

International Merchandise Exports (ABS Cat No 5368.0)

Latest month: October 2018

Release date: 6 December 2018

Next release date: 8 January 2019

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 19.5 per cent, to \$3.75 billion, in the year to October 2018 compared to the previous year. Nationally, the nominal value of overseas merchandise exports was estimated to have increased by 9.5 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

The nominal year-average value of Tasmania's exports reversed the downward trend of late 2016 to early 2017 to reach a peak in September 2018 (Chart 1). Due to the strong growth in nominal exports since March 2017, the level of exports is now close to its highest recorded level of \$3.80 billion in the year to August 2007. Nationally, the nominal value of exports has increased more modestly 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 October 2018, accounting for 28.3 per cent of the State's total nominal value of exports (Table 2).

Hong Kong and China together were estimated to have accounted for 32.0 per cent of total Tasmanian exports in the year to October 2018.

The nominal value of exports to China (including Hong Kong) increased by \$165 million or 16.0 per cent in the year to October 2018 compared to the previous year. The primary drivers were increased exports of metallic ores and metal scraps, seafood and paper and paperboard.

Exports to Malaysia were up \$118 million or 42.8 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals, confidential goods and metallic ores and metal scraps.

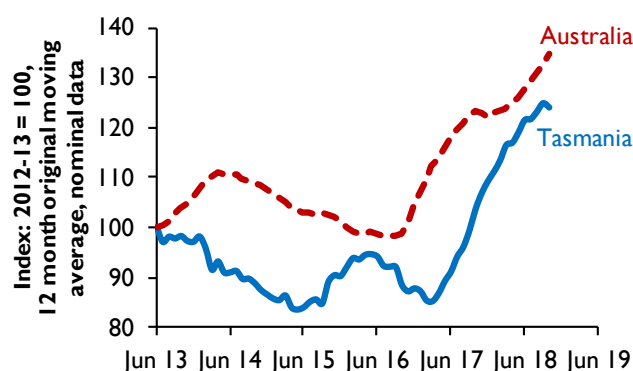
Table 1: Value of exports by jurisdiction, year to October 2018, nominal original data

	Year to Oct 2018 (\$m)	Yearly change (%)
<i>Original data</i>		
NSW	51 033	10.0
Vic	27 290	6.6
Qld	79 271	9.6
SA	12 093	1.0
WA	138 945	12.0
Tas	3 748	19.5
NT	6 331	19.3
ACT	19	na
Aus	333 287	9.5

na: not applicable

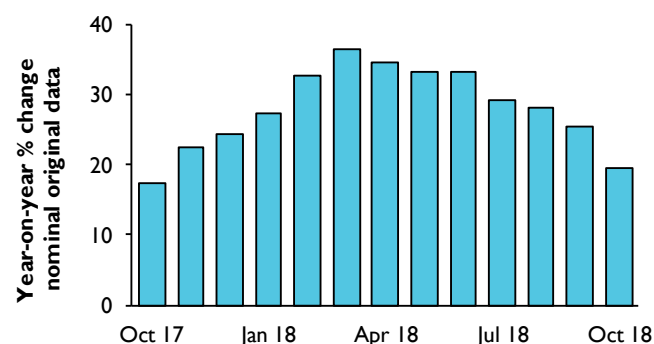
SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, ABS CAT NO 5368.0: TABLE 15A

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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Latest month: October 2018

Exports to Japan increased \$94 million or 37.5 per cent, mainly due to increased exports of non-ferrous metals, meat and confidential goods.

Exports to Korea were up \$75 million or 68.8 per cent, mainly due to increases in non-ferrous metals and metallic ores and metal scraps.

Exports to Thailand were up \$59 million or 38.6 per cent, mainly due to increases in non-ferrous metals and dairy products.

Tasmania's nominal value of exports to APEC recorded an increase of 21.9 per cent in the year to October 2018 compared to the previous year (Table 4). Tasmanian exports to developing countries, ASEAN, OECD, and the EU also increased, while exports to least developed countries declined (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 October 2018, 55.9 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 October 2018, nominal original data

	Value	Share	Yearly change	
	(\$m)	(%)	(\$m)	(%)
China	1 059	28.3	155	17.1
Malaysia	394	10.5	118	42.8
Japan	345	9.2	94	37.5
Taiwan	289	7.7	40	16.1
Thailand	212	5.7	59	38.6
Indonesia	209	5.6	40	23.7
USA	202	5.4	15	8.0
Viet Nam	191	5.1	-1	-0.5
Korea	184	4.9	75	68.8
Hong Kong	140	3.7	10	7.7
India	118	3.1	-25	-17.5
New Zealand	107	2.9	-3	-2.7
Singapore	56	1.5	14	33.3
Philippines	28	0.7	2	7.7
All other	214	5.7	93	76.9
Total	3 748	100.0	611	19.5

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

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

Original	Value	Share	Yearly change	
Commodity	(\$m)	(%)	(\$m)	(%)
Non-ferrous metals	1 510	40.3	168	12.5
Other & confidential	810	21.6	124	18.1
Metallic ores and metal scraps	586	15.6	172	41.6
Seafood	240	6.4	43	21.6
Meat	257	6.8	58	29.3
Dairy products	115	3.1	-21	-15.2
Paper & paperboard	126	3.4	49	64.2
Fruit & vegetables	81	2.2	14	21.2
Vehicles (incl vessels)	23	0.6	4	20.1
Total	3 748	100.0	611	19.5

*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 metallic ores and metal scraps (up \$172 million or 41.6 per cent), followed by non-ferrous metals (up \$168 million or 12.5 per cent) and other and confidential goods (up \$124 million or 18.1 per cent).

In the year to October 2018, the only category to record a decrease was dairy product exports, which decreased by \$21 million or 15.2 per cent.

In the year to October 2018, 53 per cent of exports of metallic ores and metal scraps and 21 per cent of non-ferrous metals were sold to China (including Hong Kong). Around 23 per cent of metallic ores and metal scraps were sold to Malaysia. In the year to October 2018, around 21 per cent of agricultural goods and seafood were exported from Tasmania to Japan (Table 5).

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

<i>Original</i> Country groups	Value (\$m)	Growth (%)
APEC	3 429	21.9
Developing Countries	3 004	18.6
ASEAN	1 091	26.9
OECD	918	28.8
EU	67	34.0
Least Developed Countries	15	-16.7

* 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 October 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)	21	53	32	37
Malaysia	8	23	2	14
Japan	7	4	21	8
Taiwan	14	1	4	5
Thailand	8	7	4	2
Indonesia	12	0	2	2
United States	2	1	19	3
Viet Nam	12	0	2	0
Korea	6	10	2	2
Other	11	2	12	28
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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