

Freight at Melbourne Airport

Fact Sheet

The physical, geographical and logistical attributes of Victoria, and its aviation gateway Melbourne Airport, ensures that Melbourne is firmly entrenched as a freight and logistics hub for Australasia. Being close to major industrial areas also means employment opportunities for thousands of residents in nearby suburban growth corridors.

Melbourne Airport leads the nation for Australian exports, with over 40% of the country's air freight exports passing through the airport. This equates to \$1.8 billion worth of locally made produce that is flown out of the airport to foreign markets.

According to the Federal Government's 2022 Population Statement, Melbourne will become Australia's largest city in 2031-32 with just over six million people, resulting in increased freight demand.

And with 85% of all international air freight travelling in the cargo hold of passenger aircraft, meeting demand for air travel and freight to and from Melbourne is vital to Victorian and Australian communities and economies. Electronics, online shopping orders, machinery, manufactured goods, fruits, vegetables, fish, dairy, meat, spare parts, pharmaceuticals that require quick transportation, medical research, zoo transportation, our pets — dogs, cats, birds — and more, are some of what make up our freight.

Freight growth

As a result of Melbourne Airports curfew-free operations, freight services can operate overnight to and from Melbourne. The airport's central geographical location makes it a hub for agricultural markets across Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

With additional direct routes to China, Japan, India, Vietnam and Canada expected in near the future and Melbourne Airport supporting 6 of the 10 busiest domestic flight routes in Australia, freight demands are growing. Imports and exports are increasing and the air freight sector in Australia is expected to grow. This is led by a strong inbound market and an unequalled rise in e-commerce, with customers wanting their orders delivered sooner, safer and in a more sustainable manner.

More than 2300 weekly services operate at Melbourne Airport, with a number of cargo operators at the airport to include Qantas, Menzies, Dnata, DHL and the Australia Post Gateway facilities. International freight airlines also serve Melbourne, including Tasman Cargo, Qatar Airways, Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines.



**205 MILLION TONNES
OF FREIGHT EXPORTED**
through Melbourne Airport,
worth **\$22 billion**



**TOP 3
EXPORT CATEGORIES**
are dairy, fruits, nuts
& prepared foods

A third runway

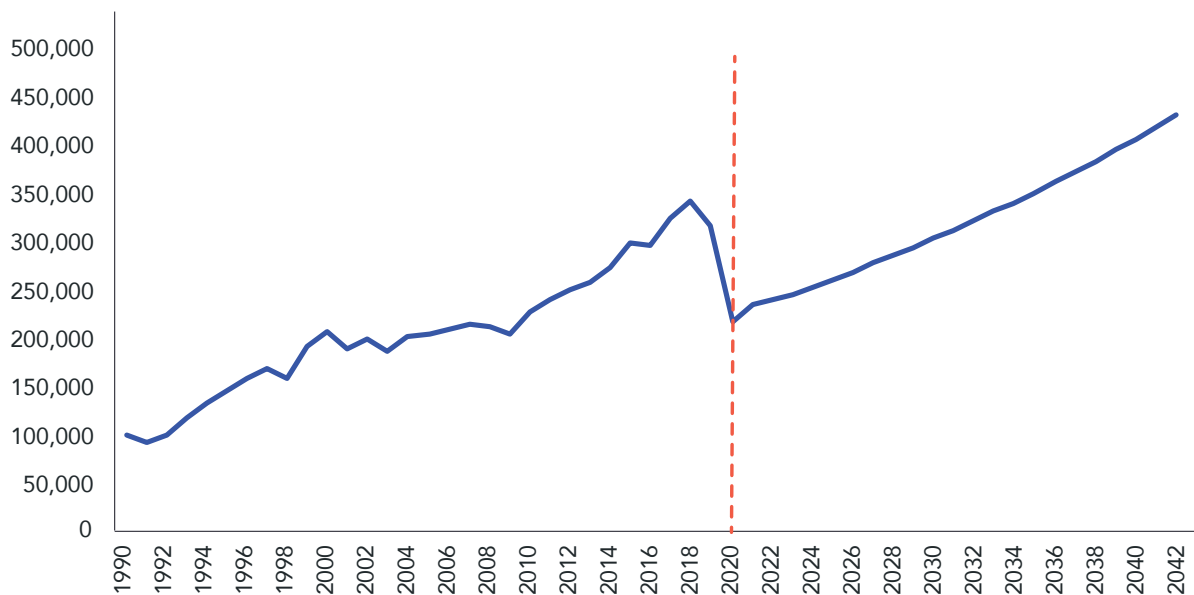
A new third runway at Melbourne Airport would increase the airport's ability to meet passenger and freight demand and number of flights in and out of the airport. This will present an opportunity for growth in air freight movements and Victoria's economy.

Increasing flights and passenger numbers gives Victorian exporters of high-value, time-critical goods increased opportunity for additional imports and exports, and access international markets. It is estimated that a typical daily international flight contributes more than \$154 million to the Victorian economy and supports more than 1,380 jobs per annum.

The ability to accept flights, and especially air freight, into Melbourne 24/7 is a unique strategic advantage to Victoria. The estimated value of the airport's curfew-free status is more than \$6.5 billion per year and 58,100 jobs.

An extra runway means we can move more freight and better compete with other major Australian airports. Meeting demand for freight to and from Melbourne is vital to Victorian and Australian communities and economies.

Air Freight Volume²¹



Source: Forecast at 3% z by BITRE

Freight at Melbourne Airport Fact Sheet

Australian Airports freight movement

In 2022, animal and vegetable products accounted for 75% of the total volume of freight in and out of Melbourne Airport. Melbourne and Sydney airports handled almost three-quarters of the export of perishables bound for Asian and Middle East markets, and 90% of pharmaceutical exports, the majority going to New Zealand, China and the US.

Exports by tonnage

	Tonnes				As a percentage of total exports				Change in tonnage	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021 vs 2022	2019 vs 2022
Sydney	210,331	172,137	217,937	207,395	37%	46%	54%	53%	-5%	-1%
Melbourne	212,371	110,904	109,001	102,923	37%	30%	27%	26%	-6%	-52%
Brisbane	71,114	42,797	41,040	43,668	12%	12%	10%	11%	6%	-39%
Perth	53,413	34,784	28,785	27,977	9%	9%	7%	7%	-3%	-48%
Adelaide	16,154	6,955	6,531	5,175	3%	2%	2%	1%	-21%	-68%
Other	10,730	3,990	2,995	1,381	2%	1%	1%	0.4%	-54%	-87%
Total	574,113	371,567	406,289	388,519	100%	100%	100%	100%	-4%	-32%

Imports by tonnage

	Tonnes				As a percentage of total exports				Change in tonnage	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021 vs 2022	2019 vs 2022
Sydney	210,661	211,035	223,215	219,860	49%	59%	56%	55%	-2%	4%
Melbourne	119,722	93,911	107,605	108,581	28%	26%	27%	27%	1%	-9%
Brisbane	49,640	27,345	33,188	36,059	12%	8%	8%	9%	9%	-27%
Perth	33,017	21,755	24,474	28,162	8%	6%	6%	7%	15%	-15%
Adelaide	10,132	4,399	5,351	4,916	2%	1%	1%	1%	-8%	-51%
Other	6,178	1,925	2,094	3,463	1%	1%	1%	1%	65%	-44%
Total	429,349	360,370	395,925	401,041	100%	100%	100%	100%	1%	-7%

Melbourne Airport freight movement

Exports by tonnes - top 10

	Tonnes				As a percentage of total exports				Change in tonnage	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021 vs 2022	2019 vs 2022
Meat	40,535	29,230	23,128	23,266	19%	26%	21%	23%	1%	-43%
Seafood	14,055	15,642	21,179	18,871	7%	14%	19%	18%	-11%	34%
Fruit and nuts	22,327	15,179	10,105	11,239	11%	14%	9%	11%	11%	-50%
Dairy, honey	10,837	6,472	6,792	6,569	5%	6%	6%	6%	-3%	-39%
Vegetables	10,281	6,335	6,992	5,973	5%	6%	6%	6%	-15%	-42%
Machinery and mechanical appliances	4,547	2,908	3,944	4,391	2%	3%	4%	4%	11%	-3%
Pharmaceutical products	8,518	4,877	2,324	2,306	4%	4%	2%	2%	-1%	-73%
Electronics	2,406	1,683	2,123	2,243	1%	2%	2%	2%	6%	-7%
Miscellaneous edibles	8,546	3,824	3,460	2,160	4%	3%	3%	2%	-38%	-75%
Essential oils and cosmetics	3,023	1,771	1,541	1,878	1%	2%	1%	2%	22%	-38%
Other	87,297	22,982	27,413	24,027	41%	21%	25%	23%	-12%	-72%
Total	212,371	110,904	109,001	102,923	100%	100%	100%	100%	-6%	-52%

Imports by tonnes - top 10

	Tonnes				As a percentage of total exports				Change in tonnage	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021 vs 2022	2019 vs 2022
Machinery and mechanical appliances	17,252	12,675	15,513	14,179	14%	13%	14%	13%	-9%	18%
Electronics	11,280	8,885	10,447	10,699	9%	9%	10%	10%	2%	-5%
Clothing	10,727	8,513	8,471	8,986	9%	8%	8%	6%	%-	16%
Chemical products	1,481	1,830	2,519	7,155	1%	2%	2%	7%	184%	383%
Vehicles, parts and accessories	4,678	2,903	4,702	4,618	4%	3%	4%	4%	-2%	1%
Seafood	3,790	3,456	4,098	3,590	3%	4%	4%	3%	-12%	-5%
Medical/ optical/visual instruments	5,386	3,704	3,572	3,542	4%	4%	3%	3%	-1%	34%
Pharmaceutical products	2,692	2,708	2,689	3,263	2%	3%	2%	3%	21%	21%
Live plants	4,009	3,129	3,247	3,008	3%	3%	3%	3%	-7%	25%
Plastics and articles thereof (b)	5,125	3,424	3,067	2,811	4%	4%	3%	3%	-8%	45%
Other	53,302	42,686	49,278	46,730	45%	45%	46%	43%	-5%	12%
Total	119,722	93,911	107,605	108,581	100%	100%	100%	100%	1%	-9%