



Finding out

- Predict whether each of these statements about Australia's trade is true or false:
 - Our major import is toys
 - Our largest agricultural export is wheat
 - Our largest mineral and stone export is gold
 - The country to which we export most is Indonesia
 - The country from which we import most is the United States
 - Our major export to the United States is uranium
 - The country that we do most two-way trade with (imports plus exports) is China
 - Our major import from China is T-shirts
 - Our trade with the UK has decreased over the last 20 years
 - Most of our major trading partners are Asian countries
- Go to the online version of *The Atlas of Economic Complexity* at: <http://atlas.cid.harvard.edu/>
- Use the data from the atlas to test whether your predictions were correct.

Hints for using *The Atlas of Economic Complexity*

- To get started, select 'Australia', then select either 'Exports' or 'Imports', then select either 'By Product' or 'By Partner'
- When viewing 'By Product' the simplest view to use Product Class 'HS4' at '4 digit' detail (these options are selected below the graphic).
- You can select any year over the last 20 by dragging the indicator along the timeline (located below the graphic).
- When in 'By Partner' mode you can change the level of detail (located below the graphic) to 'Low' to see the share by continent.
- When in 'By Partner' mode you can change Trade Data Visualisation to 'Geo map' to see on a world political map the extent of trade with all countries.





EconoBite

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Year 9

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- With a partner, brainstorm countries that you expect would have a similar pattern in their trade data (exports, imports and trading partners) as Australia.
- Choose **one** major country from those that have you identified. Then use *The Atlas of Economic Complexity* to test your prediction by comparing your chosen country with Australia.
- Write a short report on the findings from your research.



Economics Teachers' Association of
Western Australia



Teacher notes

Purpose

This 'bite' aims to engage the students in learning about trade through the use on an online data visualisation tool developed at Harvard's Center for International Development.

Prior knowledge

Undertaking this 'bite' is a good lead into the teaching of the following syllabus content:

- Australia's interdependence with other economies, such as trade and tourism, trade links with partners in the Asia region, and the goods and services traded

Answers

- Our major import is toys F
- Our largest agricultural export is wheat T
- Our largest mineral and stone export is gold F
- The country to which we export most is Indonesia F
- The country from which we import most is the United States F
- Our major export to the United States is uranium F
- The country that we do most two-way trade with is China T
- Our major import from China is T-shirts F
- Our trade with the UK has decreased over the last 20 years T
- Most of our major trading partners are Asian countries T

Follow-up

With a partner, discuss how the countries that Australia exports to compare with the countries that we get most of our imports from?

Ask the students to find at home, an example of each of the following types of products and from the packaging or labelling identify which country it comes from: clothing; food or drink; and electronic equipment

Discuss as a class which results were expected and which were surprising.

