

Australia's relationship with

NEW MEXICO



KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 2.097 Million (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Santa Fe (capital), Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, Roswell
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** US\$105,143.4 Million (2018 - 2019)
- **GDP Growth:** 3.1% (2018-2019)
- **Key Industries:** Tourism, military and oil & gas are the major industries in New Mexico. Three major Air Force bases, a missile testing range, and an army proving ground are located in New Mexico, and government spending constitutes a particularly large portion of the economy.
- **Known for:** White Sands National Monument; Rio Grande River; the birth of the nuclear bomb; Spanish & Native American culture, mountain hiking, military test sites, UFO sightings, Virgin Galactic (world's first private space tourism company), nick named "The Land of Enchantment"

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade:** \$US 38.8 Million (2019)
- **Australia Exports to New Mexico:** \$US 4.8 Million (2019)
- **New Mexico Exports to Australia:** \$US 34 Million (2019)

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with New Mexico is managed by the **Consulate General in Los Angeles**
- **Consul General Los Angeles:** Ms Jane Duke
- **Defence Personnel:** 2 Australian defence personnel are currently posted at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque
- **Notable Australians Living in New Mexico:** Steven Brumby, co-invented the GENIE; image analysis software and is Chief Scientist at Descartes Labs, Santa Fe
Makuach Maluach, basketball player for the University of New Mexico, Lobos

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Michelle Lynn Lujan Grisham (D)
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Biden 54.3%
- **Senators:** Martin Heinrich (D), Ben Ray Lujan (D)
- **House:** 2 Democrats, 1 Republican

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 6 Australian firms operate out of New Mexico, in sectors including mining, engineering, and scientific research. Notable examples include:

- **BHP Billiton New Mexico Coal, Mining:** New Mexico Coal provides coal to San Juan Generating Station and Four Corners Power Plant.
- **Samson Oil and Gas, Mining:** Australian company Samson oil and gas operates the Lea County oil field in New Mexico. Samson is listed on the ASX
- **Actus Len Lease, Military/ Construction:** Actus Lend Lease, sister company of Bovis Lend Lease, was awarded the contract to renovate 11 U.S Army lodgings around the nation in preparation for privatisation, including one at the White Sands Military Range in New Mexico.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

- **AKAL Security:** a security company which has federal contracts to guard immigration detention centers, federal courthouses, NASA facilities, federal buildings in Washington, D.C., and numerous embassies under construction.
- **Sandia Labs:** a division of Honeywell, develops advanced technologies

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Two formal agreements exist between Australian institutions and universities located in New Mexico.

New Mexico institution	Australian institution(s)	Agreement/Link
New Mexico State University	Central Queensland University	Study Abroad/Exchange
University of New Mexico	University of Western Australia	Study Abroad/Exchange

Nationally ranked Universities in New Mexico:

- University of New Mexico
- New Mexico State University

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

- **Incubators and accelerators:** South Valley Economic Development Center, WESST Enterprise Center, Santa Fe Business Incubator, Enterprise Center at San Juan College, Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State Uni, BioScience Center, FatPipe, Joseph L. Cecchi VentureLab, ABQid, Creative Startups, IGNITE Community, TEAM Technologies
- **Think tanks:** Think New Mexico, Santa Fe Institute, Toney Anaya Think Tank
- **Non-university research institutions:** Rio Grande Foundation, Ben Lujan Institute

MAJOR EVENTS

New Mexico is host to many world-class events, including:

- Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
- Hatch Chile Festival
- Roswell UFO Festival
- Gathering of Nations Pow Wow
- Taos Winter Wine Festival
- Whole Enchilada Fiesta