

# Chapter 20

## TRADE

|        | <i>Page No.</i>                                  |
|--------|--|
| 20.1   | <b>Tasmania's Trading Partners</b> . . . . . 236 |
| 20.1.1 | Market Changes . . . . . 236                     |
| 20.1.2 | Main Trading Partners . . . . . 237              |
| 20.2   | <b>Value of Overseas Trade</b> . . . . . 238     |
| 20.3   | <b>Commodities Traded</b> . . . . . 238          |
| 20.3.1 | Commodities Exported . . . . . 238               |
| 20.3.2 | Commodities Imported . . . . . 239               |
| 20.4   | <b>Tasmanian Ports</b> . . . . . 239             |
| 20.4.1 | Hobart . . . . . 240                             |
| 20.4.2 | Launceston . . . . . 241                         |
| 20.4.3 | Devonport . . . . . 242                          |
| 20.4.4 | Burnie . . . . . 242                             |
| 20.5   | <b>Interstate Trade</b> . . . . . 243            |
| 20.6   | <b>Bibliography</b> . . . . . 243                |

# Chapter 20

## TRADE

**Tasmania is often described as the Three Per Cent State, because it represents that proportion of the Australian population. Tasmania's trading activity 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. Twenty thousand bushels of wheat were exported to Sydney in 1817. In 1819 wheat to the value of £4000 (\$8000) 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 beech, 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'.



*Hobart wharves, circa 1910.*

*Photo: Archives Office of Tasmania*

The most prominent import 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 and, with wool, it dominated export trade.

During the 1840s exports dropped 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 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, exporting 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 vital role as an earner of export income for Australia.

In 1989-90 the total value of exports from Tasmania was \$1474 million, an increase of nine per cent on 1988-89.

## 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 30 years 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 Philippines had also become significant markets.

### 20.1 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO JAPAN, 1989-90

| Commodity                                    | Value (\$'000) |
|--|----------------|
| Beverages                                    | 114            |
| Cereals and cereal preparations              | 328            |
| Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and by-products   | 137            |
| Crude animal and vegetable materials         | 956            |
| Dairy products and birds' eggs               | 12 855         |
| Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances | 173            |
| Fish, crustaceans and molluscs               | 37 931         |
| Inorganic chemicals                          | 4 886          |
| Meat and meat preparations                   | 10 882         |
| Metalliferous ores and metal scrap           | 142 851        |
| Miscellaneous edible products n.e.c.         | 280            |
| Non-ferrous metals                           | 69 933         |
| Office machines and ADP machines             | 137            |
| Pulp and waste paper                         | 231            |
| Raw hides and skins                          | 2 392          |
| Road vehicles                                | 1 501          |
| Textile fibres and waste                     | 13 785         |
| Textile yarns and fabrics                    | 477            |
| Timber                                       | 297            |
| Transport equipment (except road vehicles)   | 233            |
| Vegetables and fruit                         | 665            |
| Restricted items (a)                         | 190 042        |
| Other items                                  | 273            |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>491 359</b> |

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

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. Malaysia became an important market in 1976-77 when it increased its intake of tin concentrates from Tasmania.

For 1989-90 Tasmania's major trading partners in terms of value of goods exported had become:

- Japan \$491.4 million
- United States of America \$188.7 million
- Malaysia \$104.5 million
- Taiwan \$84.2 million
- Germany, Federal Republic \$65.3 million
- United Kingdom \$56.7 million

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| • Indonesia   | \$52.1 million |
| • New Zealand | \$43.4 million |
| • Singapore   | \$42.4 million |
| • South Korea | \$39.8 million |
| • Thailand    | \$36.4 million |
| • Hong Kong   | \$34.4 million |

### 20.1.2 Main Trading Partners

The ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries took 17 per cent of Tasmania's overseas exports in 1989-90. Main countries within this grouping, for Tasmanian exports were Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand. Japan is still the main single nation to which Tasmania exports. In 1989-90 Japan received a third of Tasmania's exports. Other main countries which Tasmania exported goods to included the USA, \$189 million (13 per cent of total overseas exports), Germany \$65.3 million, (four per cent), and the UK, \$56.7 million (four per cent).

#### Japan

In 1989-90 Tasmania exported a total of \$491 million worth of goods to Japan. This repre-

sented a third of the total value of Tasmania's overseas exports. Most of these exports consisted of relatively unprocessed goods.

#### *The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)*

The ASEAN countries (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand), are major purchasers of Tasmanian goods. In 1989-90 they took \$247.8 million worth of goods which was 16.8 per cent of Tasmania's exports. This compares with \$252.8 million (18.6 per cent) in 1988-89. There is a real decline in trade with Indonesia (from \$71.7 million to \$52.1 million) and the Philippines (from \$21.9 million to \$12.1 million) and increases in exports to Malaysia (from \$96.1 million to \$104.5 million), Singapore (from \$35.4 million to \$42.4 million) and Thailand (\$27.5 million to \$36.4 million). The decline, in percentage terms, is mainly due to an expansion in trade with Europe.

### 20.2 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO ASEAN COUNTRIES, 1989-90

| Commodity                                       | Value (\$'000) |
|---|----------------|
| Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & by-products        | 621            |
| Dairy products and birds' eggs                  | 7 981          |
| Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials         | 10 536         |
| Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances    | 3 077          |
| Feed stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals) | 1 003          |
| Fish, crustaceans and molluscs                  | 6 316          |
| General industry machinery & parts              | 112            |
| Inorganic chemicals                             | 124            |
| Iron and steel                                  | 11 882         |
| Meat and meat preparations                      | 489            |
| Metalliferous ores and metal scrap              | 77 549         |
| Miscellaneous edible products n.e.c.            | 5 112          |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.c.      | 598            |
| Non-ferrous metals                              | 100 879        |
| Paper, paperboard & manufactures thereof        | 6 665          |
| Power generating machinery and equipment        | 144            |
| Textile yarn and fabrics                        | 103            |
| Transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)       | 2 343          |
| Vegetables and fruit                            | 7 430          |
| Restricted items (a)                            | 4 553          |
| Other items                                     | 305            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>247 822</b> |

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

### 20.3 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO THE EEC 1989-90

| Commodity                                       | Value(\$'000)  |
|---|----------------|
| Animal oils & fats                              | 1067           |
| Crude animal & vegetable products n.e.c.        | 3055           |
| Dairy products & birds' eggs                    | 3582           |
| Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances    | 301            |
| Essential oils & resinoids                      | 530            |
| Fish, crustaceans & molluscs                    | 1574           |
| General industrial machinery & parts            | 727            |
| Inorganic chemicals                             | 506            |
| Machinery specialised for particular industries | 101            |
| Meat & meat preparations                        | 1898           |
| Medical & pharmaceutical products               | 889            |
| Metalliferous ores & metal scrap                | 69 073         |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.c.      | 424            |
| Non-ferrous metals                              | 2214           |
| Oil seeds & oleaginous fruit                    | 885            |
| Power generating machinery & equipment          | 372            |
| Raw hides & skins                               | 7101           |
| Textile fibres & waste                          | 87 622         |
| Textile yarns & fabrics                         | 3860           |
| Timber  | 2198           |
| Transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)       | 17 329         |
| Vegetables & fruit                              | 23 440         |
| Restricted items (a)                            | 2476           |
| Other items                                     | 282            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>231 507</b> |

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

### The European Economic Community

After Japan and ASEAN, Europe is Tasmania's third largest market. In 1989-90 it was worth \$232 million, which is 15.7 per cent of our trade.

### United States of America

Trade with the United States of America is worth \$188.7 million, which represents 12.8 per cent of Tasmania's overseas exports. The major item traded is zinc. Metals, at various stages of processing, make up 59 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 highly value-added make up about eight per cent of Tasmania's export trade to the USA.

### Taiwan

Trade with Taiwan centres around raw materials with only 3.3 per cent being processed beyond the 'refined' stage and this is mainly in the food products area. Taiwan represents \$84.2 million, or 5.7 per cent of Tasmania's external trade.

#### 20.4 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO USA, 1989-90

| Commodity                                       | Value (\$'000) |
|---|----------------|
| Crude animal and vegetable products             | 136            |
| Dairy products and birds' eggs                  | 3 451          |
| Fish, crustaceans and molluscs                  | 37 119         |
| Iron and steel                                  | 36 585         |
| General industrial machinery and parts          | 591            |
| Machinery specialised for particular industries | 459            |
| Meat and meat preparations                      | 21 667         |
| Medical and pharmaceutical products             | 329            |
| Metalliferous ores and metal scrap              | 7 667          |
| Miscellaneous edible products n.e.c.            | 646            |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.c.      | 6 126          |
| Non-ferrous metals                              | 50 171         |
| Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit                  | 1 793          |
| Power generating machinery and equipment        | 167            |
| Professional and scientific apparatus           | 206            |
| Textile fibres and waste                        | 8 797          |
| Textile yarns and fabrics                       | 6 599          |
| Timber  | 502            |
| Restricted items (a)                            | 5 350          |
| Other items                                     | 375            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>188 735</b> |

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

## 20.2 VALUE OF OVERSEAS TRADE

On the surface, it appears that Tasmania has a considerable surplus in foreign trade. However, much of the overseas imports to Tasmania enter through mainland ports and do not get debited against Tasmania as imports. Hence, comparison of foreign exports and imports to determine a 'balance of trade' for the State is not a valid exercise.

#### 20.5 TASMANIAN EXPORTS TO TAIWAN, 1989-90

| Commodity                                       | Value (\$'000) |
|---|----------------|
| Dairy products and birds' eggs                  | 5 116          |
| Dyeing, tanning and colouring materials         | 918            |
| Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances    | 2 594          |
| Feed stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals) | 405            |
| Fish, crustaceans and molluscs                  | 12 015         |
| Inorganic chemicals                             | 247            |
| Iron and steel                                  | 200            |
| Meat and meat preparations                      | 2 525          |
| Metalliferous ores and metal scrap              | 394            |
| Miscellaneous edible products n.e.c.            | 1 716          |
| Non-ferrous metals                              | 46 216         |
| Pulp and waste paper                            | 650            |
| Raw hides and skins                             | 385            |
| Textile fibres and waste                        | 551            |
| Restricted items (a)                            | 9 946          |
| Other items                                     | 344            |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>84 220</b>  |

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

## 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 66.0 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-

### 20.6 VALUE OF FOREIGN TRADE, 1989-90 (\$'000)

| <i>Country or<br/>country group</i>               | <i>Exports</i> | <i>Imports</i> |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) - |                |                |
| Brunei  | 240            | -              |
| Indonesia   | 52 110         | 480            |
| Malaysia  | 104 549        | 1 614          |
| Phillipines                                       | 12 145         | 945            |
| Singapore   | 42 398         | 28 975         |
| Thailand  | 36 381         | 2 235          |
| ASEAN Total                                       | 247 822        | 34 249         |
| European Economic Community (EEC) -               |                |                |
| Belgium-Luxembourg                                | 29 207         | 423            |
| Denmark   | 2 124          | 1 980          |
| France  | 14 587         | 11 425         |
| Germany, Federal Republic                         | 65 321         | 14 864         |
| Greece  | 3 170          | 3 068          |
| Ireland   | 615            | 612            |
| Italy   | 26 282         | 9 901          |
| Netherlands                                       | 29 854         | 5 724          |
| Portugal  | 852            | 15             |
| Spain   | 2 787          | 627            |
| United Kingdom                                    | 56 709         | 22 836         |
| EEC Total   | 231 507        | 71 475         |
| Other major trading partners -                    |                |                |
| Canada  | 9 754          | 39 059         |
| China (excluding Taiwan)                          | 4 173          | 7 074          |
| Hong Kong   | 34 381         | 1 376          |
| India   | 11 764         | 1 073          |
| Japan   | 491 359        | 40 498         |
| Korea, Republic of                                | 39 812         | 5 291          |
| New Zealand                                       | 43 355         | 32 914         |
| Taiwan  | 84 220         | 3 950          |
| United States of America                          | 188 735        | 73 811         |
| Other countries                                   | 87 453         | 42 145         |
| World Total                                       | 1 474 335      | 352 915        |

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.

Excellent examples of these are fine cheese and onion products. This is due to their freedom from environmental pollutants and disease-free state in comparison with their mainly European competitors.

Some Tasmanian manufacturers have also started selling quality goods overseas (for example winches, boats, alloy wheels, boots and radio aerials). Currently these manufactured items are only a small proportion of the processed goods exported. At present processed goods make up \$486.1 million (33 per cent) of the major exports. Of these, \$55.4 million (3.8 per cent of all exports) were processed into a finished form. 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.

### 20.3.2 Commodities Imported

As would be expected of any modern diverse society, Tasmania imports a wide range of goods. Unlike exports, where a few major items provide the majority of the value, the top five import categories make up only 48.1 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 of goods are imported for immediate further downstream processing 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.

## 20.4 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.

### 20.7 TASMANIAN OVERSEAS EXPORTS, 1989-90

| Commodity   | Value (\$'000)   |
|---|------------------|
| Animal oils and fats  | 2 954            |
| Articles of apparel and clothing accessories                            | 116              |
| Beverages   | 134              |
| Cereals and cereal preparations   | 352              |
| Chemical materials and products n.e.c.                                  | 111              |
| Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof                     | 1 081            |
| Crude animal and vegetable products n.e.c.                              | 4 567            |
| Dairy products and birds' eggs  | 35 139           |
| Dyeing, tanning and colouring material                                  | 23 338           |
| Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances                            | 12 158           |
| Essential oils and resinoids  | 612              |
| Feed stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals)                         | 1 978            |
| Fertilisers (excl. crude)   | 282              |
| Fish, crustaceans and molluscs  | 103 274          |
| Footwear  | 1 766            |
| General industrial machinery and parts n.e.c.                           | 2 097            |
| Inorganic chemicals   | 9 074            |
| Iron and steel  | 53 180           |
| Live animals (not fish)   | 924              |
| Machinery specialised for particular industries                         | 1 616            |
| Manufactures of metals n.e.c.   | 580              |
| Meat and meat preparations  | 44 412           |
| Medical and pharmaceutical products                                     | 3 640            |
| Metalliferous ores and metal scrap                                      | 316 732          |
| Miscellaneous edible products n.e.c.                                    | 9 639            |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles n.e.c.                              | 12 186           |
| Non-ferrous metals  | 341 395          |
| Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit  | 2 903            |
| Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard | 22 194           |
| Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials                     | 385              |
| Power generating machinery and equipment                                | 1 590            |
| Professional and scientific apparatus n.e.c.                            | 792              |
| Pulp and waste paper  | 4 278            |
| Raw hides and skins   | 16 381           |
| Road vehicles   | 1 603            |
| Textile fibres and waste  | 114 582          |
| Textile yarns and fabrics   | 13 064           |
| Timber  | 3 106            |
| Transport equipment (except road vehicles)                              | 21 154           |
| Vegetables and fruit  | 36 935           |
| Restricted items (a)  | 250 771          |
| Other items   | 1262             |
| <b>Total(b)</b>   | <b>1 474 335</b> |

(a) Comprises items for which details are not available for separate publication, mainly comprised of woodchips and aluminium.  
(b) Totals may not add due to rounding.

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5402.6).

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.

#### 20.4.1 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 underway or completed, include: an upgrading of passenger services on Princes No. 2 Wharf to accommodate increasing cruise ship business, a new oil handling wharf at Self's Point, lengthening of the Domain Slip No. 2, an upgrading of all Derwent River navigation beacons from the Bowen Bridge to New Norfolk, and new flashing lights at Spring Bay, Zuidpool Rock, Norfolk Bay and Great Oyster Bay.

Hobart provides three roll-on, roll-off berths, five general cargo berths, two berths suitable for

### 20.8 TASMANIAN SEAPORT TRADE, 1989-90 (revenue tonnes)

| Major ports  | Inwards          | Outwards         | Total             |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Hobart       | 1 687 286        | 1 712 270        | 3 399 556         |
| Launceston   | 2 111 777        | 2 842 539        | 4 954 316         |
| Devonport    | 1 018 418        | 1 118 379        | 2 136 797         |
| Burnie       | 1 840 564        | 2 042 991        | 3 883 555         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6 658 045</b> | <b>7 716 179</b> | <b>14 374 224</b> |

(Source: Annual Reports from the relevant port authorities).

All of these ports provide berths of a depth of nine metres or greater. Port Latta provides a

## 20.9 TASMANIAN OVERSEAS IMPORTS, 1989-90

| Commodity  | Value (\$'000) |
|--|----------------|
| Articles of apparel and clothing accessories                                   | 783            |
| Chemical materials and products n.e.c.   | 4 939          |
| Chemicals (inorganic)  | 15 656         |
| Chemicals (organic)  | 2 487          |
| Coal, coke and briquettes  | 4 002          |
| Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices & manufactures thereof                              | 25 070         |
| Cork and wood manufactures (excl. furniture)                                   | 1 307          |
| Crude animal and vegetable products  | 2 124          |
| Dairy products and birds' eggs   | 621            |
| Dyeing, tanning and colouring material   | 1 378          |
| Electrical machinery, apparatus & appliances                                   | 9 212          |
| Fish, crustaceans and molluscs   | 5 673          |
| Feed stuff for animals (excl. unmilled cereals)                                | 1 215          |
| Fertilisers (crude)  | 10 676         |
| Fertilisers (excl. crude)  | 6 170          |
| Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses etc.                          | 1 024          |
| Footwear   | 278            |
| General industrial machinery and parts n.e.c.                                  | 17 531         |
| Iron and steel   | 4 243          |
| Leather and leather manufactures   | 436            |
| Machinery specialised for particular industries                                | 22 926         |
| Manufactures of non-metals n.e.c.  | 5 056          |
| Manufactures of metals n.e.c.  | 6 139          |
| Metalliferous ores and metal scrap   | 4 069          |
| Metal working machinery  | 1 578          |
| Miscellaneous manufactured articles  | 8 362          |
| Miscellaneous edible products  | 691            |
| Non-ferrous metals   | 5 601          |
| Office machines and ADP machines   | 1 018          |
| Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard        | 3 233          |
| Pulp and waste paper   | 49 913         |
| Petroleum, petroleum products & related materials                              | 48 528         |
| Plastics in primary forms  | 1 596          |
| Plastics in non-primary forms  | 663            |
| Power generating machinery and equipment                                       | 11 015         |
| Professional, scientific & controlling instruments & apparatus n.e.c.          | 2 048          |
| Rubber manufactures n.e.c.   | 8 260          |
| Road vehicles  | 23 183         |
| Sugars, sugar preparations and honey   | 1 390          |
| Textile fibres and waste   | 3 252          |
| Textile yarns and fabrics  | 16 706         |
| Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment | 747            |
| Timber   | 2 807          |
| Transport equipment (excl. road vehicles)                                      | 1 504          |
| Travel goods, handbags and similar containers                                  | 288            |
| Vegetables and fruit   | 4 268          |
| Restricted items (a)   | 1 463          |
| Other items  | 1 791          |
| <b>Total(b)</b>  | <b>352 915</b> |

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

(b) Totals may not add due to rounding.

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 5402.6).

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 three slips capable of handling vessels of up to 1200 tonnes. Hobart has expanded its historical role of maintenance and supply for pelagic fishing and Antarctic supply ships. The *Aurora Australis*, Australia's new Antarctic vessel, is registered here.

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. Of particular importance is the new generation of wave-piercing catamarans which have the potential to radically change ferry services around the world. Other boat builders produce smaller fibreglass catamarans and both modern and traditional sailing craft.

During 1989-90 Hobart was visited by 504 ships from 24 countries, an increase of 14 vessels from the previous year.

### 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. It has also recently completed a towing tank for hull design testing. This facility is of world class standard and has already been used for the new generation of Australian boats preparing for the America's Cup. Private firms in the area are engaged in the maintenance and construction of boats for domestic and overseas markets.

In 1989, the Port of Launceston Authority moved into new premises, which are



**20.10 QUANTITY OF INTERSTATE EXPORTS (EXCLUDING FOREIGN TRADE) (a) (tonnes) (b)**

| <i>Airport of exit</i> | 1989-90 | 1990-91 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Launceston             | 3 157   | 2 788   |
| Hobart                 | 1 435   | 1 281   |
| Other                  | 193     | 465     |
| Total                  | 4 785   | 4 534   |

(a) Figures do not include: mail and parcel post, excess baggage, returns and non-valued items such as inter-plant transfers as well as merchandise items with a known final overseas destination.

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

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 1303.6).

downstream from the city, at Bell Bay. George Town, near Bell Bay, is the southern terminus of the Bass Strait catamaran service with a new terminal being completed there. The harbour was visited by 445 trading vessels during the year. The main goods handled through the Port included: alumina and aluminium, manganese ore and sinter, fuel oil, woodchips, frozen vegetables and general cargo.

### 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 servic-

**20.11 VALUE OF INTERSTATE EXPORTS (EXCLUDING FOREIGN TRADE) (\$'000)**

| <i>Airport of exit</i> | 1989-90 | 1990-91 |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Launceston             | 85 883  | 66 920  |
| Hobart                 | 25 107  | 24 490  |
| Other                  | 1 222   | 4 308   |
| Total                  | 112 212 | 95 718  |

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 1303.6).

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

| <i>Commodity</i>                                | 1989-90 | 1990-91 |
|---|---------|---------|
| Molluscs, shellfish, etc.                       | 473     | 1 805   |
| Crayfish  | 4 112   | 3 077   |
| Trawlfish                                       | 137     | 109     |
| Trout and salmon                                | 7 444   | 8 594   |
| Other fish                                      | 1 815   | 3 249   |
| Meats   | 481     | 264     |
| Other food, crude animal and vegetable products | 11 070  | 11 259  |
| Metal manufactures                              | 15 723  | 14 259  |
| Printed matter                                  | 2 584   | 2 301   |
| Textiles, yarns and fabrics                     | 33 586  | (a)     |
| Other manufactured goods (a)                    | 34 787  | 50 800  |
| Total   | 112 212 | 95 718  |

(a) Due to confidentiality requirements, this data cannot be segregated further.

(Source: ABS Catalogue No. 1303.6).

ing a few major users, such as the TT Line's *Abel Tasman*, which carried 246 533 passengers in 1989-90. It also carried 59 148 vehicles and 9083 cargo units.

In addition the building of cold stores, to facilitate trade in vegetables, and bulk handling facilities for cement, have greatly increased the usage of the port. Recent Port developments include: an upgrading of No. 2 wharf, a start on the building of No. 3 wharf, which is an extended berth for roll-on/roll-off ships, and the introduction of the new Searoad service by ANL.

### 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. This was tested by the visit of the *Australian Venture*, with a draft of 11.8 metres. Other developments include: the extensive renovation of wharf facilities leased by Brambles, commencement of the reclamation of 22.5 hectares of land and new works facilities. Feasibility studies were also done on wharf extensions and improved bulk-handling facilities.

During 1989-90 cargo throughput increased by 13 per cent over the previous year. This came about through 535 visits from vessels. The main goods shipped include mineral concentrates, fruit and vegetables, general goods and paper and timber products. Burnie is the main Tasmanian port for container trans-shipment, and it handles a large quantity of the interstate general goods trade.

## 20.5 INTERSTATE TRADE

**As well as trading internationally, Tasmania trades very significantly with the mainland. 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 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 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. Both tonnage and value of air trade declined compared with 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.

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.

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