

Australia's relationship with

MICHIGAN

KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 9,986,857 (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Lansing (capital), Detroit, Ann Arbor
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$ 543,977 million (2019)
- **Key Industries:** Automotive, Advanced Manufacturing, Defence, Agri-Business, Aerospace
- **Known for:** Borders 4/5 Great Lakes with the world's longest freshwater, most golf courses and lighthouses of any state, Auto Industry, nick named "The Great Lakes State".

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade:** US\$711 Million (2019)
- **Australia's Exports to Michigan:** US\$157 Million (2019)
- **Michigan's Exports to Australia:** US\$554 Million (2019)
- **Priority Sectors for the Australia-Kansas economic relationship:** Passenger cars, auto & aircraft parts, medical equipment, chemicals, pet food, telecommunication, medical & earthmoving equipment

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Governor Gretchen Whitmer (D), next election in 2022
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Biden 50.6%
- **Senators:** Gary C. Peters (D), Debbie Stabenow (D)
- **House:** 7 Republicans, 7 Democrats

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:** [Walker, MI](#) and [Colac, Vic](#)
- Michigan and Australia signed an MOU on intelligent transportation systems in 2018



- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Michigan is managed by [the Consulate General in Chicago](#)
- **Consul General:** David Bushby

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australian Sporting Clubs:** Detroit Aussie Rules Football
- **Australians Living in Michigan:** Andrew Liveris, former Chairman & CEO, Dow Chemical Company
John A. Bryant, former Chairman, President & CEO, Kellogg Company
Russell Riddiford, General Manager, ANCA USA
Carl Le Souef, founder, Somnio Global
Betty Who, pop singer

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 12 Australian firms operate out of Michigan, in sectors including; agri-business, advanced manufacturing, waste management, including:

- **ANCA Inc:** A market leader of high-tech tool and cutter grinders. Its US Head Office is in Wixom.
- **Lumen:** Research, design and manufacturer of high-quality automotive components for vehicle systems. Its North American office is in Rochester Hills.
- **Cohda Wireless:** A leader in CAV technology, with proven applications for connecting vehicles, infrastructure and pedestrians that will make streets safer, smarter and greener.

- **Somnio Global:** An advanced Scientific Research & Development organization. Founded in 2012, Somnio Global is privately owned and operates from its 115,000 square foot, state-of-the-art research facility headquartered on its 25-acre campus in Novi.
- **Winlab:** A manufacturer of proprietary products, components and sub-assemblies for pathology machines with in-house custom design and manufacturing facilities. Winlab also distributes chromatography and pathology consumables.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Michigan's large economy, world-class automotive sector, central location within the US and low corporate tax rate make it an attractive place for business. There are 18 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Michigan including:

- **General Motors:** Headquarters in Detroit
- **Ford Motor Company:** Headquarters in Dearborn
- **Stryker Corporation:** Headquartered in Kalamazoo
- **Dow Chemical:** Headquarters in Midland
- **Maytag:** Headquarters in Benton Harbor
- **Kellogg Company:** Headquarters in Battle Creek
- **Lear Corporation:** manufactures automotive seating & electrical systems

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

At least 22 formal agreements exist between Australian institutions and universities located in Michigan. These include agreements governing student and faculty exchange, study abroad and research partnerships.

- Australia's Movember Foundation gave **University of Michigan researchers a US\$1.6 million grant** to lead a US-based research team creating a web-based tool to support men (and partners) undergoing prostate cancer diagnosis/treatment.
- In 2017, the **University of Michigan's** Solar Car Team competed in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge race across Australia.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Ann Arbor's start-up scene is the biggest in the state. Detroit follows in second, with the number of Detroit-based start-ups growing by 50% in 2017. Michigan has a labor shortage and talent retention issue - the state is home to a large number of technically-skilled workers.

- **Think Tanks:** Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Acton Institute
- **Non-university research institutions:** Michigan Tech Research Institute, Van Andel Institute, West Michigan Clinical Research, Center for Automotive Research, Michigan Education Research Institute
- **Notable Incubators and accelerators:** Desai Accelerator, Ann Arbor SPARK, TechTown Detroit, Cool House Labs, Automation Alley, Build Institute, City of Battle Creek MI, Lakeshore Advantage, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, Macomb-Oakland University Incubator, Michigan State University Foundation, Center, MTEC SmartZone, Muskegon Innovation Hub, Design Core Detroit, Start Garden, Michigan Business Innovation Association, Green Garage, MSU Hatch, Tech Brewery, TechArb, Innovation Warriors, Grand Circus, Wolverine Angel Network, The Fourth Estate Angel Group.

MAJOR EVENTS

- Blossomtime Festival is celebrated by 25 towns in SW Michigan, blessing orchards and vineyards to insure a plentiful fruit harvest.