Western Australia’s gross state product (GSP) of $259.4 billion in 2017-18 was 14% of Australia’s gross domestic product (GDP).

GSP per capita of $100,367 in 2017-18 was 35% above Australia’s GDP per capita of $74,605.

Real GSP rose 1.9% in 2017-18, following a fall of 1.8% in 2016-17, but was below annual growth¹ of 3.8% over the past ten years.


Goods producing industries accounted for 48% ($125.0b) of GSP in 2017-18. Services industries accounted for 42% ($109.0b), with the remaining 10% ($25.5b) from dwelling ownership and other items.

Mining accounted for 30% of GSP in 2017-18, followed by business and property services (9%) and construction (8%).

Manufacturing accounted for 5% of GSP in 2017-18.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 2% of GSP in 2017-18.

An industry’s contribution to real GSP growth depends on real changes to its gross value added and its share of GSP.

Mining gross value added rose 3% in 2017-18, and with its large share of GSP, contributed 0.8 percentage points to real GSP growth.

Healthcare and social assistance gross value added rose 9% in 2017-18, contributing 0.5 percentage points to real GSP growth.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing gross value added fell 12% in 2017-18, deterring 0.3 percentage points from real GSP growth.

THE ECONOMY continued

Gross state income and terms of trade (% change)

- Changes in export prices relative to import prices (terms of trade) affects gross state income (GSI) and accounts for the difference between changes in GSI and GSP.
- Western Australia’s terms of trade fell 2% in 2017-18. This relatively small change meant that growth in Western Australia’s real GSP and GSI was the same.
- Real GSI rose 1.9% in 2017-18, below a rise of 4.5% in 2016-17, and below annual growth of 3.6% over the past ten years.
- The Reserve Bank of Australia’s (RBA) annual average $A commodity price index for Australia rose 8% in 2017-18.
- The RBA’s monthly average $A commodity price index rose 2% in January 2019.
- The monthly average price of iron ore rose 10% to US$76 a tonne in January 2019. The annual average price of iron ore fell 3% to US$70 a tonne in 2018 and is forecast to be US$66 a tonne in 2018-19.
- The monthly average $A exchange rate rose 3% to US73 cents in January 2019. The annual average $A exchange rate fell 3% to US75 cents in 2018 and is forecast to be US73 cents in 2018-19.
- Western Australia’s population of 2.60 million in 2017-18 was 10% of Australia’s population.
- Population growth of 0.8% (21,684) in 2017-18 was above growth of 0.7% in 2016-17, but below annual growth of 1.8% over the past ten years.
- Natural increase (19,490) and net overseas migration (up 13,494) offset negative net interstate migration (down 11,300) in 2017-18.
- Annual average population growth is forecast to rise to 1.2% in 2018-19.
- The WA Tomorrow 2016 to 2031 report forecasts a population of 3.25 million by 2031.
Western Australia’s total employment rose by 791 to 1.34 million in January 2019, with a rise in full-time employment (up 3,972 to 923,971) offsetting a fall in part-time employment (down 3,181 to 411,972).

Total employment rose 0.1% (879) through the year to January 2019, with a rise in full-time employment (up 3% or 28,638) offsetting a fall in part-time employment (down 6% or 27,759).


Services industries accounted for 71% (958,824) of total employment in the December quarter 2018 and goods-producing industries accounted for 29% (393,230).

Mining (up 24,027) and manufacturing (up 23,786) had the largest increases in employment through the year to the December quarter 2018.

Construction (down 16,715) and education and training (down 13,832) had the largest falls in employment through the year to the December quarter 2018.

The participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian working age population (aged 15 and older) in the labour force (people who are either employed or unemployed).

The participation rate of 68.5% in the December quarter 2018 was in line with the 68.5% in the previous quarter and above the 68.3% a year ago.

The 2018-19 Western Australian Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement forecasts an annual average participation rate of 68.8% in 2018-19.

There were 28,600 job vacancies¹ in the December quarter 2018, 1,000 more than in the previous quarter and 8,800 more than a year ago.
LABOUR MARKET continued

Unemployment rate (monthly)

- The unemployment rate measures the proportion of the labour force that is unemployed (people without a job who are actively looking for work).
- Western Australia’s unemployment rate of 6.8% in January 2019 was above the 6.4% in the previous month and 5.6% a year ago.
- Australia’s unemployment rate was 5.0% in January 2019.
- The 2018-19 Western Australian Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement forecasts an annual average unemployment rate of 6.0% in 2018-19.
- Unemployment rose by 6,787 to 97,577 in January 2019.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Monthly Labour Force.

Underutilisation rate (monthly)

- The underutilisation rate measures the proportion of the labour force that is unemployed or underemployed (workers wanting more hours).
- The underutilisation rate of 16.0% in January 2019 was above the 15.7% in the previous month and 14.3% a year ago.
- The underutilisation rate in January 2019 comprised an underemployment rate of 9.2% and an unemployment rate of 6.8%.
- The underemployment rate of 9.2% in January 2019 was below the 9.3% in the previous month, but above the 8.7% a year ago.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Monthly Labour Force.

Average annual earnings and wages growth

- Average annual adult full-time total earnings rose 1.1% to $95,945 in 2018.
- Western Australia’s average annual adult full-time total earnings were 11% ($9,204) above the Australian average of $86,741 in 2018.
- Western Australia’s wage price index rose 1.6% in 2018, below annual growth\(^1\) of 2.7% over the past ten years, and below Australia’s wages growth of 2.3% in 2018.
- The 2018-19 Western Australian Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement forecasts annual average wages growth of 1.75% in 2018-19.

\(^1\) Compound annual growth rate.

Source: ABS 6302.0 Average Weekly Earnings; and 6345.0 Wage Price Index (2008-09 = 100.0).
CONSUMPTION

Real household consumption (% change)

- Western Australia accounted for 10% of Australia’s household consumption in 2017-18.
- Household consumption accounted for 42% of GSP in 2017-18 and contributed 0.7 percentage points to real GSP growth.
- Real household consumption rose 1.6% in 2017-18, above a rise of 1.0% in 2016-17, but was below annual growth¹ of 2.7% over the past ten years.
- The 2018-19 Western Australian Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement forecasts real household consumption to rise 1.5% in 2018-19.

Household consumption by industry sector (nominal)

- Nominal household consumption rose 1.7% to $107.8 billion in 2017-18.
- The largest increases in household consumption in 2017-18 were in insurance, finance and other (up $7,121m or 4%), health (up $506m or 7%) and transport (up $3,944m or 3%).
- The largest decreases in household consumption in 2017-18 were in rent and other dwelling services (down $4,210m or 2%) and furnishings and household equipment (down $3,333m or 7%).

Gross household disposable income per capita

- Western Australia’s gross household disposable income per capita of $53,681 in 2017-18 was 11% ($5,255) above Australia’s gross household disposable income per capita of $48,426.
- Gross household disposable income per capita rose 1% in 2017-18, following a fall of 2% in 2016-17, but was below annual growth¹ of 3% over the past ten years.
- Total gross household disposable income rose by $2.1 billion in 2017-18, due to changes in employee wages (up $3,8b), social benefits and other secondary income (up $199m), self-employed and property income (down $241m) and interest and tax paid on secondary income (up $1.7b).
INVESTMENT

**Investment (nominal)**

- Western Australia accounted for 17% of Australia's business investment in 2017-18.
- Business investment accounted for 15% of GSP in 2017-18 and contributed 0.01 percentage points to real GSP growth.
- Real business investment rose 0.1% in 2017-18, following a fall of 29% in 2016-17, and is forecast to fall 11% in 2018-19.
- Nominal business investment rose 1% to $38.1 billion in 2017-18.
- Nominal dwelling investment fell 4% to $8.7 billion in 2017-18.
- Nominal public investment fell 0.2% to $9.2 billion in 2017-18.

**Private new capital expenditure**

- Western Australia accounted for 51% of Australia's mining new capital expenditure in 2018.
- Mining accounted for 70% of Western Australia's private new capital expenditure in 2018.
- Mining new capital expenditure fell 13% to $17.8 billion in 2018.
- New capital expenditure in other selected industries rose 4% to $7.8 billion in 2018.
- In September 2018, Western Australia had $36.4 billion of major resource projects under construction or committed and $71.8 billion under consideration.

**Exploration expenditure**

- Western Australia accounted for 61% of Australia's minerals exploration expenditure in 2017-18.
- Western Australia accounted for 55% of Australia's petroleum exploration expenditure in 2017-18.
- Minerals exploration expenditure rose 16% to $1.2 billion in 2017-18, mainly due to increases in gold and nickel/cobalt exploration.
- Petroleum exploration expenditure fell 14% to $562 million in 2017-18.
PROPERTY MARKET AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Median established house prices and rents (quarterly)

- Perth’s median established house price fell 2% to $490,000 in the September quarter 2018. It fell 3% through the year to the September quarter 2018.
- The rest of Western Australia’s (excluding Perth) median established house price rose 3% to $320,000 in the September quarter 2018. It was unchanged through the year to the September quarter 2018.
- Perth rents fell 2% in the September quarter 2018 and 6% through the year to the September quarter 2018.

Source: ABS 6416.0 Residential Property Price Indexes; and 6401.0 Consumer Price Index (2011-12 = 100.0).

Building and engineering construction activity

- Residential building activity fell 10% to $6.0 billion in 2017-18.
- Non-residential building activity rose 1% to $4.6 billion in 2017-18.
- Heavy industry engineering construction activity rose 45% to $25.0 billion in 2017-18, largely due to increased work on the Prelude and Ichthys LNG projects.
- Other engineering construction activity rose 2% to $7.1 billion in 2017-18, mainly due to an increase in the construction of electricity infrastructure.
- Western Australia had $6.1 billion of building activity in the pipeline1 in the September quarter 2018, below the $6.5 billion in the same quarter of 2017.
- Residential building approvals fell 23% to $1.1 billion in the December quarter 2018. Residential building approvals typically lead building activity by one to two quarters.
- Non-residential building approvals rose 13% to $671 million in the December quarter 2018.
- Dwelling construction finance for owner occupiers1 rose 10% to $814 million in the December quarter 2018. Dwelling finance typically leads residential building activity by two to three quarters.

Source: ABS 6752.0 Building Activity; and 8762.0 Engineering Construction Activity.

Building construction activity outlook (quarterly)

(a) Owner Occupiers.
1 Not adjusted for seasonal factors.
Source: ABS 8731.0 Building Approvals; and 5601.0 Lending to Households and Businesses.
Western Australia accounted for 42% of Australia’s merchandise exports in 2018.

Merchandise exports accounted for 51% of GSP in 2017-18 and contributed 2.4 percentage points to real GSP growth.

Real merchandise exports rose 5% in 2017-18, below a rise of 7% in 2016-17, and below annual growth¹ of 6% over the past ten years.


Nominal merchandise exports rose 18% to $144.9 billion in 2018.

Western Australia’s largest export market in 2018 was China (a) ($68.4b or 47%), followed by Japan ($23.1b or 16%) and South Korea ($8.6b or 6%).

Western Australia had majority shares of Australia’s exports to Hong Kong (b) (68%), Singapore (63%) and China (a) (58%) in 2018.

Minerals and petroleum accounted for 85% ($109.6b) of merchandise exports in 2017-18.

Agriculture, food, fibre, fisheries and forestry exports accounted for 7% ($8.5b) of merchandise exports in 2016-17.
Western Australia accounted for 8% of Australia’s services exports in 2017-18.

Services exports accounted for 3% of GSP in 2017-18 and detracted 0.1 percentage points from real GSP growth.

Real services exports fell 4% in 2017-18 compared with annual decline1 of 1% over the past ten years.

Nominal services exports fell 3% to $6.7 billion in 2017-18.

Services exports in 2017-18 mainly comprised personal travel (33%) and education-related travel (28%).

The largest increase in 2017-18 was in professional and management consulting services (up 291%), while the largest decline was in personal travel services (down 5%).

International student enrolments fell 2% to 53,897 in 2017, compared with annual growth1 of 4% over the past ten years.

Western Australia accounted for 6.7% of Australia’s international student enrolments in 2017, below the 7.7% share in 2016.

Tourism1 accounted for 2.5% ($6.1 billion) of GSP and 5% (71,100) of total employment in 2016-17.

Total overnight visitors1 rose 7% to 11.2 million in 2017-18, above annual growth2 of 5% over the past ten years.

Total visitor spending(a) fell 5% to $9.5 billion in 2017-18.

In 2017-18, international overnight visitors fell 2% to 951,000, while their spending fell 10% to $2.2 billion.

In 2017-18, domestic overnight visitors rose 8% to 10.2 million, while their spending fell 2% to $5.4 billion.

Day trip spending by local residents fell 7% to $2.0 billion in 2017-18.

---

1 Compound annual growth rate.

Source: ABS 5220.0 State Accounts; and 5368.0.55.004 International Trade in Services by State.

(a) Goods and services purchased in Western Australia by international embassies, consulates, military units and defence agencies, and personal expenditures of diplomats, consular and military staff and their dependants. 

Source: ABS 5368.0.55.004 International Trade in Services by State.

Note – Break in series in 2014-15. (a) Spending by international and domestic overnight visitors and Western Australian residents on daytrips.

1 International and domestic. 2 Compound annual growth rate.

Source: Tourism Research Australia, International and National Visitor Surveys.
MINING

Western Australia’s share of Australian and world mining production: 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>World % share</th>
<th>Aust. % share</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rutile</td>
<td>'000 tonnes</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron ore</td>
<td>million tonnes</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garnet</td>
<td>'000 tonnes</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare earths</td>
<td>'000 tonnes</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>million tonnes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamonds</td>
<td>million carats</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumina</td>
<td>million tonnes</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilmenite</td>
<td>'000 tonnes</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>'000 tonnes</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>tonnes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>million tonnes</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobalt</td>
<td>'000 tonnes</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zircon</td>
<td>'000 tonnes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files.

- Western Australia is the main minerals and petroleum exporting region of Australia and produces a significant proportion of the world’s minerals and petroleum commodities.
- Western Australia accounted for 52% of Australia’s mining gross value added in 2017-18, below its 56% share in the previous year and 67% share in 2013-14.
- Mining accounted for 30% of GSP in 2017-18, in line with its 30% share in the previous year, but below its 37% share in 2010-11.
- Nominal mining gross value added rose 6% to $79.0 billion in 2017-18, in line with annual growth¹ of 6% over the past ten years.

- Iron ore accounted for 54% of minerals and petroleum sales in 2017-18, followed by:
  - LNG (17%)
  - Gold (10%)
  - Alumina and bauxite (6%)
  - Crude oil and condensate (5%)
  - Nickel (2%)
  - Base metals (1%)
  - Natural gas (1%)
  - Tin, tantalum and lithium (1%)
  - Cobalt (0.4%)
  - Mineral sands (0.3%)

- Minerals and petroleum sales rose 9% to $115.0 billion in 2017-18, mainly due to increased sales of LNG.

¹ Compound annual growth rate.
Source: ABS 5220.0 State Accounts.

Mining gross value added (nominal)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Gross value added</th>
<th>WA share of Aust. mining (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>$20b</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>$40b</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>$60b</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>$80b</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-18</td>
<td>$100b</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files.

Major minerals and petroleum sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron ore</td>
<td>$19.1b</td>
<td>$61.7b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>$11.4b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>$6.6b</td>
<td>$5.6b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude oil &amp; condensate</td>
<td>$2.6b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>$1.7b</td>
<td>$1.6b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas</td>
<td>$1.6b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobalt</td>
<td>$0.5b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral sands(b)</td>
<td>$0.4b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Copper, lead and zinc (contains gold and silver); (b) Garnet, ilmenite, leucoxene, zircon and rutile.
Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files.
Iron ore sales

- Iron ore sales fell 3% to $61.7 billion in 2017-18, due to falling average prices and rising sales volumes.
- The volume of iron ore sales rose 4% to 826 million tonnes in 2017-18, below annual growth of 11% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of iron ore sales fell 7% in 2017-18.
- The 2018-19 Western Australian Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement forecasts iron ore sales to rise to 847 million tonnes by 2021-22.

LNG sales

- Western Australia accounted for 12% of world LNG exports in 2017.
- LNG sales rose 50% to $19.1 billion in 2017-18, due to rising sales volumes and average prices.
- The volume of LNG sales rose 32% to 38 million tonnes in 2017-18, above annual growth of 12% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of LNG sales rose 13% in 2017-18.

Gold sales

- Western Australia’s gold sales rose 5% to $11.4 billion in 2017-18, due to rising sales volumes and average prices.
- The volume of gold sales rose 4% to 212 tonnes in 2017-18, in line with annual growth of 4% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of gold sales rose 1% in 2017-18.