

Tuesday, 21 February 2023

Media release

# Addressing skills shortages in key industries and rebuilding the international education sector

## Joint media release with the Hon Jason Clare MP

The Albanese Government is addressing skills shortages by extending post-study work rights for international students that have graduated from an Australian higher education provider.

This will support businesses across the country and help rebuild the international education sector following the pandemic.

This is a practical change that will increase the availability of a well-trained and highly capable workforce to help ease current pressures.

The Government has today released the [list of occupations and the eligible qualifications](#) that will enable graduates to access greater work rights.

We are targeting the skills Australia needs most, including health, teaching, engineering and agricultural fields.

Targeted skills will be considered on an annual basis and updated as needed in response to the labour market.

This was a commitment made following the Jobs and Skills Summit and developed further after advice from a working group made up of the Council of International Education, the National Tertiary Education Union, Universities Australia, and the Departments of Home Affairs and Education.

These extended work rights come into effect from 1 July 2023. Current settings will be increased by two years. This will extend post study work rights from

- two years to four years for select Bachelor degrees
- three years to five years for select Masters degrees
- four years to six years for all Doctoral degrees.

Existing settings for regional and remote Australia will also be maintained, and where relevant, will be eligible for the additional two years.

Eligible graduates with a valid Temporary Graduate Visa on 1 July 2023 or who apply for a Temporary Graduate Visa after 1 July 2023, will be considered for the two year extension.

Graduates whose visa expires before 1 July 2023 can apply for an extension of their work rights by visiting [Temporary Activity visa \(subclass 408\) Australian Government endorsed events \(COVID-19 Pandemic event\)](#).

More information about these measures is available at [Temporary Graduate visa - Subclass 485](#).

In addition, the Government will increase the allowable work hours cap from 40 hours per fortnight to 48 hours per fortnight.

This modest increase will help students to support themselves financially, gain valuable work experience and contribute to Australia's workforce needs while they study.

The cap will take effect from 1 July 2023. More information on student visa work hours is available at the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

The Government's response to the recommendations of the Post-Study Work Rights Working Group is available at <https://www.education.gov.au/extended-poststudy-work-rights-international-graduates>.

***Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Jason Clare:***

“Businesses are screaming out for skilled workers, particularly in the regions.

“We have got the second highest skills shortage in the developed world, according to the OECD. Skills shortages are everywhere.

“We teach and train these skilled workers. This will mean they can stay on longer and use the skills they've gained in Australia to help fill some of the chronic skills shortages we have right now.

“As well as delivering the skills and qualifications Australia needs, the measure will make Australia more attractive as a study destination, helping the recovery of the international education sector and **boosting earnings from Australia's education exports.**”

***Quotes attributable to Minister for Home Affairs Clare O'Neil:***

“Enabling students that gain an education in Australia to stay longer and contribute to our economy benefits us all.

“After a lost decade on immigration and skills we are looking for ways to utilise skilled migrants via enhanced training and better targeted, less exploitative programs for temporary visa workers and students.

“This work is being undertaken as we work towards the conclusion of the migration review and continue to reform our broken migration and skills system.”

Australia's goods services by top 25 exports - Education-related travel services

Financial year	AUD Billion	Rank commodity
1990 - 1991	0.950	
2003 - 2004	7.766	
2004 - 2005	8.742	
2005 - 2006	9.745	
2006 - 2007	11.110	
2007 - 2008	13.740	
2008 - 2009		
2009 - 2010	17.350	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2010 - 2011	15.510	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2011 - 2012	14.768	4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Gold.
2012 - 2013	14.461	4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Gold.
2013 - 2014	15.743	
2014 - 2015	21.258	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2015 - 2016	24.145	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2016 - 2017	28.093	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2017 - 2018	32.602	3 place after: Iron ore & concentrates and Coal.
2018 - 2019	37.556	4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Natiral Gas.
2019 - 2020	37.338	4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Natiral Gas.
2020 - 2021	27.554	COVID-19 4 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal and Natiral Gas.
2021 - 2022	20.776	COVID-19 5 place after: Iron ore & concentrates, Coal, Natiral Gas and Gold.
2022 - 2023	Not yet calculated	....., but "Australia needs, the measure will make Australia more attractive as a study destination, helping the recovery of the international education sector and boosting earnings from Australia's education exports."

**AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 EXPORTS, GOODS & SERVICES**  
(A\$ million) (a)

Rank	Commodity	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	% growth	
					2010-11 to 2011-12	5 year trend growth
	<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>253,136</b>	<b>297,322</b>	<b>315,774</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>
1	Iron ore & concentrates	35,075	58,396	62,703	7.4	33.6
2	Coal	36,447	43,853	47,912	9.3	16.3
3	Gold (b)	14,300	14,256	16,650	16.8	7.2
4	Education-related travel services	17,350	15,510	14,768	-4.8	5.6
5	Personal travel (excl education) services	12,114	11,928	12,007	0.7	0.6
6	Natural gas	7,789	10,286	11,962	16.3	17.3
7	Crude petroleum	8,955	11,090	11,176	0.8	7.1
8	Wheat	3,636	5,482	6,354	15.9	18.5
9	Copper ores & concentrates	4,529	5,130	5,371	4.7	7.2
10	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	5,042	5,281	5,277	-0.1	-3.9
11	Beef, f.c.f.	4,109	4,527	4,683	3.4	-1.0
12	Aluminium	4,129	4,693	4,141	-11.8	-7.4
13	Business travel services	2,808	3,276	3,898	19.0	8.3
14	Copper	2,513	3,978	3,689	-7.3	3.5
15	Medicaments (incl veterinary)	3,709	3,359	3,622	7.8	0.6
16	Professional services	3,109	3,117	3,576	14.7	1.4
17	Technical & other business services	3,277	3,714	3,337	-10.2	1.8
18	Refined petroleum	2,412	2,665	3,186	19.5	-2.1
19	Cotton	755	1,367	2,737	100.2	31.7
20	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	2,013	2,623	2,693	2.7	0.4
21	Passenger transport services (d)	2,610	2,714	2,615	-3.6	-9.1
22	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	2,157	2,325	2,362	1.6	2.9
23	Other transport services (c)	2,188	2,253	2,283	1.3	2.0
24	Alcoholic beverages	2,302	2,122	2,028	-4.4	-7.9
25	Telecom, computer & information services	1,743	1,713	1,640	-4.3	-3.0
<b>Analytical industry series</b>						
	Education (e)	17,931	16,102	15,306	-4.9	5.7
	Tourism (f)	22,686	23,681	nya	..	..

(a) Goods trade is on a recorded trade basis, Services trade is on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments basis.

(c) Other transport services exports covers a range of services provided in Australian airports and ports, including Cargo & baggage handling services, Agents fees associated with freight transportation and Airport & port charges. (d) Includes Related agency fees & commissions. (e) Education services includes Education related travel services, Royalties on education services and Other education services. (f) Tourism is based on the ABS Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and is only available on a financial year basis. Account (TSA) and is only available on a financial year basis.

nya - not yet available

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogue 5368.0 (Sep 2012).

**AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 EXPORTS, GOODS & SERVICES**  
(A\$ million) (a)

Rank	Commodity	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	% growth	
					2011-12 to 2012-13	5 year trend
	<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>297,321</b>	<b>315,638</b>	<b>301,499</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>
1	Iron ore & concentrates	58,396	62,695	57,082	-9.0	23.7
2	Coal	43,853	47,912	38,640	-19.4	6.1
3	Gold	13,608	15,814	15,301	-3.2	2.9
4	Education-related travel services	15,500	14,711	14,461	-1.7	1.6
5	Natural gas	10,286	11,949	14,271	19.4	16.2
6	Personal travel (excl education) services	11,788	11,864	12,583	6.1	0.7
7	Crude petroleum	11,090	11,175	9,719	-13.0	3.4
8	Wheat	5,482	6,351	6,750	6.3	16.7
9	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	5,281	5,277	5,565	5.5	-1.9
10	Copper ores & concentrates	5,130	5,387	5,352	-0.6	7.7
11	Beef, f.c.f.	4,527	4,685	5,053	7.9	1.6
12	Business travel services	3,294	3,864	4,189	8.4	10.2
13	Professional services	3,128	3,591	4,110	14.5	2.4
14	Aluminium	4,693	4,141	3,593	-13.2	-7.4
15	Technical & other business services	3,718	3,411	3,468	1.7	0.0
16	Medicaments (incl veterinary)	3,359	3,622	3,416	-5.7	-0.8
17	Copper	3,978	3,686	3,110	-15.6	3.0
18	Refined petroleum	2,665	3,186	2,927	-8.1	-1.5
19	Cotton	1,367	2,737	2,696	-1.5	51.2
20	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	2,325	2,359	2,522	6.9	3.6
21	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	2,623	2,693	2,473	-8.2	3.2
22	Passenger transport services (c)	2,800	2,620	2,332	-11.0	-9.1
23	Oil-seeds & oleaginous fruits, soft	961	1,544	2,321	50.3	44.0
24	Other transport services (d)	2,253	2,278	2,305	1.2	0.9
25	Alcoholic beverages	2,122	2,028	2,000	-1.4	-6.9
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>						
<b>Analytical industry series</b>						
	Education (e)	16,093	15,253	15,035	-1.4	1.7
	Tourism (f)	25,017	25,547	nya	..	

(a) Goods trade are on a recorded trade basis, Services trade are on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments basis.  
(c) Includes *Related agency fees & commissions*. (d) *Other transport services* exports covers a range of services provided in Australian airports and ports, including *Cargo & baggage handling services, Agents fees associated with freight transportation* and *Airport & port charges*. (e) *Education services* includes *Education related travel services, Royalties on education services* and *Other education services*. (f) *Tourism* is based on the ABS Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) and is only available on a financial year basis.

nya - not yet available

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogue 5368.0 (September 2013).



## AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 GOODS & SERVICES EXPORTS (a) (A\$ million)

Rank	Commodity	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	% share 2016-17	% growth	
						2015-16 to 2016-17	5 year trend
<b>Total (b)</b>		<b>324,491</b>	<b>319,524</b>	<b>373,240</b>		<b>16.8</b>	<b>2.4</b>
1	Iron ores & concentrates	54,519	47,799	62,799	16.8	31.4	-2.4
2	Coal	37,882	34,541	54,267	14.5	57.1	0.7
3	Education-related travel services (c)	21,258	24,145	28,035	7.5	16.1	11.0
4	Natural gas	16,895	16,576	22,299	6.0	34.5	10.8
5	Personal travel (excl education) services	18,238	20,669	21,651	5.8	4.8	9.3
6	Gold	13,506	16,585	18,979	5.1	14.4	3.4
7	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	7,106	6,790	7,529	2.0	10.9	7.5
8	Beef, f.c.f.	9,040	8,495	7,115	1.9	-16.2	12.1
9	Wheat	5,528	5,096	6,073	1.6	19.2	-3.3
10	Crude petroleum	8,154	5,184	5,150	1.4	-0.7	-15.8
11	Professional services	4,967	5,018	4,840	1.3	-3.5	4.1
12	Copper ores & concentrates	5,242	4,664	4,551	1.2	-2.4	-3.5
13	Technical & other business services	3,369	3,805	4,194	1.1	10.2	1.9
14	Financial services	3,960	3,907	3,994	1.1	2.2	12.2
15	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	3,840	3,649	3,832	1.0	5.0	11.1
16	Telecom, computer & information services	2,890	3,243	3,282	0.9	1.2	10.7
17	Vegetables, f.c.f.	1,236	1,936	3,270	0.9	68.9	22.5
18	Aluminium	4,159	3,420	3,268	0.9	-4.4	-3.5
19	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	2,782	2,872	3,263	0.9	13.6	4.5
20	Copper	3,370	3,567	3,128	0.8	-12.3	-1.4
21	Business travel services	3,035	2,916	3,059	0.8	4.9	1.7
22	Other transport services (e)	2,657	2,694	2,884	0.8	7.1	5.2
23	Passenger transport services (f)	2,442	2,742	2,833	0.8	3.3	2.4
24	Alcoholic beverages	2,186	2,389	2,612	0.7	9.3	5.5
25	Other ores & concentrates (d)	4,845	3,455	2,594	0.7	-24.9	-8.4
<b>Memorandum items</b>							
	Education (g)	21,863	24,655	28,556	7.7	15.8	10.9
	Tourism Satellite Account	30,810	34,222	nya	..	..	..

(a) Goods trade is on a recorded trade basis, Services trade is on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments basis. (c) Includes student expenditure on tuition fees and living expenses. (d) Other ores & concentrates - mainly of Lead, Zinc and Manganese ores & concentrates.

(e) Other transport services exports covers a range of services provided in Australian airports and ports, including Cargo & baggage handling services, Agents fees associated with freight transportation and Airport & port charges. (f) Includes Related agency fees & commissions. (g) Education includes Education-related travel services, Royalties on education services and Other education services.

nya = not yet available.

nes - not elsewhere specified.

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogues 5368.0 (September 2017) & 5429.0.



## AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 EXPORTS, GOODS & SERVICES (a) (A\$ million)

Rank	Commodity	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	% share 2018-19	% growth	
						2017-18 to 2018-19	5 year trend
<b>Total (b)</b>		<b>373,769</b>	<b>403,360</b>	<b>470,170</b>		<b>16.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>
1	Iron ores & concentrates	62,617	61,392	77,189	16.4	25.7	2.3
2	Coal (c)	54,236	60,379	69,592	14.8	15.3	14.1
3	Natural gas	22,308	30,907	49,731	10.6	60.9	23.7
4	Education-related travel services (d)	28,093	32,602	37,556	8.0	15.2	15.2
5	Personal travel (excl education) services	21,628	21,332	22,450	4.8	5.2	5.8
6	Gold	18,979	19,293	18,867	4.0	-2.2	8.8
7	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	7,529	9,448	11,358	2.4	20.2	12.4
8	Beef, f.c.f.	7,115	7,963	9,476	2.0	19.0	4.0
9	Crude petroleum	5,150	6,506	8,491	1.8	30.5	-4.8
10	Copper ores & concentrates	4,577	5,700	5,936	1.3	4.1	2.5
11	Professional services	4,943	5,196	5,626	1.2	8.3	3.5
12	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	3,831	4,526	5,152	1.1	13.8	8.0
13	Telecom, computer & information services	3,332	4,219	5,081	1.1	20.4	14.6
14	Financial services	3,965	4,569	4,933	1.0	8.0	7.4
15	Technical & other business services	4,511	4,436	4,662	1.0	5.1	5.9
16	Aluminium	3,272	4,096	4,251	0.9	3.8	1.2
17	Copper	3,128	2,891	3,968	0.8	37.3	-0.7
18	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	3,263	3,985	3,815	0.8	-4.2	10.2
19	Wheat	6,073	4,652	3,657	0.8	-21.4	-7.9
20	Other ores & concentrates	2,602	3,140	3,554	0.8	13.2	-7.4
21	Alcoholic beverages	2,612	3,111	3,374	0.7	8.5	11.2
22	Passenger transport services (e)	2,833	2,936	3,075	0.7	4.7	5.4
23	Refined petroleum	2,347	2,626	3,005	0.6	14.4	1.9
24	Pharm products (excl medicaments)	1,317	1,583	2,953	0.6	86.6	41.3
25	Edible products & preparations, nes	2,524	3,007	2,943	0.6	-2.1	27.1

### Memorandum items

Education (g)	28,604	33,197	nya	..	..	..
Tourism Satellite Account	34,561	37,200	nya	..	..	..

(a) Goods trade is on a recorded trade basis, Services trade is on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments (BOP) basis. (c) Includes BOP adjustment. (d) Includes student expenditure on tuition fees and living expenses. (e) Mainly of Lead, Zinc and Manganese ores & concentrates. (f) Includes Related agency fees & commissions. (g) Includes Education-related travel services, Royalties on education services and Other education services.

nya = not yet available.

f.c.f. - fresh, chilled, frozen

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogues 5368.0 (Sep 2019) & 5429.0.

Last updated 19/11/2019



## AUSTRALIA'S TOP 25 EXPORTS, GOODS & SERVICES (a) (A\$ million)

Rank	Commodity	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	% share 2021-22	% growth	
						2020-21 to 2021-22	5 year trend
	<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>475,237</b>	<b>459,256</b>	<b>595,049</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>8.1</b>
1	Iron ore & concentrates	102,864	152,975	132,489	22.3	-13.4	21.3
2	Coal	54,620	39,196	113,846	19.1	190.5	6.4
3	Natural gas	47,525	30,477	70,571	11.9	131.6	17.6
4	Gold	24,394	26,105	23,202	3.9	-11.1	6.4
5	Education-related travel services (c)	37,338	27,554	20,776	3.5	-24.6	-5.6
6	Crude petroleum	8,568	7,001	13,598	2.3	94.2	15.6
7	Wheat	3,847	6,805	11,336	1.9	66.6	13.1
8	Aluminium ores & conc (incl alumina)	8,875	8,155	9,982	1.7	22.4	2.1
9	Beef, f.c.f.	11,258	8,370	9,920	1.7	18.5	5.8
10	Copper ores & concentrates	6,854	7,328	7,759	1.3	5.9	10.6
11	Telecom, computer & information services	5,320	5,387	6,642	1.1	23.3	13.6
12	Professional services	6,172	5,551	6,633	1.1	19.5	4.7
13	Meat (excl beef), f.c.f.	5,520	4,842	6,142	1.0	26.8	7.8
14	Personal cultural & recreational services (c)	3,277	6,152	6,137	1.0	-0.2	52.9
15	Oil-seeds & oleaginous fruits, soft	1,188	2,214	5,965	1.0	169.5	19.9
16	Aluminium	3,761	3,828	5,817	1.0	51.9	7.6
17	Technical & other business services	5,178	4,488	5,222	0.9	16.4	2.5
18	Crude minerals, nes	1,237	996	5,124	0.9	414.6	24.8
19	Other ores & concentrates (d)	3,678	3,539	4,749	0.8	34.2	10.2
20	Copper	3,433	4,233	4,498	0.8	6.2	8.4
21	Financial services	5,085	4,178	3,929	0.7	-6.0	-0.3
22	Refined petroleum	2,411	2,498	3,898	0.7	56.0	6.4
23	Wool & other animal hair (incl tops)	2,516	2,437	3,274	0.6	34.3	-5.2
24	Barley	1,028	1,910	2,977	0.5	55.9	3.9
25	Gold coin & legal tender coin	1,035	2,253	2,570	0.4	14.1	31.3
<b>Memorandum items</b>							
	Education (e)	39,704	32,846	25,905	4.4	-21.1	-1.4
	Tourism Satellite Account	29,428	791	6,697	1.1	746.6	-43.8

(a) Goods trade is on a recorded trade basis, Services trade is on a balance of payments basis. (b) Balance of payments basis. (c) Effective January 2020, there has been a compositional shift in where some student fees are located in services data due to COVID-19; students have continued to study and pay fees to Australian universities, but as they are no longer located in Australia due to travel interruptions, this spend is now captured under *Personal, cultural & recreational services*. (d) Mainly of Lead, Zinc and Manganese ores & concentrates. (e) *Education* includes *Education-related travel services*, *Royalties on education services* and *Other education services*.

f.c.f - fresh, chilled or frozen. nya - not yet available. .. - not meaningful.

Based on ABS trade data on DFAT STARS database and ABS catalogues 5368.0 (Dec-2022), 5302.0 (Dec qtr 2022) & 5249.0.

Last updated 06/03/2023