

Australia, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands

Australia

Budget (Central government, 1975/76; year ending June 30th)

Revenue: A \$ 17 901 mn = \$ 22 571 mn = £ 11 315 mn

Expenditure: A \$ 21 448 mn = \$ 27 044 mn = £ 13 558 mn,

of which, defence 7 %, social security and welfare 22 %, health 8 %

Balance of payments (\$ mn)	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Balance of goods (fob)	+2 104	+2 785	+101	+2 217	+2 025
Balance of services	-1 348	-1 994	-2 292	-2 474	-3 017
Balance of transfers	-199	-322	-426	-334	-427
Current balance	+557	+469	-2 617	-591	-1 419
Long-term capital flow	+1 663	-668	+808	+592	+1 458
Reserves and debt (end-year, \$ mn)					
International reserves	6 141	5 697	4 269	3 256	3 170
Public debt*: domestic	14 997	19 100	21 231	21 992	23 492
external	1 717	1 793	1 535	1 567	1 637

*Mid-year

External trade (1976) Imports: A \$ 10 184 mn = \$ 12 476 mn = £ 6 909 mn

Exports: A \$ 10 743 mn = \$ 13 160 mn = £ 7 288 mn

Main imports (1976/77)* % of total

Main exports (1976/77)* % of total

Machinery, non-electric	16	Metal ores	14
Motor vehicles	10	(of which, iron ore 8)	
Electrical machinery	10	Wool	13
Crude oil and products	10	Coal	11
Chemicals	9	Meat	8
Textile yarns & fabrics	6	Wheat	7
Food	4	Sugar	6
Instruments	3	Non-ferrous metals	5
Paper	3	Alumina	5
Metal small manufactures	3	Iron and steel	4
Clothing	2	Machinery	3
Main sources (1976)		Main destinations (1976)	
Japan	21	Japan	34
United States	21	United States	9
United Kingdom	12	New Zealand	5
West Germany	6	United Kingdom	4
New Zealand	3	Soviet Union	4
Canada	3	West Germany	3
Saudi Arabia	3	Italy	3
Hong Kong	3	Canada	3
Italy	2	France	2
Kuwait	2	China	2
Singapore	2	Malaysia	2
Sweden	2	Indonesia	2

*Year ending June 30th

Special focus

Wool prices (UK wholesale price, Australia/New Zealand 64s)

	£ per tonne	\$ per tonne	% change over previous year (\$ basis)
1970	787	1 890	-13
1971	708	1 722	-9
1972	1 174	2 937	+71
1973	2 749	6 741	+129
1974	2 117	4 952	-27
1975	1 736	3 858	-22
1976	2 192	3 960	+3
1977	2 454	4 283	+8

Christmas Island



Location East Indian Ocean

Australia is 1 410 km to the south-east of the island, Java (Indonesia) 360 km to the north, and Cocos Islands 417 km to the west

Land Area 135 km² = 52 mi²

Climate Sub-tropical

Temperature (annual av): 27 °C (with little variation)

Rainfall (av monthly): 144 mm; wet season

Nov–April

Time 7 hours ahead of GMT

Measures UK (imperial) system, changing to metric system

Monetary unit Australian dollar (A \$) = 100 cents

Rate of exchange (1976 av): free \$ 1.225 = A \$ 1, A \$ 1.474 = £ 1

Summary

Political Australian external territory from October 1, 1958

Economic Phosphates are the main product; the British Phosphate Commission acts as managing agents for the Christmas Island Phosphate Commission (controlled by Australia and New Zealand)

People, resources, equipment, production and trade

Population* 1960 3 140*, 1970 3 000*, 1976 3 260*

*Mainly employees of British Phosphate Commission

Growth: 1960–70 -0.5* %pa, 1970–76 1.4* %pa

Density (1976): 24* people per km²

Vital statistics (rate per 1 000 people, 1973): births 10, deaths 2

Town Flying Fish Cove

Race (1976) Chinese 56 %, Malay 29 %, European 12 %. There is no indigenous people

Language English

Education (1976) Pupils: primary and secondary 625, vocational 500

Labour force (1971) 1 377

National income per person (1976) A \$ 2 500*** = \$ 3 000*** = £ 1 700***

Consumption per person (1975) Energy 20 537 kg coal equivalent, electricity (production) 9 235 kW h

Telephones (Dec 1976) 350, 107 per 1 000 people

Electrical capacity (1975) 9 megawatts

Port (anchorage) Flying Fish Cove

Airport Christmas Island

Gross domestic product

1976 est: A \$ 50***mn = \$ 60***mn = £ 34***mn

Main products (1975) Phosphate rock 1 487 000 t, electricity 28 mn kW h

Transport traffic (1974) Sea: loaded 1.69 mn t, unloaded 0.05 mn t

External trade *Main exports* (1976/77; year ending June 30th)

Phosphate rock 996 000 t, phosphate dust 123 000 t

Export destinations Mainly Australia, New Zealand, south-east Asia

Cocos Islands

or Keeling Islands



Location East Indian Ocean

Includes 27 islands, of which the main islands are Home and West, with Perth (Australia) 2 770 km to the south-east, Colombo (Sri Lanka)

2 300 km to the north-west, and Christmas Island

417 km to the east

Land Area 14 km² = 5.5 mi²

Climate Sub-tropical

Temperature (annual range): 21–32 °C

Rainfall (av monthly): 142 mm

Time 6½ hours ahead of GMT

Measures UK (imperial) system and metric system

Monetary unit Australian dollar (A \$) = 100 cents

Rate of exchange (1976 av): free \$ 1.225 = A \$ 1, A \$ 1.474 = £ 1

Summary

Political Australian external territory from November 23, 1955; internal control was exercised by the Clunies-Ross family from 1831. Australia

announced an agreement in July 1978 to buy the territory from

Mr J Clunies-Ross for A \$ 6½ mn

Economic Coconuts, copra and coconut oil are the main products, and aviation services are important

People, resources, equipment, production and trade

Population 1960 605*, 1970 624*, 1976 500*

Growth: 1960–70 0.3* %pa, 1970–76 -3.6* %pa

Density (1976): 36* people per km²

Vital statistics (rate per 1 000 people, 1973): births 23, deaths 6

Race (1976) Malay 75*** %, European (mainly Scottish) 25*** %

Language English

National income per person (1976) A \$ 1 000*** = \$ 1 200*** = £ 700***

Telephones (Dec 1976) 83, 180 per 1 000 people

Airport West Island

Radio sets (1975) 650, 1 076 per 1 000 people

Gross domestic product

1976 est: A \$ 0.6***mn = \$ 0.7***mn = £ 0.4***mn

Main products (000 t, 1976) Coconuts 3*, copra 0.24*

External trade *Main export* (1975/76) Copra 423 t