

International trade

August 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
12 months to date value	\$12.5B	\$21.1B

The Territory's balance of trade surplus widened by 0.1% to \$12.5 billion over the 12 months to August 2026, up from \$11.7 billion over the 12 months to July 2026. This reflects an increase in the value of goods exported to \$14.9 billion over the 12 months to August 2026, partly offset by an increase 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. 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.

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

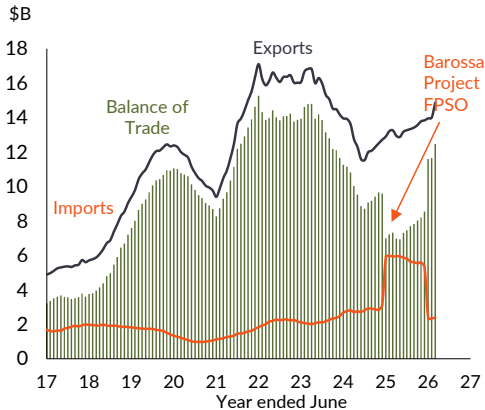
- Japan, down by \$79 million to \$5.3 billion
- China, up by \$1.2 billion to \$3.9 billion
- Republic of Korea, up by \$577 million to \$1.8 billion.

Imports

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

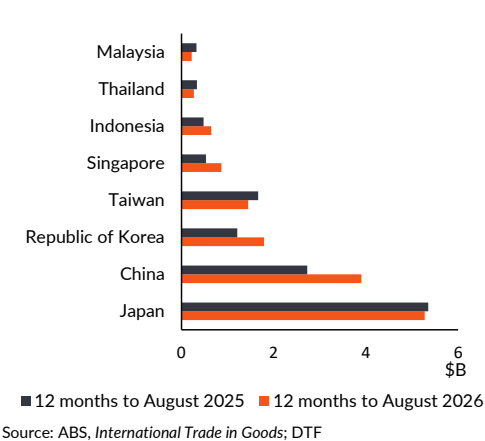
- Singapore, down by \$3.0 billion to \$558 million
- Malaysia, down by \$20 million to \$442 million
- Taiwan, up by \$214 million to \$240 million.

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



Source: ABS, International Trade in Goods; DTF

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



Source: ABS, International Trade in Goods; DTF

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 (%)		
	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-26	12 mths to date	Monthly ¹	Year-ended ²	Year-average ³
Northern Territory (\$M)							
Original							
Balance of goods trade	844	1 100	1 650	12 461	n.p.	95.5	70.1
– goods exports	1 015	1 380	1 883	14 868	n.p.	85.5	12.1
– goods imports	171	280	233	2 407	n.p.	36.3	-59.5
Australia (\$M)							
Original							
Balance of goods trade	960	- 646	624	21 074	n.p.	-35.0	-60.2
– goods exports	40 693	44 972	47 403	541 542	n.p.	16.5	5.5
– goods imports	39 733	45 618	46 779	520 468	n.p.	17.7	13.1
Seasonally adjusted							
Balance of goods trade	872	1 351	495	21 214	-63.4	-43.2	
– goods exports	41 120	45 726	47 433	541 421	3.7	15.4	
– goods imports	40 248	44 375	46 938	520 208	5.8	16.6	

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

	Period				Change (\$M)	
	Aug-25	Jul-26	Aug-26	12 mths to date	Monthly ¹	Year-average ³
Exports (\$M)						
Japan	390	482	864	5 270	382	- 79
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	321	353	374	3 899	21	1 172
Republic of Korea	5	295	179	1 790	- 116	577
Taiwan	38	142	202	1 445	60	- 216
Singapore	53	32	108	866	76	335
Indonesia	46	48	56	647	8	164
Thailand	66	0	0	270	0	- 65
Malaysia	45	4	60	226	56	- 99
India	0	0	0	100	0	42
Brunei Darussalam	0	2	0	96	- 2	25
Imports (\$M)						
Singapore	26	51	60	558	9	- 2 957
Malaysia	33	50	2	442	- 48	- 20
Taiwan	2	78	91	240	13	214
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	15	21	15	196	- 6	17
Japan	17	12	15	192	3	20
Thailand	13	16	16	145	0	- 4
United States of America	14	13	14	145	1	- 415
Republic of Korea	4	5	3	82	- 2	7
Brunei Darussalam	23	0	0	66	0	43
Italy (includes Holy See and San Marino)	4	1	1	65	0	11

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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