

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):** In 2018, New Mexico current-dollar GDP was \$100,296.8 and ranked 35th in the United States
- **GDP Growth:** In 2018, New Mexico real GDP grew 1.8%
- **Key Industries:** In 2018, the largest industry in New Mexico was government and government enterprises. This industry accounted for 23.0 percent of New Mexico GDP and had a 0.5 percent real decline. The second largest industry was finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing, which accounted for 16.5 percent of New Mexico GDP and had 2.6 percent real growth. The largest contributor to real GDP growth in New Mexico was mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction. This industry accounted for 0.87 percentage point of the total growth in real GDP. The second largest contributor was finance, insurance, real estate, rental, and leasing. This industry accounted for 0.43 percentage point of the total growth in real GDP
- **Known for:** World's largest international hot air balloon fiesta; White Sands National Monument; Rio Grande River; the birth of the nuclear bomb; Spanish & Native American culture, mountain hiking, military test sites, UFO sightings

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade (goods only):** \$US 50.00 million (2017)
- **Australia's Exports to New Mexico (goods only):** \$US 3.5 million (2017)
- **New Mexico's Exports to Australia (goods only):** \$US 46.5 million (2017)



TOURISM

- In 2013 Australian visitors to New Mexico spent \$35 million

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 Chelsey Martin](#)
- **Defence Personnel:** 2 Australian defence personnel are currently posted at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque
- **Notable Australians Living in New Mexico:**
 - Australian Steven Brumby PhD co-invented the GENIE; image analysis software and is Chief Scientist at Descartes Labs, Santa Fe
 - Makuach Maluach, from Sydney currently plays basketball for the University of New Mexico, Lobos

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

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

- BHP Billiton Petroleum
- Cardno ATC
- Clinical Pathology Labs Inc
- CSL Plasma
- Transit Waste, LLC
- WCA Waste Corp

GLOBAL BUSINESS

- **BHP Billiton New Mexico Coal, Mining:** New Mexico Coal provides coal to San Juan Generating Station and Four Corners Power Plant. It sold about 12.65 million tons of coal in 2012. The two mines are estimated to employ more than 1,000 people. BHP previously owned the Navajo mine but sold it to a local tribal corporation in 2013.
- **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.

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 #192 (2018)
- New Mexico State University #198 (2018)

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



New Mexico is a popular destination for outdoor activities

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