



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

King CHARLES III; represented by Governor Gen. David HURLEY

Head of Government

Prime Minister Anthony ALBANESE

Government Type

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Canberra

Legislature

bicameral Federal Parliament consists of the Senate (76 seats) and the House of Representatives (151 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Kevin Michael RUDD

US Ambassador

Ambassador Caroline KENNEDY

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, lithium, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, rare earth elements, mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, opals, natural gas, petroleum

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

Asian and global economic leader and partner for three 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) \$1.279 trillion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$49,800 (2021 est.)

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

Agricultural products - sugar cane, wheat, barley, milk, rapeseed, beef, cotton, grapes, poultry, potatoes

Exports \$389.8 billion (2021 est.)

iron ore, coal, natural gas, gold, wheat (2021)

partners: China 40%, Japan 14%, South Korea 9%, India 6%, Taiwan 4% (2021)

Imports \$298.7 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, delivery trucks, broadcasting equipment, computers and gold (2021)

partners: China 28%, US 10%, Japan 6%, Germany 5%, Thailand 5% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

26.5 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

1.19% (2023 est.)

Ethnicity

English 33%, Australian 29.9%, Irish 9.5%, Scottish 8.6%, Chinese 5.5%, Italian 4.4%, German 4%, Indian 3.1%, Australian Aboriginal 2.9%, Greek 1.7%, unspecified 4.7% (2021 est.)

Language

English 72%, Mandarin 2.7%, Arabic 1.4%, Vietnamese 1.3%, Cantonese 1.2%, other 15.7%, unspecified 5.7% (2021 est.)

Religion

Roman Catholic 20%, Protestant 18.1%, other Christian 3.5%, Muslim 3.2%, Hindu 2.7%, Buddhist 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3%, other 2.1%, none 38.4%, unspecified 7.3% (2021 est.)