

# Research and business development

Australia's Research and business development (R&BD) engagement with the Asia25 group rose modestly by 2.3% in 2010. The relatively subdued pattern of engagement with Asia since the early 2000s represents a break in the strong upward trend from 1990. R&BD engagement with the ROW rose only modestly in 2010, possibly reflecting relatively subdued business conditions outside Asia.

Figure 7: Research and business development component



Table 5: Trends for Research and business development component

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2009	2010	% change 2009–10
Asia25	100.0	170.1	272.4	312.4	268.7	275.0	2.3
ROW	100.0	128.5	199.8	230.7	200.2	201.1	0.4

The R&BD component measures a basket of diverse activities, as outlined below. These activities create connections between people and companies, open market opportunities and enable and inform future business decisions and activities. In this way, the R&BD component is an indicator of future movements in other components measured by the overall Engagement Index.

R&BD engagement with Asia25 was buoyed by a 14.6% increase in patent applications, while business visitors to and from Australia also rose (by 6.3% and 8.5% respectively), but research article publication was down 12.9%.<sup>12</sup> There were consistent increases in patent applications and in two-way business visits between Australia and ASEAN; Australia and China; Australia and Japan; and Australia and Korea. While business visits from Australia to India rose, there was a fall in visits to Australia from India.

The main factor driving the small rise in R&BD engagement with the ROW was the increase in inward and outward business visits of more than 11% in both cases, which was offset by a decline in patent applications and the publication of research articles. Business visits from Australia to the ROW exceeded those to the Asia25 by 27.4% in 2010.

## What 'Research and business development' measures

This component comprises the following data:

- number of short-term and long-term visits to/from Australia from/to other countries (by country) for business and employment purposes
- number of international business organisations and foreign associations in Australia (by country)
- estimated number of patent applications filed in Australia by inventors from other countries (by country)
- number of research articles published on Australia-other country relations (by country).

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<sup>12</sup> Note: 2009 patent data was not available for the previous report, so variation in the index reflected change in the remaining components. Patent application data for 2009 and 2010 have been incorporated in the latest engagement index.