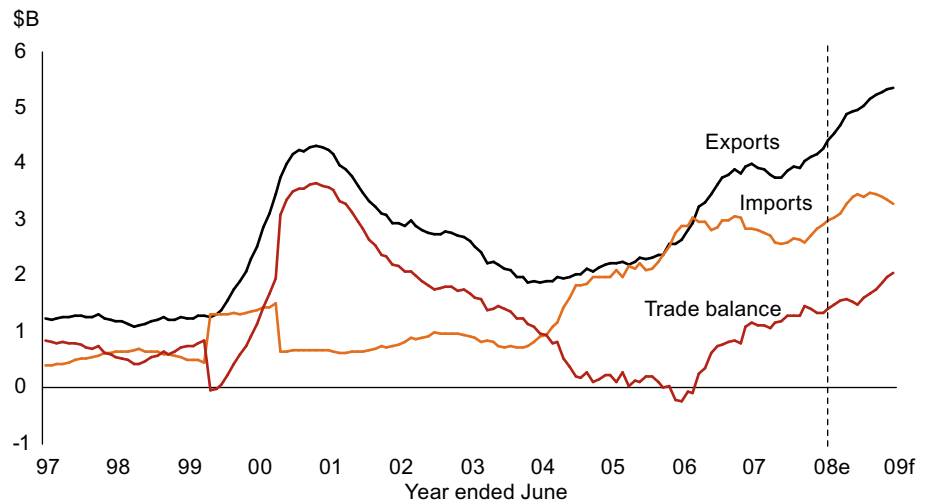


# International Trade

- In 2007-08, the Territory’s international trade surplus (that is, exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services) increased to an estimated \$1.7 billion, up from the \$1.5 billion surplus in 2006-07.
- Mineral ores, mineral fuels and cattle dominate international exports in the Territory. In 2007-08, the value of merchandise exports increased by 6 per cent to an estimated \$4.3 billion, largely due to increased global commodity demand and prices.
- The major Territory imports are refined fuels, and machinery and equipment (mostly industrial equipment for mining and construction activities). In 2007-08, imports increased by an estimated 2 per cent to \$2.9 billion, and are forecast to grow a further 13 per cent to \$3.3 billion in 2008-09. The increase in 2007-08 is primarily due to rising prices of imported mineral fuels and gas feedstock for the LNG plant at Wickham Point. Partly offsetting the increase in the value of mineral fuels imports is weakened demand for machinery and transport equipment imports (particularly for major oil and gas projects), and a reduction in national aircraft imports via Darwin.
- The value of mineral fuel imports is forecast to increase by about 26 per cent in 2008-09, due to continued importation of feedstock gas for the Wickham Point LNG plant and higher fuel prices.
- Strong growth in merchandise exports is forecast for 2008-09, supported by a third full year of LNG production, manganese from the Bootu Creek mine and the GEMCO mine, and alumina from Alcan’s Gove refinery.
- Territory service exports are forecast to increase by 1 per cent in 2007-08 and a further 1 per cent in 2008-09, driven by greater demand for travel services. Territory service imports are forecast to increase 5 per cent in 2007-08 and a further 5 per cent in 2008-09, due to higher demand for transportation services and travel services.

Territory International Merchandise Trade (moving annual total)



e: estimate; f: forecast  
 Source: Northern Territory Treasury, ABS Cat. No. 5368.0 and unpublished ABS data