

# International Trade in Services – 2018-19

ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

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**ACT**  
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and  
Economic Development

## ACT international services exports increased in 2018-19

### ACT

In 2018-19, ACT services exports increased by 3.1 per cent, while ACT services imports increased by 13.8 per cent. The ACT services trade deficit was \$426 million, increasing from a deficit of \$164 million in 2017-18.

### National

Australia's services exports increased by 10.2 per cent in 2018-19, while services imports increased by 9.0 per cent. Australia services trade deficit was \$4.47 billion, decreasing from a deficit of \$5.14 billion in 2017-18.

### Services exports and imports (nominal), 2018-19

|   | Value (\$'m) | Change (%) |
|---|--------------|------------|
| <b>ACT</b>                                    |              |            |
| Services exports                              | 2,305        | 3.1        |
| Services imports                              | 2,731        | 13.8       |
| Services trade balance (surplus + /deficit -) | -426         |            |
| <b>Australia</b>                              |              |            |
| Services exports                              | 97,117       | 10.2       |
| Services imports                              | 101,589      | 9.0        |
| Services trade balance (surplus + /deficit -) | -4,472       |            |

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

### ACT largest services exports (nominal), 2018-19

|   | Value (\$'m) | Change (%) |
|---|--------------|------------|
| Education exports <sup>1</sup>                                    | 1,042        | 7.8        |
| Government goods and services exports <sup>2</sup>                | 549          | 2.6        |
| Inbound tourism <sup>3</sup>                                      | 258          | 3.2        |
| Technical, trade-related and other business services <sup>4</sup> | 196          | -10.5      |
| Research and development services                                 | 96           | -29.4      |

Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

### ACT largest services imports (nominal), 2018-19

|  | Value (\$'m) | Change (%) |
|--|--------------|------------|
| Government goods and services imports <sup>2</sup>                 | 1,560        | 19.5       |
| Outbound tourism <sup>3</sup>                                      | 836          | 8.3        |
| Outbound business travel   | 102          | 2.0        |
| Technical, trade-related and other business services               | 52           | 62.5       |
| Telecommunications, computer and information services <sup>5</sup> | 50           | 11.1       |

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.
5. ABS classification 'Telecommunications, computer and information services' includes telecommunications services and computer and information services.

## Commentary

### Services exports

In **2018-19**, the largest contributor to growth in ACT services exports was *education* exports (up 7.8 per cent), contributing 3.4 percentage points to overall growth. This is the second lowest growth rate of any State or Territory for *education exports*, after Western Australia.

**Over the past five years**, ACT *education* exports have increased by 115.3 per cent, reflecting a growing number of international students choosing to study in Canberra. The ACT's five year growth rate is 12.6 percentage points higher than the national growth rate (102.7 per cent).

In **2018-19**, business-related travel (up 41.7 per cent) contributed 0.9 percentage points to overall growth. This was followed by *government goods and services* exports (up 2.6 per cent, contributing 0.6 of a percentage point); *telecommunications, computer and information services* (up 85.7 per cent, contributing 0.5 of a percentage point) and *inbound tourism* (up 3.2 per cent, contributing 0.4 of a percentage point).

These increases were partly offset by a decline in *research and development services* (down 29.4 per cent), detracting 1.8 percentage points and a decline in *technical, trade-related and other business services* (down 10.5 per cent), detracting 1.0 percentage points from the overall growth.

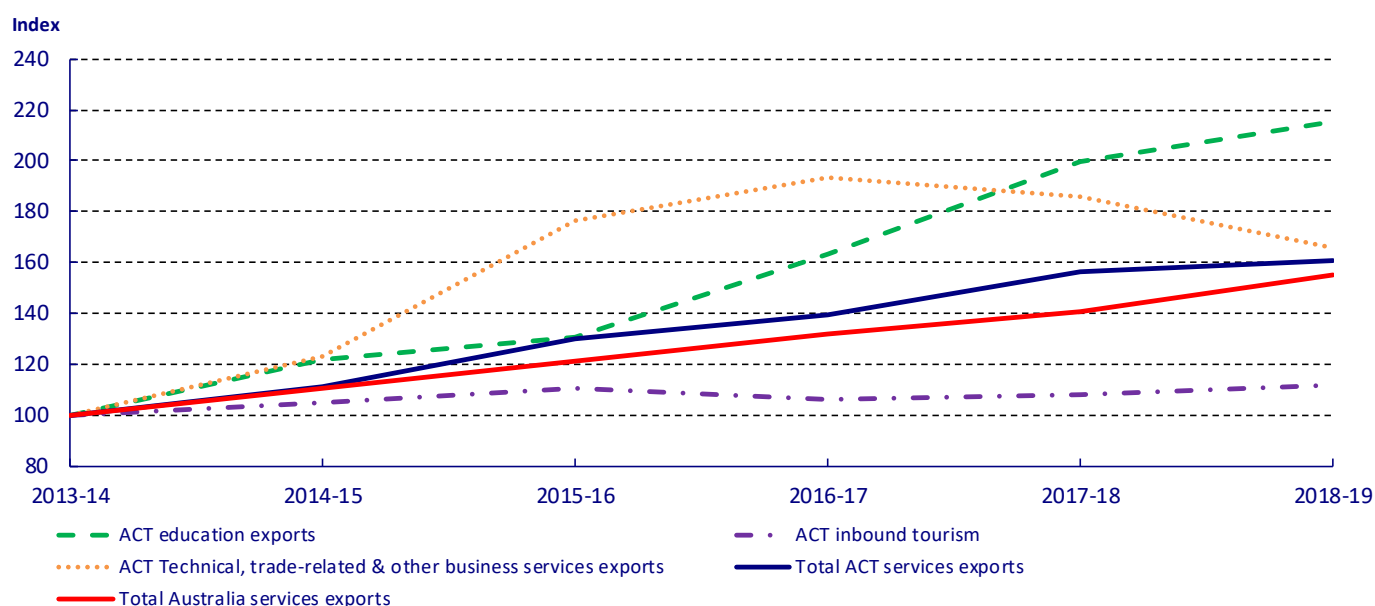
**Over the past five years**, *technical, trade-related and other business services* exports increased by 66.1 per cent. This was followed by *government goods and services* exports and *business-related travel*, which increased by 46.4 per cent and 23.6 per cent, respectively. *Research and development services* exports decreased by 28.4 per cent over the past five years.

### Services imports

The growth in ACT services imports (up 13.8 per cent) in **2018-19** was largely due to an increase in *government goods and services* imports (up 19.5 per cent, contributing 10.6 percentage points) and *outbound tourism* (up 8.3 per cent, contributing 2.7 percentage points).

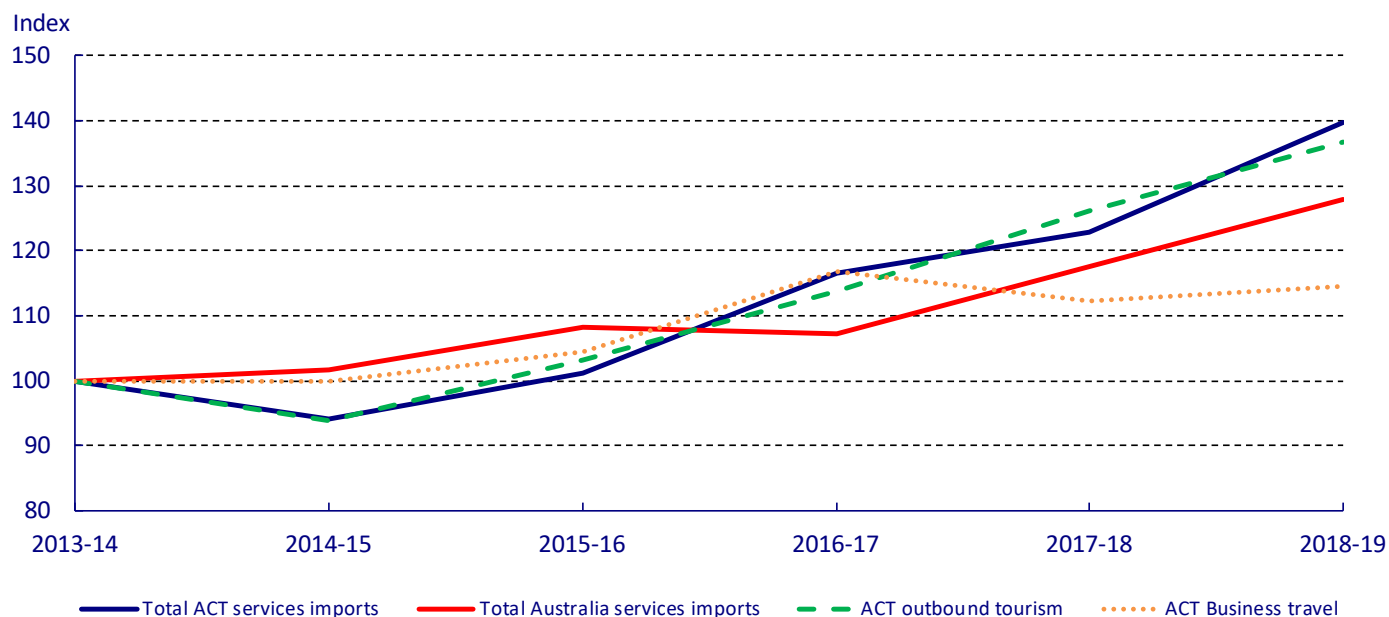
*Research and development services* (down 17.1 per cent), detracted 0.3 of a percentage point and *professional and management consulting services* (down 19.6 per cent), detracted 0.4 of a percentage point from the overall growth.

Services exports index (nominal), ACT and Australia



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003; ACT Treasury calculation  
Index Reference Period: 2013-14 = 100

## Services imports index (nominal), ACT and Australia

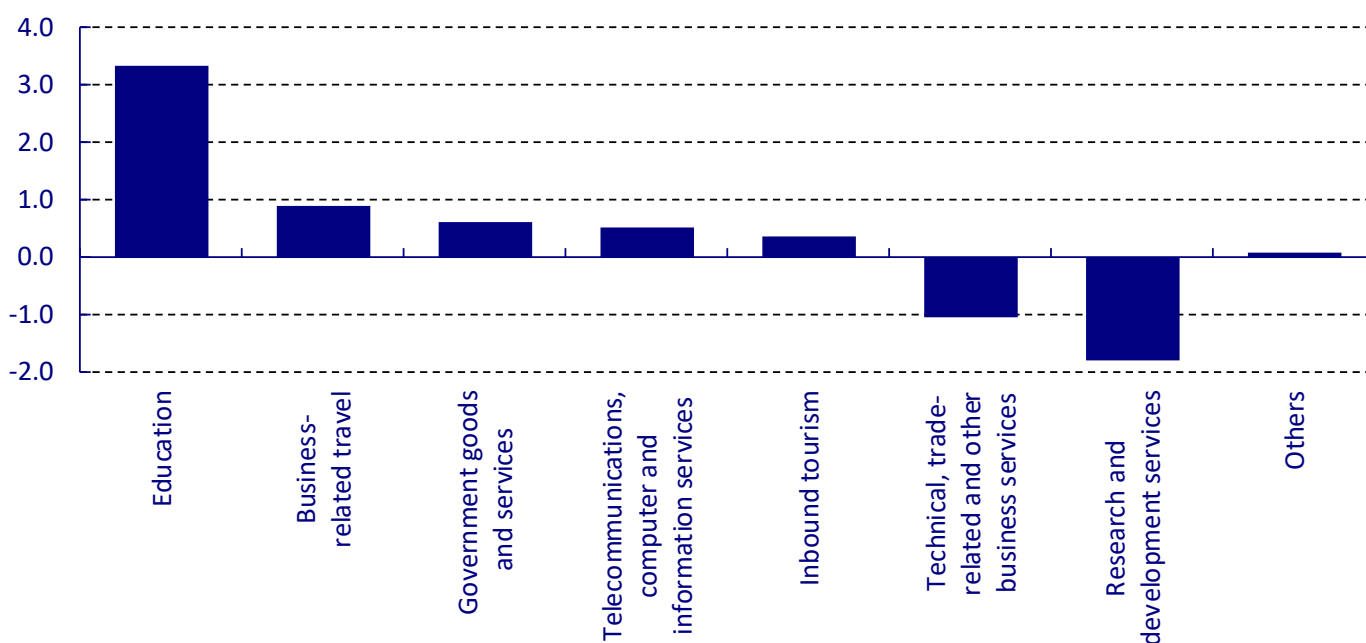


Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003; ACT Treasury calculation

Index Reference Period: 2013-14 = 100

## 2018-19 ACT services exports, contribution to nominal growth

Percentage point contribution

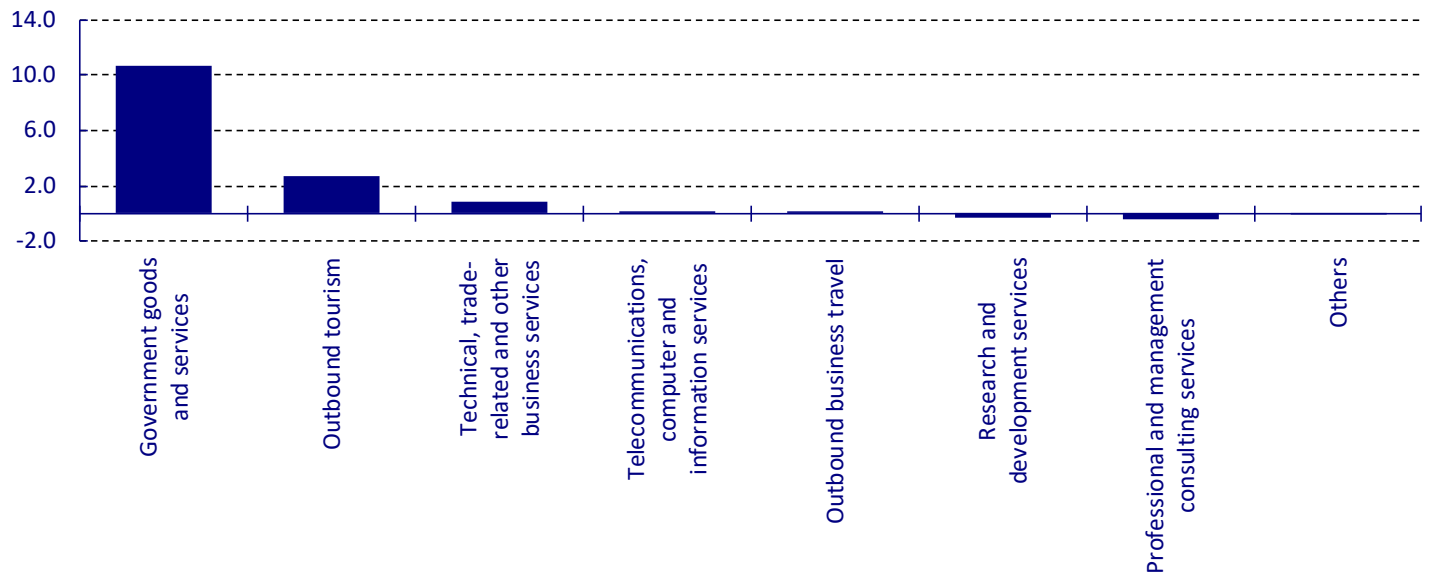


Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

Note: **Others** include Transport; Insurance and Pension services; Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e; Professional and management consulting services; and Personal, cultural, and recreational services.

## 2018-19 ACT services imports, contribution to nominal growth

Percentage point contribution



Source: ABS Cat. No. 5368.0.55.003

Note: **Others** include Transport; Education-related travel; Insurance and Pension services; Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e and Personal, cultural, and recreational services.