



# WELCOME TO THE DU VAL GUIDE TO **Australia**

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COUNTRY GUIDE  
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As a company we work with investors from around the world who purchase offshore property. This guide is intended as an impartial and informative guide to help those from outside of Australia navigate and understand this diverse, exciting, and expansive country.

Our Country Guide is not a travel guide or a property guide, it is a guide designed to provide potential investors a brief overview of the fundamentals that combine to underpin life in Australia as we know it today covering the following chapters

If you are already familiar with the country and thinking about investing in property in Australia, you may want to jump straight to our 'Buyers Guide' which will give you an informative guide as to the forms or property tenure, the buying process, tax implications, letting and management and much, much more. You can find this at [www.duvalproptech/investorlibrary](http://www.duvalproptech/investorlibrary)

Alternatively, please contact one of our professional portfolio advisors who can help you with any queries or questions you may have. We hope you enjoy this guide, and please let us know if you would like to see any additional information included in future editions.



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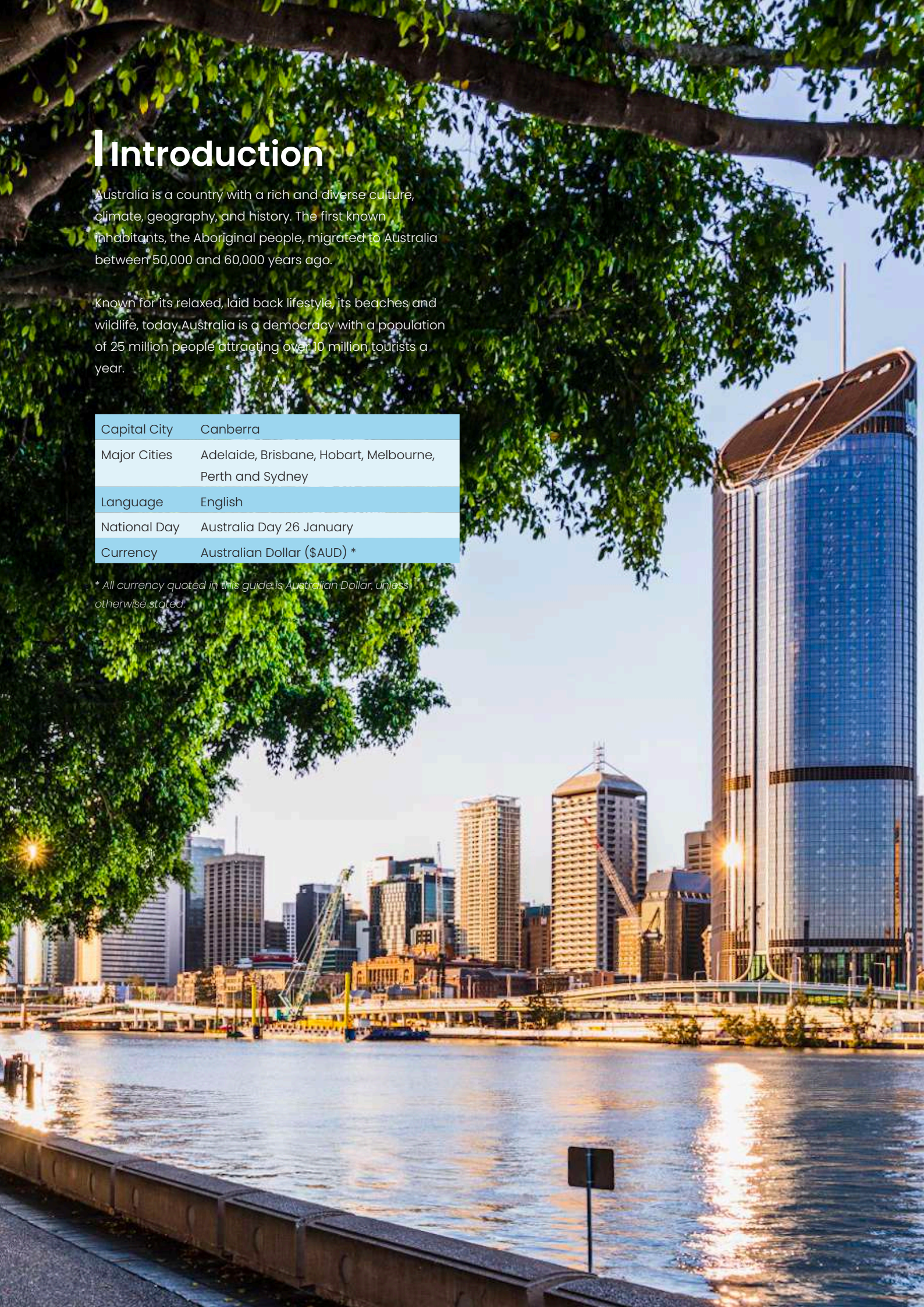
# Introduction

Australia is a country with a rich and diverse culture, climate, geography, and history. The first known inhabitants, the Aboriginal people, migrated to Australia between 50,000 and 60,000 years ago.

Known for its relaxed, laid back lifestyle, its beaches and wildlife, today Australia is a democracy with a population of 25 million people attracting over 10 million tourists a year.

Capital City	Canberra
Major Cities	Adelaide, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney
Language	English
National Day	Australia Day 26 January
Currency	Australian Dollar (\$AUD) *

*\* All currency quoted in this guide is Australian Dollar, unless otherwise stated.*





# Map And Geography

Located in Oceania, Australia covers 7,682,300 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 58,920 km<sup>2</sup> of water, making it the 6th largest country in the world by area, surrounded by the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Australia includes not only the mainland, but also Tasmania and thousands of outlying islands.



Population: 25 million (approximately 0.33% of the global population).

- Capital: Canberra (403,000 people)
- Australia is formed of 6 States and 2 Territories:

Australia Capital Territory	Territory	Canberra
New South Wales	State	Sydney
Northern Territory	Territory	Darwin
Queensland	State	Brisbane
South Australia	State	Adelaide
Tasmania	State	Hobart
Victoria	State	Melbourne
Western Australia	State	Perth

## Largest Australian Cities by Population



Rank	City	State/Territory	Population (June 2018)
1	Sydney	New South Wales	5,230,330
2	Melbourne	Victoria	4,936,349
3	Brisbane	Queensland	2,462,637
4	Perth	Western Australia	2,059,484
5	Adelaide	South Australia	1,345,777

The majority of the urbanised areas are situated on the Eastern Seaboard with 90% of the population living in urbanised areas. Australia is one of the least densely populated countries in the world, with approximately 3.3 persons per km<sup>2</sup>.

Australia is the oldest, flattest and driest inhabited continent on earth. Given the size of the landmass, its geography includes mountain ranges, deserts, temperate and tropical rainforests not to mention over 25,500 kilometres of coastline.

In Australia, the most substantial mountain range and 3rd longest land-based range is the Great Dividing Range 3,500 km, which runs the entire length of the eastern coastline from Dauan Island off the north-eastern tip of Queensland to the central plains at the Grampians in western Victoria.

The only area of mainland Australia that receives deep snow is the Australian Alps in southeast-Australia (Stradling Victoria and New South Wales) which form part of the Great Dividing Range. Australia's highest peak Mount Kosciuszko (2,228 m) is also part of the Australian Alps.

Approximately 18% of Australia is desert, the four largest being Great Victoria Desert, Great Sandy Desert, Tanami Desert, and Simpson Desert. The deserts are primarily situated throughout the western plateau and interior lowlands of the country. When compared to the deserts around the world, Australian deserts received relatively high amounts of rainfall.

Tropical and subtropical rainforests are found in northern and eastern Australia in wet coastal areas. Warm-temperate rainforests grow in New South Wales and Victoria, and cool-temperate rainforests are found in Victoria and Tasmania and in small areas at high altitude in New South Wales and Queensland. Prior to the bushfires in 2019/2020 Australia had approximately 3.6 m of rainforest. However, the bushfires during this season were so intense that they burned areas of rainforest that were previously too wet to burn.

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest reef system, stretching for 2,300 km and larger in area than the UK, the Netherlands and Switzerland combined. The reef is in the Coral Sea off the coast of Queensland.



# Demographics

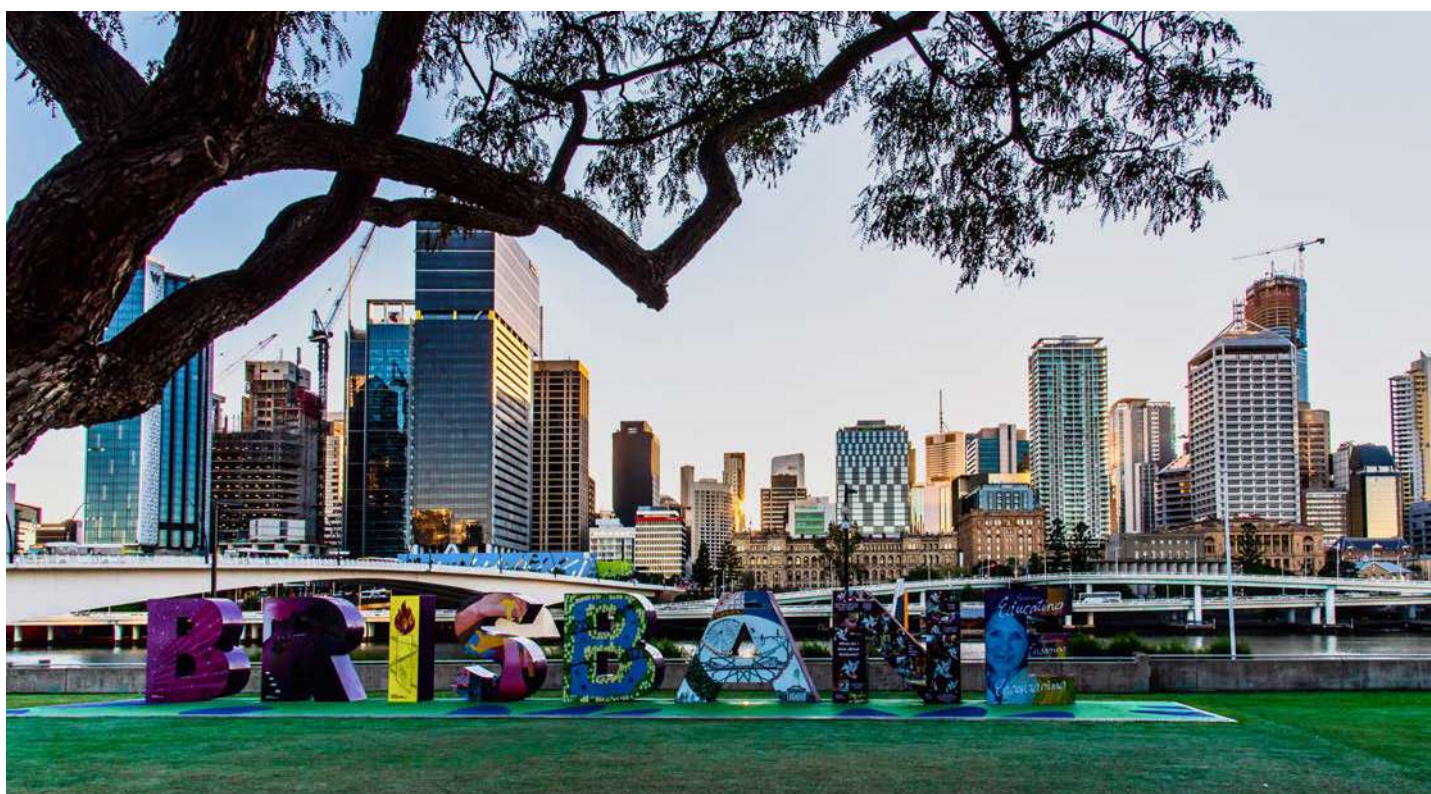
With a population of 25 million people, it is the 55th largest country in the world, although by area it is the 6th largest, meaning on average there are just 3 people per km<sup>2</sup> and is the 4th least densely populated country on earth.

Australia's population has quadrupled since World War I, and since World War II nearly 6 million immigrants moved to Australia, accounting for 2 out of every 7 Australians. The most recent census in 2011 recorded that over 30% of Australian's were born in another country and over 46% had a parent born outside the country, making Australia one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse populations in the world.

In 2011, the indigenous population of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders was 548,000, or 2.5% of the population. This was up from just 116,000 in 1976 and the increase is in part because many indigenous people were unaccounted for previously. As in many developed countries, the population is ageing. The current median age is 37 years.

The World Health Organisation reports the following statistics about Australia's population:

<b>Total population (2016)</b>	<b>24,126,000</b>
Gross national income per capita (PPP international \$, 2013)	42,540
Life expectancy at birth m/f (years, 2016)	81/85
Probability of dying under five (per 1 000 live births, 2018)	4
Probability of dying between 15 and 60 years m/f (per 1 000 population, 2016)	77/45
Total expenditure on health per capita (Intl \$, 2014)	4,357
Total expenditure on health as % of GDP (2014)	9.4





The size of Australia dictates that it has several different climate zones. Northern Australia tends to have a tropical climate with hot and humid summers and warm, dry winters. Southern areas are more temperate to warm, with summer temperatures between 25–30 degrees and winter temperatures averaging 5 – 10 degrees Celsius.

The Australian Alps in Victoria and New South Wales have a typical ‘mountain climate’ and can have harsh winters. The highest peaks are covered by snow year round, whilst in the desert, temperatures may reach 50 degrees Celsius or more.

Between November and April, tropical cyclones can occur in northern coastal areas and extratropical storms can occur in southern coastal areas.

Most of the country has four seasons, which are the opposite to the northern hemisphere:

Summer	Autumn	Winter	Spring
Dec – Feb	Mar – Apr	Jun – Aug	Sept – Nov

## Adelaide

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp (°C)	22.1	22.1	20.1	16.9	14	11.7	10.8	11.6	13.1	15.6	18.2	20.3
Min. Temp (°C)	15.7	15.7	14.3	11.7	9.6	7.6	6.9	7.4	8.4	10.2	12.3	14.3
Max. Temp (°C)	28.5	28.6	26	22.2	18.5	15.8	14.8	15.8	17.9	21.1	24.2	26.4
Rainfall (mm)	19	15	24	44	67	69	76	65	55	44	31	2



## Brisbane

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp (°C)	24.9	24.7	23.5	21.3	18.2	15.6	14.6	15.4	17.7	20.4	22.7	24.2
Min. Temp (°C)	20.3	20.2	18.8	16	12.8	10	8.6	9.1	11.5	14.8	17.4	19.3
Max. Temp (°C)	29.6	29.2	28.3	26.6	23.6	21.2	20.6	21.7	24	26.1	28	29.2
Rainfall (mm)	162	167	135	93	83	67	63	41	34	90	104	129

## Canberra

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp (°C)	20.5	20.2	17.7	13.2	9.2	6.5	5.5	7	9.6	12.7	15.7	18.6
Min. Temp (°C)	12.9	13	10.8	6.5	3.3	1	-0.1	1	3.3	6.2	8.5	11
Max. Temp (°C)	28.1	27.4	24.7	19.9	15.2	12	11.2	13	16	19.3	22.9	26.2
Rainfall (mm)	63	51	55	50	47	38	51	49	61	64	61	48

## Darwin

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp (°C)	28.2	27.9	28.1	28.1	26.7	24.8	24.4	25.6	27.7	29.1	29.2	28.8
Min. Temp (°C)	24.7	24.5	24.2	23.3	21.2	18.8	18.1	19.5	22.1	24.3	25	25
Max. Temp (°C)	31.7	31.4	32.1	32.9	32.3	30.9	30.8	31.8	33.3	33.9	33.5	32.6
Rainfall (mm)	426	359	335	86	15	2	1	4	18	76	121	251

## Hobart

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp (°C)	16.8	16.6	15.3	13.1	10.6	8.4	8	8.8	10.3	12.1	13.7	15.2
Min. Temp (°C)	11.4	11.3	10.3	8.5	6.5	4.6	4	4.5	5.7	7.1	8.7	10.2
Max. Temp (°C)	22.2	22	20.4	17.7	14.7	12.3	12	13.1	15	17.1	18.7	20.3
Rainfall (mm)	40	42	42	49	49	43	54	57	50	57	54	55

## Melbourne

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp (°C)	20.1	20.3	18.6	15.3	12.4	10.2	9.4	10.4	12.1	14.2	16.2	18.3
Min. Temp (°C)	14	14.4	13	10.4	8.3	6.4	5.6	6.3	7.4	9	10.6	12.5
Max. Temp (°C)	26.2	26.2	24.2	20.3	16.6	14	13.3	14.6	16.8	19.4	21.8	24.1
Rainfall (mm)	47	44	44	54	66	46	50	58	62	71	64	60

## Perth

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp (°C)	24.5	24.8	23.1	19.6	16.7	14.7	13.6	13.7	15.1	16.9	19.4	22
Min. Temp (°C)	18.5	18.7	17.2	14.2	11.8	10.4	9.3	9.1	10.2	11.8	13.8	16.2
Max. Temp (°C)	30.5	31	29	25	21.6	19	17.9	18.4	20	22.1	25.1	27.9
Rainfall (mm)	7	16	15	44	111	175	169	114	71	51	23	11

## Sydney

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Temp (°C)	22.2	22.3	21.1	18.4	15.2	12.9	12	13.1	15.2	17.8	19.5	21.5
Min. Temp (°C)	18.3	18.4	16.9	13.7	10.5	8.3	7.1	8	10	13	15	17.2
Max. Temp (°C)	26.2	26.3	25.4	23.2	20	17.5	16.9	18.2	20.4	22.6	24.1	25.8
Rainfall (mm)	126	147	155	112	110	152	74	93	60	92	103	85



# Government



The Australian Constitution established the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901. This defined Australia's structures, federal and state governments powers and procedures, and as such, the Australian Constitution is the most important document in Australian Government history. At this time, the Constitution created a federal system of government, meaning that powers were divided between a central government and local regional governments. Government in Australia has three tiers: the Commonwealth (Federal), State and Local.

The Australian Government has three main branches:

## Legislature

Australian Parliament, which passes legislation and consists of the Queen (represented by the Governor-General) and two Houses, the Senate, and the House of Representatives. The two houses have equal powers and proposed laws must be agreed by both Houses in order to become law.

Members of the House of Representatives sit for a maximum of three years, whilst Senators are elected for six years with half the Senate elected every three years. All members of the Senate and House of Representatives are democratically elected.

The legislative powers of the Parliament are set out in the Australian Constitution, which also provides for the roles of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the

President of the Senate. The legislative process includes debates and voting over three main stages in the House and a similar process in the Senate. Both houses operate committee systems to examine bills in detail and inquire into other policy matters or government administration. 1

Executive: The Federal Executive Council branch of Australian government is the Cabinet and Ministry, led by the Prime Minister. The Executive carries out the day-to-day government and administration of the country. It proposes laws to the parliament and executes the laws passed by the parliament. 2

Following an election, the political party (or coalition of parties) with the support of majority of members in the House of Representatives becomes the governing party and its leader becomes the Prime Minister. The composition of the House also determines who will form the official opposition. The party (or coalition of parties) which has the most non-government Members in the House of Representatives becomes the opposition party and its leader becomes the Leader of the Opposition.

While the government has, by definition, the support of a majority of Members in the House of Representatives, the system of voting used for Senate elections gives greater opportunity to minority parties and independents, and the government often does not have majority support in the Senate. 3



## Judiciary

The High Court of Australia and other federal courts, whose judges are appointed by the governor-general on advice of the Federal Executive Council. 4

## State and Territory Government

Whilst the six states within Australia joined to form the Commonwealth of Australia, they each still retain the power to make their own laws over matters not controlled by Government.

The state governments have legislative control over matters that occur within their borders and include policing, hospitals, education and public transport.

Territories are areas within Australia's borders that are not claimed by one of the six states. Territories can be administered by the Australian Government, or they can be granted a right of self-government.

## Local Government

Responsibility for local government lies with the state and territory governments. Typically known as Local Councils, they handle matters such as waste collection, public recreation facilities and town planning. The States and Northern Territory will have many Local Councils within their boundaries.

# Politics

Two parties have dominated the Australian political landscape over the past 50 years, the Australian Labor Party and the Conservative coalition of the National and Liberal Parties. Federal elections are held every three years. In both federal and state politics, the party or coalition of parties having the largest number of elected members in parliament usually form the government of the day. The

party with the second largest number of members forms the official 'Opposition' Party.

Australia is one of the few countries to adopt compulsory voting at the national and state level. Individuals must vote from the age of 18.



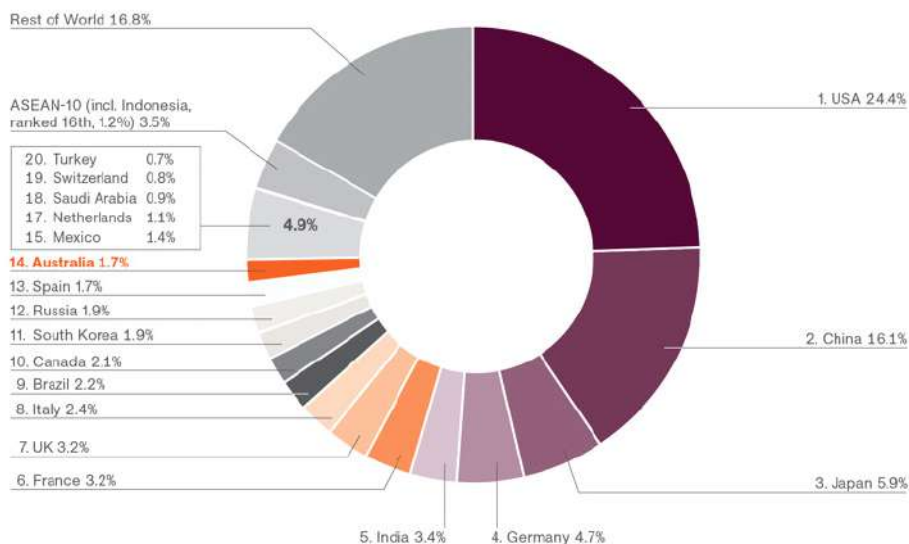


# Economy

Australia has a highly developed market economy, with a GDP at \$AUD 1.89 trillion in 2019. Australia is now in its 28th year of successive economic growth, setting a record for continued uninterrupted economic expansion for a developed nation. 7 In 2019 Australia was the 14th largest global economy, despite having just 0.3% of the world's population.

## WORLD'S 20 LARGEST ECONOMIES – 2019<sup>F</sup>

Percentage share of total world nominal GDP in US\$



<sup>F</sup> = Forecast

GDP of all the world's economies: US\$88,081 billion

GDP of 20 largest economies: US\$71,155 billion (80.8% of world's GDP)

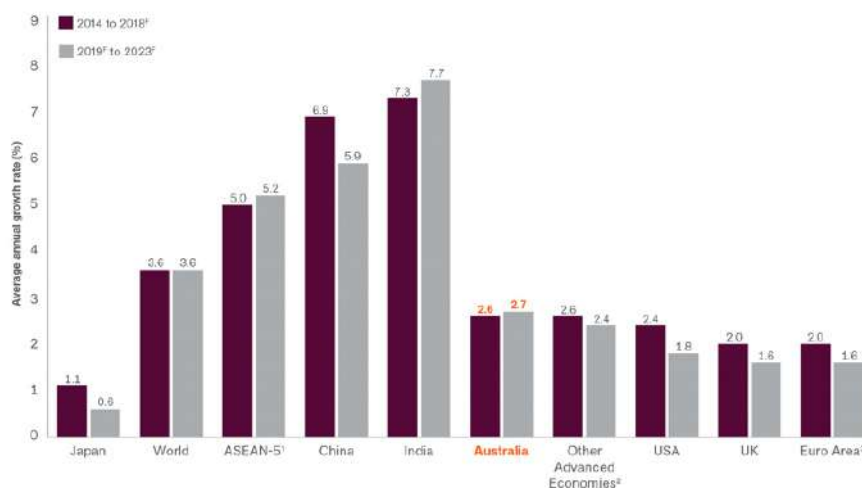
GDP of ASEAN-10 economies: US\$3,079 billion (3.5% of world's GDP)

Sources: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2018; Austrade

Australia has enjoyed a robust economic performance relative to other developed economies while adjusting to the end of the mining boom of the 2000's. Australia is expected to realise average annual real GDP growth of 2.7% between 2019 and 2023 – the highest among major advanced economies and up from an average growth rate of 2.6% between 2014 and 2018.

## REAL GDP GROWTH BY ECONOMIC GROUPING

Average annual growth rate: 2014–18<sup>F</sup> and 2019<sup>F</sup>–23<sup>F</sup>



<sup>F</sup> = Forecast

<sup>1</sup> ASEAN-5 = Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

<sup>2</sup> Other advanced economies exclude EU and Euro Area.

<sup>3</sup> Euro area = Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain.

Sources: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2018; Austrade



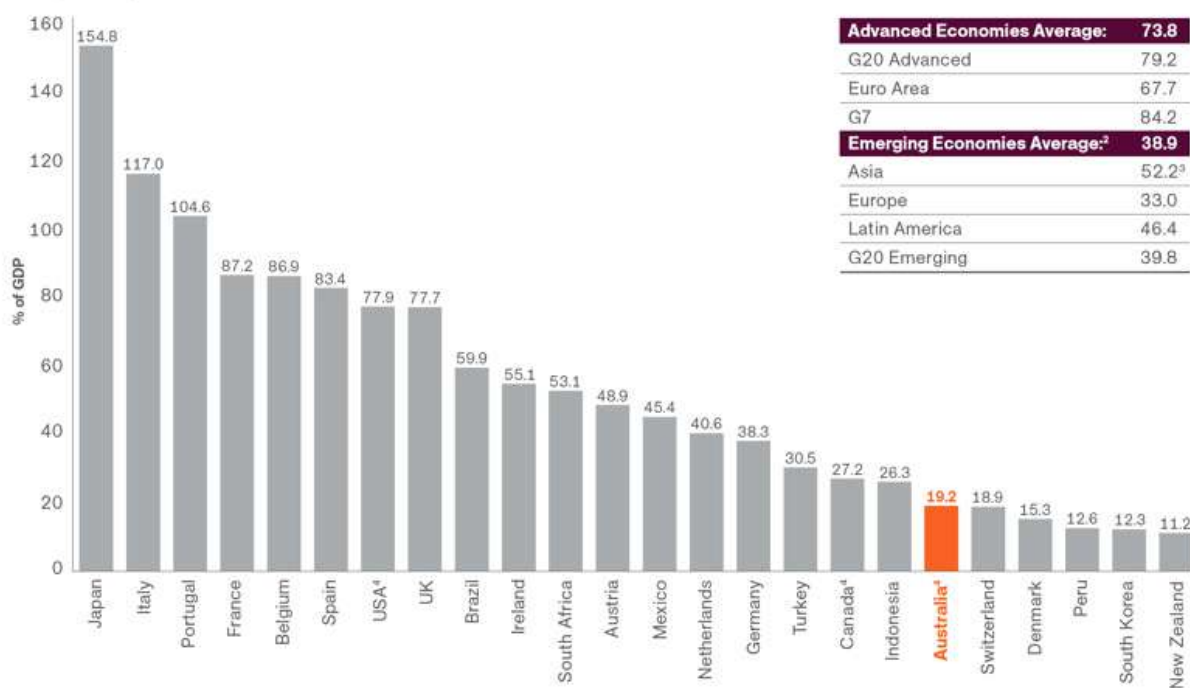
In 2018 the Credit Suisse wealth report cited Australia as having the highest median wealth per adult in the world, (although this slipped to 2nd in 2019 after Switzerland).

The service sector dominates the Australian economy, with contributes more than 75% of the real gross value added (GVA). Financial and insurance services are the dominant service, generating 9.5% of the total GVA.

Government debt in Australia is very low. The IMF anticipated that in 2019, this would be less than 20% of GDP, far below the 74% forecast for advanced economies as a whole. Australian Government debt is expected to fall to around 15% by 2023 (compared to a forecast of 73% for advanced economies). This low level of Government debt underpins the AAA sovereign credit rating and stable outlook from Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Fitch.

#### GENERAL GOVERNMENT NET DEBT<sup>1</sup> – 2019<sup>F</sup>

As a percentage of GDP



F = Forecast

**Notes:** 1. IMF staff estimates and projections. Projections are based on IMF staff assessment of current policies. Australia: Final Budget Outcomes for the Commonwealth, states and territories for 2016, with additional data from the Commonwealth, state, and territory budgets for FY2018/19. 2. Emerging Economies include: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Venezuela. 3. Gross debt as a percentage of GDP (Source: IMF, Fiscal Monitor October 2018, Statistical Tables A15). 4. For cross-country comparability, gross and net debt levels reported by national statistical agencies for countries that have adopted the 2008 System of National Accounts (Australia, Canada and the USA) are adjusted to exclude unfunded pension liabilities of government employees' defined benefit pension plans.

Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF), IMF Fiscal Monitor, October 2018, Statistical Tables A8, A15 and A16; Austrade

Strong regulatory institutions, the ability to respond to global changes, and a diversified, services-based economy underpin Australia's steady growth.

# Trade

Australia is very open to Free Trade Agreements (FTA's) and currently has 13 in place, with a further two agreed but not yet in force and another seven under negotiation at the time of writing.

Australia is keen on liberalising trade and investment agreements as they deliver greater rates of economic growth and employment than if they were not in place. Research by the Centre for International Economics found that in 2016, the average household income was more than \$AUD 8,000 higher than it would have been if it were not for three decades of trade liberalisation by successive Australian governments.

The report also highlighted that 1 in 5 jobs depends on trade and 1 in 7 jobs relies on exports.

Questions have been raised as to whether small and medium size businesses use or benefit from the FTAs. PriceWaterhouseCoopers conducted a report that concluded that these businesses do benefit from the tariff cuts, particularly those with Chinese, Japanese and Korean links.

## Australia's Main Export Markets

Australia's top export market is Asia. In 2017, ten of the country's top 12 export markets were in Asia and all were rated above investment-grade. With a combined value of approximately \$AUD 275 billion, this was more than 70% of Australia's total goods and services export earnings. Since 2007, the export value of Australia's top 10 Asian markets has doubled.

### AUSTRALIA'S TOP 12 GOODS AND SERVICES EXPORT MARKETS – 2017

A\$, as at 2017



Australia's top 5 commodity exports (annually) are:

- Iron Ore \$AUD 38.8 billion
- Gold \$AUD 13.5 billion
- Wheat \$AUD 3.57 billion
- Copper Ore \$AUD 3.2 billion
- Coal Briquettes \$AUD 27.2 billion

Australia is the world's leading exporter of iron ore, accounting for 58% of the global \$AUD 66.6 billion market. The nearest rival, Brazil, is responsible for 20% of that annual

export total. The majority of Australia's iron ore is sent to China, accounting for 84% of the country's exports.

Australia's top 5 commodity imports are:

- Refined Petroleum \$AUD 10.7 billion
- Crude Petroleum \$AUD 5.9 billion
- Gold \$AUD 4.4 billion
- Coffee \$AUD 453 million
- Diamonds \$AUD 424 million



# Employment

Employment underpins the economic productivity of any nation. Since the late 1970's, Australia has generally experienced increases in the level of employment. The average employment rate for all working-age Australians in this period was around 70%, with a low of 62% in April 1983 and a high of 74% in December 2018.

This period saw three major economic downturns—the early 1980s recession, early 1990s recession and the 2008–09 global financial crisis (GFC). Following the 1980s and 1990s recessions, the employment rate for the working-

age population fell. It then increased above pre-recession levels. The employment rate was slower to return to pre-recession levels following the 1990s downturn. During the GFC, the employment rate fell from approximately 73% to 72% over mid-2008 to mid-2009. Since mid-2009, the employment rate has moved between a low of 71% and a high of 74%.

Source: <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-welfare/employment-trends>

**The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases quarterly estimates of employed people by industry**

Industry of employment (Division)	Feb-19 (‘000)	Feb-19 (%)
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,702.7	13.3
Retail Trade	1,284.7	10.1
Construction	1,153.9	9
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	1,115.3	8.7
Education and Training	1,032.4	8.1
Accommodation and Food Services	907.1	7.1
Manufacturing	872.5	6.8
Public Administration and Safety	858.5	6.7
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	666.1	5.2
Other Services	515.7	4
Financial and Insurance Services	445.5	3.5
Administrative and Support Services	414.1	3.2
Wholesale Trade	390.9	3.1
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	332.0	2.6
Mining	251.7	2
Arts and Recreation Services	247.4	1.9
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	216.3	1.7
Information Media and Telecommunications	220.4	1.7
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	147.6	1.2
Total employed	12,774.6	100

Source: ABS, Labour force, detailed, quarterly, Feb 2019, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003 (Table 04)

# Education

Australia is the third most popular international student destination in the world, it currently has 700,000 international students enrolled and is home to 6 of the world's top 100 universities.

The Australian Government invested over \$AUD 300 million

in scholarships for international students and offered over 3,000 Australia Awards scholarships and short courses to students from over 55 countries in 2019.

The Australian education system provides primary, secondary, and tertiary education.

## School education (Primary and Secondary)

School education is similar across all of Australia with only minor variations between states and territories. School education (primary and secondary) is compulsory between the ages of six and sixteen (Year 1 to Year 9 or 10). School education is 13 years and divided into:

- Primary school – Runs for seven or eight years, starting at Kindergarten/Preparatory through to Year 6 or 7.
- Secondary school – Runs for three or four years, from Years 7 to 10 or 8 to 10.
- Senior secondary school – Runs for two years, Years 11 and 12.

After completion of senior secondary school (Years 11 and 12) students sit for exams and receive an official certificate of qualification. The name of this certificate varies within Australia's state-based education systems but regardless

of what the certificate is called, it is recognised by all Australian universities, higher education and vocational education and training institutions, as well as many institutions internationally.

International student coordinators are present in every school.

Australia has public and private schools, the key difference between the two is how they are funded. Private or independent schools are usually owned and operated by individuals or entities and public schools are run through the Australian government.

Boarding schools in Australia enrol both local and international students.

## Tertiary education

Tertiary education includes both higher education (including universities) and Vocational Education and Training (VET).

The main types of undergraduate qualifications offered by most higher education institutions are as follows:

- Bachelor's degree: Bachelor's degrees provide initial preparation for professional careers and postgraduate study and involve a minimum of three years of full-time study (some institutions offer a fast-track system, which allows students to complete a three-year degree in two years). Entry typically requires completion of an Australian secondary school certificate of education (Year 12) or the overseas equivalent, or a diploma or advanced diploma from the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector.
- Bachelor's degree (honours): Honours degrees may require an optional additional year of study (usually research based) following a three-year degree or may be awarded for academic achievement in degrees of four or more years.

Tuition fees vary widely, but average costs in 2018 for a bachelor's degree were between \$AUD 15,000 and \$AUD 33,000.



# Immigration

According to the New York Times, Australia currently approves approximately 160,000 visas a year. Some of the more common visas offered are:

- Student Visa – to participate in a course of study: up to 5 years for duration of course.

Cost from \$620 Work visas for skilled professionals such as;

- Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) Visa – allows skilled workers nominated by their employer to live and work in the country permanently. Cost from \$AUD 4,045
- Skilled Independent Visa – for invited workers and New Zealand citizens with skills Australia needs to live and work permanently anywhere in Australia. No requirement for a sponsor or nominator but you must be invited to apply and be under 45 years of age. From \$AUD 4,045

- Skilled Nominated Visa – lets nominated skilled workers live and work in Australia as permanent residents.

From \$4,045

- Business Talent Visa (Permanent) – allows foreigners to establish a new or develop an existing business in Australia. You must be nominated by a state or territory government agency, you must be invited to apply for the visa, you must have funding or assets greater than \$ AUD 1 m.

From \$AUD 7,855

# Currency

Australia's currency is the Australian dollar (AUD) which comes in plastic notes of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100. Coins are in 5, 10, 20 and 50 cent denominations along with \$1 and \$2 values.

In early February 2020, concerns surrounding the impact of Coronavirus and the bushfires caused the dollar to fall back to \$0.6662 the lowest level against the US dollar since March 2009.



US dollars per Australian dollar

<https://www.xe.com/currencycharts/?from=AUD&to=USD&view=10Y>

The Reserve Bank of Australia forecasts that this soft patch will extend further into early 2020, but that beyond that beyond that, the medium-term outlook for the economy remained broadly unchanged from November 2019.

# 10 Interesting Facts About Australia

- There are more kangaroos in Australia than people
- There are three times as many sheep as humans in the country
- 25% of Australia's residents were born overseas
- A large part of Australia is desert and 90% of the population live on the coast
- Australia is the only nation to govern an entire continent and its outlying islands
- Australia is the smallest continent but largest island on the planet
- Australia is the driest inhabited continent in the world
- Australia is the lowest continent in the planet
- 80% of Australia's animals are unique to Australia
- Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world





Thank you for taking the time to learn about Australia. Want to know more about investing in this country?

Download our guide:  
Investing in Australia



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