

Australia's relationship with

# Colorado



## KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 5.75 Million (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Denver, Boulder, Colorado Springs
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** In 2018, Colorado current-dollar GDP was \$371,749.6 million and ranked 16th in the United States
- **GDP Growth:** In 2017, Colorado real GDP grew 3.5 percent, outpacing the 2017-2018 national rate of 2.9 percent
- **Key Industries:** Colorado's key industries include agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing, mining and tourism. It is ranked first in private aerospace employment concentration, third for concentration of high-tech workers and fourth for start-up activity
- **Known for:**
  - Colorado means "coloured red"
  - Known as the "Centennial State"
  - Has the highest elevation of any state, with more than 1,000 Rocky Mountain peaks over 10,000 ft high and 54 towering above 14,000 ft

## ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Priority Sectors for the Australia-Colorado economic relationship:**
  - Australia's Exports to Colorado (goods only): \$ US 406 million
  - Colorado Exports to Australia (goods only): \$ US 143 million

## 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 per cent.

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- Colorado maintains four sister-city relationships with Australian cities, and more than 20 Australian defence personnel are stationed in Colorado at any one time. Many young Australians work in the Colorado ski fields (Vail, Aspen) during the winter months on the J1 visa. Colorado has over 44 businesses wholly or majority owned by Australians, employing some 8,000 people in the state for example, Birdon, Cochlear, Flightfox, Plenary Group, Redeam, Section, Becon Health, Zuus Workforce, and Computershare.
- **Sister Cities:**
  - Colorado Springs and Bankstown NSW
  - Lakewood and Sutherland Shire NSW
  - Littleton and Bega NSW
  - Vail and Delatite VIC
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Colorado is managed by the Australian Consulate-General in Los Angeles
- **Consul General:** Chelsey Martin
- **Defence Personnel:** 18
- **Patrons, benefactors, champions:** James Waddell (Incoming Honorary Consul)
- **Australian's living in Colorado:**
  - Koel Thomae (Founder, Noosa Yoghurt)
  - Simon Chen (Managing Director, The Little Nell Hotel Aspen)
  - Tammy Bugler (Co-Owner, Birdon)
  - Geoff McQueen (CEO, Accelo)

## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Associations:** OzDenver (community organisation)
- **Australian Football:** Denver Bulldogs, Colorado Crush
- **Australians Living in Colorado:** 2,679 (2013)

## 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

- #239 Colorado State University, Fort Collins
- #441 University of Colorado



University of Colorado

*Non-Metallic mineral mining and quarrying is a key industry, with Australian companies employing over 5,000 staff members in this sector.*

## 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

## 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

## 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