

# International Trade in Services – 2016-17

ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

Brief Date: 4 January 2018 | Next Brief: December 2018



**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

## ACT international services exports increased in 2016-17

### ACT

In 2016-17, ACT services exports increased by 6.5 per cent, while ACT services imports increased by 8.8 per cent. The ACT services trade deficit was \$346 million, increasing from a deficit of \$280 million in 2015-16.

### National

Australia's services exports increased by 8.3 per cent in 2016-17, while services imports decreased by 1.5 per cent. Australia services trade deficit was \$2.7 billion, reducing from a deficit of \$10.3 billion in 2015-16.

### Services exports and imports, 2016-17

	Value (\$'m)	Change (%)
<b>ACT</b>		
Services exports	1,942	6.5
Services imports	2,288	8.8
Services trade balance (surplus + /deficit -)	-346	
<b>Australia</b>		
Services exports	81,642	8.3
Services imports	84,344	-1.5
Services trade balance (surplus + /deficit -)	-2,702	

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

### ACT largest services exports, 2016-17

	Value (\$'m)	Change (%)
Education exports <sup>1</sup>	786	24.4
Government goods and services exports <sup>2</sup>	452	8.7
Inbound tourism <sup>3</sup>	246	-3.9
Technical, trade-related and other business services <sup>4</sup>	228	10.1
Research and development services	105	-17.3

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

### ACT largest services imports, 2016-17

	Value (\$'m)	Change (%)
Government goods and services imports <sup>2</sup>	1,243	1.3
Outbound tourism <sup>3</sup>	694	9.8
Outbound business travel	103	10.8
Technical, trade-related and other business services <sup>4</sup>	98	180.0
Research and development services	49	-5.8

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

#### Notes:

1. The ABS classification is 'Travel – Personal – Education related'.
2. The ABS classification 'Government goods and services not included elsewhere': imports are largely related to purchases by the Australian diplomatic missions overseas; exports are largely related to purchases by the foreign diplomatic missions in the ACT.
3. The ABS classification is 'Travel – Personal – Other'.
4. ABS classification 'Technical, trade related and other business services' includes architectural, engineering, scientific and technical services, as well as miscellaneous business services.

## Commentary

### Services exports

In 2016-17, the largest contributor to growth in ACT services exports was education exports (up 24.4 per cent), contributing 8.4 percentage points to overall growth. This is the highest growth rate of any State or Territory.

Over the past five years, ACT education exports have increased by 79.5 per cent, reflecting a growing number of international students choosing to study in Canberra. The ACT's five year growth rate is 16.1 percentage points higher than the national growth rate (63.4 per cent).

In 2016-17, government goods and services exports (up 8.7 per cent) contributed 2.0 percentage points to growth. Technical, trade-related and other business services exports (up 10.1 per cent) contributed 1.2 percentage points to growth. Over the past five years, Technical, trade-related and other business services exports have increased by 140.0 per cent.

This was partly offset by a decline in inbound business travel in 2016-17 (down 37.2 per cent), detracting 1.6 percentage points from growth.

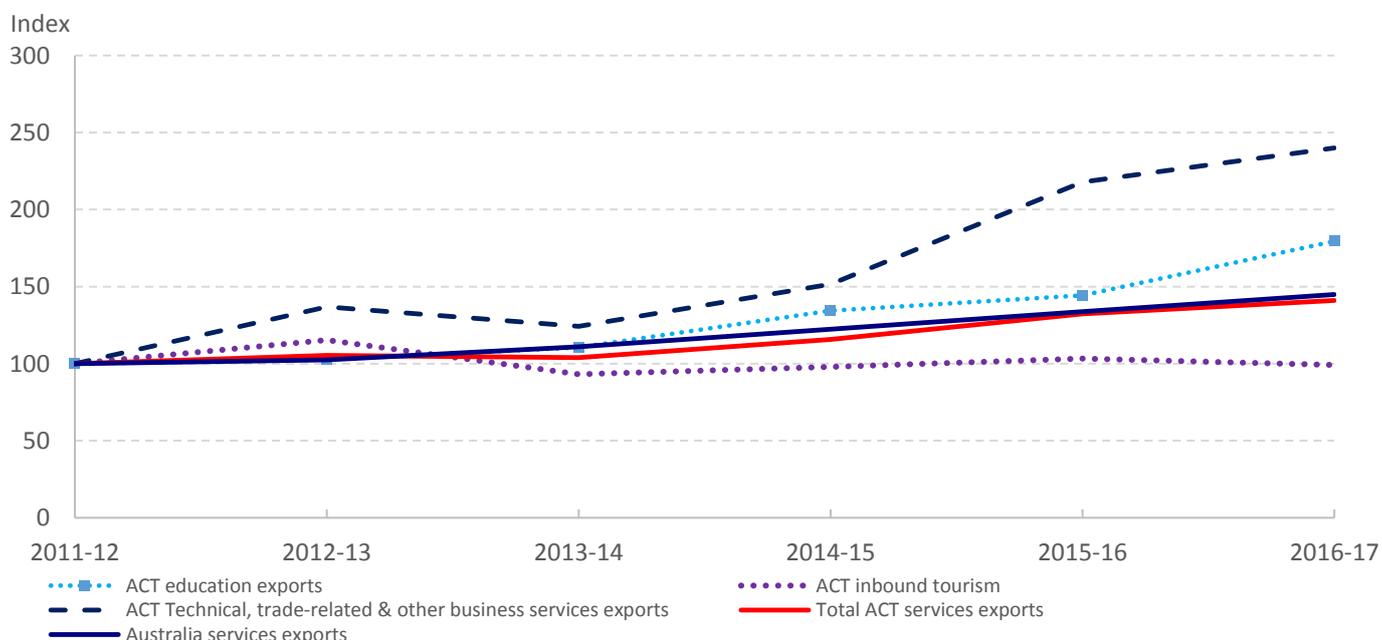
Inbound tourism (down 3.9 per cent) detracted 0.5 percentage points from growth in 2016-17. Over the past five years, inbound tourism has been flat (down 0.8 per cent).

### Services imports

The growth in ACT services imports (up 8.8 per cent) was partly due to a significant increase in Technical, trade-related and other business services imports (up 180.0 per cent), contributing 3.0 percentage points to overall growth.

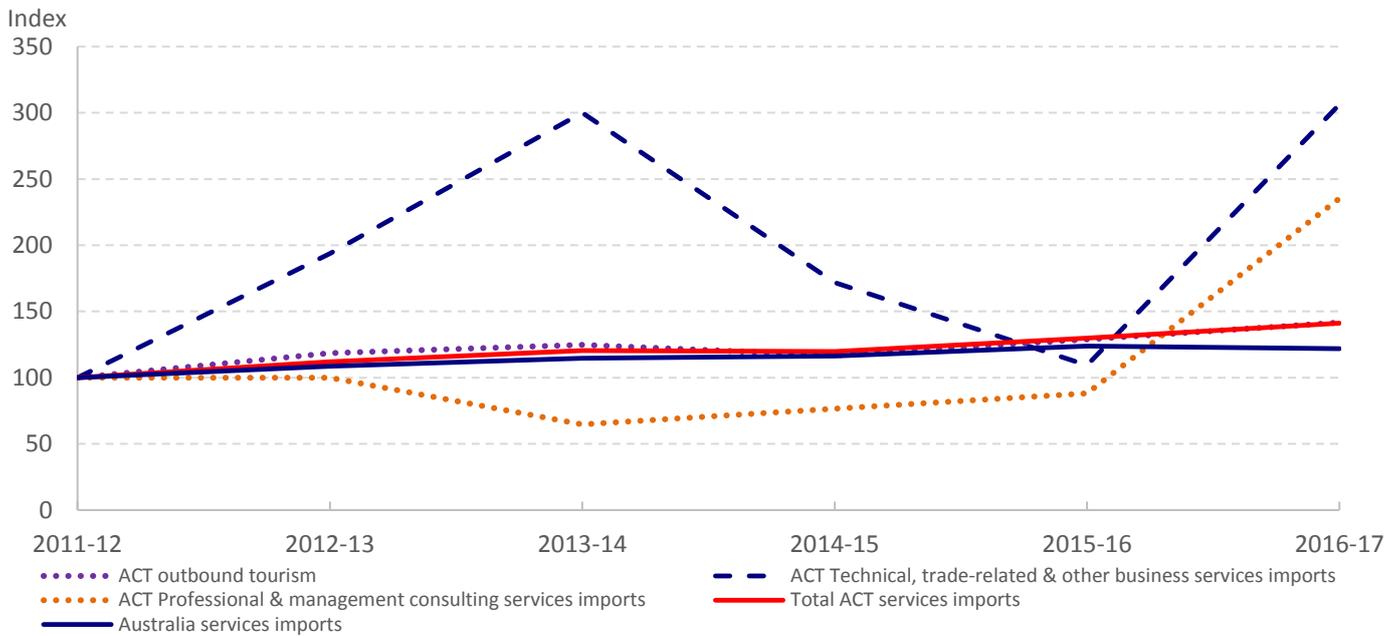
Outbound tourism (up 9.8 per cent) contributed 2.9 percentage points. Professional and management consulting services (up 166.7 per cent) contributed 1.2 percentage points to growth.

Services exports index, ACT and Australia



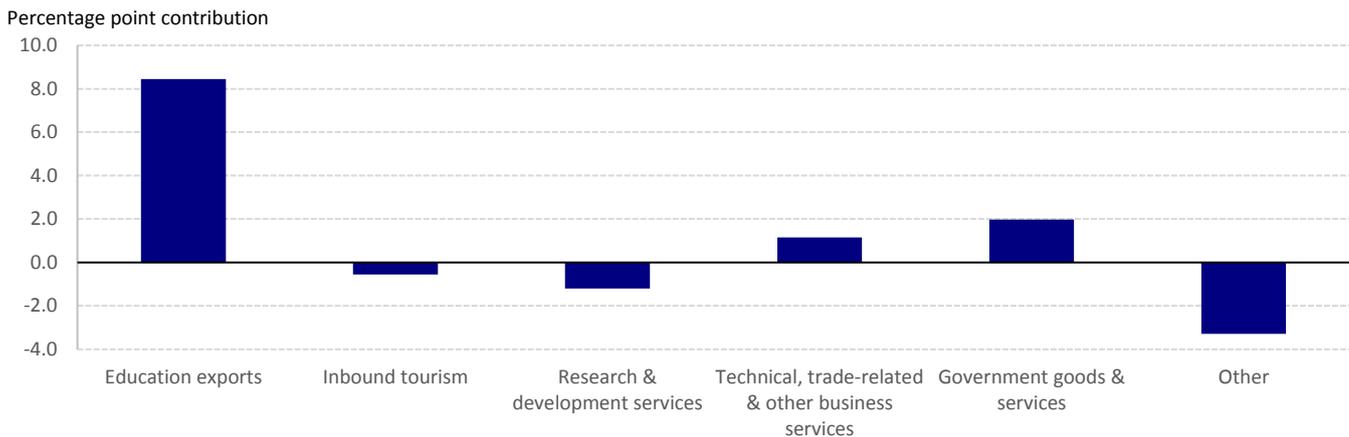
Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003; ACT Treasury calculation  
Base 2011-12 = 100

## Services imports index, ACT and Australia



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003; ACT Treasury calculation  
Base 2011-12 = 100

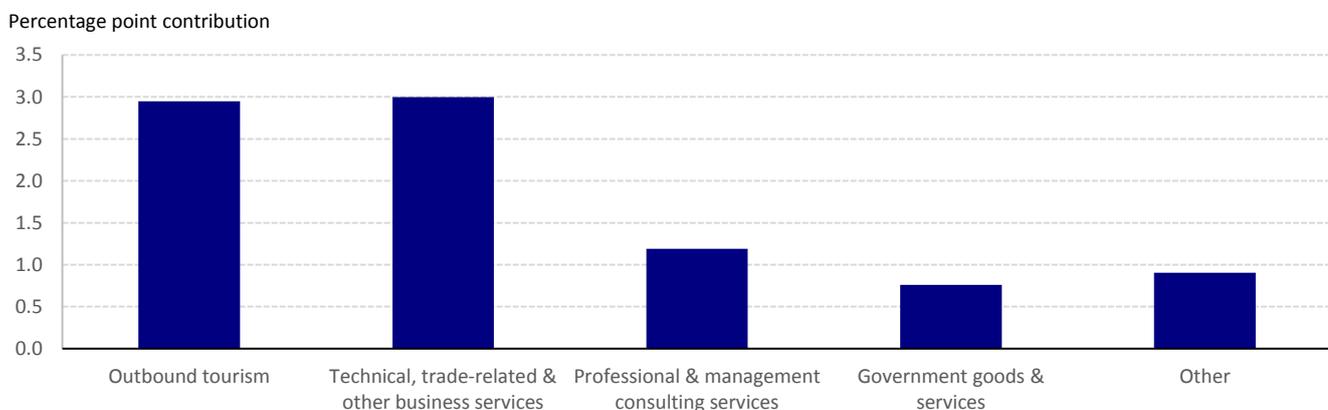
## 2016-17 ACT services exports, contribution to growth



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

Note: The Other exports grouping includes transport, inbound business travel, insurance and pension services, charges for the use of intellectual property, telecommunications, professional and management consulting services and personal, cultural and recreation.

## 2016-17 ACT services imports, contribution to growth



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

Note: The Other imports grouping includes transport, outbound business travel, education imports, research and development, insurance and pension services, charges for the use of intellectual property, telecommunications and personal, cultural and recreation.