



Austrade's *International Data Comparisons (IDC)* is an easy-to-read comparison of Australia's performance and position across key economic and financial related indicators. The IDC has been updated to include data effective to 20 September 2011.

Points of interest include:

- ▶ The 2011 Institute for Management Development (IMD) *World Competitiveness Yearbook* rated Australia's economy the second most resilient in the world for the two consecutive years to 2011. For economies with populations greater than 20 million, Australia has topped this category each year since 2008.
- ▶ Australia ranks third in the 2011 *Index for Economic Freedom*, with a score of 82.5 out of 100. The survey states that robust supervision and sound regulation enabled Australia's banking system to cope well with recent financial turmoil. Australia has a strong tradition of openness to global trade and investment and transparent and efficient regulations. An independent judiciary protects property rights, and the level of corruption is low.
- ▶ In its latest assessment of Australia's economy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) sees the economic outlook for Australia as favourable, led by private investment in mining and commodity exports. It expects strong commodity demand to be long lasting because of favourable prospects for sustained growth in Asia, including China. The IMF said in its *World Economic Outlook September 2011* that recent natural disasters slowed growth only temporarily in Australia, and now projects that real GDP growth will pick up from 1.8 per cent in 2011 to 3.3 per cent in 2012.
- ▶ The consumer price index rose by a stronger-than-expected 0.9 per cent in the June quarter for an annual rate of 3.6 per cent, above the Reserve Bank of Australia's two to three per cent target band. The most significant price increase for the quarter was in fruit, which rose 26.9 per cent. The sharp increase in fruit prices is a result of recent natural disasters in Queensland.
- ▶ In 2010-11, Australia's annual export value of goods and services rose by 17 per cent to A\$298 billion. The surge was led by minerals, up 48 per cent to A\$79 billion, and fuels, which climbed 20 per cent to A\$68 billion. Australia's annual imports also increased by 7 per cent to A\$276 billion in 2010-11. Australia recorded a total trade surplus of A\$22 billion in 2010-11, a marked turnaround on the A\$3 billion deficit of the previous year.
- ▶ The value of Australia's merchandise exports rose 10 per cent a year between 2005-06 and 2010-11, primarily due to strong demand for our minerals and fuels in Asia. Of the top ten export markets in 2010-11, eight were from the Asia-Pacific region. Their combined value accounted for 73 per cent (A\$179 billion) of Australia's total export earnings in 2010-11, up from 60 per cent five years ago. Australia's merchandise imports rose 5 per cent a year between 2005-06 and 2010-11. Of the top 10 import partners, seven were from the Asia-Pacific region, with a total combined value of more than A\$100 billion. These accounted for almost half of Australia's total import bills in 2010-11.
- ▶ Iron ore exports have grown rapidly with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 27 per cent between 2005-06 and 2010-11. Iron ore is Australia's number one export, with a 28.5 per cent share of total export earnings in 2010-11 valued at A\$70 billion. Coal is our second most important export with a total value of more than A\$43 billion in 2010-11 and market share of 17.6 per cent. Australia's merchandise imports have increased moderately with a CAGR of 5 per cent over the past five years. Machinery and transport equipment were Australia's top two merchandise imports, with a total combined bill of A\$89 billion in 2010-11 and market share of 41 per cent.
- ▶ China was Australia's largest merchandise export destination with a market share of 23 per cent of our total export value in real terms in 2009-10. This figure was up sharply from 5 per cent 10 years ago and reflects the surge in China's demand for Australian minerals. India has also emerged as a significant export destination, with a market share of 8 per cent in 2009-10. With regards to market shares of major developed economies, Japan remains important accounting for 18 per cent of exports. The shares going to the European Union and the US have declined to 8 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.
- ▶ Foreign direct investment (FDI) into Australia grew by 7.5 per cent to A\$474 billion in 2010 after an 11.1 per cent increase in 2009. The top five major FDI source countries continue to be the US, UK, Japan, Netherlands and Switzerland. During 2010, FDI from the US jumped 20.4 per cent to A\$120 billion, and FDI from China grew by 41 per cent to A\$13 billion. Significant growth on 2009 FDI figures has also come from South Korea (up 61.8 per cent), Canada (31.6 per cent), Singapore (22.6 per cent) and Hong Kong (22.5 per cent).
- ▶ Australia's world share of FDI, measured in US\$, increased to 2.7 per cent in 2010, compared to its 2.4 per cent share in 2009. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD's) *World Investment Report 2011* shows that FDI into Australia was US\$508 billion in 2010, up from US\$242 billion in 2005. As a percentage of GDP, FDI in Australia rose to almost 40 per cent in 2010 from 31.7 per cent in 2005.



	Source	Australia	China	Japan	USA	South Korea	Singapore	India	UK	Thailand	Taiwan	Indonesia	Hong Kong	Brazil
Total Area – Land and Water (thousand sq km)	CIA	7,741	9,597	378	9,827	100	0.7	3,287	244	513	36	1,905	1.1	8,515
Population (million, 2011)	IMF	22.5	1,348	127.9	312.9	49.0	5.3	1,207	62.6	64.3	23.4	240.5	7.2	194.9
Resilience of The Economy Ranking (59 economies, 2011)	IMD	2	14	44	29	32	21	4	45	20	8	23	26	12
Soundness of Banks Ranking (142 economies, 2011-12)	WEF	4	64	72	90	99	5	32	111	43	51	112	10	16
Index of Economic Freedom Ranking (183 economies, 2011)	Heritage	3	135	20	9	35	2	124	16	62	25	116	1	113
The Legatum Prosperity Index Ranking (110 economies, 2010)	Legatum	4	58	18	10	27	17	88	13	52	22	70	20	45
The Financial Development Index Ranking (57 economies, 2010)	WEF	5	22	9	1	24	4	37	2	34	NA	51	3	32
World Competitiveness Ranking (59 economies, 2011)	IMD	9	19	26	=1	22	3	32	20	27	6	37	=1	44
Global Competitiveness Index Ranking (142 economies, 2011-12)	WEF	20	26	9	5	24	2	56	10	39	13	46	11	53
GDP (US\$bn, @ exchange rates, 2011)	IMF	1,507	6,988	5,855	15,065	1,164	266	1,843	2,481	339	505	834	247	2,518
GDP Per Head (US\$, @ exchange rates, 2011)	IMF	66,984	5,184	45,774	48,147	23,749	50,714	1,527	39,604	5,281	21,592	3,469	34,393	12,917
GDP Growth (averages: 1998 to 2012F, % pa, latest forecast)	Austrade	3.2	9.8	0.7	2.2	4.2	5.3	6.8	1.9	3.4	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.2
GDP Growth 2010 (%)	IMF	2.7	10.3	4.0	3.0	6.2	14.5	10.1	1.4	7.8	10.9	6.1	7.0	7.5
GDP Growth 2011F (%)	IMF	1.8	9.5	-0.5	1.5	3.9	5.3	7.8	1.1	3.5	5.2	6.4	6.0	3.8
GDP Growth 2012F (%)	IMF	3.3	9.0	2.3	1.8	4.4	4.3	7.5	1.6	4.8	5.0	6.3	4.3	3.6
Australia's Two-Way Trading Values (A\$bn, Annual Total)	Austrade	–	113.4	67.8	47.5	32.0	22.9	21.5	21.0	19.1	13.5	13.7	8.0	NA
Australia's Exports of Goods and Services (A\$bn)	Austrade	–	70.6	48.9	14.4	24.4	8.0	18.8	10.6	8.0	9.6	6.0	5.0	NA
Goods (A\$bn, 2010-11 Annual Total)	ABS	–	64.6	46.8	9.1	22.5	5.4	15.6	6.5	7.0	9.1	4.8	3.3	1.5
Services (A\$bn, 2010 Annual Total)	DFAT	–	6.0	2.1	5.3	1.9	2.6	3.2	4.1	1.0	0.5	1.2	1.7	NA
Australia's Imports of Goods and Services (A\$bn)	Austrade	–	42.8	18.9	33.1	7.6	14.9	2.7	10.4	11.1	3.9	7.7	3.0	NA
Goods (A\$bn, 2010-11 Annual Total)	ABS	–	41.1	16.7	23.3	7.0	11.4	2.1	6.0	9.1	3.6	5.8	1.2	0.9
Services (A\$bn, 2010 Annual Total)	DFAT	–	1.7	2.2	9.9	0.6	3.5	0.7	4.5	2.0	0.2	1.9	1.8	NA
Australia's Inward FDI Stock Level (A\$bn, 2010)	ABS	–	12.8	49.4	120.1	2.1	20.2	NP	52.5	NP	0.2	NP	6.7	NP
Australia's Outward FDI Stock Level (A\$bn, 2010)	ABS	–	6.7	0.52	93.4	0.70	6.3	0.76	72.0	0.4	NP	3.3	5.1	NP
Major Central Bank Interest Rates (% , 15 Sep 2011)	Bloomberg	4.75	6.56	0 to 0.1	0 to 0.25	3.25	0.16 ^(a)	8.00	0.50	3.50	1.88	6.75	0.50	12.00
Date of Last Change	Bloomberg	01-Nov-10	06-Jul-11	05-Oct-10	16-Dec-08	09-Jun-11	(a)	26-Jul-11	05-Mar-09	24-Aug-11	30-Jun-11	07-Feb-11	16-Dec-08	31-Aug-11
Amount of Last Change (%)	Bloomberg	0.25	0.25	NA	-0.75	0.25	(a)	0.50	-0.50	0.25	0.13	0.25	-1.00	0.25
Consumer Prices (% change on a year ago, latest data)	Bloomberg	3.6	6.2	0.2	3.6	5.3	5.4	8.4	4.5	4.3	1.3	4.8	7.9	7.2
Unemployment Rate (% , latest data)	Bloomberg	5.3	4.1	4.7	9.1	3.3	2.1	NA	7.9	0.7	4.4	7.1	3.4	6.0
Exchange Rate ^(b) (unit of foreign currency per A\$, 15 Sep 2011)	RBA	–	6.527	78.40	1.022	1.140	1.275	48.88	0.648	30.97	30.27	9,004	7.963	1.768
% Change From 15 Jun 2011	Austrade	–	-5.9	-9.0	-4.6	-1.7	-3.3	2.2	-0.9	-5.0	-1.9	-1.6	-4.5	4.6
% Change From 15 Sep 2010	Austrade	–	3.3	-1.5	8.9	4.6	1.7	12.4	7.2	7.0	1.5	7.0	9.3	9.4
Stock Market Capitalisation (S&P Global Broad Market Index)														
Floating Capital ^(c) (US\$bn, 31 Aug 2011)	S&P	1,074	738	2,625	13,616	696	231	352	2,558	89	551	121	445	621
World Ranking (45 economies, 31 Aug 2011)	S&P	6	9	2	1	10	21	16	3	30	12	28	13	11
Stock Market Performance														
% Change: 31 Dec 2010 to 15 Sep 2011 (in local currency)	Bloomberg	-14.2	-11.8	-14.0	-3.9	-13.5	-13.3	-17.7	-9.5	0.3	-17.7	1.9	-16.7	-18.6
% Change: Year 2010 (in local currency)	Bloomberg	-2.6	-14.3	-3.0	12.8	21.9	10.1	17.4	40.6	9.6	46.1	5.3	1.0	37.6
Debt Securities Market – Amount Outstanding (US\$bn)														
International Debt Securities – Country of Residence (Jun 2011)	BIS	619	27.4	179	6,753	149	63.9	26.4	3,909	7.98	8.71	26.6	82.6	133
Domestic Debt Securities – Country of Residence (Mar 2011)	BIS	1,085	3,048	13,575	25,475	1,175	131	711	1,727	228	259	96.7	64.7	1,528
Government Bond Ratings for Foreign Currency @ 16 Sep 2011	Moody's	Aaa	Aa3	Aa3	Aaa	A1	Aaa	Baa3	Aaa	Baa1	Aa3	Ba1	Aa1	Baa2
Rating Outlook	Moody's	Stable	Positive	Stable	Negative	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Positive	Positive
Foreign Exchange Market Turnover (US\$bn)														
Daily Average (US\$bn, Apr 2010)	BIS	192.1	19.8	312.3	904.4	43.8	266.0	27.4	1,853.6	7.4	18.0	3.4	237.6	14.1
Global Market Share (% , Apr 2010)	BIS	3.8	0.39	6.2	17.9	0.87	5.3	0.54	36.7	0.15	0.36	0.07	4.7	0.28
Office Occupancy Costs Class A ^(d) (US\$ sq ft, Dec 2010)	Colliers	68.5	40.0	105.0	65.0	36.0	73.5	64.0	133.0	26.0	33.3	NA	192.0	94.7
Number of Internet Users (per 1,000 people, 2010)	IMD	828	283	827	820	809	836	120	797	289	725	180	828	292
Real Estate Transparency Index Ranking (81 economies, 2010)	JLL	1	45	26	6	42	16	41	3	39	33	57	18	38
e-Digital Economy Ranking (70 economies, 2010)	EIU	9	56	16	3	13	8	58	14	49	12	65	7	42
Quality of Life Ranking (59 economies, 2011)	IMD	4	50	26	15	31	16	38	25	32	27	40	30	42
Cost of Living Index ^(e) (59 economies, 2010, New York City = 100)	IMD	90.8	86.8	122.7	76.5	106.0	109.5	70.3	77.0	78.0	85.4	83.2	115.6	96.3
Highest Combined Corporate Tax Rate ^(f) (% , 2010 rate)	KPMG	30.0	25.0	40.7	40.0	24.2	17.0	34.0	28.0	30.0	17.0	28.0	16.5	34.0
Income Tax & Social Security Rate on US\$100K of Income (2010) ^(g)	KPMG	28.0	25.4	25.7	24.3	17.9	14.6	39.5	31.5	32.2	17.6	34.4	10.7	30.0

Abbreviations:

ABS = Australian Bureau Statistics, cat. no. 5352, *International Investment Position, Australia: Supplementary Statistics*, Calendar year 2010, ABS, cat. no. 5368, *International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia* (Released 3 August 2011); Austrade = Australian Trade Commission Calculation; BIS = Bank for International Settlements Statistics, *Securities Quarterly Review*, September 2011, *Triennial Central Bank Survey of Foreign Exchange and Derivatives Market Activity in April 2010*; Colliers = Colliers International, *Global Office Real Estate Review*, Second Half 2010; CIA = Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook*; DFAT = Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Trade in Services Australia 2010*, Tables 9 & 10 (Released August 2011); EIU = Economist Intelligence Unit; FDI = Foreign Direct Investment; GDP = Gross Domestic Product; Heritage = Heritage Foundation & Wall Street Journal; IMD = Institute for Management Development, *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2011*; IMF = International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook (WEO) Sep 2011* (Released 20 Sep 2011); JLL = Jones Lang LaSalle, *Real Estate Transparency Index 2010*, China and India refer tier 1 cities; KPMG = KPMG's Corporate and Indirect Tax Rate Survey 2010, KPMG's Individual Income Tax and Social Security Rate Survey 2010; Moody's = Moody's Investors Service; NA = Not Available; NP = Not for publication; RBA = Reserve Bank of Australia; S&P = Standard & Poor's, *Global Broad Market Index*; WEF = World Economic Forum, *The Global Competitiveness Report 2011-12*, *The Financial Development Report 2010*

Footnotes:

- (a) These are the market rates that most closely reflect the monetary policy of Singapore's central bank. Singapore does not have a target benchmark rate, instead the country's central bank targets monetary aggregates.
- (b) Brazil Real sourced from Bloomberg.
- (c) Under float adjustment, the share counts used in calculating the indices will reflect only those shares that are available to investors, not all of a company's outstanding shares.

- (d) The most expensive city of each country. Perth is now the most expensive city in Australia for office occupancy cost, at US\$68.54 sq ft pa, with Sydney costing US\$64.42 sq ft pa.
- (e) Index of a basket of goods & services in major cities, including housing (New York City = 100).
- (f) The corporate tax rate of each city includes taxes imposed at the national level, state, or local government level, as appropriate.
- (g) Effective rates were derived by taking total income tax and/or social security over gross income prior any deductions (which may include social security).

About Austrade

The Australian Trade Commission – Austrade – is the Australian Government's trade and investment development agency. Through our global network, we assist Australian companies to succeed in international business and attract productive foreign direct investment into Australia.

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