

Australia's relationship with

# ALASKA

## KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 741,894 (2016)
- **Major Cities:** Juneau (Capital), Fairbanks, Anchorage
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$54,734.1 Million (2018)
- **Key Industries:** The oil & gas industry is the largest sector of Alaska's economy, providing almost 85% of the state's budget revenue. Tourism is Alaska's second major sector and second largest employer, attracting over 1.1 million visitors annually. Its third major sector is fishing, including as the number one producer of wild salmon in the world.
- **Known for:** The 1898 discovery of gold deposits doubled the population of this territory. In 1959 Alaska became the largest state (by land-area) admitted into the US; 17 of 20 highest US peaks; least densely populated state

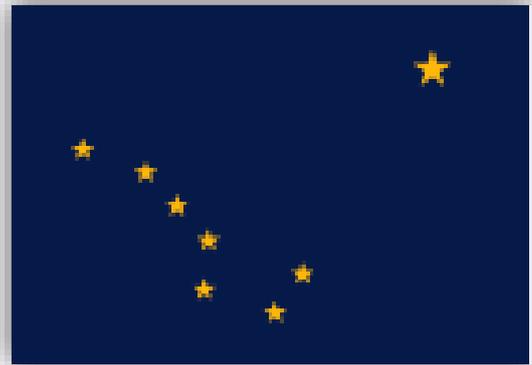
## ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade (2016):** US\$ 77,957,663
- **Australia's Exports to Alaska:** US\$ 4,406,490
- **Alaska Exports to Australia:** US\$ 73,551,173

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

*Australia is Alaska's largest overseas tourism market. In 2016, 42,000 Australians took Alaskan cruises.*

- **Sister Cities:** Anchorage - Darwin
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Alaska is managed by the Consulate General in Los Angeles
- **Consul General:** Chelsey Martin



- **Defence Personnel:** 1 RAAF at Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage
- The New South Wales' Department of Education's international exchange team run a program which allows teachers from NSW and Alaska to swap places for a year to teach in each other's schools.
- Several Alaskan firefighters were recently sent to Australia to help fight the bushfires as part of a US firefighters support team.

## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australians Living in Alaska:** Bradley Trevor Grieve, an author and conservationist, is a frequent visitor to Alaska, and was made a member of an indigenous clan in Alaska.
- **There is no known Australian community in Alaska known to post:** However, ADF personnel, tourism industry operators and oil and gas workers have been stationed there from time to time.

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

- There are no distinctly Australian businesses in Alaska.



- **World Ice Art Championships:** In Fairbanks, one of the largest ice sculpting competitions and exhibitions on earth, showcases the huge, intricate ice sculptures of over 100 ice artists representing nearly 50 countries.
- **May Day Fly-In & Air Show:** One of the USA aviation events of the year, this event, held yearly in Valdez, features competitions including the spectacular STOL (Short Landing/Short Take Off) contests highlighting the best pilots from the US and around the world.

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

- Alaska is not home to any major fortune 500 companies.
- **Local:** The local company that employs the most people is the Fort Wainwright Credit Union, which employs 7,500 people.

Alaska is known for its close relationship with its indigenous population and its natural beauty

## TOURISM

- Australia is Alaska's largest single overseas tourism market, accounting for 26% of all tourists. In 2016, 44,000 Australians visited the state, mostly (92%) for Alaskan cruises.

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

### Exchanges:

- La Trobe University has an exchange program with both the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks.
- Charles Darwin University has an exchange with University of Alaska Fairbanks. La Trobe University has an exchange with the University of Anchorage.

## MAJOR EVENTS

- **Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile International Sled Dog Race:** Called the "toughest race on earth" because of the rugged terrain and long distances between checkpoints, this 1,000-mile race alternates directions each year between Fairbanks, Alaska and Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.

## SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

- Alaska's unique take on innovation is driven by its vast geography and harsh climate. For a technology to be useful here, it must perform well in remote and harsh conditions, be easy to repair and solve a real problem. This unfussy approach to innovation is at the heart of the state's emerging entrepreneurial ecosystem, where entrepreneurs, researchers, policy wonks and technologists are tackling on some of the world's most challenging problems in the energy sector.
- **Incubators and accelerators:** Launch Alaska, Alaska Venture Partners, Alaska Small Business Incubator LLC, Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, Inc., Aleyska Venture, 49th State Angel Fund, Geeks in the Woods.
- **Think Tanks:** Alaska Policy Forum
- **Non-university research institutions:** Alaska Public Interest Research Group, Alaska Institute for Justice, North Pacific Research Board, Arctic Research Consortium of the US, Alaska Whale Foundation