

Australia's relationship with

# LOUISIANA



## KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 4.6 million (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Baton Rouge (capital); New Orleans (largest); Lake Charles; Lafayette; Shreveport
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** US\$260 billion (2019)
- **GDP Growth:** 1.3% (2018-2019)
- **Key Industries:** Energy (oil and gas), advanced manufacturing, tourism, agriculture
- **Known for:** Creole and Cajun cultures, New Orleans colonial-era French Quarter, Mardi Gras, birth place of jazz and zydeco music, bayous and plantations. Nickname: "The Pelican State"

## ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade:** US\$619 million
- **Australia's Exports to Louisiana:** US\$271 million (2019)
- **Louisiana's Exports to Australia:** US\$348 million (2019)

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:** New Orleans has a Sister City relationship with Holdfast Bay on the St Vincent Gulf of South Australia
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Texas is managed by the [Consulate General in Houston](#) (1 DFAT, 7 Austrade)
- **Consul General:** Benson Saulo

## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australian Football:** Baton Rouge Tigers
- **The Louisiana State University (LSU)** football team has been home to numerous Australian punters in recent years.

## POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** John Bel Edwards (D), next election - 2024
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 58.5%
- **Senators:** Bill Cassidy (R) John Kennedy (R)
- **House:** 4 Republicans, 1 Democrat

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

- **Incitec Pivot** (Melbourne) invested \$1B in an ammonia plant in Waggaman, creating over 440 jobs.
- **LNG Ltd.** has approvals for a proposed \$US4.35 billion Magnolia export terminal in Louisiana

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

- **CenturyLink** (Monroe)
- **Entergy** (New Orleans)

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

- Since 2009, **Louisiana's Ochsner Health System (OHS)** and the University of Queensland and have partnered in a medical degree program, in which students study their first 2 years of medical school in Brisbane and complete the final 2 years of clinical education at OHS in New Orleans. The program's goal is to create graduates eligible to practice in Australia, New Zealand, and/or the US.
- The chemical engineering departments at **Louisiana State University** and The University of Sydney offer annual student exchanges to promote international understanding and scholarly collaboration.
- **Nationally Ranked Universities**  
Tulane University (#40)  
Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge (#153)  
Loyola University New Orleans (#197)



## MAJOR EVENTS

Louisiana host hundreds of festivals to highlight its music, cuisine and its multicultural, multilingual history, including;

- **Mardi Gras:** New Orleans
  - **Jazz and Heritage Festival:** New Orleans
  - **Highland Jazz & Blues Festival:** Shreveport
  - **Contraband Days:** Lake Charles
  - **Festival Acadiens et Créoles:** Lafayette
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