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, detracting 0.3 percentage points from real GSP growth.

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1. Compound annual growth rate.
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 RBA’s annual average $A commodity price index for Australia rose 6% in 2017-18.

The RBA’s monthly average $A commodity price index was unchanged in April 2019.

The monthly average price of iron ore rose 8% to US$94 a tonne in April 2019. The annual average price of iron ore fell 3% to US$70 a tonne in 2018. It is forecast to be US$77 a tonne in 2018-19 and US$74 a tonne in 2019-20.

The monthly average $A exchange rate fell 1% to US70 cents in April 2019. The annual average $A exchange rate fell 3% to US75 cents in 2017. It is forecast to be US72 cents in 2018-19 and US71 cents in 2019-20.

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 1.0% in 2018-19 and 1.3% in 2019-20.

The WA Tomorrow 2016 to 2031 report forecasts a population of 3.25 million by 2031.
LABOUR MARKET

Employment (monthly)

- Western Australia’s total employment rose by 6,416 to 1.35 million in April 2019, with rises in full-time employment (up 4,723 to 932,413) and part-time employment (up 1,693 to 415,129).
- Total employment rose 0.6% (8,314) through the year to April 2019, with a rise in full-time employment (up 5% or 43,574) offsetting a fall in part-time employment (down 8% or 35,260).

Industry sector employment (quarterly)

- Services industries accounted for 73% (980,500) of total employment in the March quarter 2019 and goods-producing industries accounted for 27% (360,100).
- Retail and wholesale trade (up 27,300) and business and property services (up 17,300) had the largest increases in employment through the year to the March quarter 2019.
- Education and training (down 18,900) and construction (down 17,700) had the largest falls in employment through the year to the March quarter 2019.

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 68.0% in the March quarter 2019 was below the 68.5% in the previous quarter and 68.3% a year ago.
- The WA Government’s 2019-20 State Budget forecasts an annual average participation rate of 68.4% in 2018-19 and 68.6% in 2019-20.
- There were 29,300 job vacancies1 in the March quarter 2019, 700 more than in the previous quarter and 7,100 more than a year ago.

1 Not adjusted for seasonal factors.
Source: ABS 6202.0 Monthly Labour Force; and 6354.0 Job Vacancies.
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 6.1% in April 2019 was above the 6.0% in the previous month, but below the 6.4% a year ago.
- Australia’s unemployment rate was 5.2% in April 2019.
- Unemployment rose by 1,897 to 86,958 in April 2019.

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 5.2% in April 2019 was above the 4.9% in the previous month, but below the 5.0% a year ago.
- The underutilisation rate in April 2019 comprised an underemployment rate of 9.1% and an unemployment rate of 6.1%.
- The underemployment rate of 9.1% in April 2019 was above the 9.0% in the previous month, but below the 9.6% a year ago.

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 growth1 of 2.7% over the past ten years, and below Australia’s wages growth of 2.3% in 2018.

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 2018.
- Household consumption accounted for 42% of GSP in 2017-18 and contributed 0.7 percentage points to real GSP growth.
- Real household consumption rose 1.10% in 2018, below a rise of 1.15% in 2017, and below annual growth¹ of 2.7% over the past ten years.
- The WA Government’s 2019-20 State Budget forecasts real household consumption to rise 0.75% in 2018-19 and 1.75% in 2019-20.

Nominal household consumption rose 1.7% to $108.5 billion in 2018.
- The largest increases in household consumption in 2018 were in insurance, finance and other (up $603m or 4%), transport (up $460m or 4%) and food (up $318m or 3%).
- The largest decreases in household consumption in 2018 were in rent and other dwelling services (down $349m or 2%) and furnishings and household equipment (down $276m or 6%).

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 $193m), self-employed and property income (down $241m) and interest and tax paid on secondary income (up $1.7b).

¹ Compound annual growth rate.
Source: ABS 5220.0 State Accounts; and 5206.0 Quarterly National Accounts.
InVESTMENT

Investment (nominal)

- Western Australia accounted for 17% of Australia's business investment in 2018.
- Business investment accounted for 15% of GSP in 2017-18 and contributed 0.01 percentage points to real GSP growth.
- Real business investment fell 7% in 2018, following a fall of 9% in 2017. It is forecast to fall 10% in 2018-19 and rise 6.0% in 2019-20.
- Nominal business investment fell 5% to $36.6 billion in 2018.
- Nominal dwelling investment rose 2% to $8.7 billion in 2018.
- Nominal public investment fell 5% to $9.0 billion in 2018.

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 March 2019, Western Australia had $24.5 billion of major resource projects under construction or committed and $88.3 billion under consideration.

Exploration expenditure

- Western Australia accounted for 61% of Australia’s minerals exploration expenditure in 2018.
- Western Australia accounted for 58% of Australia’s petroleum exploration expenditure in 2018.
- Minerals exploration expenditure rose 19% to $1.3 billion in 2018, mainly due to increases in gold and copper exploration.
- Petroleum exploration expenditure rose 37% to $672 million in 2018.
PROPERTY MARKET AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Median established house prices and rents (quarterly)

- Perth’s median established house price fell 0.2% to $490,000 in the December quarter 2018. It fell 5% through the year to the December quarter 2018.
- The rest of Western Australia’s (excluding Perth) median established house price fell 2% to $320,000 in the December quarter 2018. It fell 7% through the year to the December quarter 2018.
- Perth rents fell 1% in the December quarter 2018 and 6% through the year to the December 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 4% to $5.9 billion in 2018.
- Non-residential building activity fell 15% to $4.0 billion in 2018.
- Heavy industry engineering construction activity fell 60% to $11.7 billion in 2018.
- Other engineering construction activity fell 3% to $7.0 billion in 2018, mainly due to a decrease in the construction of telecommunications infrastructure.

Source: ABS 8752.0 Building Activity; and 8762.0 Engineering Construction Activity.

Building construction activity outlook (quarterly)

- Western Australia had $5.5 billion of building activity in the pipeline in the December quarter 2018, below the $6.2 billion in the same quarter of 2017.
- Residential building approvals rose 15% to $1.3 billion in the March quarter 2019. Residential building approvals typically lead building activity by one to two quarters.
- Non-residential building approvals rose 85% to $1.3 billion in the March quarter 2019.
- Dwelling construction finance for owner occupiers fell 18% to $665 million in the March quarter 2019. Dwelling finance typically leads residential building activity by two to three quarters.

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 7% in 2018, above a rise of 3% in 2017, and above annual growth of 6% over the past five 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 91% ($131.4b) of merchandise exports in 2018.
- Agriculture, food, fibre, fisheries and forestry accounted for 5% ($7.4b) of merchandise exports in 2018.

**Note:** Components may not add to totals due to rounding. 1 LPG, crude oil, condensate and LPG. 2 Includes base. 3 Copper, lead and zinc ores and concentrates. 4 Mainly spodumene. Includes other crude minerals. 5 Mainly titanium dioxide pigments, ilmenite, aluminium hydroxide and ammonia. (a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan. (b) Special Administrative Region of China.

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files; and ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services.
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 2018 compared with annual decline\(^1\) of 0.1% over the past five 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 3% to 51,897 in 2018, compared with annual growth\(^1\) of 2% over the past ten years.

Western Australia accounted for 5.9% of Australia’s international student enrolments in 2018, below the 6.7% share in 2017.

Tourism\(^1\) accounted for 2.5% ($6.1 billion) of GSP and 5% (71,100) of total employment in 2016-17.

Total overnight visitors\(^1\) rose 13% to 11.9 million in 2018, above annual growth\(^2\) of 6% over the past ten years.

Total visitor spending\(^3\) rose 9% to $10.4 billion in 2018.

In 2018, international overnight visitors rose 2% to 963,800, while their spending fell 0.5% to $2.2 billion.

In 2018, domestic overnight visitors rose 14% to 11.0 million and their spending rose 13% to $6.0 billion.

Day trip spending by local residents rose 9% to $2.2 billion in 2018.
Western Australia’s share of Australian and world mining production: 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>World % share</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron ore</td>
<td>million tonnes 33</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare earths</td>
<td>'000 tonnes   18</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>million tonnes 14</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamonds</td>
<td>million carats 11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumina</td>
<td>million tonnes 10</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilmenite</td>
<td>'000 tonnes   10</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>'000 tonnes   7</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>tonnes        6</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zircon</td>
<td>'000 tonnes   4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>million tonnes 4</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobalt</td>
<td>'000 tonnes   4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutile</td>
<td>'000 tonnes   2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>280</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 50% of minerals and petroleum sales in 2018, followed by:
- LNG (21%)
- Gold (9%)
- Alumina and bauxite (6%)
- Condensate (4%)
- Nickel (2%)
- Crude oil (2%)
- Lithium, tin and tantalum (1%)
- Base metals (1%)
- Natural gas (1%)
- Cobalt (0.4%)
- Manganese (0.4%)
- Mineral sands (0.3%)

Minerals and petroleum sales rose 16% to $127.4 billion in 2018, mainly due to increased sales of LNG.

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

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

Iron ore sales

- Iron ore sales rose 1% to $64.0 billion in 2018, due to rising sales volumes offsetting falling average prices.
- The volume of iron ore sales rose 1% to 811 million tonnes in 2018, below annual growth of 10% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of iron ore sales fell 1% in 2018.
- The WA Government’s 2019-20 State Budget forecasts iron ore sales to rise to 858 million tonnes by 2022-23.

LNG sales

- LNG sales rose 81% to $27.0 billion in 2018, due to rising sales volumes and average prices.
- The volume of LNG sales rose 34% to 44 million tonnes in 2018, above annual growth of 13% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of LNG sales rose 35% in 2018.

Gold sales

- Western Australia’s gold sales rose 3% to $11.5 billion in 2018, due to rising sales volumes and average prices.
- The volume of gold sales rose 1% to 212 tonnes in 2018, below annual growth of 5% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of gold sales rose 3% in 2018.

1 Compound annual growth rate.
Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (2008 = 100.0).
### WA Economic Profile

#### Industries and Regional Development; WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files; and Tourism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overnight visitors 2015 to 2017</strong></td>
<td>396,400pa</td>
<td>341,400pa</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Goldfields-Esperance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population 2017</strong></td>
<td>61,688</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employed Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>39,950</td>
<td>-1,741</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployed Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>13,734</td>
<td>1,146</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment rate Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>+1.1pp</td>
<td>0.3pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross regional product 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$101.3b</td>
<td>$303m</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residential building 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$74m</td>
<td>+84m</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-residential building 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$494m</td>
<td>+$2.4b</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overnight visitors 2015 to 2017</strong></td>
<td>929,000pa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Wheatbelt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population 2017</strong></td>
<td>73,829</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employed Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>37,400</td>
<td>+1,654</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployed Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>13,410</td>
<td>-105</td>
<td>-0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment rate Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>-0.4pp</td>
<td>+0.7pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross regional product 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$66.7b</td>
<td>$638m</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residential building 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$116m</td>
<td>+$9m</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-residential building 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$114m</td>
<td>-$11m</td>
<td>-9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overnight visitors 2015 to 2017</strong></td>
<td>938,800pa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Great Southern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population 2017</strong></td>
<td>60,833</td>
<td>+204</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employed Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>29,721</td>
<td>+1,275</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployed Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>13,500</td>
<td>-99</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unemployment rate Dec-18</strong></td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>+0.4pp</td>
<td>+0.1pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross regional product 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$81m</td>
<td>-$13m</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residential building 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$122m</td>
<td>-$13m</td>
<td>-9.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Non-residential building 2017-18</strong></td>
<td>$620m</td>
<td>-$31m</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overnight visitors 2015 to 2017</strong></td>
<td>735,700pa</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Source

ABS 2018.0 Regional Population Growth: 700.3 Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced; and 8731 Other Building Approvals; Department of Jobs and Small Business; Small Area Labour Markets; WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files; and Tourism Western Australia, Regional Development Commission Fact Sheets (annual average overnight visits).