



# Australia



<b>Background</b>	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.
<b>Capital</b>	name: Canberra
<b>Government type</b>	federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm
<b>Area</b>	total : 7,741,220 sq km land: 7,682,300 sq km water: 58,920 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	generally arid to semiarid; temperate in south and east; tropical in north
<b>Natural resources</b>	alumina, coal, iron ore, copper, lithium, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, rare earth elements, mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, opals, natural gas, petroleum
<b>Population</b>	total: 26,768,598 (2024 est.)
<b>Population growth rate</b>	1.13% (2024 est.)
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	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.)
<b>Religions</b>	Roman Catholic 20%, Protestant 18.1% (Anglican 9.8%, Uniting Church 2.6%, Presbyterian and Reformed 1.6%, Baptist 1.4%, Pentecostal 1%, other Protestant 1.7%), other Christian 3.5%, Muslim 3.2%, Hindu 2.7%, Buddhist 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3% (Eastern Orthodox 2.1%, Oriental Orthodox 0.2%), other 2.1%, none 38.4%, unspecified 7.3% (2021 est.)
<b>Languages</b>	English 72%, Mandarin 2.7%, Arabic 1.4%, Vietnamese 1.3%, Cantonese 1.2%, other 15.7%, unspecified 5.7% (2021 est.)
<b>Executive branch</b>	chief of state: King CHARLES III (since 8 September 2022); represented by Governor General Samantha (Sam) MOSTYN (since 1 July 2024) head of government: Prime Minister Anthony ALBANESE (since 23 May 2022)
<b>Diplomatic representation in the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador Kevin Michael RUDD (since 19 April 2023)
<b>Diplomatic representation from the US</b>	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Erika OLSON (since January 2025)
<b>Economic overview</b>	high-income and globally integrated economy; strong mining, manufacturing, and service sectors driving slow but steady growth; net exporter, driven by commodities to East Asian trade partners; weak productivity and aging population straining labor force participation
<b>Real GDP (purchasing power parity)</b>	\$1.588 trillion (2023 est.) \$1.535 trillion (2022 est.) \$1.472 trillion (2021 est.)
<b>Real GDP per capita</b>	\$59,600 (2023 est.) \$59,000 (2022 est.) \$57,300 (2021 est.)

<b>Exports</b>	\$425.16 billion (2024 est.) \$448.507 billion (2023 est.) \$465.99 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Exports - partners</b>	China 37%, Japan 16%, S. Korea 6%, India 5%, Taiwan 5% (2023)
<b>Exports - commodities</b>	iron ore, coal, natural gas, gold, minerals (2023)
<b>Imports</b>	\$405.336 billion (2024 est.) \$389.211 billion (2023 est.) \$379.981 billion (2022 est.)
<b>Imports - partners</b>	China 26%, USA 11%, S. Korea 6%, Japan 6%, Thailand 5% (2023)
<b>Imports - commodities</b>	refined petroleum, cars, trucks, broadcasting equipment, garments (2023)

Population Pyramid

