

The State of the Nation 2007

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In recent editions of Australia's *Business Review Weekly (BRW)*, a range of Australian population and trade related data and information has been presented. The *Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)* also recently released initial findings from the analysis of the 2006 Australian Census.

This June 2007 "*State of the Nation*" newsletter presents excerpts from these BRW editions and the 2006 Australian Census findings.

1. Australia's Population

During the 20th century, Australia's population grew from 3.8m in 1900 to 19.4m in 2000, an annual average growth rate of 1.7%. Australia's population in 2007 is 21m, with a projected population of just over 22m by 2016.

The median age of Australia's resident population increased to 37 years in 2006. Nearly 25% of the total Australian population is aged 55 or older (Table 1).

Table 1: Australian Population 2006 Census

Age Group	% of Total Population
0 – 14	19.8%
15 – 24	13.6%
25 – 54	42.2%
55 and over	24.4%
Total	100.0%

Indigenous Australians - Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders - comprised 2.3% of the 2006 Census.

79% of people in the 2006 Census spoke only English at home. Small proportions of the population spoke other languages at home other than English, the most common being Italian, Greek, Cantonese, Arabic, and Mandarin.

Australia's immigration rate is around 130,000 people per year. The source regions for Australia's 2007 immigration are found in Table 2, with the Asia-Pacific Region (notably New Zealand and China) being the dominant region.

Table 2: Australian Immigration Sources 2007

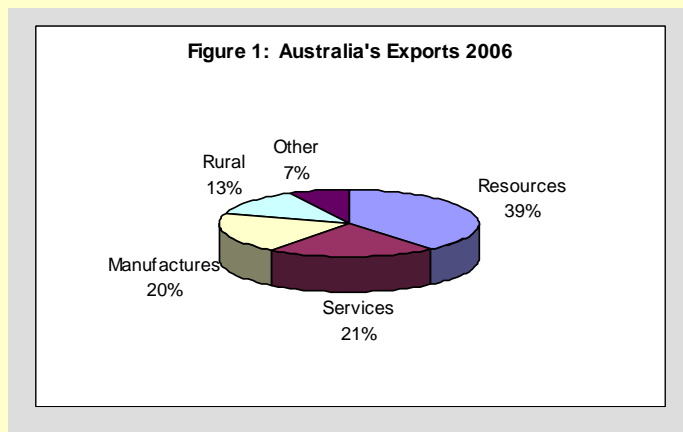
Source Regions	% of Total Immigration
Asia-Pacific	47.2%
Western Europe (UK mainly)	19.8%
Africa and the Middle East	15.4%
Indian sub continent	11.5%
All other	6.1%
Total	100.0%

Sources: BRW 7-13 June 2007; ABS 2006 Census <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

2. Australia's Exports

In 2006, exports in all sectors grew to a total value of A\$210bn, a 16% increase on 2005 export value.

Primary Industry exports (Resources eg coal and iron-ore, and Rural exports) accounted for 52% of Australia's total export value (Figure 1). Minerals and Fuels led the way in growth to a total value of A\$81.9bn, with a 6% growth in Rural exports to A\$26.2bn.



Manufactured exports increased by 14% to A\$42.1bn (20% of total exports), and Service exports increased by 8% to A\$43.8bn (21% of total exports). 24% of all Service exports were education-related travel services. Japan, China and South Korea were the major export destinations in 2006.

According to CEDA, The Committee for Economic Development of Australia, in the six years to 2000, export volumes grew by 56%. Since 2000, Australia has lifted export performance by only 9%.

It is predicted that by 2025 and with the economic rise of both China and India, non-OECD countries will produce about 60% of world output, and there will be a general pattern of declining exports across the OECD countries including Australia.

3. Beyond Exporting

As Australian companies strengthen their place in the international economy, overseas earnings are beginning to outstrip export income.

In 2006, the combined revenue of Australia's top 100 global enterprises was A\$181bn. These enterprises included 40 Services companies, 27 Manufacturers, 16 Mining companies (that represented 40% of total revenue creation) and 7 Agribusinesses.

Conventional export support and promotion agencies such as Austrade and EFIC are repositioning themselves to assist with the building of improved global supply chains.

Sources: BRW April 26 - June 6, 2007; BRW May 7-13 2007; BRW May 17-23 2007; BRW June 21-27 2007