

# Australian exports of natural stone

WORDS Peter Halliday

**A**ustralian exports of natural stone in 2011 was a modest A\$13,837,541. This was a 10 per cent decline on the 2010 figure and was also lower than the 2009 value. A summary table of natural stone exports and the country of destination for the previous 10 years can be seen in Fig. 1 (opposite).

The Australian Harmonized Export Commodity Classification (AHECC) is used by exporters to classify goods. The AHECC classification is based on the six digit international Harmonized Commodity Description and

Coding System (HS) developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) for describing internationally traded goods. The ABS extends the six digit international HS Code by two digits to provide a finer level of detail to meet Australian statistical requirements. The codes and descriptions of the relevant codes for natural stone can be seen in the Fig.3.

Queensland is the biggest state of origin for Australian stone exports, shipping over 47 per cent of the national total. New South Wales and Western Australia were the

Fig. 2 Australian Natural Stone State of Origin Export Value 2002-2011

State of Origin	FOB Value AUD									
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
New South Wales	2,160,811	2,426,683	3,090,400	3,612,896	3,935,829	2,865,318	3,445,459	5,007,719	3,263,982	1,965,913
Northern Territory	840,476	729,068	708,443	506,900	702,520	1,133,400	395,400	536,731	725,700	511,680
Queensland	1,642,354	2,178,332	3,005,368	3,491,089	2,956,314	3,824,158	5,602,487	4,148,317	7,898,651	6,536,946
South Australia	2,875,668	3,946,303	2,818,956	2,621,341	2,924,971	1,042,074	884,875	1,576,408	1,794,760	1,414,567
Tasmania		1,260	53,672	2,400	7,350			6,268	40,319	
Victoria	436,751	1,032,593	421,037	560,671	557,225	786,623	818,502	1,125,799	778,888	1,348,094
Western Australia	1,460,317	1,690,551	1,169,979	1,944,611	1,108,487	1,873,076	738,227	867,537	701,584	1,878,930
Re-exports	469,440	478,343	441,249	338,556	429,473	954,298	735,433	1,395,400	198,879	181,411
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,885,817</b>	<b>12,483,133</b>	<b>11,709,104</b>	<b>13,078,464</b>	<b>12,622,169</b>	<b>12,478,947</b>	<b>12,620,383</b>	<b>14,664,179</b>	<b>15,402,763</b>	<b>13,837,541</b>

Data source: ABS

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AUSTRALIAN GRANDEE GRANITE

Fig. I Australian Natural Stone - Export Value 2002-2011 (FOB Value AUD)

Destination	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Austria			2,016							
Bahrain	3,320	2,345	20,869	52,314						293
Barbados										2,135
Belgium			10,846							
Belgium-Luxembourg		15,000								
Bermuda		7,684								
Brazil		6,570			53,578	33,214	9,462			
Brunei Darussalam							30,000			
Canada		58,396	82,417	11,183	5,957	4,900	4,529	10,640	5,871	
Chile	3,147									
China	2,840,434	3,283,876	4,261,090	4,197,892	4,444,704	5,814,811	6,920,734	7,780,373	10,752,255	9,342,647
Christmas Island	3,180			3,037			9,566			
Cocos (Keeling) Island							2,500			
Cook Islands	2,709	4,694	4,100		4,300	5,926		4,080	2,222	2,975
Costa Rica								1,443		
Cyprus		2,584	21,611	5,022		2,924			3,631	
Czech Republic						1,193		1,105		
Dem Rep of Congo, Zaire								2,513		
Denmark				1,516						
East Timor, Dem Rep of	8,000				2,520					
Egypt	7,372	37,250	109,500				29,881	20,105		
Fiji	120,733	45,589	45,791	632,321	339,720	76,365	102,593	394,799	49,729	8,252
Finland								11,044	39,527	
France	6,000		10,000		20,000	14,950				2,961
French Polynesia	18,954			33			5,000			
Germany	167,705	141,971	237,436	352,395	498,512	228,574	197,956	132,578	52,340	80,000
Ghana							10,406			
Greece							2,598			53,665
Guam		3,280								
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	507,716	102,469	151,721	63,035	39,985	211,229	77,779	154,054	24,306	18,482
Hungary							1,950			
India	30,553			12,092	98,092	131,206	82,047	38,637		32,687
Indonesia	304,055	556,096	413,213	501,829	158,753	31,129	82,702		899,298	806,239
Ireland		136,649	3,419				3,430	32		
Israel				16,042	6,350	4,683		33,712		
Italy	2,839,444	4,085,223	2,723,337	2,734,642	2,507,934	1,324,021	909,756	1,596,800	1,049,753	1,945,958
Jamaica					1,505					
Japan	309,121	570,198	107,322	47,287	32,056	8,760		12,675	3,000	12,450
Korea, Republic of	60,000	23,107	39,646			5,771				
Kuwait		82,418	535,375	15,849			31,731	19,097		30,930
Lebanon				7,600			982	107,069	119	136,473
Macau (SAR of China)						143,905				
Malaysia	21,286	19,000	25,766	30,089	10,132	32,386	18,099	14,577	594	20,630
Maldives			5,223							
Mali						6,390				
Mexico							13,216			
Nauru		3,936			9,054					2,140
Netherlands		1,721	938	2,750	4,262		2,079		8,390	
New Caledonia		29,545	4,630		10,750	15,962	7,683	86,818	57,828	
New Zealand	1,138,346	1,071,737	1,356,206	1,966,549	2,170,875	2,054,934	2,637,854	1,879,150	1,258,184	679,930
Niue										4,600
Norfolk Island	47,742	2,900	59,669	8,852	3,300	12,123	16,671	12,595	65,327	60,497
Pakistan	200,000									1,540
Papua New Guinea	92,014	10,860	22,346	9,492	96,403	21,875	161,102	60,805	212,660	179,559
Peru				2,943						
Philippines	55,716	7,838			43,790	5,500		40,942		
Poland	2,300						8			
Portugal				23,406		15,048		27,762		
Qatar									21,970	
Russian Federation			5,497	876		2,619	648			
Samoa			3,696	10,462	7,350	9,740	2,400			
Saudi Arabia			105,215							
Seychelles								88,005		
Ship & Aircraft Stores							6		425	
Singapore	12,761	130,256	71,898	50,567	85,694	176,115	83,691	111,485	60,887	6,144
Solomon Islands	14,162		3,517	8,591		3,068	11,386	2,053		4,600
South Africa	20,127	4,600	9,999			321,699		73,725		
Spain							15,304			
Sri Lanka				3,135		68,355				
Sweden										2,848
Switzerland			170,657	649,844	3,805				167,338	
Taiwan	405,881	1,172,441	668,688	797,002	1,064,425	768,125	491,655	1,256,130	134,578	133,454
Thailand	452,477	122,202	175,570	91,607	156,349	474,072	118,473	69,223	319,872	183,800
Tonga	3,985	3,138	8,240	3,508						
Turkey				12,000			1,130			
Ukraine						2,375				
United Arab Emirates	10,500	7,598	28,800	17,954	9,950	9,451	139,084	374,784	114,489	5,928
United Kingdom	45,096	105,375	50,767	19,190	76,105	42,553	58,365	4,000	3,221	
United States of America	117,239	617,177	152,073	705,167	655,959	348,584	307,211	225,780	33,458	68,025
Vanuatu	13,742	7,410		9,500		28,916	34,180	4,744	27,385	7,699
Vietnam				891				10,877	31,619	
Yemen									2,487	
<b>Total Value</b>	<b>9,885,817</b>	<b>12,483,133</b>	<b>11,709,104</b>	<b>13,078,464</b>	<b>12,622,169</b>	<b>12,478,947</b>	<b>12,620,383</b>	<b>14,664,179</b>	<b>15,402,763</b>	<b>13,837,541</b>

Data source: ABS

-0.102





# Quality Australian Sandstone

Rockpool Apartments, Capricorn Buff with variation  
Photograph courtesy Rossini Stone

Sydney Domain Bridge, Heritage Rose

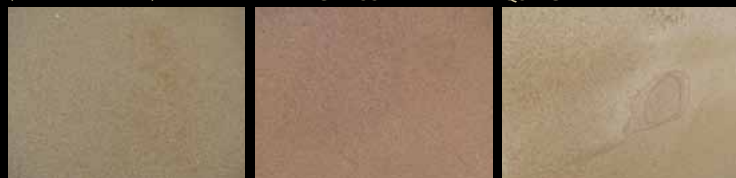
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next largest with a 14 per cent share each. The full details can be seen in Fig. 2.

In 2011 over 90 per cent of the value of Australian natural stone exports were shipped to only four countries, the biggest being China which received 67.5 per cent of the national total, valued at A\$9,342,647. Historically, Italy was the biggest importer of Australian natural stone until 2006. From 2007 to the present time, exports to China increased alongside a corresponding decrease in exports to Italy. China is the biggest global processing country for natural stone. Even Italian companies have stone processed in China. It is interesting to note however that exports to Italy almost doubled in 2011 over the 2010 year. A detailed breakdown of the top 4 destination countries and the state of origin can be seen in Fig. 4 (Readers can access this information on-line at [infotile.com](http://infotile.com), under Advice Menu in Archived Articles – Stone imports and exports. ☺)

Fig.3 Australian Natural Stone AHECC Export Classifications

### Australian Harmonised Export Commodity Classification (AHECC)

25140000 Slate (incl. powder & waste), whether or not roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (incl. square) shape (excl. mosaic cubes; slate cut into shapes other than rectangular; worked slate)

25151100 Crude or roughly trimmed marble and travertine, of an apparent specific gravity of 2.5 or more

25151200 Marble and travertine, of an apparent specific gravity of 2.5 or more, merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (incl. square) shape (excl. crude or roughly trimmed marble and travertine)

25151200 Marble and travertine, of an apparent specific gravity of 2.5 or more, merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (incl. square) shape (excl. crude or roughly trimmed marble and travertine)

25151200 Marble and travertine, of an apparent specific gravity of 2.5 or more, merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (incl. square) shape (excl. crude or roughly trimmed marble and travertine)

25152000 Ecaussine and other calcareous monumental or building stone (excl. marble & travertine), of an apparent specific gravity of 2.5 or more, and alabaster, whether or not roughly trimmed or merely cut into blocks or slabs of a rectangular shape

25161100 Crude or roughly trimmed granite

25161200 Granite, merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (incl. square) shape (excl. crude or roughly trimmed granite)

25162010 Crude or roughly trimmed sandstone

25162020 Sandstone, merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (incl. square) shape (excl. crude or roughly trimmed sandstone)

25162100 Crude or roughly trimmed sandstone

25162200 Sandstone, merely cut by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular shape

25169000 Porphyry, basalt and other monumental or building stone (excl. granite and sandstone), whether or not roughly trimmed or merely cut, by sawing or otherwise, into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (incl. square) shape

68010000 Setts, curbstones and flagstones of natural stone (excl. slate)

68021000 Tiles, cubes & sim. art., whether or not rect. (incl. sq), largest surface area of which is cap. of being encl. in a sq the side of which is < 7cm, of worked mon./bldg stone (excl. 6801), or of nat. stone; art. colour granules, chiggs & po

68022101 Worked marble, travertine and alabaster (excl. goods of 6801) and articles thereof, simply cut or sawn, with a flat or even surface

68022201 Worked calcareous stone (excl. marble, travertine, alabaster and goods of 6801) and articles thereof, simply cut or sawn, with a flat or even surface

68022301 Worked granite (excl. goods of 6801) and articles thereof, simply cut or sawn, with a flat or even surface

68022901 Worked monumental or building stone (excl. goods of 6801) nes and articles thereof, simply cut or sawn, with a flat or even surface

68022990 Worked calcareous stone (excl. marble, travertine, alabaster and goods of 6801) and articles thereof, simply cut or sawn, with a flat or even surface

68022992 Worked monumental or building stone (excl. goods of 6801; calcareous stone and granite) nes and articles thereof, simply cut or sawn, with a flat or even surface

68029101 Worked marble, travertine and alabaster (excl. goods of 6801) and articles thereof nes

68029201 Worked calcareous stone (excl. marble, travertine, alabaster and goods of 6801) and articles thereof nes

68029301 Worked granite (excl. goods of 6801) and articles thereof nes

68029901 Worked monumental or building stone (excl. goods of 6801) and articles thereof nes

68030000 Worked slate and articles of slate or of agglomerated slate

Fig. 4 Australian Natural Stone Exports - A\$ FOB Value 2011

Major Export Destination	AHECC Code																FOB Value			
	25140000	25151100	25151200	25152000	25161100	25161200	25162010	25162020	25169000	68010000	68021000	68022101	680222301	680222990	680229101	68022992	68029301	68029901	68030000	Total
<b>China</b>	73,647	23,758	23,758	9,628	1,098,111	415,937	2,737,557	4,209,666	50,001	96,850	398,792	57,500	171,200	1,184,293	9,342,647					
New South Wales				9,628		87,267	414,277	568,342		90,000	14,779			1,184,293						
Northern Territory						125,000				194,850			171,200							491,050
Queensland			23,758		1,067,229	19,679	1,383,522	3,102,577	22,348	8,866				5,627,979						
South Australia					30,882		456,721			180,297				667,900						
Victoria		36,052					939,758	82,026	27,653					1,085,489						
Western Australia		37,595			183,991					6,850			57,500	285,936						
<b>Indonesia</b>					<b>806,239</b>									<b>806,239</b>						
South Australia					599,847									599,847						
Western Australia					206,392									206,392						
<b>Italy</b>					<b>123,847</b>									<b>1,945,958</b>						
New South Wales					123,847									66,535						
Queensland										66,535				66,535						
Western Australia																				
<b>New Zealand</b>																				
New South Wales																				
Queensland																				
Re-exports																				
Victoria																				
<b>Total of Top 4 Destinations</b>	<b>320,068</b>	<b>315,441</b>	<b>9,628</b>	<b>1,904,350</b>	<b>539,784</b>	<b>2,737,557</b>	<b>4,209,666</b>	<b>61,709</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>247,269</b>	<b>1,330,297</b>	<b>566,740</b>	<b>107,442</b>	<b>120,013</b>	<b>44,539</b>	<b>177,220</b>	<b>83,051</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12,774,774</b>	
<b>Total all Destinations</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>326,068</b>	<b>379,443</b>	<b>9,628</b>	<b>2,048,322</b>	<b>667,499</b>	<b>2,737,557</b>	<b>4,320,596</b>	<b>372,765</b>	<b>29,700</b>	<b>1,352,967</b>	<b>598,569</b>	<b>107,442</b>	<b>123,093</b>	<b>68,685</b>	<b>198,204</b>	<b>129,323</b>	<b>25,112</b>	<b>13,837,541</b>	

Data source: ABS