

Fact sheet

What is a port?

A port is a place sheltered from the open sea where a ship can load and unload its cargo. There are many ports in Australia but some are only small and concentrate on just one or two commodities.

The Port of Brisbane is a major general cargo port that handles a large proportion of Australia's imports and exports. It accommodates a significant number of ships and has many facilities for loading, discharging, handling and storing a variety of commodities.

Brisbane is the third largest container port in Australia and is also the fastest growing container port. The location of the port has promoted record trade growth, as the geographical area serviced includes south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales, the fastest-growing region in Australia.

Activity

Find out about two other ports in Australia and compare and contrast the similarities and differences. You may choose to draw up a table to show these or present your information in a report. Brainstorm possible headings for your comparisons and discuss with your teacher before commencing.