

Highlights

- Austrade worked directly with over 15,600 Australian businesses in 2008–09, assisting 5,908 clients to achieve over \$22.2 billion in trade outcomes.
- Austrade supported 155 businesses to undertake investments offshore worth \$694 million, including in the ICT, mining, manufacturing, business and other services, transport, and building and construction sectors.
- Austrade facilitated 58 inward foreign direct investment projects in 2008–09. One of these projects had an investment value of \$7.8 billion and the remaining 57 had a total value of \$5.6 billion. Investors reported that these projects safeguarded an estimated 805 jobs and are likely to create over 4,500 further positions when operational.
- More than 4,000 grants worth over \$185 million in total were paid to recipients of the Austrade-administered Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme.
- Austrade supported Ministerial visits to facilitate international business in 15 countries, including China, Russia, France, Saudi Arabia and the United States, over the year.
- Austrade provided information and advice to Ministers and other Government departments and agencies about overseas markets, including advising DFAT about trade distortions, market-access barriers and investment restrictions encountered by Australian businesses.
- In partnership with state and territory governments, Austrade delivered programs and services such as TradeStart and the Australian Export Awards and developed cooperative approaches to enhancing Australia's trade performance.
- During the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games in August, Business Club Australia delivered more than 50 business events and hosted over 4,000 Australian, Chinese and other business executives from around the world. Austrade clients reported that at least \$20 million in export sales were generated up to June 2009 as a result of their participation in Business Club Australia.
- Appen was awarded the inaugural Prime Minister's Australian Exporter of the Year Award at the 46th Australian Export Awards in Melbourne in December 2008. The program for the coming year was launched in June 2009 in Canberra by the Minister for Trade, the Hon Simon Crean MP.
- Austrade supported businesses attending an extensive range of events and exhibitions onshore and offshore during the year. More than 10,000 people attended Austrade seminars and briefings on international markets and industry opportunities.
- Austrade, in conjunction with the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, ran a successful series of seminars to help Australian businesses meet the challenges of the economic downturn and identify emerging opportunities. Over 700 people attended the seminars, which were held in every capital city.
- The Government allocated an extra \$50 million to the EMDG scheme for 2008–09, enabling provisionally approved grants to be paid in full and providing liquidity and confidence during the global economic downturn.
- In 2008–09, 21 of Austrade's overseas offices delivered consular advice, assistance and information.