International trade

May 2026 | Economic brief

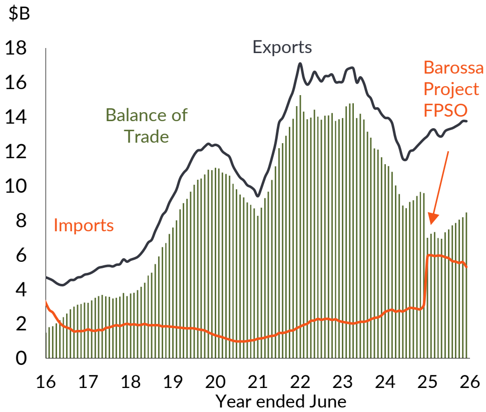
The Territory's international trade in goods data is only reported in original terms and current prices.

Balance of trade

Balance of trade	NT	Aust
Year to date value	$8.5B	$29.8B

The Territory's balance of trade surplus widened by 3.3% to $8.5 billion over the 12 months to May 2026 from $8.2 billion over the 12 months to April 2026. This reflects an increase in the value of goods exports to $13.8 billion over the 12 months to May 2026 and a decline in the value of goods imports to $5.3 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 was due to the arrival of the floating, production, storage and offtake vessel for the Barossa Project. INPEX experienced unplanned maintenance outage in the second-half of 2024 and carried out planned maintenance activities from mid-August to early November 2025. Santos' Darwin LNG plant had a shutdown from mid-March 2026 for repairs related to the floating, production, storage and offtake vessel, with exports resuming in late-May 2026.

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 May 2026, the Territory's top export destinations (Chart 2) were:

- Japan, down by $127 million to $5.1 billion
- China, up by $1.3 billion to $3.5 billion
- Taiwan, down by $591 million to $1.2 billion.

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

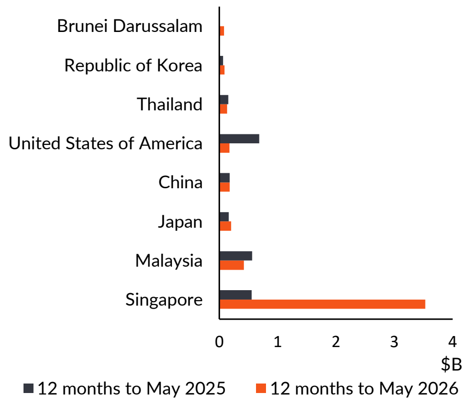
Source: ABS, *International Trade in Goods*; DTF

Imports

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

- Singapore, up by $3.0 billion to $3.5 billion
- Malaysia, down by $144 million to $419 million
- Japan, up by $40 million to $202 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 (%)		
	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	Year to date	Monthly[1]	Year-ended[2]	Year-average[3]
Northern Territory ($M)							
Original							
Balance of goods trade	774	1 130	1 047	8 456	n.p.	35.3	-11.8
– goods exports	1 297	1 353	1 291	13 758	n.p.	-0.5	8.1
– goods imports	523	223	244	5 302	n.p.	-53.3	69.2
Australia ($M)							
Original							
Balance of goods trade	2 462	719	- 1 763	29 783	n.p.	-171.6	-47.0
– goods exports	42 453	45 429	43 783	530 975	n.p.	3.1	3.9
– goods imports	39 991	44 710	45 546	501 192	n.p.	13.9	10.2
Seasonally adjusted							
Balance of goods trade	1 843	1 383	- 3 018	29 089	-318.2	-263.8	
– goods exports	41 744	46 838	43 614	531 379	-6.9	4.5	
– goods imports	39 901	45 455	46 632	502 289	2.6	16.9	

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

	Period				Change ($M)	
	May-25	Apr-26	May-26	Year to date	Monthly[1]	Year-average[3]
Exports ($M)						
Japan	409	488	563	5 077	75	- 127
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	152	256	248	3 548	- 8	1 334
Taiwan	320	154	55	1 229	- 99	- 591
Republic of Korea	57	148	140	1 211	- 8	- 75
Singapore	96	98	165	1 101	67	525
Indonesia	84	113	89	604	- 24	130
Malaysia	35	14	10	284	- 4	70
Thailand	0	0	0	255	0	- 138
India	16	70	0	101	- 70	43
United Arab Emirates	19	0	0	90	0	- 9
Imports ($M)						
Singapore	34	66	86	3 531	20	2 978
Malaysia	57	44	71	419	27	- 144
Japan	13	6	21	202	15	40
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	12	19	15	177	- 4	2
United States of America	334	10	14	173	4	- 509
Thailand	17	11	10	131	- 1	- 21
Republic of Korea	3	5	4	89	- 1	24
Brunei Darussalam	0	0	0	78	0	78
Italy (includes Holy See and San Marino)	7	34	1	74	- 33	35
Taiwan	4	3	3	64	0	32

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.

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

More information

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