

Mineral industry

Since the mid 1800s the mineral industry has not only helped to mould much of Australia's history but has also made a very important contribution to the national economy. Over the last 20 years it has expanded several fold and minerals now exceed the combined agricultural-pastoral sector as the mainstay of the economy and of export trade. This situation is likely to continue given the enormity and variety of the country's mineral resources and current production levels, which for many minerals rank amongst the world's largest.

Australia's annual value of mine production is around \$20 billion and the net mineral trade surplus is a very favourable \$13 billion.

