

Analyse the influence of different factors Australia's trade and financial flows

Since Australia's financial deregulation and the increase in globalisation, there has been a rise in differing factors that influence Australia's trade and financial flows. In the 1980s, under the Hawke government, the introduction of foreign policies allowed for overseas investment into Australia which meant that Australia's interest rates incentivised foreign, in addition to domestic, investments. It also allowed for the Australian economy to be influenced by the international business cycles of major trading partners such as China and the United States meaning that Australia's international competitiveness became more important and as a result, the Australian dollar was floated in 1983, which heavily influences the trade and financial flows in Australia.

Kommentiert [1]: what year?

Kommentiert [2]: be specific about the factors something like "specifically, investor confidence, the mining boom and BLAH" etc. like - in your very first sentence you want the marker to know what you plan to talk about

Kommentiert [3]: a bit specific for an intro possibly save it for the body and just mention that "Early 1980s foreign policy allowed for..."

The second mining boom in 2010-11 began with the increased demand for Australian commodities from China however it was mainly driven by the significant increase in foreign investment as investors sought the economy that would give them the highest return on investment. To capitalise on the mining boom, the Reserve Bank of Australia raised the cash rate from 3% in 2009 to 4.5% in 2010-11, incentivising higher foreign investment in order to fund their capital intensive commodities industry that was booming from the higher inelastic demand from China. As a result, the KAF recorded an increase of \$79.6 billion from the previous year, ending 2011 with a surplus of \$854.7 billion. With lower global interest rates relative to Australia, domestic borrowers are more likely to take a loan from overseas as the interest paid would be relatively cheaper. However, with increased foreign investment and international borrowing, returns on investment in the form of dividends and interest had to be paid which is represented by the \$5 billion decrease in the NPY account. The deficit in the NPY far outweighed the surplus in the BOGS account which meant that the CAD worsened, decreasing to -3.2% of GDP in 2011 and decreased again to -4.8% in 2012. The RBA's tightening of monetary policy caused a positive interest rates differential as Australia's interest rates rose higher than those of the global economy which meant that domestic investors and savers were more likely to save their money in Australia, causing less financial outflows, increasing the KAF surplus and similarly meant that there was less NPY credits, further worsening the NPY account and thus the CAD. Hence the level of interest rates of Australia and the global economy impacts Australia's financial flows as investors are looking for a higher return on their investments and domestic borrowers could possibly receive a loan with lower interest rates overseas.

Kommentiert [4]: good analysis but in your very first sentence you want to answer the question so maybe something like The Second Mining Boom in 2010-11 substantially increased both trade and financial flows in the following years. and then explain that it began bc of increased demand

Kommentiert [5]: a bit picky but what month (I think Oct/Nov)

Kommentiert [6]: a bit awkward phrasing - possibly amend to "Australia's positive interest rate differential meant that domestic borrowers were more likely to..."

Kommentiert [7]: what year?

Kommentiert [8]: size of the surplus?

-- good, this para would be strengthened if you had some interest rates from overseas at the time (Fed Reserve, ECB, Bank of Japan etc. for comparison and to really emphasise that differential)

Can you have a graph which shows the interest rate differential and why there are more financial inflows?

Following the second mining boom, China's economic growth began to slow leading to a significant decrease in the demand for Australian exports causing a deterioration in the terms of trade and a depreciation of the AUD. China's GDP growth fell from 7.4% to 6.9% from 2014 to 2015 causing a deterioration in the terms of trade, from 84.5 to 76 and the dollar to fall 21 US

Kommentiert [9]: from what to what?

Kommentiert [10]: again - better to answer the question in the first sentence rather than jump straight into analysis

cents in the same time period. Other international business cycles such as the United States, United Kingdom and various European countries began to see contractions in their growth as political uncertainty grew from events such as the European Sovereign Debt Crisis, BREXIT and the US election. This meant that there were low levels of global consumer and investor confidence as the economic outlook for Australia's major trading partners became unclear. This led to less direct investment inflows and outflows and more portfolio investments as they are more speculative in nature. This can be seen as European countries such as Belgium and the United Kingdom who were affected by the European Sovereign Debt Crisis and the onset of Brexit had decreased their level of direct investment into Australia from 2014-2015 while unaffected countries such as Japan increased their level of direct investments. Both Belgium and the UK however had increased their level of portfolio investment into Australia, showing the speculative nature of these investments as there was economic and political uncertainty in the region.- any stats for this para re: the level of investment?

Kommentiert [11]: needs a bit more of an explanation as to how the AUD/USD XR fell in response to China's growth slowing

Kommentiert [12]: v good

With the depreciation of the AUD in 2014-15, Australia had become increasing internationally competitive, as dollar depreciating caused exports to become relatively cheaper to foreign consumers. This can be seen in the J-Curve Theory which states that a depreciation of the currency causes an initial deficit in the BOGS as volumes of exports and imports are kept constant so import spending increases however in the long run as volumes begin to change with respect to price, export revenue increases while there is a reduction in import spending, improving the BOGS account and possibly causing it to enter a surplus. This can be seen as in 2016-17, the demand for liquified natural gas increased significantly from China, causing the terms of trade to improve to 92.4 in 2017. As China continued to demand Australian LNG exports, the dollar appreciated from \$US0.68 at the beginning of 2016 to \$US0.80 by the end of 2017. This was also caused by the structural changes from the second mining boom as with the previous strong appreciation causing Dutch Disease; inefficient and uncompetitive export industries such as the Passenger Motor Vehicle manufacturing industry were phased out. As a

Kommentiert [13]: a very long sentence and a lot of theory!!
I would try rephrasing this so you clearly establish what is the short term impact and why i.e. prices change but volumes do not

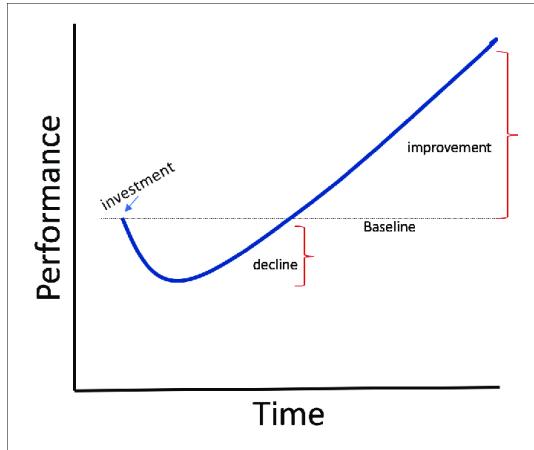
and then in the long term the fact that volume adjusts to reflect the changed price

and THEN conclude about what it tells us abt the balance on the BOGS

Kommentiert [14]: from what was it previously?

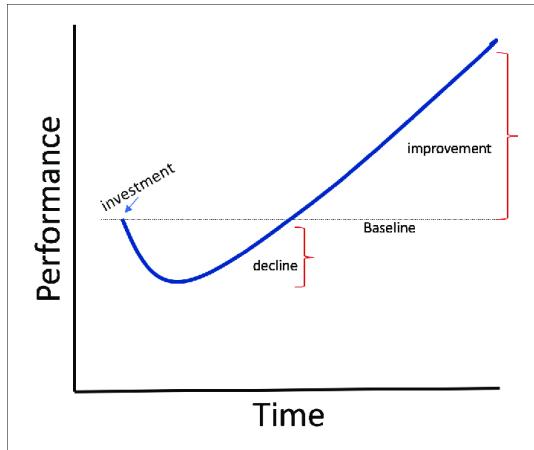
Kommentiert [15]: does structural change affect our XR?

result of these structural changes which caused a shift in the composition of Australian exports,



Australia became more internationally competitive.

[-- are we still intl competitive? How do our service industries compare to globally?](#)



Despite the initial economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic ~~throughout the beginning of~~ 2020, Australia's recovery would cause a historic current account surplus in addition to a financial account deficit. The global economy faced recessions ~~which prompted a~~ recovery of government schemes such as the infrastructure packages in China. The Chinese government would initiate an economic recovery with a creation of jobs through building projects such as bridges, roads and housing however to fund these programs, the government started to

Kommentiert [16]: stats?

demanded Australian minerals. Demand from China had increased significantly for Australian iron ore which caused terms of trade to improve to 103.6 and the AUD to appreciate from its lowest point in March of 2020 at \$US0.58 to \$US0.8 in January of 2021. Coupled with lower imports due to the weak AUD at the time, BOGS stayed a surplus throughout 2020, at an average of \$72.7 billion which contributed to the current account surplus of 0.2% of GDP. With the financial contagion of COVID-19 causing a decrease in global investor confidence, investments in and out of Australia decreased in value as direct investments became increasingly rare due to the uncertainty of the Australian economy. Furthermore, the Australian investments-savings gap had decreased due to the lower consumption in the economy due to worsened economic conditions meaning that individuals were saving more of their income leading to less reliance on international borrowing causing the financial account to enter a deficit. With less financial inflows, there were decreased servicing costs payments, contributing to the current account surplus. Hence, the economic conditions which impact investor and consumer confidence, in turn, influence Australia's trade and financial flows.

Kommentiert [17]: can you show this on a graph?

Therefore, Australia's trade and financial flows are influenced by the level of interest rates, the international business cycle, Australia's international competitiveness and the level of investor and consumer confidence.

-- typically in the conclusions, you want to make an assessment about what's going to happen in the future
I.e. do you think aus trade flows will increase? Decrease? What abt financial? Do they always move in the same direction? Is COVID over? Have we fully recovered? You're allowed to speculate as long as it's a logical conclusion to draw

Kommentiert [18]: graph!!

Kommentiert [19]: stats?