

# Chapter 20

## TRADE

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# Chapter 20

## TRADE

**Tasmania is often described as the three per cent State, as we represent that proportion of Australia. Looking at Tasmania's trading activity, as a whole, and as a percentage of Australia's, reinforces this image.**

Tasmania's first recorded trading activity occurred in 1808 when a cargo of sugar arrived at the colony from Bengal. Exports began in 1812 when the *Cyclops* sailed for Sydney with a cargo of locally grown wheat.

In June 1813 ports were opened to commerce and trading began in Van Diemen's Land. 20 000 bushels of wheat were exported to Sydney in 1817. In 1819 wheat to the value of £4 000 (\$8 000) was exported and in 1820, 43 917 pounds (19 962 kg) of salted meat which was produced at the settlement of Hobart, was exported to Sydney.

During the 1820s the economy of the colony was becoming diversified even though it still remained very basic. Imports arrived from Britain, India, Mauritius and Batavia while exports were shipped to Britain and Sydney. In 1822 goods exported consisted of wheat, oil, whalebones, seal and kangaroo skins, logs of pine and beechwood, salt, wool, horses and hides. Barley, potatoes, whalebone, cedar logs and tallow were included in 1823.

In the *Statistical Returns of Van Diemen's Land 1835-38*, compiled from official records in the Colonial Secretary's office, it was recorded 'that the imports for the three years have increased 20 per cent, and the very pleasing fact that the exports for the same period have increased at the astonishing rate of 81 per cent, or from £320 679 (\$641 358), in 1835 to £581 475 (\$1 162 950) in 1838.'



*Loading newsprint for export.*

*Photo: Mercury*

The most prominent item imported into Van Diemen's Land, during the early years of settlement, was livestock. By 1837 however, two years after the settlement of Port Phillip, livestock had become the major export line which, together with wool, dominated export trade.

During the 1840s there was a falling off of exports due to a slump in the price of the Colony's staple commodity, wool. There was also a decline in the export of oil and whalebone which were also main export commodity items. The largest increase in trade occurred with the British colonies during this period.

In 1842 the value of imports into Van Diemen's Land was a high £21 (\$42) per head compared with only £2 10s (\$5) per head in

Britain. The value of exports for the same year, per head of population was £10 (\$20) per head for Van Diemen's Land compared with only £2 (\$4) for Great Britain and Ireland. By the mid 1800s the value of trade, especially exports, had grown dramatically.

As the colony developed and progressed through the late 1800s the exporting of locally produced commodities became increasingly important to the economy of the State.

By 1880 the value of exports had exceeded the value of imports. This balance of trade (excess of exports over imports) see-sawed over the following five decades then stabilised over the period 1937-38 to 1948-49 with exports once again exceeding the value of imports. From 1949-50 to 1954-55 the balance fluctuated once again but from 1955-56 the value of exports has consistently exceeded the value of imports. As a result of this healthy balance of trade the State plays a healthy role as an earner of export income for Australia.

In 1988-89 the total value of exports from Tasmania stood at \$1 357 million, an increase of 11 per cent on 1987-88.

## 20.1 TASMANIA'S TRADING PARTNERS

From the earliest days of Tasmania's settlement the United Kingdom was the main overseas market for the State's exports. However, over the last 20 years or so Tasmania's overseas markets have changed markedly.

### 20.1.1 Market Changes

In 1957-58 Tasmania's major trading partners in terms of the value of goods exported were as follows:

• United Kingdom	\$18.6 million
• United States of America	\$4.0 million
• India	\$3.7 million
• Italy	\$2.8 million
• France	\$2.8 million
• Japan	\$2.8 million
• Federal Republic of Germany	\$2.4 million

A decade later Thailand and the Phillipines had also become significant markets.

During the late 1960s Japan became the principal recipient of Tasmanian exports when it substantially increased its iron-ore requirements. In the twelve months to June 1968, Japanese importers spent a total of \$9 million on Tasmanian goods and the following year this had jumped to \$17 million, most of which was for iron-ore.

The new ranking of Japan, United Kingdom and the United States of America persisted until 1972-73 when the UK slipped behind the USA. In 1975-76 the United Kingdom was replaced by Indonesia, and Malaysia became an important market in 1976-77 when it increased its intake of tin concentrates from Tasmania.

More recently Belgium-Luxembourg (the Benelux) has become an important market for Tasmanian lead concentrates and greasy wool. Between 1984-85 and 1986-87 exports to this market increased five fold, from \$7.4 million to \$39.6 million.

For 1988-89 Tasmania's major trading partners in terms of value of goods exported had become:

• Japan	\$519.1 million
• United States of America	\$136.5 million
• Malaysia	\$96.1 million
• Taiwan	\$84.4 million
• Indonesia	\$71.7 million
• South Korea	\$53.7 million
• Hong Kong	\$46.5 million
• Germany, Federal Republic	\$37.4 million
• Singapore	\$35.4 million
• Belgium - Luxembourg	\$34.4 million
• New Zealand	\$33.6 million

Britain has changed from being the international trading focus of Tasmania to being the twelfth largest recipient of exports taking a relatively unimportant 1.9 per cent of Tasmania's foreign trade. To a great extent this is due to changes that are present in the buying patterns of Europe with the advent of the European Economic Community, but it also shows the development of export industries tailored to the markets of different countries.

### 20.1.2 Main Trading Partners

Countries bordering the Pacific Ocean constitute Tasmania's main trading partners. Japan, the United States of America, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea and Hong Kong now provide markets for 74.1 per cent of Tasmania's exports. At the same time, Japan,

the United States of America, Canada, Singapore, New Zealand, Taiwan and South Korea provide 61.5 per cent of Tasmanian imports.

### Japan

In 1988-89 Tasmania exported a total of \$519 million worth of goods to Japan. This represented 38 per cent of the total value of Tasmania's foreign exports. Most of these exports consisted of relatively unprocessed goods although certain high value added items are starting to appear on the list. There are many products that Tasmania provides that are in demand in Japan, but there are some difficulties with open access to the Japanese marketplace (for example with beef, fruit and downstream processed products).

#### 20.1 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO JAPAN, 1988-89

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (\$'000)
Abalone	740	28 796
Beef	3 351	12 830
Cheese	4 496	10 206
Crayfish	137	3 314
Dried milk	1 644	3 422
Hides and leather	139	362
Lamb	784	1 049
Metals (in all forms except manufactures) -		
Aluminium	10 855	26 014
Cadmium	262	5 154
Copper	64 323	49 007
Iron	28 849	2 020
Lead	16 521	6 766
Silicon	795	1 413
Tungsten	540	3 256
Zinc	36 498	44 028
Onions	1 989	985
Textiles and yarns	20	315
Timber	311	387
Trout and salmon	11	167
Wood-pulp and chips	39 066	13 858
Wool	1 836	22 275
Restricted items (a)	4 869 645	281 119
Other items	-	2 397
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>519 140</b>

(a) Comprises the value of items for which details are not available for separate publication, mainly woodchips and aluminium.

### United States of America

Trade with the United States of America is worth \$136.5 million, which represents 10.1 per cent of Tasmania's overseas exports. The major

item traded is zinc valued at \$57.5 million. Metals, at various stages of processing, make up 58 per cent of the goods sent to the USA. In contrast with our other major trading partners, there is a higher degree of entry (by value) for Tasmanian finished products such as linen, machinery and textiles. Goods that are fairly well downstream processed make up over 10 per cent of Tasmania's export trade to the USA.

#### 20.2 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1988-89

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (\$'000)
Abalone	30	1 072
Bed linen	422	8 645
Beef	3 916	10 400
Casein	160	1 099
Cheese	2 051	4 766
Crayfish	45	1 584
Fish fillets	267	2 360
Lamb and mutton	258	450
Machinery	42	806
Malt and malt products	609	858
Metals (in all forms except manufactures) -		
Cadmium	517	1 913
Ferro-alloys	44 560	19 891
Titanium	120	178
Zinc	27 318	57 554
Oil seeds	1 005	1 399
Opium and derivatives	4	613
Sheep (breeding - number)	40	148
Textiles and yarns	166	2 304
Wool	894	8 441
Restricted items (a)	36 666	8 254
Other items	-	3 780
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>136 515</b>

(a) Comprises items for which details are not publishable.

### Malaysia

Tasmania's most valuable export to Malaysia is tin concentrates. Despite the recent world tin surplus, in 1988-89 the value of this commodity accounted for 63.5 per cent of the total value of Tasmania's exports to Malaysia. This compares with \$47.9 million (73 per cent) in 1986-87. Malaysia is also the third largest overseas market for Tasmanian apples, being only just behind Singapore and Finland. In total, \$96 million worth of goods were sent to Malaysia, 7.1 per cent of Tasmania's total export trade.

### 20.3 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO MALAYSIA, 1988-89

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (\$'000)
Apples	1 514	1 317
Dried milk	112	209
Hops	77	357
Machinery	9	135
Malt and malt products	30	106
Metals (in all forms except manufactures) -		
Aluminium	3 784	10 784
Ferro-alloys	2 000	1 082
Tin	13 792	61 021
Titanium	845	2 124
Zinc	8 420	16 522
Restricted items (a)	8 465	1 348
Other items	-	1 107
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>96 112</b>

(a) Comprises items for which details are not publishable.

### Indonesia

Indonesia, our fifth largest export market is worth \$72 million, which is 5.3 per cent of our trade. It is virtually a single product market with zinc comprising 87.6 per cent of the value of exports.

### 20.4 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO INDONESIA, 1988-89

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (\$'000)
Beef	3	25
Food beverages	1 074	2 046
Hops	16	79
Machinery	3	77
Metals (in all forms except manufactures) -		
Aluminium	79	205
Ferro-alloys	6 811	3 127
Titanium	938	2 407
Zinc	3 440	62 871
Onions	247	73
Restricted items (a)	42	7
Other items	-	814
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71 731</b>

(a) Comprises items for which details are not publishable.

### Taiwan

Trade with Taiwan centres around raw materials with only 1.7 per cent being processed beyond the 'refined' stage and this is mainly in the

food products area. Taiwan represents \$84.4 million, or 6.2 per cent of Tasmania's external trade.

### 20.5 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO TAIWAN, 1988-89

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (\$'000)
Abalone	198	7 276
Beef	455	1 631
Crayfish	40	799
Dried milk	434	902
Food beverages	103	302
Machinery	5	194
Malt and malt products	291	1 052
Metals (in all forms except manufactures) -		
Aluminium	10 631	31 319
Silicon	398	955
Titanium	445	1 102
Zinc	14 700	28 637
Opium and derivatives	1	926
Textiles and yarns	6	149
Timber	243	205
Wool	50	242
Restricted items (a)	59	163
Other items	-	8 548
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84 402</b>

(a) Comprises items for which details are not publishable.

## 20.2 VALUE OF OVERSEAS TRADE

Tasmania has a healthy balance of overseas trade. The value of exports in excess of imports has increased dramatically in recent years. In 1988-89 it was \$2 235 per head of mean population, an increase of 6.7 per cent over the previous year. Over the same period imports rose by 23.4 per cent. Compared with the rest of Australia, Tasmania has performed more than creditably. Per head of population, Tasmania has consistently imported less and exported more than Australia as a whole.

It is important to note that the level of imports into Tasmania is, however, consistently understated. This is due to large consignments arriving on the mainland and being broken up and a fragment, now interstate trade, coming to Tasmania. This problem does not exist for exports.

### 20.6 BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE, TASMANIA

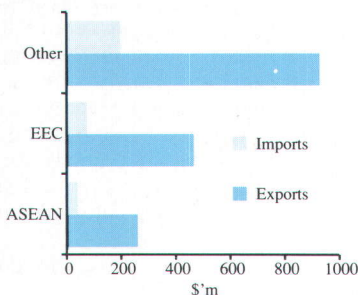
Year	Total (\$'000)	Per head of population (\$)
1850	-30	-0.4
1860	-212	-2.4
1870	-288	-2.8
1880	+286	+2.5
1890	-822	-5.7
1900	+1 074	+6.2
1930-31	-492	-2.2
1940-41	+2 932	+12.0
1950-51	+4 626	+15.9
1960-61	+9 918	+27.9
1970-71	+113 451	+290.7
1980-81	+333 163	+783.5
1984-85	+451 699	+1 028.0
1985-86	+600 613	+1 345.0
1986-87	+810 283	+1 804.0
1987-88	+939 540	+2 095.0
1988-89	+1 007 946	+2 235.2

Balance of trade figures were as important in the 19th century as they are in the 20th.

*'No. 5 shows that the Imports for the three years have increased 20 per cent, and the very pleasing fact that the Exports for the same period have increased at the astonishing rate of 81 per cent, or from £320 679 in 1835 to £581 475 in 1838. The imports are more than £15 for every individual on the Island.'*

Quote from the *Statistical Returns of Van Diemen's Land, from 1824 to 1839.*

### VALUE OF FOREIGN TRADE 1988-89



Other = Other major trading partners  
EEC = European Economic Community  
ASEAN = Assn of South East Asian Nations

### 20.7 VALUE OF FOREIGN TRADE, 1988-89 (\$'000)

Country or country group	Exports	Imports
Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) -		
Indonesia	71 731	189
Malaysia	96 112	688
Phillipines	21 943	674
Singapore	35 419	29 982
Thailand	27 494	2 381
ASEAN Total	252 699	33 914
European Economic Community (EEC) -		
Belgium-Luxembourg	344 301	690
Denmark	532	2 027
France	16 444	9 730
Germany, Federal Republic	37 406	13 855
Greece	3 412	5 757
Ireland	1 286	563
Italy	23 533	20 579
Netherlands	4 988	8 572
Portugal	375	74
Spain	2 020	679
United Kingdom	26 627	16 494
EEC Total	460 924	79 020
Other major trading partners -		
Canada	5 949	35 089
China (excluding Taiwan)	4 963	3 562
Hong Kong	46 492	1 179
India	10 712	1 596
Japan	529 628	53 891
Korea, Republic of	53 730	7 831
New Zealand	33 561	24 559
Saudi Arabia	17 240	1 391
Taiwan	84 402	11 610
United States of America	136 515	51 241
World Total	1 356 594	304 883

## 20.3 COMMODITIES TRADED

### 20.3.1 Commodities Exported

Tasmania produces a wide range of goods although our international exports are basically of raw materials and are dominated by a few commodities. The top six exports provide 69.2 per cent of the total value of exports. Some of these materials are partly processed or refined within the State (for example zinc), whilst others (such as woodchips) have a very low value added

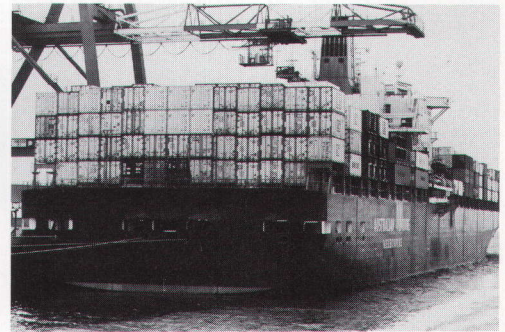
component. There are encouraging signs with the growth of very high quality food production and processing industries which have a very good potential market internationally. This is due to their freedom from environmental pollutants and disease free state in comparison with their mainly European competitors. An excellent example of this are the fine cheese and the

onion product exporters. Some Tasmanian manufacturers have also started selling quality goods overseas (for example winches, boats, alloy wheels, boots and radio aerials). Currently these manufactures are only a small proportion of the processed goods exported. At present processed goods make up only \$70.9 million (5.2 per cent) of the major exports and most sales of these high value added products are to New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. Entry to the more restricted markets of Europe, East Asia and the USA is difficult.

### 20.8 TASMANIAN OVERSEAS EXPORTS, 1988 - 89

Commodity	Quantity (tonnes)	Value (\$'000)
Abalone	1 462	54 054
Apples	9 058	6 902
Bed linen	454	9 281
Carpets	93	1 033
Casein	160	1 099
Cheese	7 733	18 904
Chocolate products	1 276	2 689
Crayfish	296	7 306
Dried milk	3 378	6 854
Fish fillets	268	2 369
Food beverages	2 264	5 221
Hides and leathers	5431	14 175
Hops	819	2 982
Machinery	344	7 034
Malt and malt products	4 714	5 090
Meat -		
Beef	3 351	12 830
Lamb and mutton	2 104	3 462
Metals (in all forms except manufactures) -		
Aluminium	42 498	118 317
Cadmium	931	7 948
Copper	64 323	49 007
Ferro-alloys	74 776	34 422
Iron	38 933	2 665
Lead	57 459	41 067
Tin	13 792	61 021
Titanium	7 930	20 022
Tungsten	1 912	11 029
Zinc	214 117	312 375
Oil seeds	1 978	2 522
Onions	40 336	19 823
Opium and derivatives	35	5 546
Paper and paper products	6 896	10 009
Plants for chemical extraction	2 383	1 491
Sheep (no.)	273 398	7 094
Tallow	8 017	3 610
Textiles and yarns	301	4 660
Timber	4 807	4 148
Woodchips and pulp	50 819	17 722
Wool	10 376	91 949
Restricted items (a)	5 106 096	312 488
Other items	98 032	56 194
Total	-	1 356 594

(a) Comprises items for which details are not publishable and is mainly comprised of woodchips and aluminium.



Bulk cargo carrier *Australian Venture* leaves Burnie with 300 containers of onions. Photo: Examiner

### 20.3.2 Commodities Imported

As would be expected of any modern diverse society, Tasmania imports a wide range of goods. Forty items were worth more than \$2 million in aggregate value of imports in 1988-89. There were another 22 items that had aggregate values of over \$1 million each. Unlike exports, where a few major items provide the majority of the value, the top six imports together make up only 31.2 per cent of their respective total. Most items that are imported direct to Tasmania are items of capital equipment and are thus income generating. Another large group are imported for immediate further downstream processing into goods for either domestic consumption or re-export. Examples of these goods include wood pulp and alumina.

There is a group of items, mostly for domestic household consumption but also including automatic data processing equipment and other goods, which is under-reported. These goods frequently arrive in another State in bulk and are broken up and sent on by a wholesaler.

## 20.9 TASMANIAN OVERSEAS IMPORTS, 1988 - 89

Commodity	Quantity (a)	Value (\$'000)
Aluminium and products	484	3 032
Artificial filaments (b)	682	2 826
Artificial staple fibres (b)	484	6 856
Chemicals, earths and stone -		
Calcium phosphate	56	3 886
Chemical elements	1 344	2 447
Chloride, bromide and iodide salts	2 060	3 353
Clays, various	27 611	4 479
Fertilizers, mixed	8 092	2 111
Fertilizers, potassic	20 694	2 460
Fluoride salts	5958	4 861
Graphites and carbonaceous pastes	-	2 899
Petroleum oils and products (litres)	92	19 376
Petroleum cokes	59 898	8 883
Sulphites	47 867	2 066
Cocoa paste, butter and powder	6 814	26 039
Cotton (b)	61	12 402
Fish	141	2 525
Machinery for capital investment -		
Carbon electrodes and brushes	-	3 874
Centrifuges	-	5 682
Electrical generating sets	-	8 695
Foundry converters and moulds	-	3 765
Machine tools and parts	-	9 884
Pulp and paper making machines	-	20 166
Transmission shafts	-	2 060
Unspecified food preparation equipment	-	2 121
Nuts	546	2 182
Paper and paper products	1 705	2 568
Plastic containers	630	2 147
Refractory bricks, blocks and tiles	11 549	8 846
Tyres, new (no.)	42 549	5 245
Vehicles and vessels (no.) -		
Boats, ships etc.	15	6 540
Bulldozers, graders and mobile plant	33	2 132
Cars	652	7 305
Forklifts etc.	10	2 168
Goods vehicles	809	9 385
Special purpose vehicles	95	3 193
Wood	-	2 520
Wood pulp	49 777	40 074
Wool (b)	614	3 669
Restricted items (c)	-	3 393
Other items	-	80 532
Total	-	348 647

(a) In tonnes unless specified. Caution should be exercised with this figure as not all items, even within categories, can have a quantity assigned to them.

(b) Includes yarns and textiles.

(c) Comprises items for which details are not publishable.

## 20.4 TASMANIAN PORTS

Tasmania has a number of ports capable of accommodating overseas vessels; they are situated on the Derwent and Huon rivers in the south (Hobart and Port Huon); in Spring Bay on the east coast; on the Tamar River in the north (Inspection Head, Long Reach and Bell Bay); on the Mersey River (Devonport), in Emu Bay, Burnie) and at Port Latta, all in the north-west.

All of these ports provide depths of approximately nine metre or more of water at berths. Port Latta provides a depth of 16 metres nearly one and a half kilometres off-shore.

There are four main Port Authorities servicing these areas. Interstate and intrastate trade passes through the main ports of Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie as well as through the smaller ports at Strahan, Stanley, Ulverstone, Currie (on King Island) and Lady Barron (on Flinders Island).

A feature of Tasmanian trade is that, whilst the main airports are controlled by the Federal Airports Corporation, the airports at Wynyard (Burnie) and Devonport are controlled by local Port Authorities, giving each of these Authorities responsibility for an integrated network.

## 20.10 TASMANIAN SEAPORT TRADE, 1988 - 89 (revenue tonnes)

Port	Inwards	Outwards	Total
Hobart	1 516 778	1 819 167	3 335 945
Launceston	1 694 443	3 067 472	4 761 915
Devonport	967 968	1 006 997	1 974 965
Burnie	1 597 782	1 614 241	3 212 023
Total	5 776 971	7 507 877	13 284 848

### 20.4.1 Hobart

The Hobart Marine Board controls about two thirds of Tasmania's coastline from Cape Portland on the north coast to Temma Harbour in the west. It is responsible for operations in the major ports of Hobart, Port Huon and Spring Bay (at Triabunna) as well as minor (mainly fishing) ports at Bicheno, Strahan, St Helens, Scamander and Dover, amongst others.



Port improvements, either under way or completed, include wharf improvements at Strahan, a freight forwarding facility, additional track for the gantry crane on Macquarie wharf and an increase in the capacity for handling refrigerated units (mainly for the fruit trade).

Hobart provides three roll-on, roll-off berths, five general cargo berths, two berths suitable for container operations or general cargo, a bulk wheat berth and a bulk petroleum berth. In addition there are two docks (Constitution and Victoria) for handling fishing vessels and recreational craft and slipyard facilities for vessels of up to 1200 tonnes. Discussions continue on the possibility of a private floating dock being added to the port facilities. This would enable maintenance and repair to be undertaken on larger vessels engaged in pelagic fishing and Antarctic supply and would complement the possible use of Hobart as a main Antarctic entry point. Port Huon provides two general cargo and fruit handling berths and a woodchip berth, and Triabunna (Spring Bay) has a woodchip handling berth. Other private facilities also exist. The trade of boat building has recently been revived within the Hobart area with several large craft undergoing construction for international and local buyers.

#### 20.4.2 Launceston

The Port of Launceston is situated on the Tamar River. At its mouth, deep water and broad expanses of river provide a valuable natural harbour. In this area, encompassing the anchorages of Bell Bay, Inspection Head and Long Reach, are located the major activities of the Port. A tidal range of up to 3.6 metres creates strong tidal currents which, by natural scouring, eliminate the need for any maintenance dredging in the lower reaches of the river.

A wide variety of functions are fulfilled within the Tamar River area. The Australian Maritime College has facilities at Beauty Point for training crew for fishing vessels and international and domestic shipping operators. Private firms in the area are engaged in the maintenance and construction of boats and recently the completion of an oil platform signalled a possible new industry for the State.

#### 20.4.3 Devonport

The Port of Devonport is situated on the Mersey River within two kilometres of the coast. The entrance is sheltered by Mersey Bluff

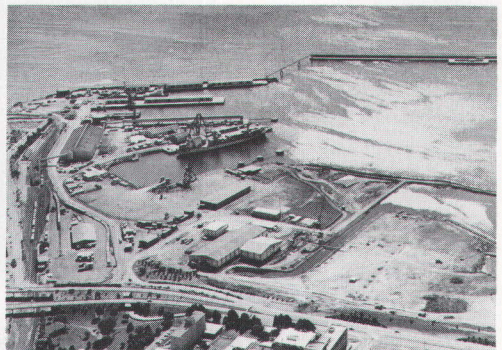
on the west and by a retaining wall extending over half a kilometre northward from the eastern shore of the river. The river was always a natural harbour for small craft and its development, by extensive dredging and engineering works, has resulted in a secure harbour for larger ships.

Although originally a general port, in recent years there has been a concentration on servicing a few major users, such as the TT Line's *Abel Tasman*, which carried 19.9 per cent of visitors to the State. In addition the building of cold stores, to facilitate the trade in vegetables, and bulk handling facilities for cement, have greatly increased the usage of the port.

#### 20.4.4 Burnie

The ports of Hobart, Launceston and Devonport all lie within the shelter of rivers, but the Port of Burnie, on Emu Bay, was built out into the open sea in the lee of Blackman Point. Protection from the potentially rough waters of Bass Strait is afforded by two large breakwaters. Burnie is a deep-water port with no tidal restrictions, except occasionally for the larger vessels, and is virtually fog-free. It is available for operation 24 hours every day and vessels can be at full speed 20 minutes after departure. All wharves are connected to the State railway system as well as a private track from the west coast area.

The Burnie Port Authority recently completed a harbour deepening program to facilitate usage by large container ships and to enable increased shipments of mineral concentrates. Jones Pier was dredged to 11.5 metres and the bulk berth to 11 metres. Generally Burnie is the main Tasmanian port for container transshipment and it handles a large quantity of the interstate general goods trade.



Port of Burnie.

Photo: Advocate

## 20.5 INTERSTATE TRADE

As well as trading internationally, Tasmania trades very significantly with the mainland. For the 1987-88 financial year, this interstate trade represented 60.5 per cent of our exported production. Goods leave the State by both sea, and increasingly, air. Goods sent by air include mainly the newer, high value added, industries; pharmaceuticals, salmon and trout and other specialist foodstuffs. It is interesting to note, however, that with the increased use of just-in-time stock control, more basic industrial goods

stoppages. Sea-trade, by a long standing agreement with maritime unions, has been exempted from industrial disputes in recognition of the vulnerable nature of Tasmania's economy. This vulnerability has been shown with the fall-out from a prolonged airlines dispute in 1989-90 with a decline in both tonnage and value being experienced in the September quarter air trade figures as compared to the figures for the previous year. The large number of small to medium sized businesses which failed during, or immediately after, this dispute can be at least partly blamed on their being cut off from their source of supplies or their markets.

### 20.11 QUANTITY OF INTERSTATE EXPORTS (EXCLUDING FOREIGN TRADE)(a) (tonnes) (b)

<i>Airport of exit</i>	<i>Sept. 1988</i>	<i>Dec. 1988</i>	<i>Mar. 1989</i>	<i>June 1989</i>	<i>Sept. 1989</i>	<i>Dec. 1989</i>
Launceston	1 111	1 575	989	899	827	956
Hobart	339	539	432	263	306	466
Other	82	248	132	226	61	53
Total	1 532	2 362	1 553	1 388	1 194	1 475

(a) Figures do not include: mail and parcel post, excess baggage, returns and non-valued items such as inter-plant transfers.

(b) Does not include the weight of those items aggregated by weight (eg oysters, clothing, footwear).

and even textiles, yarns, clothing and footwear (all of which have a high value per kilogram) are more effectively sent by air. This, of course, makes Tasmanian manufacture more dependent on uninterrupted traffic flow and vulnerable to

NOTE: Detailed figures on all of Tasmania's interstate trade are not kept. Some data can be obtained from Port Authorities and details of the expanding air export sector are available.

### 20.12 VALUE OF INTERSTATE EXPORTS (EXCLUDING FOREIGN TRADE) (\$'000)

<i>Airport of exit</i>	<i>Sept. 1988</i>	<i>Dec. 1988</i>	<i>Mar. 1989</i>	<i>June 1989</i>	<i>Sept. 1989</i>	<i>Dec. 1989</i>
Launceston	23 584	28 778	24 246	23 544	21 156	22 380
Hobart	7 377	9 813	7 270	5 493	4 965	7 963
Other	714	3 874	2 752	11 777	364	327
Total	31 675	42 469	34 268	40 814	26 485	30 671

**20.13 VALUE OF INTERSTATE EXPORTS (EXCLUDING FOREIGN TRADE),  
BY AIR, TASMANIA  
(\$ '000)**

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Sept. 1988</i>	<i>Dec. 1988</i>	<i>Mar. 1989</i>	<i>June 1989</i>	<i>Sept. 1989</i>	<i>Dec. 1989</i>
Molluscs, shellfish, etc.	476	468	97	62	83	147
Crayfish	1 824	3 071	1 445	622	975	1 654
Trawlfish	388	435	130	11	47	70
Trout and salmon	1 304	3 608	3 044	1 215	826	3 067
Other fish	403	373	360	248	333	216
Meats	355	347	264	413	143	57
Other food, crude animal and vegetable products	2 202	4 206	2 392	2 488	2 487	4 158
Metal manufactures	7 556	7 136	5 728	6 385	5 330	3 597
Printed matter	429	579	567	632	598	531
Textiles, yarns and fabrics	7 345	12 210	12 275	19 652	6 095	7 900
Other manufactured goods (a)	9 391	10 037	7 966	9 086	9 569	9 274
<b>Total</b>	<b>31 673</b>	<b>42 469</b>	<b>34 268</b>	<b>40 814</b>	<b>26 486</b>	<b>30 671</b>

(a) Comprises items for which details are not publishable.

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