COUNTRY PROFILE REPORT OF ITJ DIVISION, DGCI&S INDIA-AUSTRALIA BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION & BRIEF ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The Commonwealth of Australia occupies the whole of the island continent of Australia, lying between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, and its offshore islands, principally Tasmania to the southeast. Australia's nearest neighbour is Papua New Guinea, to the north. Australia is a member of the UN, the Commonwealth, OECD (The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).

2. Australia is the world's fourteenth-largest by nominal terms, and the 18th-largest by PPP. As of 2021, it has the second-highest amount of wealth per adult, after Luxembourg, and has the thirteenth-highest financial assets per capita. Australia has a labour force of some 13.5 million, with an unemployment rate of 3.5% as of June 2022. According to the Australian Council of Social Service, the poverty rate of Australia exceeds 13.6% of the population, encompassing 3.2 million. It also estimated that there were 774,000 (17.7%) children under the age of 15 living in relative poverty. The Australian dollar is the national currency, which is also used by three island states in the Pacific: Kiribati, Nauru, and Tuvalu. As per available report of IMF Executive Board Concludes 2024 Article IV Consultation with Australia December 23, 2024, Australia's economic growth slowed to 1.0 percent (y/y) in Q2 2024 from 1.9 percent a year prior, with private consumption growth dropping to 0.5 percent (y/y). Growth in private business investment also eased to 1.6 percent (y/y). Economic activity was bolstered by public demand and infrastructure projects. Labour market conditions have been softening gradually, with unemployment at 4.1 percent in September 2024, while job creation remains strong. The current account returned to deficit in early 2024, as commodity prices continued to normalize.

	Au	stralia:	Main F	Conomi	ic Indic	ators, 2	019-202	9				
(Annual percent change, unless otherwise indicated)												
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
								Proje	ctions			
NATIONAL												
ACCOUNTS												
Real GDP	1.8	-2.1	5.5	3.9	2.0	1.2	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.3	
Domestic demand	1.2	-2.2	6.0	5.0	2.6	1.5	1.7	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.1	
Private consumption	0.9	-6.1	5.1	7.2	2.0	1.0	2.2	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.6	
Public consumption	6.4	7.8	5.7	4.9	1.9	3.9	1.1	1.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	
Investment	-2.4	-2.4	10.7	2.2	5.4	0.6	1.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.5	
Public	2.1	-0.7	7.4	4.2	10.2	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.6	2.2	
Private business	-0.7	-3.5	9.2	6.2	9.2	0.9	1.6	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7	
Dwelling	-7.0	-4.4	9.4	-4.0	-1.8	-2.2	1.6	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.4	
Net exports	1.2	-0.4	-1.6	-1.9	0.4	-0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	
(contribution to												
growth, percentage												
points)												
Gross domestic income	3.2	-1.9	9.2	5.5	0.3	-0.2	1.0	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.3	
Investment (percent of	22.5	22.3	23.3	23.7	24.0	24.2	24.0	24.0	24.1	24.2	24.2	
GDP) 1/												
Public	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4	
Private	17.6	17.4	18.0	17.8	18.6	18.5	18.4	18.6	18.7	18.8	18.9	
Savings (gross, percent	23.1	24.6	26.2	24.8	24.2	23.0	22.7	22.7	22.8	22.8	22.8	
of GDP)												
Households	10.1	17.0	14.5	10.0	7.4	8.4	9.3	9.2	8.9	8.6	8.36	

A snapshot of Australia's select economic indicators is as under. TABLE 1

Potential output	2.3	0.7	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.3	2.3
Output gap (percent of	-0.7	-3.4	-0.2	1.6	1.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
potential)											
LABOR MARKET											
Employment	2.3	-1.7	3.1	4.5	3.4	2.1	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.7
Unemployment	5.2	6.5	5.1	3.7	3.7	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5
(percent of labor force)											
Wages (nominal	2.3	1.6	2.0	3.0	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.9
percent change)											
PRICES											
Terms of trade index	77	77	94	103	96	90	87	87	86	86	87
(goods, avg)											
% change	8.2	0.2	22.0	9.8	-7.1	-6.1	-3.1	-0.5	-0.2	0.1	0.1
Consumer prices (avg)	1.6	0.9	2.8	6.6	5.6	3.3	3.3	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.5
Core consumer prices	1.6	1.2	2.8	5.7	5.3	3.6	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5
(avg)											
GDP deflator (avg)	3.3	1.2	5.8	8.2	3.5	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.3
FINANCIAL						1		1			
Reserve Bank of	1.2	0.3	0.1	1.6	4.0	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Australia cash rate											
target (percent, avg)											
10-year treasury bond	1.4	0.9	1.6	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3
yield (percent, avg)											
Mortgage lending rate	4.8	4.5	4.5	7.3	8.7	8.4	7.7	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.2
(percent, avg)											
MACRO-											
FINANCIAL											
Credit to the private	2.5	2.1	7.4	8.3	4.9	5.7	5.4	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.7
sector											
House prices (%	2.5	3.6	23.7	-4.9	8.3	7.2	7.0	5.6	4.6	4.5	4.7
change)											
House price-to-income,	6.4	6.6	7.8	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
national median value											
(ratio)											
Estimated interest	7.0	5.8	5.2	6.9	7.6	7.3	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8
payments (percent of											
disposable income)											
Household savings	6.2	15.6	12.9	6.2	1.3	2.2	3.4	3.9	3.0	2.9	2.9
(percent of disposable											
income)	10.6	101	105	100	105	100	150	1.55	155	154	15.
Household debt	186	181	187	188	185	182	178	177	177	176	176
(percent of disposable											
income) 2/	10.0	40.0	40.5	40.7	40.1	50.7	51.0	51 4	51.6	517	51.0
Business credit	49.0	49.9	48.5	48.7	49.1	50.7	51.2	51.4	51.6	51.7	51.8
(percent of GDP)											
GENERAL											
GOVERNMENT											
(percent of GDP) 3/	25.6	24.4	24.0	25.6	261	267	261	25.0	261	26.2	26.2
Revenue	35.6	34.4	34.9	35.6	36.1	36.7	36.1	35.8	36.1	36.2	36.2
Expenditure	36.8	42.0	44.1	39.3	36.9	37.6	38.5	37.6	37.0	37.1	37.1
Net lending/borrowing	-1.2	-7.6	-9.2	-3.7	-0.8	-0.9	-2.4	-1.8	-0.9	-1.0	-1.0
Commonwealth only	-0.1	-4.8	-6.9	-1.3	0.9	0.3	-1.1	-1.4	-0.9	-0.7	-0.6
Operating balance	0.9	-5.5	-7.0	-1.5	1.5	1.0	-0.4	-0.5	0.9	0.9	0.9

Cyclically adjusted	0.2	-6.1	-6.1	-2.6	-0.5	-0.3	-1.2	-0.6	0.4	0.1	0.1	
primary balance												
Gross debt	42.1	52.5	58.0	52.9	49.2	49.0	49.8	49.4	48.4	47.5	46.5	
Net debt	24.5	32.0	37.8	33.4	30.6	28.5	30.6	30.6	29.7	28.9	28.1	
BALANCE OF												
PAYMENTS												
Current account	0.3	2.2	2.9	0.9	0.3	-1.2	-1.3	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	
(percent of GDP)												
Export volume	3.1	-9.6	-2.4	2.6	6.7	1.8	3.7	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.9	
Import volume	-1.0	-11.8	4.8	13.5	6.4	5.1	2.0	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	
Net international investment position (percent of GDP)	-50.1	-53.2	-38.9	-38.4	-32.0	-27.1	-27.2	-27.3	-27.5	-27.7	-27.9	
Gross official reserves	84	56	81	85	94							
(bn A\$)												
MEMORANDUM												
ITEMS												
Nominal GDP (bn A\$)	1,996	1,977	2,206	2,481	2,618	2,716	2,837	2,978	3,114	3,257	3,409	
Percent change	5.2	-1.0	11.6	12.5	5.5	3.7	4.5	5.0	4.5	4.6	4.7	
Real GDP per capita (% change)	0.3	-3.0	5.2	2.3	-0.5	-0.4	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	
Population (million)	25.5	25.6	25.8	26.3	27.0	27.3	27.6	28.0	28.3	28.7	29.0	
Nominal effective	86.3	86.0	90.8	90.3	88.1							
exchange rate												
Real effective	86.0	85.3	90.5	90.8	90.3							
exchange rate												
Sources: Authorities' data; IMF World Economic Outlook database; and IMF staff estimates and projections.												
1/ Includes changes in inventories.												
2/ Reflects the national accounts measure of household debt, including to the financial sector, state and												
federal governments and foreign overseas banks and												
governments. It also includes other accounts payable to these sectors and a range of other smaller entities												
including pension funds.												
								-				

3/ Fiscal year ending June.

Source: IMF Executive Board Concludes 2024 Article IV Consultation with Australia December 23, 2024.

FOREIGN TRADE

3. As per recent available inputs on WITS (World Integrated Trade Solution), the four major merchandise export partners of Australia are China, Japan, Korea Rep. and India. On the other hand four major import partners of Australia are China, korea RP, Japan and Singapore. Major five exported goods of Australia are (i) Bituminous coal, not agglomerated, (ii) Non-agglomerated iron ores and concentrates, (iii) Natural gas, liquefied, (iv) Gold in oth semi-manufactured forms,non-monetar and (v)Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous. On the other hand major five imported goods are ((i) Petroleum oils, etc, (excl. crude); preparation, (ii) Transmission apparatus, for radioteleph incorpo, (iii) Automobiles with reciprocating piston engine, (iv) Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous and (v) Diesel powered trucks with a GVW..

4. Australia's total exports in 2019 were of the order of US\$ 270,261 million. it has scaled upto US\$ 410,252 million in 2023 with 8.55% downfall recorded in 2020 and a pick-up by 38.39% in the year 2021. During the period from 2019 to 2023, the annual average compound rate of growth of exports was 11.00%.

5. Australia's total imports in 2019 were of the order of US\$ 221,528 million and which has touched US\$ 287,861 million mark in 2023. During the period from 2019 to 2023, the annual average compound rate of growth of Imports was 6.77%.

6. Australia runs an overall Balance of Trade surplus from 2019 to 2023 and that has scaled upto USD 122,391 million in 2023. During the period from 2019 to 2023, the annual average compound rate of growth of total volume of trade was 9.15%.

A snapshot of Australia's overall Trade Statistics is presented in Table 2 and Figure 1. A snapshot of India's merchandise trade statistics w.r.t. Australia is presented in Table 3 Figure 2

BILATERAL TRADE WITH INDIA

Merchandise Trade

7. Australia has placed India at the forefront of its international partnerships. Both governments recognise there is significant potential for further cooperation across a broad range of areas. India and Australia had signed and entered into Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement on December 29, 2022. According to a 2023 report by India's Ministry of External Affairs, **India ranks as Australia's sixth-largest trading partner**, with bilateral trade experiencing significant growth in recent years.

Australia ranked 13th as an export destination in FY 2023-24 India exports to Australia 1.82 % of it's total export value in FY2023-24. In the same financial year imports from Australia was 2.40% of India's total import value. Australia was the 14th largest import partner of India in FY 2023-24. Almost 2% of India's international trade value was between India and Australia as has been recorded in FY 2023-24 as per DGCI&S data base.

8. Indo-Australia total volume of bilateral trade in FY 2019-20 was of the order of US\$ 12,635.38 million. It has scaled upto US\$ 24,100.18 million in FY 2023-24. The annual compound growth rate of total volume of trade during the period from 2019-20 to 2023-24 has been of the order of 17.52%.

9. It appears from the available figures that between 2019-20 and 2023-24, India has had a deficit Balance of Trade with Australia. Exports from India to Australia increased steeply 104.78% in FY2021-22. The annual average compound rate of growth of Exports was 29.16%. On the other hand, imports from Australia to India increased by 103.16% in FY 2021-22. During the period from 2019-20 to 2023-24, the annual average compound rate of growth of imports was 13.37% vis-a-vis 2019-20 Indian exports to Australia had increased by 41.77% in 2020-21 which was the pandemic hit year, although in the same year India's imports from Australia had a decline of 15.69%.

10. Additionally, from Tables 4 & 5 presented below the following are stated:

a. **Petroleum Products**, **Drugs Formulations Biologicals** and **Electric Machinery And Equipments** are occupying the top three slots in India's exports to Australia in the year 2023-24. Petroleum Products occupying the 48.02% share of export value India to Australia.

b. **Coal Coke And Briquittes Etc.**; **Gold** and **Pulses** are the three major commodities in India's imports list from Australia in the year 2023-24. India imports a significant amount of Coal Coke And briquittes Etc. from Australia with a share of 67.02% of total imports from Australia recorded in 2023-24. Australia is one of the leading supplier of Coking coal to India.

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TABLE - 2 AUSTRALIA'S TOTAL EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, VOLUME OF TRADE AND BALANCE OF TRADE BETWEEN 2019 TO 2023

				(Figures in USD Million)									
Year	Exports	Percentage Growth in	Imports	Percentage Growth in	Volume of	Percentage Growth in	Balance of						
		Exports		Imports	Trade	Vol. of Trade	Trade						
2019	270261		221528		4,91,789		48733						
2020	247159	-8.55	210213	-5.11	4,57,372	-7.00	36946						
2021	342036	38.39	261586	24.44	6,03,622	31.98	80450						
2022	410253	19.94	309300	18.24	7,19,553	19.21	100953						
2023	410252	0.00	287861	-6.93	6,98,113	-2.98	122391						
Annual	Compound												

Growth Rate

Rate11.006.77OTE: Figures relate to calendar year (January to December)

9.15

NOTE : Figures relate to calendar year (January to D SOURC: UN COMTRADE PUBLICATION

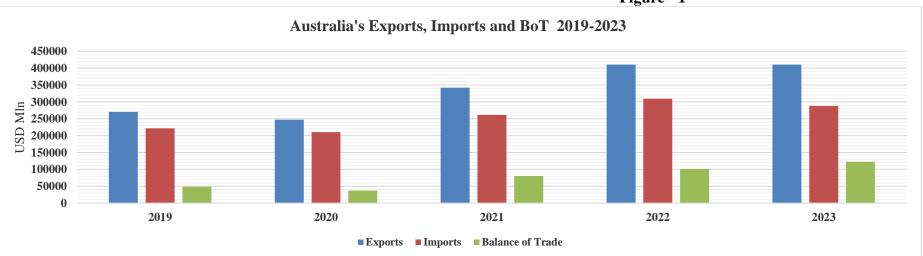


Figure - 1

TABLE - 3

INDIA'S MERCHANDISE EXPORTS & IMPORTS w.r.t. AUSTRALIA

FY 2019-2020 to 2023-2024

	Exports Perc from India to Gro		Imports from Australia to	Percentage Growth in	Volume of	Percentage Growth in	Balance of
Year	Australia	Exports	India	Imports	Trade	Vol. of Trade	Trade
2019-20	2853.16		9782.22		12635.38		-6929.06
2020-21	4044.94	41.77	8247.85	-15.69	12292.79	-2.71	-4202.91
2021-22	8283.13	104.78	16756.17	103.16	25039.30	103.69	-8473.04
2022-23	6951.32	-16.08	19011.31	13.46	25962.63	3.69	-12059.99
2023-24	7940.75	14.23	16159.43	-15.00	24100.18	-7.17	-8218.68

(Value in USD Million)

Annual Compound

Growth Rate

13.37

17.52

NOTE : Figures relate to Financial Year (April to March)

29.16

SOURCE : DGCI&S, M/o C&I

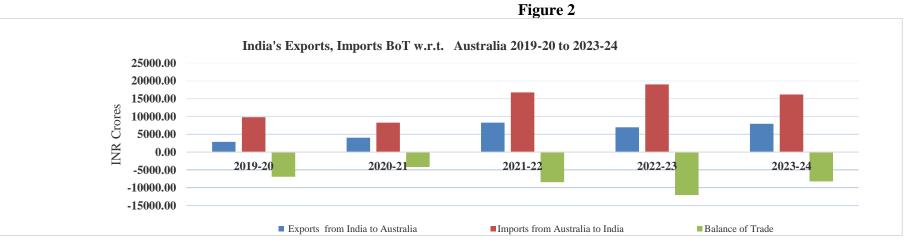


TABLE -4 INDIA'S MAJOR ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA 2019-2020 TO 2023-2024 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES

(Value in USD Million)

Sl.										
No.	Name of the Merchandise Commodities		1		of Exports	T		Annual Gro		
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	20-21 over	21-22 over	22-23 over	23-24 over
							2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1	Petroleum Products	353.25	1135.16	4566.94	2991.73	3813.06	221.35	302.32	-34.49	27.45
	Share in total export	12.38	28.06	55.14	43.04	48.02				
2	Drug Formulations Biologicals	247.28	311.16	351.36	383.14	409.56	25.83	12.92	9.04	6.90
	Share in total export	8.67	7.69	4.24	5.51	5.16				
3	Electric Machinery And Equipment	77.65	95.86	123.96	273.07	254.23	23.45	29.31	120.29	-6.90
	Share in total export	2.72	2.37	1.50	3.93	3.20				
4	Products Of Iron And Steel	134.18	176.67	207.22	238.18	243.15	31.67	17.29	14.94	2.09
	Share in total export	4.70	4.37	2.50	3.43	3.06				
5	RMG Cotton Incl. Accessories	126.06	129.80	184.98	197.29	211.25	2.97	42.51	6.65	7.08
	Share in total export	4.42	3.21	2.23	2.84	2.66				
6	Motor Vehicle/Cars	44.63	44.04	113.72	105.28	189.58	-1.32	158.22	-7.42	80.07
	Share in total export	1.56	1.09	1.37	1.51	2.39				
7	Gold And Other Precs. Metal. Jwellry.	125.17	1230.37	151.88	157.28	168.18	882.96	-87.66	3.56	6.93
	Share in total export	4.39	30.42	1.83	2.26	2.12				
8	Cotton Fabrics, Madeups Etc.	88.00	120.25	133.64	142.53	136.48	36.65	11.14	6.65	-4.24
	Share in total export	3.08	2.97	1.61	2.05	1.72				
9	Pearl, Precs. Semi Precs. Stones	130.73	140.18	188.19	182.28	128.77	7.23	34.25	-3.14	-29.36
	Share in total export	4.58	3.47	2.27	2.62	1.62				
10	Indl. Nmachinery For Dairy Etc.	42.69	58.26	86.08	89.01	100.20	36.47	47.75	3.40	12.57
	Share in total export	1.50	1.44	1.04	1.28	1.26				
	Total exports to AUSTRALIA	2853.16	4044.94	8283.13	6951.32	7940.75	41.77	104.78	-16.08	14.23

NOTE : Figures relate to each Financial Year (April to March)

SOURCE : DGCI&S, M/o C&I

TABLE -5 INDIA'S MAJOR ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE IMPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA 2019-2020 TO 2023-2024 AND THEIR GROWTH RATES

(Value in USD Million)

Sl.										
No.	Name of the Merchandise Commodities		T		of Import	1		Annual Grov		1
		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	19-20 over	20-21 over	21-22 over	23-24 over
							2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2022-23
1	Coal, Coke And Briquittes	7246.34	5779.02	13044.96	14712.31	10829.60	-20.25	125.73	12.78	-26.39
	Share in total import	74.08	70.07	77.85	77.39	67.02				
2	Gold	335.12	594.71	900.72	966.79	1993.57	77.46	51.46	7.34	106.21
	Share in total import	3.43	7.21	5.38	5.09	12.34				
3	Pulses	54.07	83.64	123.73	274.49	617.02	54.69	47.93	121.85	124.79
	Share in total import	0.55	1.01	0.74	1.44	3.82				
4	Bulk Minerals And Ores	214.44	150.48	767.20	638.96	390.21	-29.83	409.84	-16.72	-38.93
	Share in total import	2.19	1.82	4.58	3.36	2.41				
5	Iron Ore	12.60	8.06	106.74	15.53	331.48	-36.03	1224.32	-85.45	2034.45
	Share in total import	0.13	0.10	0.64	0.08	2.05				
6	Processed Minerals	308.18	422.60	393.12	303.94	272.69	37.13	-6.98	-22.69	-10.28
	Share in total import	3.15	5.12	2.35	1.60	1.69				
7	Petroleuum Products	424.89	264.98	127.07	487.83	191.83	-37.64	-52.05	283.91	-60.68
	Share in total import	4.34	3.21	0.76	2.57	1.19				
8	Aluminium. Products Made Of Alum.	130.71	116.22	109.07	135.84	186.11	-11.09	-6.15	24.54	37.01
	Share in total import	1.34	1.41	0.65	0.71	1.15				
9	Iron And Steel	99.47	100.93	81.74	112.09	173.90	1.47	-19.01	37.13	55.14
	Share in total import	1.02	1.22	0.49	0.59	1.08				
10	Paint, Varnish And Allied Products	85.13	67.26	128.41	85.70	157.24	-20.99	90.92	-33.26	83.48
	Share in total import	0.87	0.82	0.77	0.45	0.97				
	Total import from AUSTRALIA	9782.22	8247.85	16756.17	19011.31	16159.43	-15.69	103.16	13.46	-15.00

NOTE : Figures relate to each Financial Year (April to March)

SOURCE: DGCI&S. Ministry of C& I