

Australia's relationship with

ALABAMA

KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 4,903,185 (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Montgomery (Capital), Birmingham (Largest), Huntsville, Mobile
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$228.14 billion (2019)
- **Key Industries:** Iron and Steel, Paper, Lumber and Wood, Mining (coal), Plastic, Cars and Trucks, Apparel, Aerospace (Airbus 320 family), Agriculture
- **Known for:** "Alabamans / Alabamians", Yellowhammer State, Heart of Dixie, Cotton State, Centre of Civil Rights Movement, Birthplace of Confederacy, US Space and Rocket Centre, Peanut Capital of the world
- **National Rankings:** (out of 50 states)
 - Economy: 45th
 - Healthcare: 46th
 - Infrastructure: 38th
 - Education: 50th
 - Tax burden: 37th
 - State size by area: 28th
 - State size by population: 23rd
 - Density: 27th

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade:** \$523 million (goods)
- **Value of Australian exports to AL:** \$214 million (goods)
- **AL exports to Australia:** \$308 million (goods)
- **AL goods exported to Australia:** cars, auto parts, steel, paper

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:** Mobile, AL and Cockburn, WA
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Alabama is managed by the Consulate General in Washington, DC.



POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Kay Ivey (R), next election in 2022
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 62%
- **Senators:** Richard Shelby (R), Tommy Tuberville (R)
- **House:** 6 Republicans, 1 Democrat

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australians Living in Alabama:** Keith Glass (renowned Australian country music singer, songwriter and producer)
- **Australian Sporting Clubs:** Birmingham Bushrangers (USAFL)

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over eight Australian firms operate out of Alabama. Notable examples include:

- **Austal:** Mobile is home to Australian shipbuilder and contractor Austal, employing over 3,500 people and supplying Littoral Combat Ships to the US Navy
- **Ayres Lightweight Panel Systems:** A Western Australian company that produces interior panelling for vehicles, Ayres has its US office in Theodore
- **Pratt Industries:** Sister to Visy, Pratt Industries is Australia's largest packaging and recycling company, with a production plant in Jefferson
- **EOS Defence Systems:** With headquarters in Huntsville, EOS Defence Systems has a flagship facility in Alabama that houses over 100 full-time employees and can be grown to 250 if the company secures new US DoD contracts



GLOBAL BUSINESS

- **Vulcan Materials:** Headquarters in Birmingham
- **Encompass Health:** Headquarters in Birmingham
- **Regions Financial:** Headquarters in Birmingham
- **ADTRAN:** Headquartered in Huntsville, ADTRAN has been providing broadband technology to the NBN and has an engineering research and development centre in Melbourne, VIC

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Australian universities have six active student exchange partnerships within the state of Alabama, including:

- **The University of Alabama's School of Law** Summer Exchange Program with the Australian National University (ANU) College of Law. Each year Australian students spend six weeks at the University of Alabama and US students spend six weeks at ANU.
- **The University of Alabama** is in a research partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast's Cluster for Health Improvement. The mission of the centre is to foster innovative applied research in health and translate into practice health research on issues that enhance quality of life for people and sustainability of communities.

MAJOR EVENTS

- **Mercedes-Benz Marathon:** Hosted in Birmingham, set to return in 2022.
- **Mardi Gras:** Mobile celebrates the oldest annual Carnival celebration in the US.
- **Peanut Festival:** The nation's largest peanut festival, a 10-day festival spread over 200 acres, is held in Dothan, the peanut capital of the world.
- **Alabama Jubilee Hot Air Balloon Classic:** Originating in mid-1970s in Decatur, it is the oldest hot air balloon race in the mid-South.

SCIENCE & INNOVATION

- **Entrepreneurship Ranking:** 41st (based on new firm births as a share of total businesses in the state, rank out of 51)
 - **Tech Jobs Ranking:** 30th (based on share of engineers and computer scientists in the workforce, rank out of 51)
 - **BERD Intensity Ranking:** 31st (based on business expenditure on R&D per dollar of state output, rank out of 51)
 - **New Economy Index Ranking:** 44th (based on composite index that reports on the innovation-driven economy, rank out of 51)
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