



# AUSTRALIA



## INTRODUCTION

Prehistoric settlers arrived on the continent from Southeast Asia at least 40,000 years before the first Europeans began exploration in the 17th century. All of Australia was claimed as British territory in 1829. Independence was achieved in 1901.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II  
represented by Governor Gen. David HURLEY

### Head of Government

Prime Minister Scott MORRISON

### Government Type

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

### Capital

Canberra

### Legislature

bicameral Federal Parliament consists of Senate (76 seats) and House of Representatives (150 seats)

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

Total: 7,741,220 sq km  
Land: 7,682,300 sq km  
Water: 58,920 sq km

### Climate

generally arid to semiarid; temperate in south and east; tropical in north

### Natural Resources

alumina, coal, iron ore, copper, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, rare earth elements, mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, natural gas, petroleum; note - Australia is the world's largest net exporter of coal accounting for 29% of global coal exports

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

Asian and global economic leader and partner for 3 decades; strong financial sector and highly traded domestic currency support best credit ratings; aging workforce; export-led model; reduced consumer spending offset by government and business; energy investor

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$1.251 trillion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$48,700 (2020 est.)

**Industries** - mining, industrial and transportation equipment, food processing, chemicals, steel

**Agricultural products** - sugarcane, wheat, barley, milk, rapeseed, beef, cotton, grapes, poultry, potatoes

**Exports** \$299 billion (2020 est.)

iron ore, coal, natural gas, gold, aluminum oxide (2019)

**partners:** China 39%, Japan 15%, South Korea 7%, India 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$249.1 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, crude petroleum, broadcasting equipment, delivery trucks (2019)

**partners:** China 25%, US 12%, Japan 7%, Germany 5%, Thailand 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

25.8 million (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

1.31% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

English 25.9%, Australian 25.4%, Irish 7.5%, Scottish 6.4%, Italian 3.3%, German 3.2%, Chinese 3.1%, Indian 1.4%, Greek 1.4%, Dutch 1.2%, other 15.8% (includes Australian aboriginal .5%), unspecified 5.4% (2011 est.)

### Language

English 72.7%, Mandarin 2.5%, Arabic 1.4%, Cantonese 1.2%, Vietnamese 1.2%, Italian 1.2%, Greek 1%, other 14.8%, unspecified 6.5% (2016 est.)

### Religion

Protestant 23.1%, Roman Catholic 22.6%, other Christian 4.2%, Muslim 2.6%, Buddhist 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3%, Hindu 1.9%, other 1.3%, none 30.1%, unspecified 9.6% (2016 est.)

