> Destination	Non-ferrous metals %	Metallic ores and metal scraps %	Agriculture and seafood %	All other %
China (including Hong Kong)	22	83	25	59
Korea	15	5	3	1
United States	3	1	21	4
Taiwan	12	0	6	4
Japan	4	0	19	3
Viet Nam	12	0	5	3
Thailand	9	4	4	1
Malaysia	6	7	1	6
Indonesia	10	0	1	0
Other	6	1	15	20
<b>Total *</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

\* 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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