

Goods Trade Balance November 2024

Australia's seasonally adjusted goods trade surplus widened to a 10-month high of A\$7,079m in November, from a downwardly revised A\$5,670m surplus in October (originally A\$5,953m). The market expectation was for a A\$5,550m surplus in November.

The increase was driven by a A\$2,010m (4.3%) increase in goods exports, partly offset by a A\$601m (0.7%) rise in imports.

Key Numbers (A\$ Millions)

Seasonally Adjusted	Change	November	October
Trade Balance	1,409	7,079	5,670
Goods Exports	2,010	43,816	41,806
Goods Imports	601	36,737	36,136

The rise in goods credits was driven mainly by a sharp increase in rural goods shipments to the highest level since March 2023.

Iron ore, and oil and gas, also posted strong increases, while exports of non-monetary gold climbed to a 15-month high.

A decline in exports of manufactured goods was the major offset.

Exports (A\$ Millions)

Seasonally Adjusted	Change	November	October
Rural Goods	968	6,328	5,360
Metal Ores and Minerals (Incl. Iron Ore)	528	13,662	13,134
Coal, Coke and Briquettes	98	6,543	6,445
Other Mineral Fuels (Oil and Gas)	206	6,743	6,537
Metals (Ex-Non-Monetary Gold)	-41	1,461	1,502
Non-Monetary Gold	361	3,867	3,506
Manufactures	-146	3,979	4,125

The capital goods debits saw the biggest increase of the major import categories, climbing 2.3% after falling to a 14-month low in October.

Imports of fuels and lubricants rose A\$134m, to be the main contributor to the A\$185m rise in intermediate and other merchandise goods.

Imports of non-monetary gold hit a 13-month high.

The small fall in consumption goods imports was relatively broad-based.

Imports (A\$ Millions)

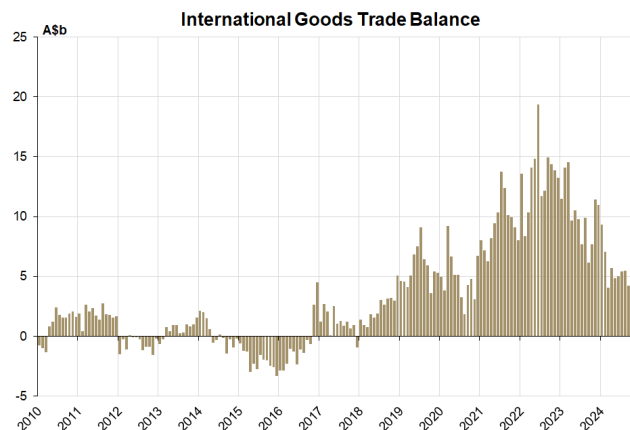
Seasonally Adjusted	Change	November	October
Consumption Goods	-59	11,731	11,790
Capital Goods	282	8,776	8,494
Intermediate and Other Merchandise Goods	185	15,286	15,101
Non-Monetary Gold	194	945	751

The rise in iron ore exports saw Western Australia's share of total Australian exports climb to 46%.

State Share Merchandise Goods Exports Excluding Re-Exports (Original, %)

	November	October
Western Australia	46	45
New South Wales	15	16
Victoria	7	7
Queensland	22	22
South Australia	3	3
Tasmania	1	1

*May not add to 100% due to exclusion of re-exports.



Comment

The Aussie trade surplus widened amid a broad-based increase in exports. It is the second consecutive increase after export values hit a near three-year low in September.

Exports have been trending lower since mid-2022. The past two months have seen the strongest back-to-back increases since August and September of 2022.

Iron ore made a solid contribution to the overall increase in exports, with supplementary data from the ABS showing both volumes and prices climbed during the month.

The biggest increases in exports in November were to Japan and India, with shipments to China also seeing a solid rise, although these figures are unadjusted.

The outlook for Aussie exports going forward will largely depend on the impact of the economic policies of the incoming US President and his team, and the response of our major trading partners to any increase in US import tariffs on their goods.

On the other side of the coin, imports have been drifting sideways for well over two years, reflecting the sluggish domestic economy.

09 January 2025