

Australia's relationship with

# CALIFORNIA

## KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 39.5 million (most populous state), 2019 estimate
- **Major Cities:** Sacramento (Capital), Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Jose
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$2.6 trillion (2016), largest state economy in the US - roughly equivalent to size of the French economy
- **GDP Growth:** 3.5% (2017-18)
- **Key Industries:** Finance, Insurance & Real Estate; Professional & Business Services; Government; Manufacturing; Information; Educational Services, Health Care & Social Assistance; Retail Trade; Wholesale Trade; Arts, Entertainment & Recreation
- **Known for:** Silicon Valley, Hollywood, Golden Gate Bridge, Yosemite, State Motto: "Eureka", Only US state to host summer & winter Olympics

## ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade (goods only):** \$5.7 billion (2018)
- **Australia's Exports to California (goods only):** \$2.2 billion (2018)
  - Medical equipment, beef, crude oil, wine, lamb, paper
- **California's Exports to Australia (goods only):** \$3.5 billion (2018)
  - Aircraft parts, telecoms equipment, medical equipment, petroleum coke

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Australia-California people-to-people** links stretch back to the Australian and Californian Gold Rushes of the mid-19th Century, which triggered large two-way exchanges of people. Today, estimates stand that around 60,000 Australians live in California, with around two thirds in the greater Los Angeles area and the other one third in the Bay Area. There are also an estimated 120



formal agreements between Australian tertiary institutions and universities located in California.

- **Sister Cities:** over 10 Sister City Relationships between California and Australia such as:
  - San Diego – Perth WA
  - Orange – Orange NSW
  - Arcadia – Newcastle NSW
  - Napa – Launceston TAS
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with California is managed by the **Consulate General in Los Angeles** and the **Consulate General in San Francisco (Managed by Austrade)**
- **Consul General Los Angeles:** Ms Chelsey Martin
- **Consul General San Francisco:** Mr Nick Nichles
- **Defence Personnel:** 30+

## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australian American Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco** - PO Box 471285, San Francisco CA 94147
- **Aussie Founders Network (AFN)** - San Francisco
- **Wine Australia** – San Francisco
- **CSIRO** – San Francisco
- **Australians in Film** – Los Angeles
- **Australian Theatre Company (ATC)** – Los Angeles
- **Facebook:**
  - Australians in Los Angeles
  - Australians in San Diego
  - Australians in San Francisco
- **Australian Football:**
  - Golden Gate Roos
  - Los Angeles Dragons
  - Orange County Bombers
  - Sacramento Suns
  - San Diego Lions
- **Australians Living in California:**

- Greg Basser (CEO, Village Roadshow)
- Peter Lowy (CEO, Westfield)
- Michael Farrell – (CEO, ResMed)
- Lachlan Murdoch (Co-Chairman, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox and Newscorp)
- Curtis Stone (Celebrity Chef and Restaurant Owner)

- **Google:** Headquarters in Mountain View
- **Disney:** Headquarters in Burbank
- **eBay:** Headquarters in San Jose
- **Netflix:** Headquarters in Los Gatos
- **Visa:** Headquarters in Foster City

## TOURISM

- Australia was the fourth largest source of visitors to California in 2018-19 with 614,000 Australian visitors spending US\$952 million

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 185 Australian firms operate out of California, in sectors including minerals and resources, med-tech, retail, logistics and property development. Notable examples include:

- **Amtcor:** A global leader in packaging. It supplies the food, beverage, healthcare industries and more. It has manufacturing and distribution operations at 10 sites across California
- **Billabong:** Sportswear and casual clothing manufacturer. Its US head office is in Irvine
- **Goodman Group:** The global logistics giant has a multibillion dollar US portfolio. It has an office in Los Angeles
- **ResMed:** Global manufacturer of products to treat chronic sleep disorders. The company was founded in Australia in 1989 but relocated to San Diego in 1990
- **Westfield:** One of the world's largest retail property groups – it owns over 20 shopping malls across California. Its US head office is in Los Angeles

*Australia was the 13th largest destination for California goods exports in 2018, valued at US\$3.79 billion, making it the largest exporter to Australia*

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

California's enormous economy, its vast venture capital reserves and its highly educated workforce make it a highly desirable location to do business within the United States. **There are 53 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in California** including:

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Over 120 formal agreements exist between Australian institutions and universities located in California. These include agreements governing student and faculty exchange, study abroad and research partnerships.

- A team from the **University of Sydney** is working with Microsoft at a research lab in the University of California on a large scale quantum computing research project
- **The University of NSW** is leading a project with the University of California – Santa Barbara on advanced photovoltaics
- **The University of Western Sydney** is leading a project with the University of California – San Diego to investigate how collaboration impacts innovation
- **The Australian National University** is a member of the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) along with US representatives Yale University and the University of California, Berkeley.

## MAJOR EVENTS

California is host to a plethora of world class events including:

- **G'Day USA Gala:** Los Angeles
- **Academy Awards:** Los Angeles
- **Grammy Awards** Los Angeles
- **Emmy Awards:** Los Angeles
- **Coachella Music Festival:** Coachella Valley
- **Palm Spring's International Film Festival**
- **LA Fashion Week**