



AUSTRALIA'S MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES IRON ORE

Iron ore is an important commodity to Australia—it influences the budget, the returns of investment funds and has contributed to our high standard of living. The development of mines in the Pilbara in Western Australia also helped build regional communities through the construction of vital infrastructure such as power and water supply, schools and roads. The sector is at the forefront of innovation, with many automation technologies being deployed at Australia's iron ore operations.

1st LARGEST GLOBAL EXPORTER OF IRON ORE (2015)

\$48 billion IN EXPORT VALUE (2015-16)

29,306 PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE IRON ORE INDUSTRY AT THE END OF 2014-15

\$4.9 billion PAID IN WAGES AND SALARIES IN IRON ORE MINING (2014-15)



Resources:

Largest share of world's resources, accounting for **29%** (2014)

75 years of production at 2014 production rates

\$291 million iron ore exploration expenditure (2015-16)



Production:

2nd largest global producer by gross weight (2014)

817 million tonnes (Mt) of iron ore produced, accounting for **39%** of world production (2015)



Exports:

786 million tonnes (Mt) of iron ore exported (2015-16)



Did you know?

- Iron ore is a key component in the production of steel along with metallurgical coal.
- In 2015, Australia exported enough iron ore to build the Sydney Harbour Bridge more than 9,000 times.
- On average, 900 kg of steel is used per car.
- Steel is 100% recyclable and can be reused indefinitely.
- Steel forms around 80% of all materials used to construct a wind turbine.

Figure 1. Australia's iron ore exports

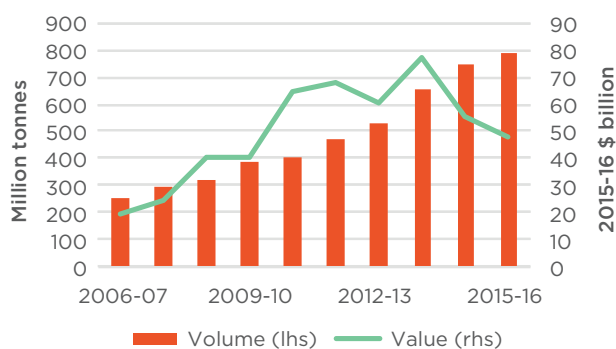


Figure 2. Australia's top iron ore export markets by volume (2015-16)

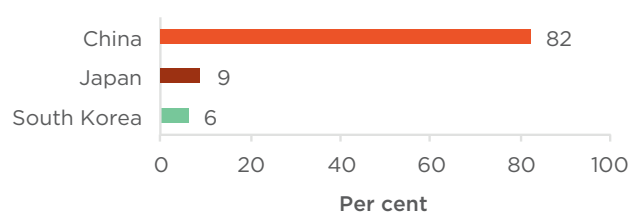
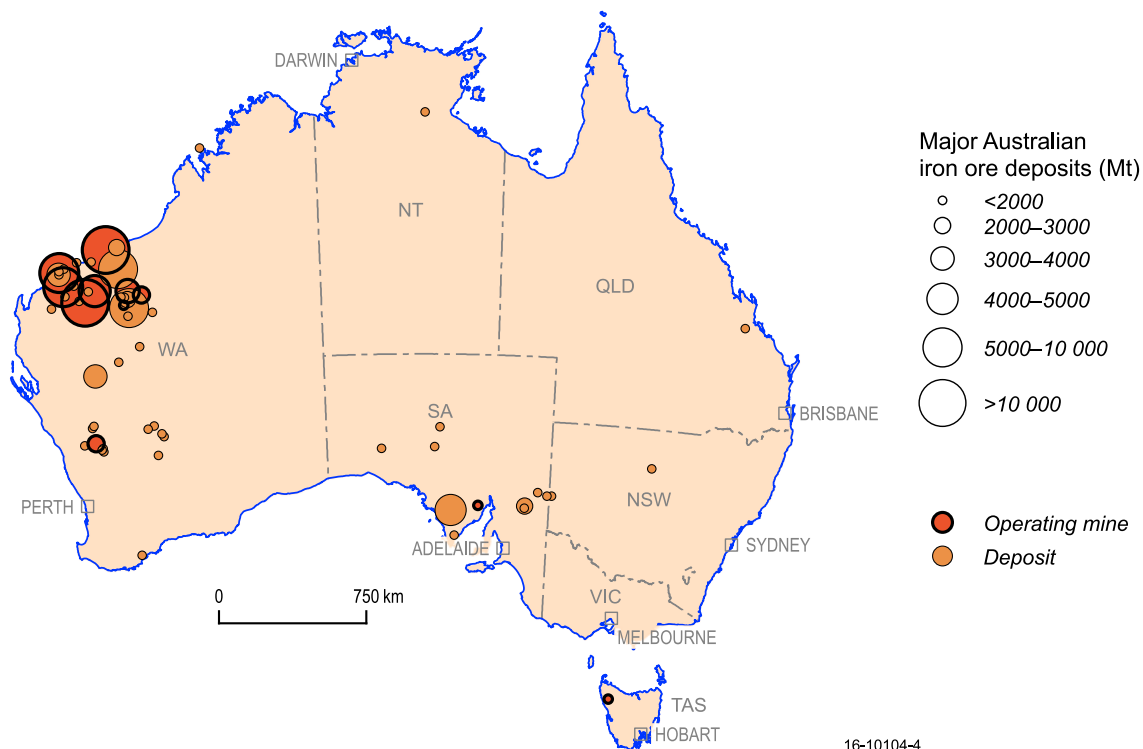


Figure 3. Australia's iron ore deposits and operating mines



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Table 1. World's seaborne trade in iron ore (2015)

EXPORTS	VOLUME (MT)	IMPORTS	VOLUME (MT)
Australia	767	China	953
Brazil	366	EU	153
South Africa	65	Japan	131
World Total	1,468	World Total	1,465

Table 2. Australia's iron ore production by state (2015-16)

STATE	VOLUME (MT)	SHARE (%)
Western Australia	839	98.7
South Australia	9	1.1
Tasmania	3	0.4
Total	850	

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Geoscience Australia, Office of the Chief Economist, World Steel Association

For more information:

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science: www.industry.gov.au
 Office of the Chief Economist: www.industry.gov.au/Office-of-the-Chief-Economist
 Geoscience Australia: www.ga.gov.au