



What is a Port and what does it do?

You may not realise it but many of the items in your home are made or grown in locations all around the world. Many items like toys, electronic goods, clothes, cars, furniture and food all come to Melbourne from other countries by travelling on ships.

These items and any others that are shipped are called cargo. A port is a place where ships go to pick up and drop off cargo.



The Port of Melbourne



Any cargo that comes into the Port of Melbourne from another country is called an **IMPORT**



Any cargo that is sent from the Port of Melbourne to another country is called an **EXPORT**



The world

Cargo comes in all shapes and sizes. In order to transport these items, different types of ships are needed. See our [ship spotting page](#) for more information on the different types of ships that call into the Port of Melbourne and the cargo they carry.



around
3000
ship visits
at the Port of Melbourne
every year

The Port of Melbourne loads and unloads more cargo in containers than any other port in Australia. The Port of Melbourne is the largest container and general cargo port in all of Australia. It handles around 36% of the nation's trade.

Every day
the Port of Melbourne
imports
around



3
MILLION
CUPS
of coffee

Every day
the Port of Melbourne
exports
nearly



2000
TONNES
of dairy products

It takes many people and a lot of machinery and equipment to produce and distribute all of the goods that are imported and exported through the Port of Melbourne. This means that many different jobs are created; in fact tens of thousands of jobs are created.

As you can see, the Port of Melbourne is a very busy place and very important to our community and to Australia.