

Forthcoming changes to DFAT's trade statistical publications and products

DFAT will be making a number of changes to the content and range of its statistical products on the DFAT website in 2014. The changes are aimed at disseminating more of Australia's trade statistics as electronic time series data in Microsoft (MS) Excel format (either pivot tables or spreadsheet format) rather than fixed PDF output.

This change will better meet the needs of trade users in the digital age and allows DFAT to release a more comprehensive data set of Australia's trade statistics.

1. *Composition of Trade and the Trade in Primary and Manufactured Products* publications

The [Composition of Trade](#) (COT) publication will incorporate tables from the *Trade in Primary and Manufactured Products* publication from the 2013 issue onwards. The [Trade in Primary and Manufactured Products](#) publication will be discontinued from the 2012-13 issue.

The new *Composition of Trade* publication will be redesigned to concentrate on the major trends in Australia's trade statistics, looking at both trends in goods and services (on a balance of payments basis) and merchandise trade (on a recorded trade basis), including trade data by DFAT's own trade classification - [Trade Import Export Classification](#) (or TRIEC) and the United Nations' Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). The publication will retain the core country and commodity ranking tables.

The detailed country analysis tables (**Sections 6 and 7** in COT) will be removed from the publication to be replaced with the major countries only. Data for all partner countries can be accessed from the DFAT pivot tables. The two pivot tables cover all partner countries (rather than a selection of countries covered in the publications) and publish a longer term time series (rather than just the latest five years).

The new *Composition of Trade* publication will continue to be published on a calendar and financial year basis.

2. *Geographic publications – Australia's trade with the Americas, Australia's trade with East Asia and Australia's trade with Europe*

The three geographic publications will be discontinued after the release of the 2013 editions in mid-2014. However all the trade data in these publications can be accessed either from the other trade statistical publications released by DFAT, or through the new trade time series data to be released on the DFAT website.

Periodic analysis on Australia's trade with the three regions will continue to be produced and published under the webpage – [Recent trade statistical articles and information papers](#).

3. *Enhanced time series data in MS Excel pivot tables and spread sheets*

DFAT will expand its range of time series trade data on an MS Excel basis. All trade statistical time series data will be released from a consolidated web page on the DFAT website, under the [Trade and economic statistics](#) page. The time series data will include:

- i) [Trade statistical pivot tables](#). Over the past year DFAT has been trialling two pivot tables on the DFAT website:
 - Australia's exports and imports by all countries and selected country groups by SITC at the 3-digit level; and
 - Australia's exports and imports by all countries and selected country groups by DFAT's TRIEC at the 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-digit levels.

These two pivot tables will now be put into production and released on a calendar and financial year basis.

A new user guide to the pivot tables will be developed to help users who are not yet familiar with using pivot tables.

- ii) Time series data on Australia's trade in goods and services. New time series spreadsheets will be developed covering Australia's trade in goods and services (exports, imports & two-way trade). Data on goods, services and goods and services will be published for 34 of Australia's major trading partners, as well as data by broad geographic groups and selected country groups.

The spreadsheets will be published on a calendar year basis (back to 1987) and a financial year basis (back to 1986-87).

- iii) As part of a new product, *Australia's Trade Through Time* (ATTT), two new spreadsheets will be available in 2014. The first spreadsheet, ***Australia's trade and economic indicators***, contains time series data for a range of trade and economic indicators back to 1901 (and for total merchandise trade back to 1826). The second time series spreadsheet, ***Australia's direction of trade***, will contain time series data for around 60 of Australia's major merchandise trading partners back to 1901 (and in some cases to 1885).

4. Other trade statistical publications

The other DFAT trade statistical publications *Monthly trade data*, *Trade at a Glance*, *The APEC Region Trade and Investment*, *Trade in Services*, *Australia* and *Australia's Trade by State and Territory* will continue to be published in their existing format. However, in the future it is planned to expand the range of trade data time series to replace some of these publications.

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