

# Senate Standing Committee on Economics

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Treasury Portfolio

### Additional Estimates

23 – 24 February 2011

Question: AET 119

Topic: Merchandise Trade

Hansard:E 119

Senator Cameron asked:

**Senator CAMERON**—Do you have a figure for merchandise trade between Australia and the US, and where has that been going?

**Mr Di Giorgio**—‘Merchandise trade’ is getting specific.

**Senator CAMERON**—You can take it on notice if you like.

**Mr Di Giorgio**—Yes. I do not have a figure on merchandise trade as such.

**Senator CAMERON**—Can you take that one on notice for me, for the period just prior to the bilateral agreements and since.

**Mr Di Giorgio**—Certainly.

Answer:.

The nominal level of merchandise exports and imports between Australia and the United States has remained relatively unchanged over the last decade. Furthermore the proportion of trade between the two nations in terms of total merchandise exports and imports has declined. This is likely to be a result of the growing importance of other trading partners, such as China and India. Please see the charts below that illustrate the trend of merchandise trade between Australia and the United States from 2000 to 2011. This includes the five-year period before the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) came into force.

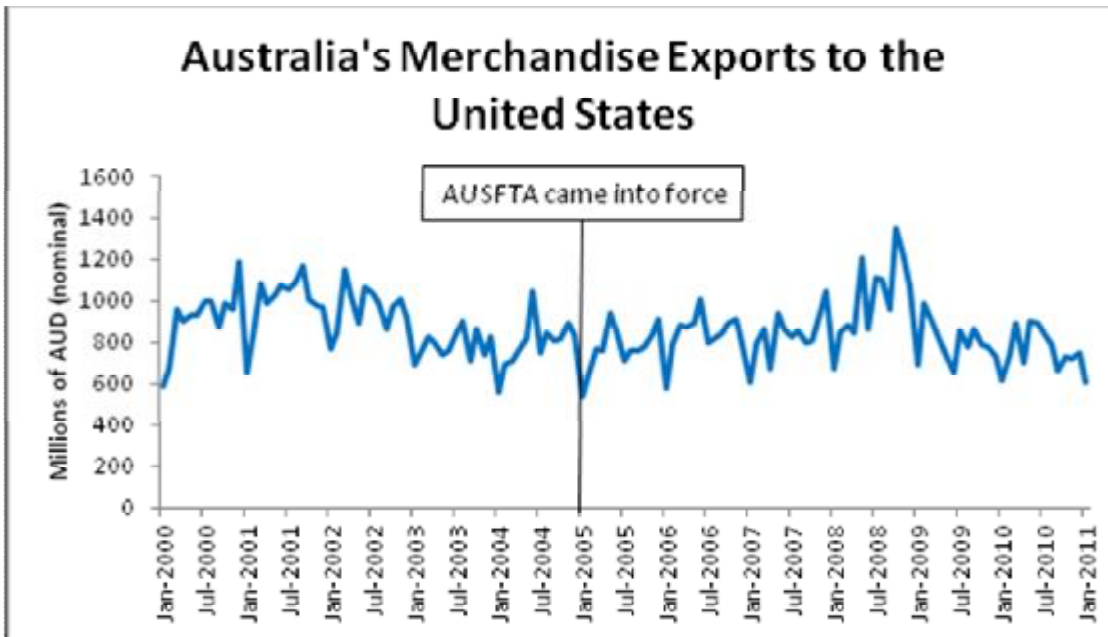
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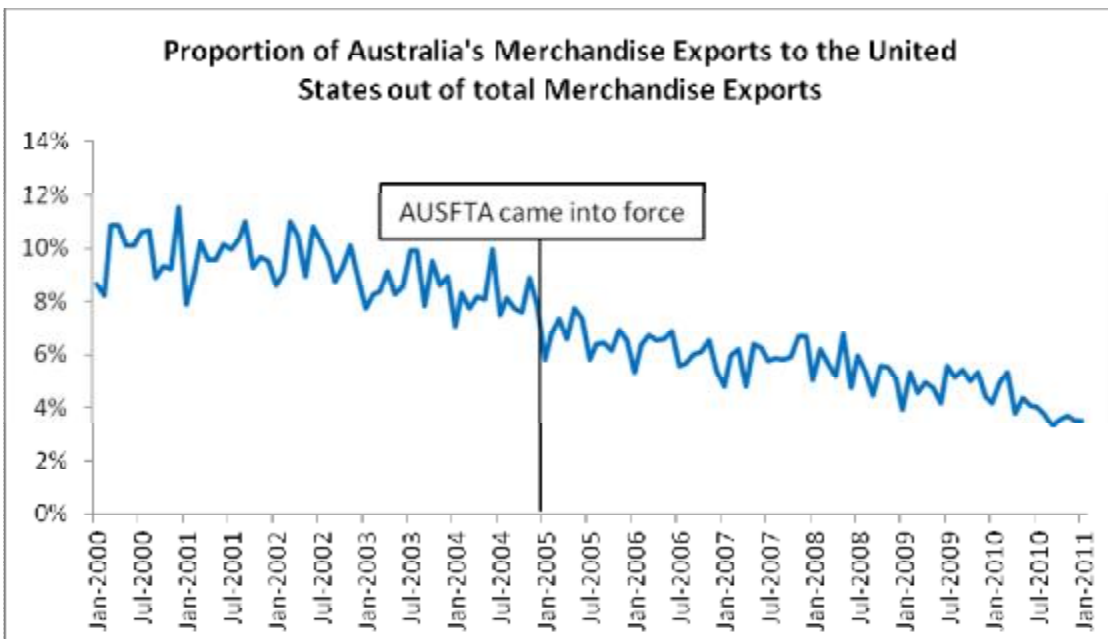
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Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue Number 5368.0, Table 14a



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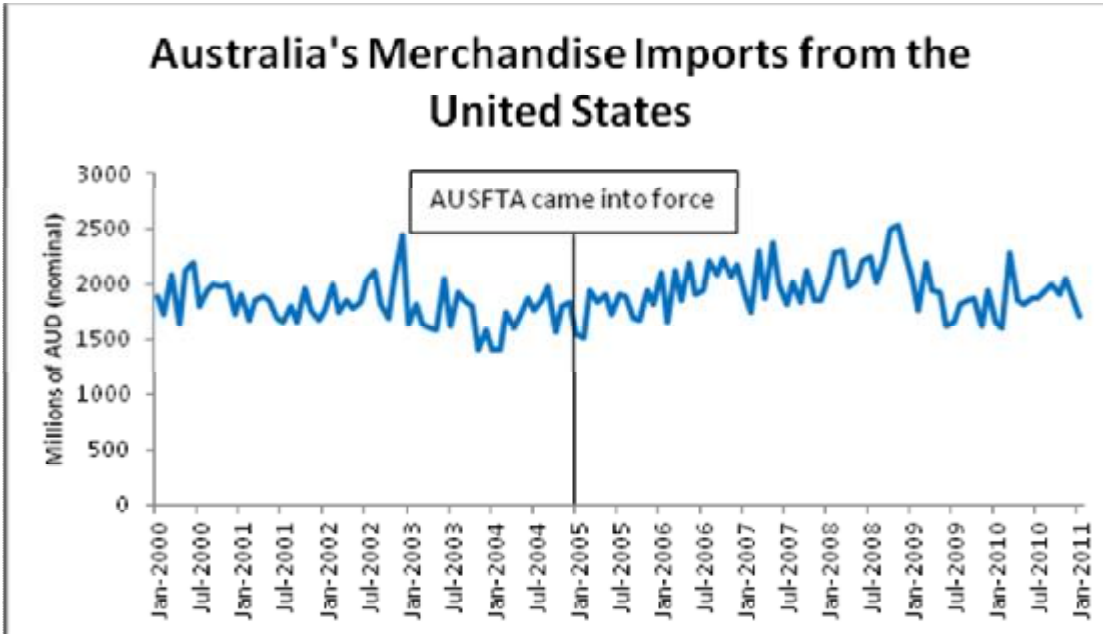
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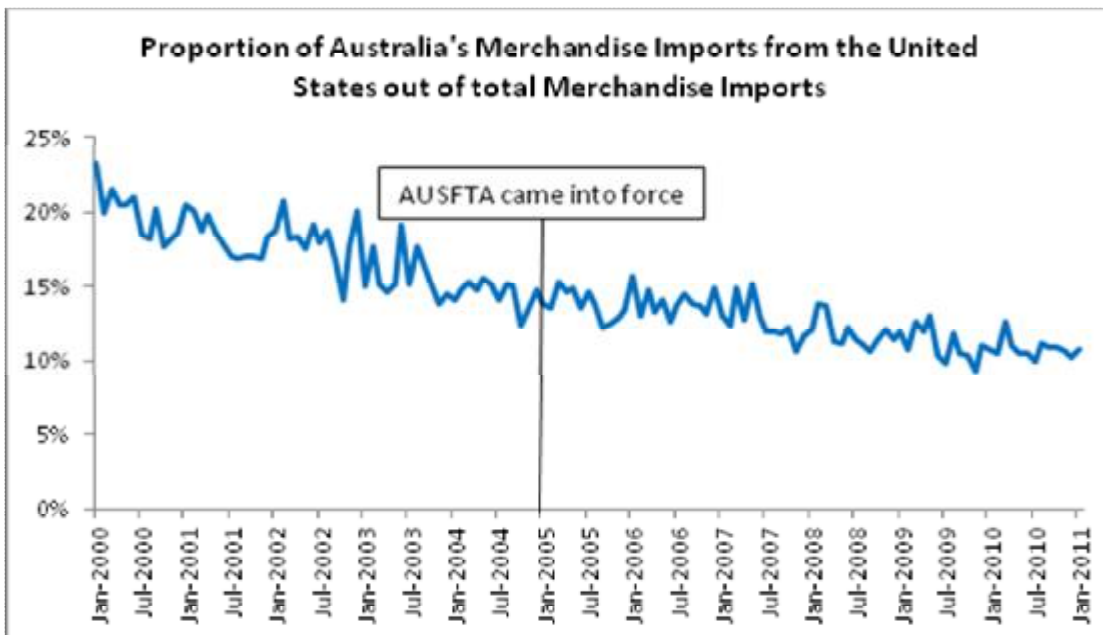
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Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue Number 5368.0, Table 14b



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