

# LAOS

Fact Sheet

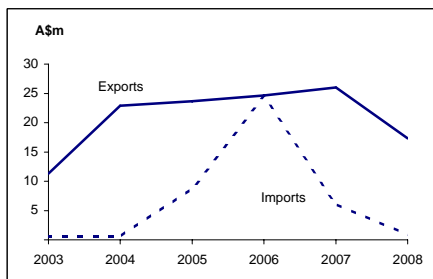
## General information:

Fact sheets are updated biannually; May and September

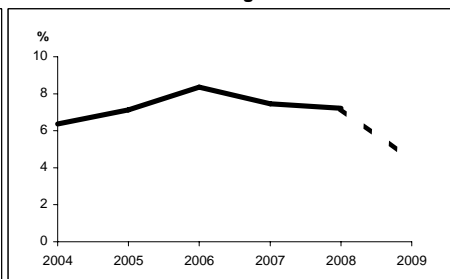
|                           |                            |                            |                                    |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Capital:</b>           | Vientiane                  | <b>Head of State:</b>      |                                    |
| <b>Surface area:</b>      | 237 thousand sq km         | <b>Head of Government:</b> | President HE Mr Choummaly Sayasone |
| <b>Official language:</b> | Lao                        |                            |                                    |
| <b>Population:</b>        | 6.3 million (2008)         |                            |                                    |
| <b>Exchange rate:</b>     | A\$1 = 7,492.98 Kip (2008) |                            |                                    |

| <i>Recent economic indicators:</i>           | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008(a) | 2009(b) |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|
| <b>GDP (US\$bn) (current prices):</b>        | 2.5   | 2.9   | 3.5   | 4.1   | 5.3     | 5.6     |
| <b>GDP PPP (US\$bn) (c):</b>                 | 9.3   | 10.2  | 11.4  | 12.6  | 13.8    | 14.5    |
| <b>GDP per capita (US\$):</b>                | 433   | 485   | 582   | 675   | 841     | 876     |
| <b>GDP per capita PPP (US\$) (c):</b>        | 1,608 | 1,727 | 1,893 | 2,050 | 2,204   | 2,279   |
| <b>Real GDP growth (% change yoy):</b>       | 6.4   | 7.1   | 8.4   | 7.5   | 7.2     | 4.4     |
| <b>Current account balance (US\$m):</b>      | -424  | -492  | -367  | -745  | -819    | -651    |
| <b>Current account balance (% GDP):</b>      | -16.9 | -17.2 | -10.5 | -18.0 | -15.6   | -11.7   |
| <b>Goods &amp; services exports (% GDP):</b> | 21.6  | 26.4  | 31.5  | 29.0  | na      | na      |
| <b>Inflation (% change yoy):</b>             | 10.5  | 7.2   | 6.8   | 4.5   | 7.6     | 0.2     |

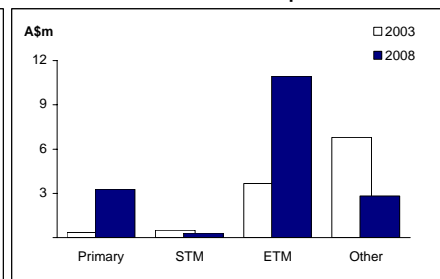
Australia's merchandise trade with Laos



Real GDP growth



Australia's merchandise exports to Laos



## Australia's trade relationship with Laos (d):

| Australian merchandise trade with Laos, 2008: |    | Total share: | Rank: | Growth (yoy): |
|---|----|--------------|-------|---------------|
| Exports to Laos (A\$m):                       | 17 | 0.0%         | 104th | -33.4%        |
| Imports from Laos (A\$m):                     | 1  | 0.0%         | 150th | -86.6%        |
| Total trade (exports + imports) (A\$m):       | 18 | 0.0%         | 120th | -43.5%        |

### Major Australian exports, 2008\* (A\$'000):

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| Specialised machinery & parts | 6,392 |
| Alcoholic beverages           | 1,608 |
| Cereal preparations           | 1,456 |
| Pumps for liquids & parts     | 445   |

### Major Australian imports, 2008 (A\$'000):

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Wood, simply worked  | 297 |
| Clothing             | 205 |
| Artwork & antiques   | 145 |
| Taps, cocks & valves | 55  |

\*Includes A\$2.8m of confidential items and special transactions, 16% of total exports.

### Australia's trade in services with Laos, 2008:

|                                       |    | Total share: |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------------|
| Exports of services to Laos (A\$m):   | na | na           |
| Imports of services from Laos (A\$m): | na | na           |

## Laos' global merchandise trade relationships:

### Laos' principal export destinations, 2008:

|    |           |       |
|----|-----------|-------|
| 1  | Thailand  | 34.7% |
| 2  | Vietnam   | 13.2% |
| 3  | China     | 8.6%  |
| 31 | Australia | 0.0%  |

### Laos' principal import sources, 2008:

|    |           |       |
|----|-----------|-------|
| 1  | Thailand  | 68.6% |
| 2  | China     | 11.3% |
| 3  | Vietnam   | 4.7%  |
| 12 | Australia | 0.5%  |

Compiled by the Market Information and Research Section, DFAT, using the latest data from the ABS, the IMF and various international sources.

(a) All recent data subject to revision; (b) IMF forecast; (c) PPP is purchasing power parity; (d) Total may not add due to rounding.

na Data not available.