

Australia's relationship with

ALABAMA

KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 4.87 million (24th most populous state), 2017 estimate
- **Major Cities:** Montgomery (Capital), Birmingham, Huntsville and Mobile
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$192.7 billion (2017)
- **GDP Growth:** 1.6% (2017)
- **% College Educated:** 33%
- **Median Household Income:** \$44,758 (2017)
- **Key Industries:** Iron & Steel, Paper, Lumber & Wood, Mining (coal), Plastic, Cars & Trucks, Apparel, Aerospace (Airbus 320 family)
- **Known for:** "Alabamans / Alabamians", Centre of Civil Rights Movement, Birthplace of Confederacy, Agriculture: 82% livestock 18% crops, Tied with Mississippi for being the Most Religious States
- **National Rankings: (out of 50 states)**
 - Economy: 38th
 - Healthcare: 48th
 - Infrastructure: 32nd
 - Education: 47th
 - Tax burden: 39th
 - State size by area: 30th
 - State size by population: 23rd
 - Density: 27th

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade (goods only):** \$523 million (2019)
- **Australia's Exports to Alabama (goods only):** \$214 million (2019)
- **Alabama's Exports to Australia (goods only):** \$308 million (2019)
 - Cars, Auto Parts, Steel, Paper



PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

In 2013, Australian tourists spent \$49 million dollars in Alabama.

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

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

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

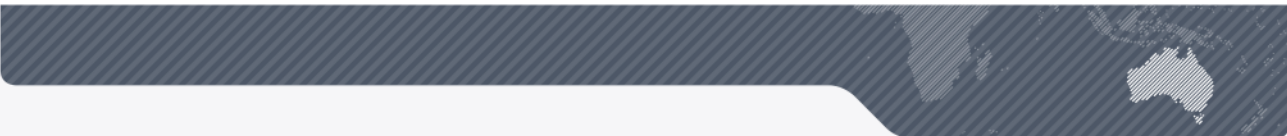
POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Kay Ivey (R), next election in 2022
- **2016 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 62.9%
- **Senators:** Richard Shelby (R), Doug Jones (D)
- **House:** 6 Republicans, 1 Democrat

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 8 Australian firms operate out of Alabama. Notable examples include:

- **Austal:** Mobile is home to Australian shipbuilder and contractor Austal, employing over 4000 people and supplying Littoral Combat Ships to the U.S. Navy.
- **Ayres Lightweight Panel Systems:** A Western Australia company that produces interior



panelling for vehicles, Ayres has its U.S. office in Theodore, AL.

- **Pratt Industries:** Sister to Visy, Pratt Industries is Australia's largest packaging and recycling company. It has production plant in Jefferson.
- **EOS Defence Systems:** With headquarters in Huntsville, EOS Defence Systems has a flagship facility in Alabama that will house 100 full-time employees and can be grown to 250 if the company secures new U.S. DoD contacts.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

There are 3 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Alabama including:

- **Vulcan Materials:** Headquarters in Birmingham.
- **HealthSouth:** Headquarters in Birmingham.
- **Regions Financial:** Headquarters in Birmingham.
- **ADTRAN:** Headquarters in Huntsville. ADTRAN has been providing broadband technology to NBN and recently announced CTO Beachead office in Australia to support regional growth.

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Australian universities have six active student exchange partnerships within the state of Alabama.

- **This year marks 18 years of the Alabama Law's 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 spent six weeks at ANU.
- **The University of Alabama is in a research partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) "Cluster for Health Improvement" (CHI).** 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 Marathon:** Hosted in Birmingham, now in its 16th year

- **Mardi Gras:** Mobile celebrates the oldest annual Carnival celebration in the U.S.
- **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:** Originated in mid-1970s in Decatur. The town now holds 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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