

Australia's relationship with

FLORIDA

KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 21.5 million (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Tallahassee (capital), Jacksonville (largest), Miami, Orlando, Tampa
- **Gross Domestic Product:** \$1,106.5 billion (2019)
- **Key Industries:** finance, tourism, aerospace and aviation, agriculture
- **Known for:** 'Floridians', The Sunshine State, no personal income tax, Walt Disney World, SeaWorld Orlando, Everglades National Park, John F. Kennedy Space Centre, Jacksonville Military Port

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-way Trade:** \$875 million (goods)
- **Value of Australian exports to FL:** \$295 million (goods)
- **FL exports to Australia:** \$579 million (2019)
- **FL goods and services exported to Australia:** fertilisers, aircraft parts, pleasure boats, medical devices
- **National Rankings:** (out of 50 states)
 - Economy: 9th
 - Healthcare: 29th
 - Infrastructure: 14th
 - Education: 3rd
 - Tax burden: 34th
 - State size by area: 26th
 - State size by population: 4th
 - Density: 8th

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:**
 - Fort Lauderdale – Gold Coast, QLD
 - Clearwater – Wyong, NSW
- **Local Aussie-Inspired Shops:**
 - St Augustine: Kookaburra Coffee Shop
 - Coral Gables: Someone's Son
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Florida is managed by the Consulate General in Washington, DC



AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australian Community:** South Florida Aussie-Kiwi Club (Broward County); Australian/NZ Expats Social Group; Australians in Florida Facebook group
- **Australian Business Associations:** Australian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, Winterpark
- **Australian Sporting Clubs:** Tampa Bay Tiger Sharks (USAFL); Fort Lauderdale Fighting Squids (USAFL)
- **Australians Living in Florida:** Greg Norman (golfer), Elle MacPherson (model), Aaron Brooks (chef), Stuart Appleby (golfer), Rod Laver (tennis player), Fred Stolle (tennis player)

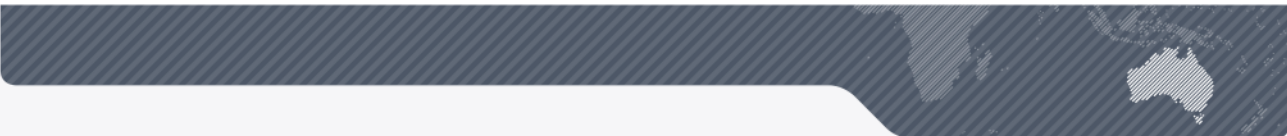
POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Ron DeSantis (R) next election - 2022
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 51.2%
- **Senators:** Rick Scott (R), Marco Rubio (R)
- **House:** 16 Republicans, 11 Democrats

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

34 Australian firms operate out of Florida across sectors of financial services, healthcare, heavy manufacturing and more. Notable examples include:

- **Adacel Technologies:** Headquartered in Orlando, Adacel Technologies is a world-leading developer of advanced simulation and control systems for aviation and defence, including for the U.S. military
- **Cardno:** An environmental services firm that manages project throughout the state from 19 different Florida offices
- **CSL Plasma:** Headquartered in Boca Raton, CSL Plasma is a subsidiary of Australia's CSL Limited



that runs a network of plasma collection centres throughout the US

- **Sonic Healthcare:** Provides medical diagnostic services and is one of the top 50 companies on the Australian Securities Exchange, with its Southeast headquarters located in Orlando
- **Westfield:** One of the world's largest retail property groups, owns six shopping malls throughout the state
- **LocalMeasure:** Sydney-based company that recently opened a Miami office to provide its digital customer experience platform to South Florida's tourism and hospitality industry

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Florida's large economy, educated workforce, good infrastructure and proximity to Latin America make it an attractive place for businesses. Notable companies with headquarters in Florida include:

- **Citrix:** Headquarters in Fort Lauderdale
- **Burger King:** Founded in Jacksonville and currently headquartered in Miami-Dade County
- **Hertz:** Headquarters moved from New Jersey to Estero, in 2015
- **Office Depot:** Headquarters in Boca Raton
- **PGA Tour:** Headquarters in [Ponte Vedra Beach](#)

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

There are over 12 formal agreements between Australian institutions and universities located in Florida. Notable partnerships include:

- **Rollins College**, near Orlando, offers an Australian studies minor
- **Florida International University's Shark Bay Ecosystem Research Project** studies the remote Western Australian seagrass ecosystem. It is a partner of the University of Western Australia
- **The University of Florida** is working with Australian researchers to study Anthrax in Eastern Australia

CULTURE

With a warm and temperate climate, a large economy and good infrastructure, Florida hosts a number of significant events throughout the year, including:

- PGA Golf
- ATP Tennis
- Daytona 500
- Calle Ocho: Annual Cuban Street Festival in Miami
- Orange Bowl: Annual college football Atlantic Coast championship game

SCIENCE & INNOVATION

Entrepreneurship Ranking: 7th (based on new firm births as a share of total businesses in the state, rank out of 51)

- **Tech Jobs Ranking:** 36th (based on share of engineers and computer scientists in the workforce, rank out of 51)
 - **BERD Intensity Ranking:** 33rd (based on business expenditure on R&D per dollar of state output, rank out of 51)
 - **New Economy Index Ranking:** 24th (based on composite index that reports on the innovation-driven economy, rank out of 51)
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