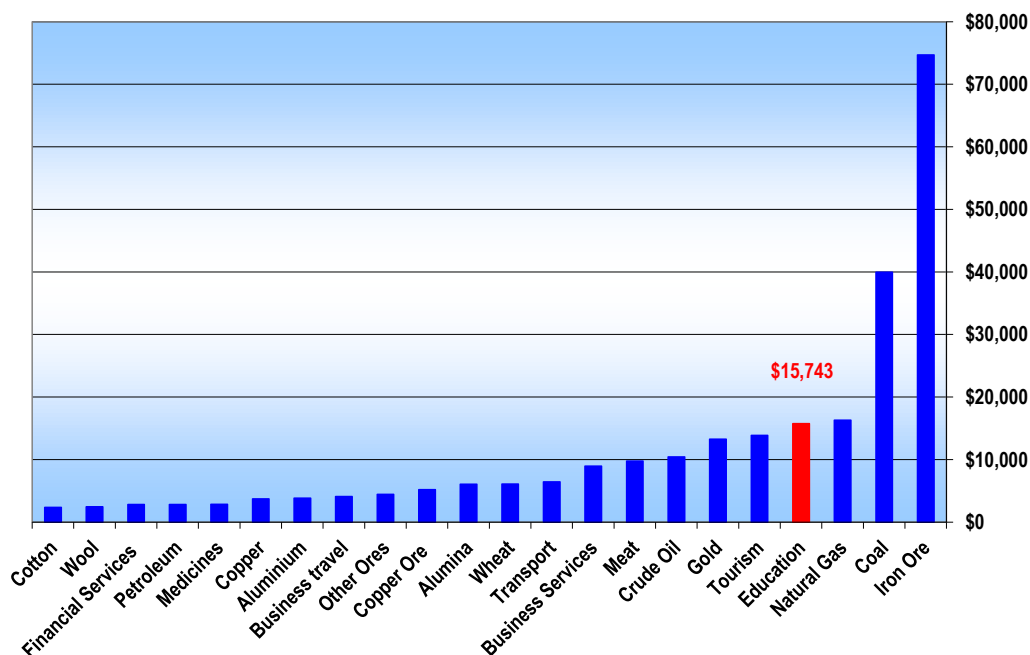


# Education as an Export for Australia

## Education as an Export 2013/14

Education in 2013/14 was Australia's fourth largest export behind Iron, Coal and Natural Gas, ahead of Tourism, Gold, Crude Oil and Meat.

Chart 1  
Australia's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)



George Megalogenis, in **The Australian Moment**<sup>1</sup>, depicts Australia as a *quarry with a view*, a minerals rich continent with a physical environment attractive to international tourists, providing the prosperity that has enabled a nation of 22 million people, accounting for less than 2% of world production, to duck the last three super crashes: the Asian financial meltdown, the tech wreck and the global financial crisis.

But Education as an export also has played a role in Australia's economic prosperity, doubling in value every five years from 1990 to 2010 and overtaking tourism as the top service export in 2007/08.

Education, now Australia's fourth largest export, is also the only top export that captures Australia as more than a *quarry with a view*.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics on 20 November 2014<sup>2</sup> released data on the value of education as an export for Australia and its states and territories.

<sup>1</sup> Megalogenis, George 2012 **The Australian Moment** Hamish Hamilton, Camberwell

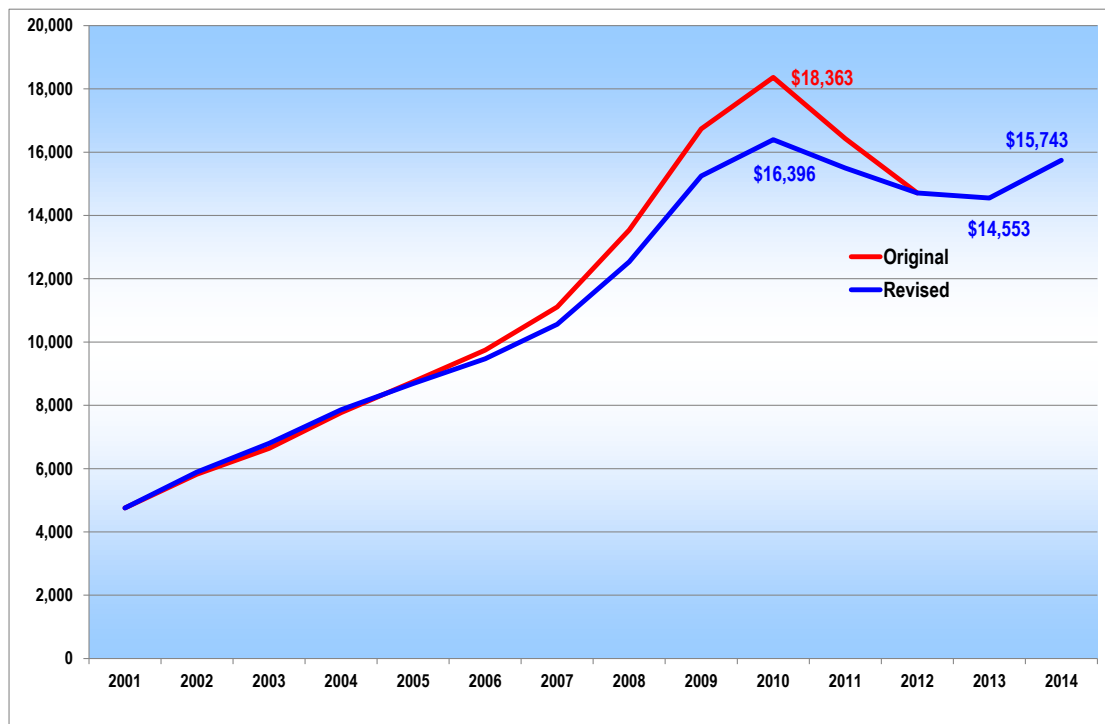
<sup>2</sup> 5368.0.55.003 - **International Trade in Services by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category, Financial Year, 2013-14** downloaded 20 November 2014 from <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/ProductsbyReleaseDate/20A6655C4A802207CA257164007C9BF5?OpenDocument>

In terms of the value of Education as an export for Australia, 2009/10 has been the peak so far. From \$16.396 billion in 2009/10, the value dropped to \$15.500 billion in 2010/11, \$14.711 billion in 2011/12 and \$14.553 in 2012/13, but its value has now recovered to \$15.743 billion in 2013/14.

## Revision

ABS reported in August 2010 that the value of education as an export for Australia in 2009/10 was \$18.363 billion and it has been said frequently since 2010 that the value of education as an export peaked at \$18 billion in 2009/10. The figure \$18.363 billion has now been revised down to \$16.396 billion.

**Chart 2**  
**Education as an Export for Australia (\$ millions): Revisions**



## Methodology

All export figures in this paper have been supplied directly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

This paper uses as the value of education exports for Australia, and for the states and territories, the figure for spending on fees and goods and services by students onshore in Australia. These are the figures that would be used in any negotiations with state and territory governments on matters such as public transport concessions for example.

## Australia

As in Chart 1 on page 1, education as an export for Australia was valued at \$15.473 billion in 2013/14.

## States and Territories

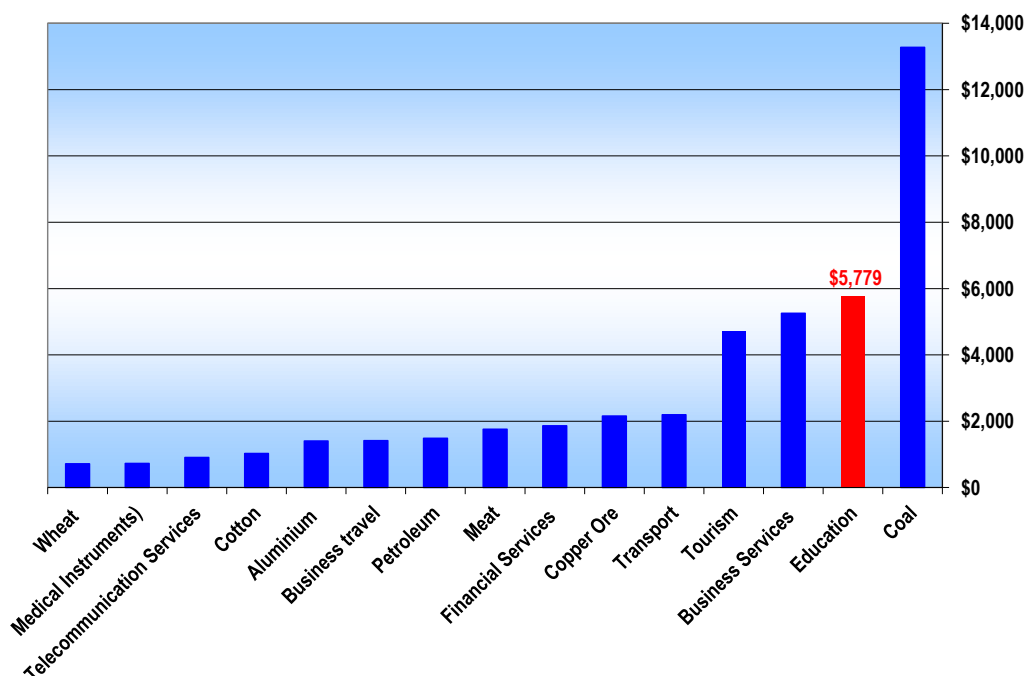
Charts showing export league tables for each of the eight states and territories follow.

Education in 2013/14 was the largest export for Victoria (by the length of the straight), the largest export for ACT (ahead of Government Services), the second largest export for NSW (behind Coal), the fourth largest export for Queensland (behind Coal, Meat and Tourism) and the fifth largest export for South Australia (behind Iron Ore, Wheat, Copper and Wine).

## NSW

The value of Education as an export for NSW was \$5.779 billion in 2013/14. Education remains the state's second largest export behind Coal.

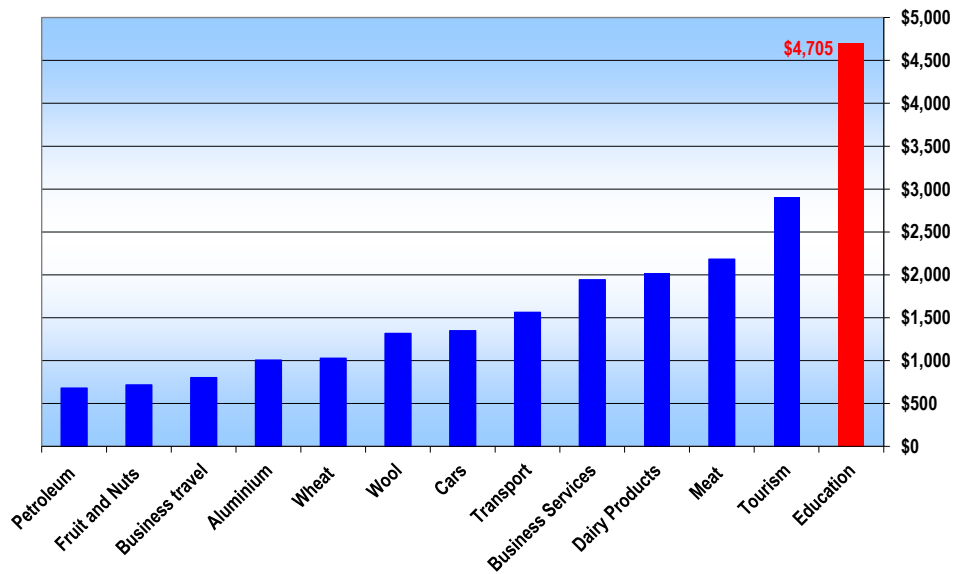
**Chart 3**  
**NSW's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)**



## Victoria

The value of Education as an export for Victoria was \$4.705 billion in 2013/14. Education remains the state's largest export.

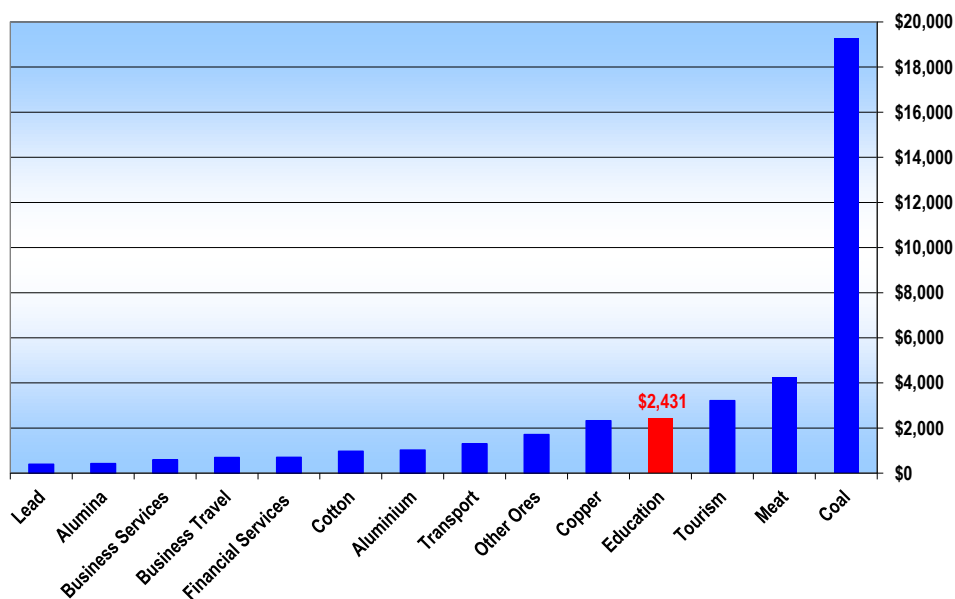
**Chart 4**  
**Victoria's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)**



## Queensland

The value of Education as an export for Queensland was \$2.431 billion in 2013/14. Education remains the state's fourth largest export behind Coal, Meat (mostly Beef) and Tourism.

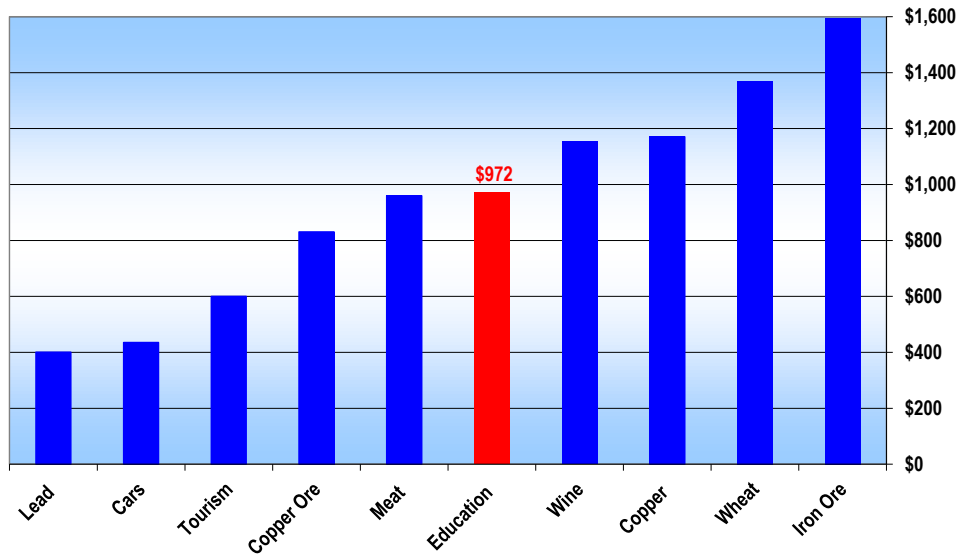
**Chart 5**  
**Queensland's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)**



## South Australia

The value of Education as an export for South Australia was \$972 million in 2013/14. Education is the state's fifth largest export behind Iron Ore, Wheat, Copper and Wine.

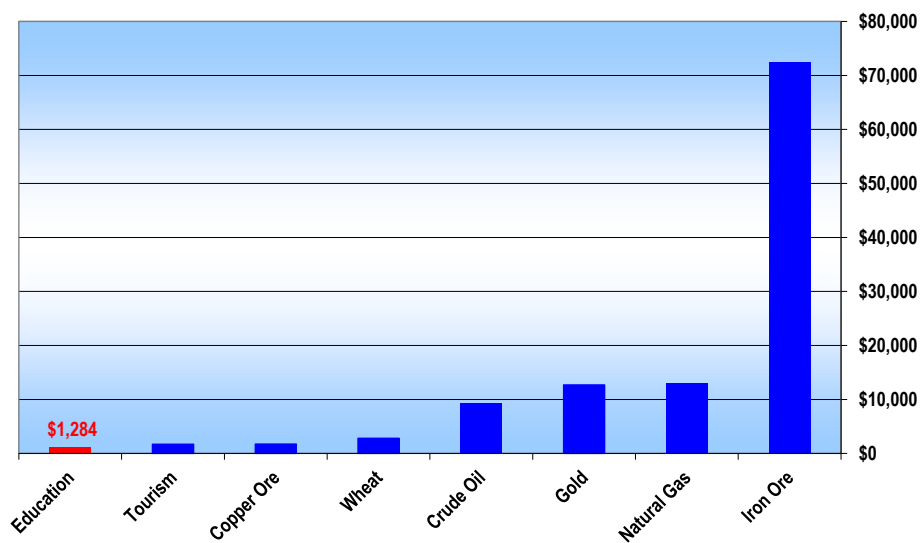
**Chart 6**  
**South Australia's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)**



## Western Australia

The value of Education as an export for WA was \$1.284 billion in 2013/14.

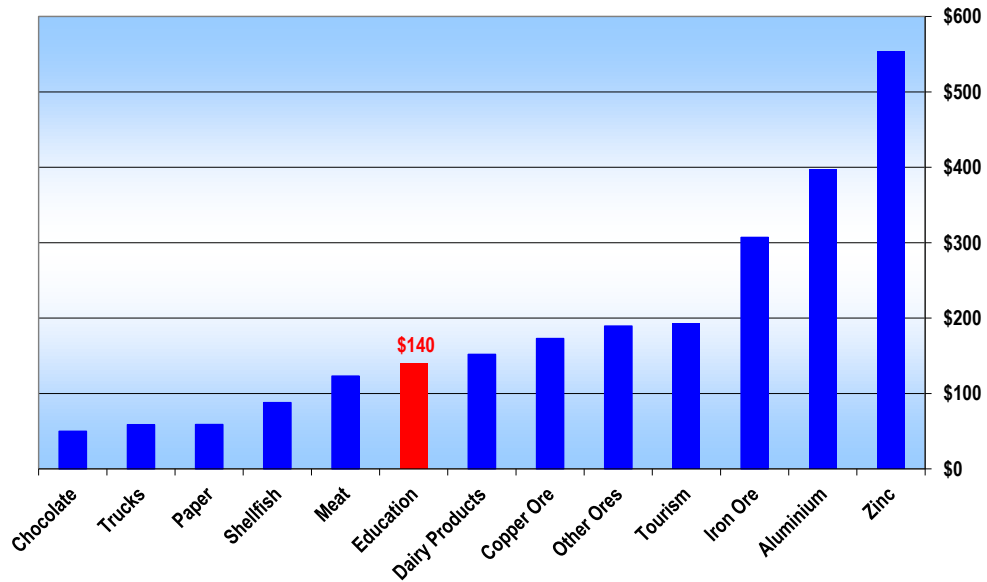
**Chart 7**  
**Western Australia's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)**



## Tasmania

The value of Education as an export for Tasmania was \$140 million in 2013/14.

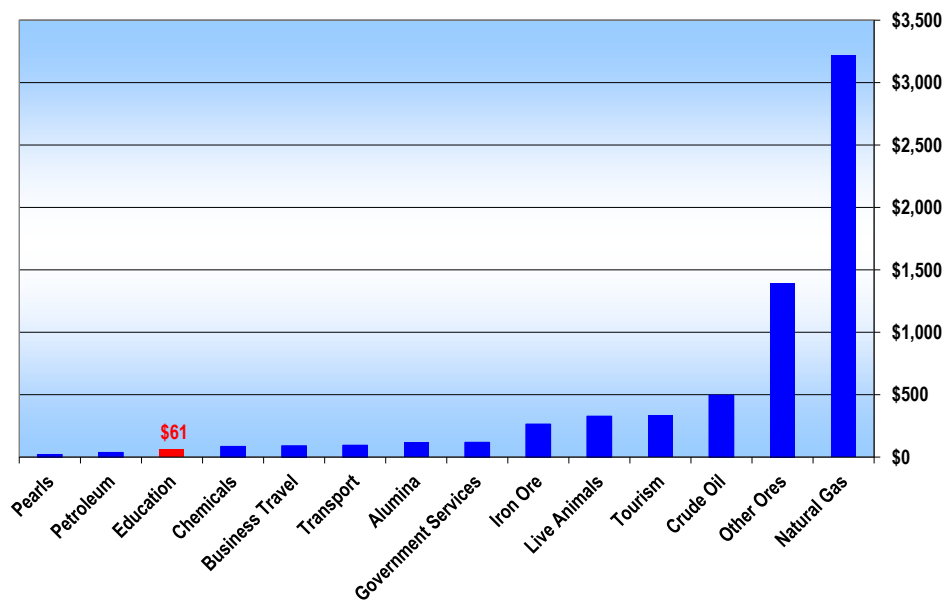
**Chart 8**  
**Tasmania's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)**



## Northern Territory

The value of Education as an export for Northern Territory was \$61 million in 2013/14.

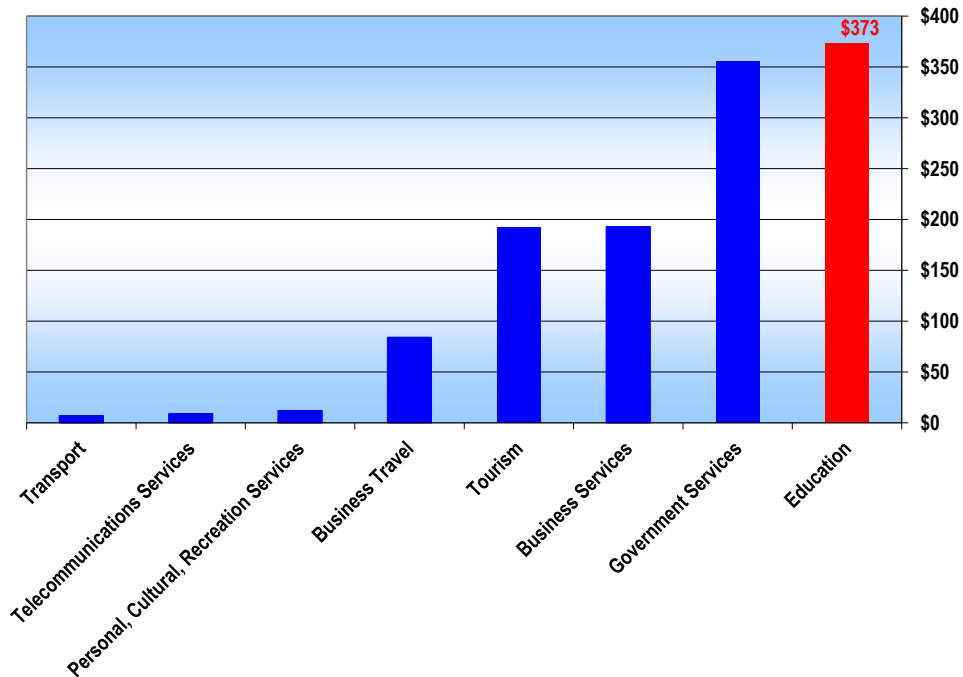
**Chart 9**  
**Northern Territory's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)**



## ACT

The value of Education as an export for ACT was \$373 million in 2013/14. Education remains the territory's largest export ahead of Government Services.

**Chart 10**  
**Australian Capital Territory's Top Exports 2013/14 (\$ millions)**



## About the Author

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In October 2009 Alan was recognised by his colleagues with an International Education Excellence Award from the International Education Association of Australia for his distinguished contribution to the field of international education.