

Australia's relationship with

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



### KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 706,000 (2019). Estimated population with commuters during the day is around 1 million
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$143.4 billion (2019)
- **GDP Growth:** 1% (2019)
- **% College Educated:** 58.5% (2019)
- **Median Household Income:** \$86,420 (2019).
- **Key Industries:** Public Administration, Military, and Lobbying. Around 30% of employment is in the Federal Government. Tourism is the next largest industry with around 19 million visitors annually
- **Known for:** Nation's capital and home of the US Government (Congress), the White House, the Supreme Court, Smithsonian Institution, iconic monuments, museums and international institutions including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Embassies are located here as well.

### ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade (goods only):** \$15 million (2019)
- **Australia's Exports to DC (goods only):** \$11 million (2019)
- **DC's Exports to Australia (goods only):** \$4 million (2019)

### PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Australian Community:** A large group of Australians live and work in Washington, mostly expats on fixed contracts working in the diplomatic corps, media and private sector.
- **Australian Sporting Clubs:** DC Eagles (USAFL)
- **Local Aussie-Inspired Shops:**  
Bluestone Lane - West End, Dupont Circle, Logan Circle, Scott Circle
- **Australians in Washington Association:** Group for Australians living in DC, Maryland and Virginia area

- **Australian American Council:** Promotes the special relationship between the United States and Australia. They work with their members to promote productive and timely bilateral exchanges among leaders in government, business, national security, technology, academic, media, and cultural arenas. Sharing viewpoints, policy positions and strategies elevates our mutual defense and security and promotes economic growth, trade and investment.
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with DC is managed by the **Consulate General in Washington DC**

### POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Mayor:** Muriel Bowser (D), next election - 2022
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Biden 92.1%
- **(Shadow) Senators:** Michael Brown (D), Paul Strauss (D)
- **House:** 1 Democrat

### AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

According to FDI Markets for the past ten years, a total of 5 Greenfield investment projects were reported, totalling \$37 million investment from Australian companies to Washington DC and creating 171 jobs. Notable Australian companies in Washington DC include:

- **Meat & Livestock Australia:** Branch office in DC and specialises in marketing and research programs for Australian meat and livestock.
- **Palladium Group Holdings:** Branch office in DC and provides management consulting services
- **Sunrise Medical Laboratories:** Sonic Healthcare Limited's foreign subsidiary in DC that provides medical diagnostic services and administrative services and facilities to medical practitioners.
- **Servcorp:** Provides executive suites and virtual offices with an office in Washington, DC.

- **BHP Billiton:** BHP is a world-leading resources company. BHP extract and process minerals, oil and gas and our products are sold worldwide. BHP has a branch office in Washington, DC.

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

Washington is considered one of the most accessible and welcoming of US cities. While it is the home to the US government, it is remarkably international with some 180 resident embassies and respected global economic and policy organisations. DC is a hub for thought leadership and global policy makers and fifteen of the Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in the greater Washington region. Notable examples include:

- **Lockheed Martin:** A global security and aerospace company that employs approximately 100,000 people worldwide and is principally engaged in the research, design, development, manufacturing, integration and sustainment of advanced technology systems, products and services.
- **Danaher:** Danaher holds a market capital of \$64.82 billion. The company is a diversified industrial and medical conglomerate with 81,000 employees that develops tools, conducts scientific research and operates drinking water purification systems.
- **Verizon Communications:** Employs 11,000 people and considered one of the largest technology communications companies in the world, offering jobs in sales, software, engineering, finance, customer service and more.
- **Blackboard Inc.:** Education technology company with corporate headquarters in Washington DC

## CULTURE

DC is home to numerous national landmarks and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the US. It has one of the largest concentrations of Latinos in the country – Latinos from the LGBT community are widely represented. The district historically was predominantly black, but gentrification and development have pushed minorities further and further out of the area. Notable landmarks from D.C. include:

- **National Mall:** includes Smithsonian museums, Federal Government buildings, White House, National Monument, Lincoln Memorial

- **National Museum of African American History and Culture**
- **National Arboretum**
- **Meridian Hill Park**
- **14<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor**
- **Adams Morgan**

## SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

- **Entrepreneurship Ranking:** 1<sup>st</sup> (based on new firm births as a share of total businesses in the state, rank out of 51)
- **Tech Jobs Ranking:** 1<sup>st</sup> (based on share of engineers and computer scientists in the workforce, rank out of 51)
- **BERD Intensity Ranking:** 47<sup>th</sup> (based on business expenditure on R&D per dollar of state output, rank out of 51)

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

- **The Australian National University** maintains strong links with other capital city universities including George Washington University, Georgetown University and American University, including student exchange and research collaboration.