International trade

September 2026 | Economic brief

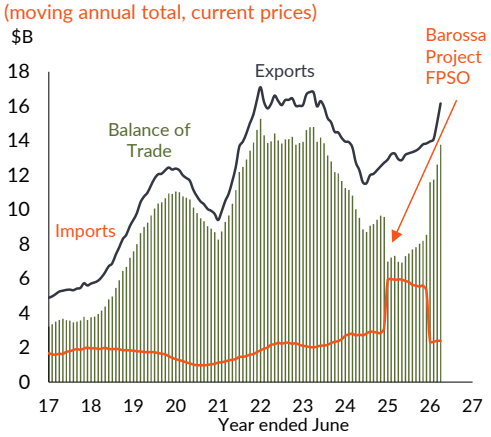
The Territory's international trade in goods data is only reported in original terms and current prices.

Balance of trade

Balance of trade	NT	Aust
Year to date value	$13.8B	$20.2B

The Territory's balance of trade surplus widened by 9.0% to $13.8 billion over the 12 months to September 2026, up from $12.6 billion over the 12 months to August 2026. This reflects an increase in the value of goods exported to $16.2 billion over the 12 months to September 2026, and a decline in the value of goods imported to $2.4 billion over the same period (Chart 1). The improved goods exports reflects both Ichthys and Darwin LNG plant ramping up to their full production capacity. The elevated imports in June 2025 was due to the arrival of the floating, production, storage and offtake vessel for the Barossa Project (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Territory's goods trade balance (moving annual total, current prices)



Source: ABS, *International Trade in Goods*; DTF

The Territory's trading partners

Exports

The Territory's major exports are confidential items (most likely liquefied natural gas), metalliferous ores and metal scrap, and petroleum products. For the 12 months to September 2026, the Territory's top export destinations (Chart 2) were:

- Japan, up by $572 million to $5.7 billion
- China, up by $1.3 billion to $4.1 billion
- Republic of Korea, up by $741 million to $1.9 billion.

Chart 2: Territory's major export destinations (year to date, current prices)



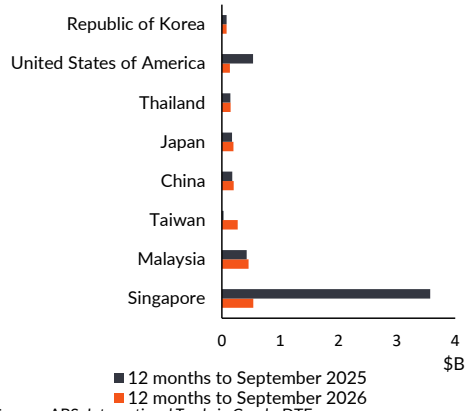
Source: ABS, *International Trade in Goods*; DTF

Imports

The Territory's major imports are transport equipment, petroleum products, and confidential items. For the 12 months to September 2026, the Territory's top import sources (Chart 3) were:

- Singapore, down by $3.0 billion to $537 million
- Malaysia, up by $34 million to $458 million
- Taiwan, up by $244 million to $269 million.

Chart 3: Territory's major import sources (year to date, current prices)



Source: ABS, *International Trade in Goods*; DTF

Table 1: International trade in goods

	Period				Change (%)		
	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-26	Year to date	Monthly[1]	Year-ended[2]	Year-average[3]
Northern Territory ($M)							
Original							
Balance of goods trade	114	1 728	1 255	13 766	n.p.	1000.9	97.2
– goods exports	299	1 962	1 433	16 164	n.p.	379.3	24.9
– goods imports	185	234	178	2 398	n.p.	-3.8	-59.8
Australia ($M)							
Original							
Balance of goods trade	2 082	63	1 626	20 231	n.p.	-21.9	-60.9
– goods exports	43 668	46 996	48 173	545 902	n.p.	10.3	5.6
– goods imports	41 586	46 933	46 547	525 671	n.p.	11.9	13.0
Seasonally adjusted							
Balance of goods trade	3 047	184	2 826	21 014	1435.9	-7.3	
– goods exports	43 869	47 344	48 434	546 133	2.3	10.4	
– goods imports	40 822	47 160	45 609	525 123	-3.3	11.7	

Table 2: Territory's major goods trading partners, original data

	Period				Change ($M)	
	Sep-25	Aug-26	Sep-26	Year to date	Monthly[1]	Year-average[3]
Exports ($M)						
Japan	0	715	552	5 705	- 163	572
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	209	485	244	4 050	- 241	1 284
Republic of Korea	5	125	165	1 887	40	741
Taiwan	0	372	89	1 704	- 283	158
Singapore	6	146	224	1 122	78	586
Indonesia	38	56	57	665	1	165
Thailand	0	0	0	270	0	- 65
Malaysia	13	23	7	183	- 16	- 149
India	0	0	14	174	14	116
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	96	0	25
Imports ($M)						
Singapore	69	62	47	537	- 15	- 3 034
Malaysia	12	2	31	458	29	34
Taiwan	1	91	30	269	- 61	244
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	14	15	20	202	5	24
Japan	7	15	10	195	- 5	22
Thailand	8	16	11	148	- 5	5
United States of America	17	14	6	134	- 8	- 400
Republic of Korea	5	3	3	81	0	3
Italy (includes Holy See and San Marino)	1	1	2	66	1	12
Brunei Darussalam	19	0	0	47	0	5

SAR: Special Administrative Region.
n.p.: not provided
1 Compares the latest month with the previous month.
2 Compares the latest month with the same month last year.
3 Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12 month period.
The ABS no longer report on exchange rates as part of this publication.
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *International Trade in Goods*

Term	Definition
Balance of trade	Balance of trade is the difference between a jurisdiction's exports and imports. A surplus indicates a jurisdiction exports more than it imports. A deficit indicates a jurisdiction imports more than it exports.
Monthly change	Compares the latest month with previous month.
Year-ended change	Compares the latest month with the same month last year.
Year-average change	Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12-month period.
Seasonally adjusted	A seasonally adjusted series involves estimating and removing the cyclical and seasonal effects from the original data. Seasonally adjusting a time series is useful if you wish to understand the underlying patterns of change or movement in a population, without the impact of the seasonal or cyclical effects.

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, as it is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile. Although due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

International Trade in Goods, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)

More information

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