



# SYRIA

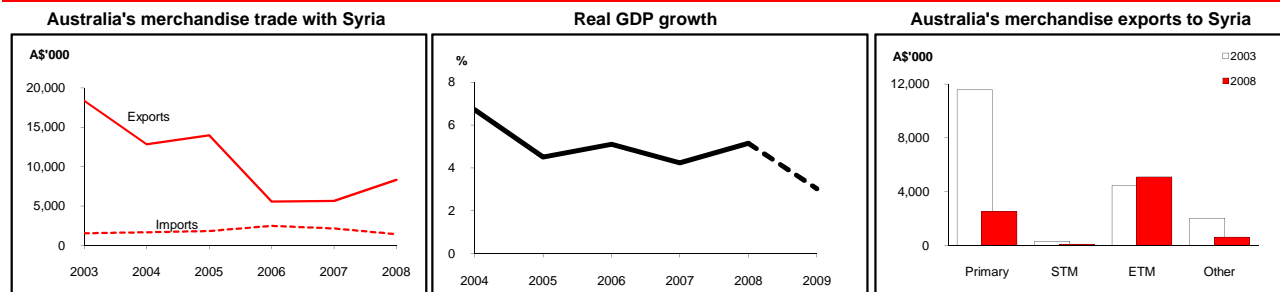
Fact Sheet

## General information:

Fact sheets are updated biannually; May and September

<b>Capital:</b>	Damascus	<b>Head of State:</b>	
<b>Surface area:</b>	185 thousand sq km	<b>President HE Dr Bashar Al-Assad</b>	
<b>Official language:</b>	Arabic	<b>Head of Government:</b>	
<b>Population:</b>	19.9 million (2009)	<b>Prime Minister HE Eng Mohamad Naji Otri</b>	
<b>Exchange rate:</b>	A\$1 = 9.6004 Pounds (2008)		

<b>Recent economic indicators:</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008(a)</b>	<b>2009(b)</b>
<b>GDP (US\$bn) (current prices):</b>	25.0	28.6	33.5	40.6	54.8	52.8
<b>GDP PPP (US\$bn) (c):</b>	70.9	75.7	82.1	87.9	94.4	98.2
<b>GDP per capita (US\$):</b>	1,390	1,557	1,769	2,090	2,757	2,590
<b>GDP per capita PPP (US\$) (c):</b>	3,943	4,122	4,334	4,528	4,749	4,820
<b>Real GDP growth (% change yoy):</b>	6.7	4.5	5.1	4.2	5.2	3.0
<b>Current account balance (US\$m):</b>	-396	-632	-923	-1,352	-2,177	-1,630
<b>Current account balance (% GDP):</b>	-1.6	-2.2	-2.8	-3.3	-4.0	-3.1
<b>Goods &amp; services exports (% GDP):</b>	39.3	40.3	39.3	na	na	na
<b>Inflation (% change yoy):</b>	4.4	7.2	10.4	4.7	14.5	7.5



## Australia's trade and investment relationship with Syria (d):

<b>Australian merchandise trade with Syria, 2008:</b>		<b>Total share:</b>	<b>Rank:</b>	<b>Growth (yoy):</b>
Exports to Syria (A\$'000):	8,317	0.0%	131st	47.9%
Imports from Syria (A\$'000):	1,419	0.0%	133rd	-34.2%
Total trade (exports + imports) (A\$'000):	9,736	0.0%	141st	25.1%

<b>Major Australian exports, 2008 (A\$'000):</b>		<b>Major Australian imports, 2008 (A\$'000):</b>	
Food processing machines & parts	1,951	Vegetables, prepared or preserved	293
Plastic plates, sheets & film	1,174	Spices	250
Milk & cream	1,047	Chocolate & preparations of cocoa	131
Pulp & waste paper	719	Cereal preparations	108

<b>Australia's trade in services with Syria, 2008:</b>		<b>Total share:</b>
Exports of services to Syria (A\$m):	na	na
Imports of services from Syria (A\$m):	na	na

<b>Australia's investment relationship with Syria, 2008 (e):</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>FDI:</b>
Australia's investment in Syria (A\$m):	na	na
Syria's investment in Australia (A\$m):	na	na

## Syria's global merchandise trade relationships.

<b>Syria's principal export destinations, 2007:</b>			<b>Syria's principal import sources, 2007:</b>		
1	Italy	23.7%	1	Russian Federation	9.8%
2	France	11.5%	2	China	8.0%
3	Saudi Arabia	10.6%	3	Italy	6.9%
63	Australia	0.0%	49	Australia	0.2%

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;

(e) Stock, as at 31 December. Released annually by the ABS. na Data not available.