

Australia's relationship with

COLORADO



KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 5.75 Million ([2019](#))
- **Major Cities:** Denver (capital & largest), Boulder, Colorado Springs, Aspen
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$393 Million ([2019](#))
- **GDP Growth:** 3.5% ([2018-2019](#))
- **Key Industries:** Agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing, mining, tourism
- **Known for:** Skiing, Pikes Peak, Mesa Verde, Garden of the Gods, Black Canyon, Rocky Mountain National Park, has the highest elevation of any state, nick named "The Centennial State"

- **Local Aussie-Inspired Shops: (2020)**
Colorado Springs: Colorado Meat Pie Co.
Denver: Stowaway Kitchen
- **Patrons, benefactors, champions:** James Waddell (Incoming Honorary Consul)
- **Australian's living in Colorado:**
Koel Thomae (Founder, Noosa Yoghurt)
Simon Chen (Manager, Little Nell Hotel, Aspen)
Tammy Bugler (Co-Owner, Birdon)
Geoff McQueen (CEO, Accelo)

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade:** US\$ 439 Million (2019)
- **Australian Exports to Colorado:** \$US 316 Million (2019)
- **Colorado Exports to Australia:** \$US 123 Million ([2019](#))

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Associations:** OzDenver (community group)
- **Australian Football:** Denver Bulldogs, Colorado Crush
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Colorado is managed by the Australian Consulate-General in Los Angeles
- **Consul General:** Jane Duke
- **Defence Personnel:** 18

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Jared Polis (D)
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Biden 55.4%
- **Senators:** John Hickenlooper(D), Michael Bennet(D)
- **House:** 4 Democrats, 3 Republican

TOURISM

Australia is the second largest source of incoming international tourists to Colorado, with more than 57,600 Australian visitors each year (2018). In the past decade, the number of Australians visiting Colorado has increased by 70.28 %.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:**
Colorado Springs and Bankstown NSW
Golden and Young, NT
Lakewood and Sutherland, NSW
Littleton and Bega Valley, NSW
Vail and Mansfield & Delatite, VIC
- Many young Australians work at the ski resorts during the US winter months on the J1 visa.

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 44 facilities or offices are operating in Colorado that are wholly or majority owned by Australian firms. Sectors include auxiliary Insurance, engineering, manufacturing, mining support services and scientific research services. Notable firms include:

- **Cardno:** Centennial, Aurora, Greenwood Vlg, Denver, Lakewood

- **Lend Lease:** Denver
- **QBE Farmers Union Insurance** (Parent company: QBE Insurance Group Ltd): Over 20 locations across Colorado
- **Boral Material Technologies:** Denver, Craig, Henderson, Pueblo, Bush, Littleton
- **Great Western Bank** (Parent company: National Australian Bank): Over 20 locations across Colorado
- **Rio Tinto:** Borax, Greenwood Village

GLOBAL BUSINESS

There are 10 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Colorado:

- **Arrow Electronics**
- **DaVita**
- **DISH Network**
- **Level 3 Communications**
- **Ball**
- **Newmont Mining**
- **Liberty Media**
- **Liberty Interactive**
- **Western Union**
- **CH2M Hill**

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

With 15 over formal agreements between Australian institutions and universities located in Colorado, these include agreements governing student and faculty exchange, study abroad and research partnerships.

- **Nationally Ranked Universities**
 - #41 United States Air Force Academy
 - #76 Colorado College
 - #122 Colorado School of Mines
 - #137 University of Denver
 - #160 University of Colorado
 - #239 Colorado State University, Fort Collins
 - #441 University of Colorado

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

- **Incubators and accelerators:** Techstars, The Founder Institute, MergeLane, BoomTown, TechrIoT, Catalyst HTI, Innosphere, Telluride Venture Accelerator, UpRamp, Catalyze CU, CSU Institute of Entrepreneurship, Dynamize, GAN Accelerators, Uncharted, Rocky Mountain, Center for Renewable Energy Economic Development, Metro Denver, Watson Institute, UNC BizHub Collaborative, Warehouse Business Accelerator, Business Incubator Center, Innosphere
- **Think tanks:** Merle Chambers Fund, The Aspen Institute, Rocky Mountain Institute, Bell Policy Center, Colorado FreedomConnector, Environment Colorado, Independence Institute
- **Non-university research institutions:** Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center, Colorado Cancer Foundation

MAJOR EVENTS

- **National Western Stock Show:** Mid January, Denver
- **Colorado Indian Market and Southwest Showcase:** Mid January, Denver
- **Pikes Peak Marathon:** Mid August, Manitou Springs
- **Cherry Creek Arts Festival:** Early July, Denver
- **Denver Oktoberfest:** Mid to late September, Denver