

Australia's relationship with

MISSISSIPPI

KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 2.98 million (24th most populous state), 2017 estimate
- **Major Cities:** Jackson (Capital and Largest), Gulfport, Southaven, Hattiesburg, Biloxi
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$100 billion (2017)
- **GDP Growth:** 0.1% (2017)
- **% College Educated:** 31%
- **Median Household Income:** \$40,528 (2016)
- **Key Industries:** Agriculture, Forestry, Gambling
- **Known for:**
 - Tied with Alabama as the most religious states
 - Birthplace of blues music and Elvis Presley, BB King, Muddy Waters
 - Highest percentage of African Americans
 - Passed between Spanish, British and French
 - Top cotton producer in pre-Civil War era

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade (goods only):** \$202 million (2019)
- **Australia's Exports to Mississippi (goods only):** \$44 million (2019)
- **Mississippi's Exports to Australia (goods only):** \$158 million (2019)
 - Medical Devices & Equipment, Textile Articles, Chemicals

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

In 2013, Australian tourists spent \$49 million dollars in Mississippi.

- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Mississippi is managed by the **Consulate General in Washington DC**



- **Links to Australia:** Inside the Clarksdale tourist bureau hangs an Australian flag and a clock bearing the current time in Melbourne. In 2008 Clarksdale City Council named the southernmost city in Mississippi Melbourne.

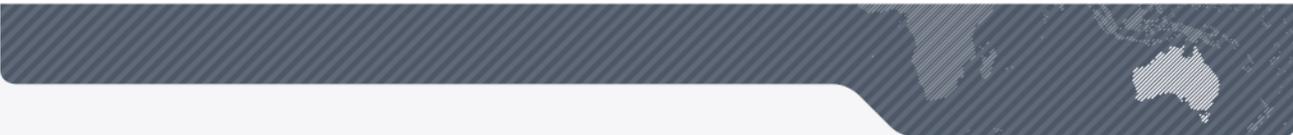
POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Tate Reeves (R), next election in 2023
- **2016 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 58.3%
- **Senators:** Roger Wicker (R), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)
- **House:** 3 Republicans, 1 Democrat

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 15 Australian firms operate out of Mississippi in sectors including infrastructure, agriculture and healthcare, employing over 700 people. Notable examples include:

- **Cell Aquaculture:** Through a joint venture with Delta Aquaculture in Liberty, Cell Aquaculture grows, harvests and distributes barramundi for the U.S. market.
- **Pratt Industries:** America's 5th largest corrugated packaging company and the world's largest privately-held 100% recycled paper and packaging company.
- **Boral Bricks:** International building products and construction materials group.
- **Sims Metal Management:** World's leading publicly listed metal recycler with operations in the buying, processing and selling of ferrous and non-ferrous recycled metals.
- **Sonic Healthcare:** The world's third largest pathology/laboratory medicine company with operations in eight countries. It is also a leading



provider of general practice, radiology, occupational medicine and corporate medical services.

- **NuFarm:** An Australian farm chemical and seed company invested \$20 million in a distribution facility that is set to open in summer 2019 and hire 68 people.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

Mississippi's top-ranked business climate, especially in aerospace, automotive, agribusiness and energy, provides fertile ground for companies to grow and succeed. Notable companies headquartered in Mississippi include:

- **Nissan North America Inc.:** Global Japanese car manufacturing company with an innovation hub in Mississippi for automotive manufacturing, creating more than 6,500 jobs.
- **Tyson Food Inc.:** American multinational corporation in the food industry. The company is the world's second largest processor and marketer of chicken, beef and pork after JBS S.A. and annually exports the largest percentage of beef out of the U.S.
- **Sanderson Farms:** Third largest poultry producer in the U.S. and produces 9.38 million chickens per week. It is the only Fortune 1000 company headquartered in Mississippi and one of the four companies which largely control the poultry farming industry in the U.S.
- **Ashley Furniture Homestore:** Designs and crafts timeless styles that are comfortable, livable and affordable.
- **Howard Industries:** Leading manufacturer of electrical transmission and distribution equipment used by commercial and industrial companies worldwide. Products include distribution transformers, power transformers, voltage regulators, switching/sectionalising cabinets, junction boxes and transformer components.

SCIENCE & INNOVATION

- **Entrepreneurship Ranking:** 48th (based on new firm births as a share of total businesses in the state, rank out of 51)

- **Tech Jobs Ranking:** 53rd (based on share of engineers and computer scientists in the workforce, rank out of 51)
 - **BERD Intensity Ranking:** 49th (based on business expenditure on R&D per dollar of state output, rank out of 51)
 - **New Economy Index Ranking:** 50th (based on composite index that reports on the innovation-driven economy, rank out of 51)
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