

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

CHAPTER SUMMARY: SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

The Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) Chapter aims to promote the growth and development of SMEs in TPP Parties.

SMEs are key contributors to Australian jobs and economic growth, and Australian goods and services exports. In 2014-15, Australian small businesses alone made up 97 per cent of all Australian businesses, produced over \$379 billion, and employed 4.7 million Australians. Australian SMEs comprise 88 per cent of Australia's goods exporters and 65 per cent of services exporters.

The important contribution that SMEs make to the Australian economy and trading relationships will be enhanced by implementation of this Chapter.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHAPTER

The Chapter requires TPP Parties to establish and maintain a website containing information about the TPP, including information designed to assist SMEs to benefit from the opportunities created by the TPP. TPP Parties' websites will contain the text of the Agreement, including annexes, tariff schedules, and product specific rules of origin.

The SMEs Chapter will also require Parties to have links to the equivalent websites of all other Parties. This will ensure that SMEs in TPP Parties have access to the relevant commercial information on TPP markets that they are operating in, or planning to operate in at some point in the future. Where possible, TPP Parties will publish information on the website in English.

To promote the continued growth and development of SMEs in TPP Parties, a Committee on SMEs will be established, comprising government representatives of each TPP Party. The Committee will:

- identify ways to assist SMEs to take advantage of the TPP;
- exchange experiences on best practices to support SME exporters;
- explore opportunities for capacity building opportunities to enhance SME export counselling, assistance and training programs; and
- facilitate the development of programs to assist SMEs to participate in, and contribute to, global value chains.

The SMEs Chapter is not subject to the TPP Dispute Settlement Chapter.

