

Australia's relationship with

Montana

KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 1.08 Million (2020)
- **Major Cities:** Helena (Capital), Billings, Missoula, Great Falls
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$52.47 Billion (2019)
- **GDP Growth:** 0.2% (2018-2019)
- **Key Industries:** In 2019, the largest industry in Montana was finance, insurance, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. The largest contributor to real GDP growth in Montana was nondurable goods manufacturing
- **Known for:** Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, Big Sky Montana Ski Fields

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Priority Sectors for the Australia-Montana economic relationship:** Agriculture and mining
- **Two-way trade:** \$US 16.5 million (2016)
- **Australia's export to Montana:** \$US 6.5 million (2016)
- **Montana export to Australia:** \$US 10.0 million (2016)

Australian visitors spent \$19m in Montana in 2013

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:** there are no sister city relationships between Montana and Australia
- **Representation** Australia's relationship with Montana is managed by the [San Francisco Australian Consulate-General](#) (12 Austrade Staff)
- **Consul General and Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner:** Mr Nick Nichles
- **Defence Personnel:** There are no Defence personnel located in Montana



AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Eight Australian firms operate out of Montana, in sectors including engineering and insurance. Notable firms include;

- Cardno ATC
- Cardno ERI
- Luzenac America Inc
- OCLS Farmers Union Insurance
- Purity Systems, Inc.
- QBE Farmers Union Insurance
- Rio Tinto Minerals
- Worley Parsons Limited

Australian firms employ over 350 people in Montana



Montana Glacier National Park

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Academic institutions and associations with Australian partnerships:

There are 12 active university partnerships between Australian Institutions and Universities in Montana that date back more than 20 years. This includes 11 student and 5 staff exchange programs.

The staff exchange is discussed below:

The ARMS-NCURA Fellowship program is a joint initiative between National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) and the Australasia Research Management Society (ARMS). The Fellowship program has two underlying objectives:

- (i) the training of research administrators, and
- (ii) Enhancing research collaboration between the U.S. and the countries in the Australasia region. This program is intended to reduce barriers to global research administration and create an administrative environment conducive to global research collaboration.

This program has an arrangement with the following universities:

- Western Sydney University & Montana State University
- University of Canberra & University of Montana
- Southern Cross University & University of Montana

Monash University has previously held a staff exchange with Montana State University; Professor Myles Watts undertook an academic exchange for Agricultural economics.



Montana State University

MAJOR EVENTS

- **Wild West Winterfest** - A popular event for more than 10 years, and one of the main Montana US events, the two-day Wild West Winterfest attracts over 10,000 visitors each year
- **Custer's Last Stand Re-enactment & Little Bighorn Days** - In a grand pageant of Montana history, more than 300 re-enactors relive the events that led up to what has become known as Custer's Last Stand.
- **North American Indian Days** - an annual celebration and the largest and most impressive of Blackfeet tribal events, has been celebrated for more than 61 years.
- **Festival of Nations** - The Festival of Nations, the oldest and most historic festival in Montana, is a two-day event celebrating the cultures of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Italy, Germany, Finland, and the Czech Republic in remembrance of those peoples' vital roles in the mining industry of the area in the early 1900s.