

Australia's relationship with

RHODE ISLAND

KEY FACTS

- **Official state name:** State of Rhode Island (2020) Nickname: The Ocean State
- **Population:** 1.059 million ([2019](#))
- **Major Cities:** Providence (capital, largest city), Warwick, Cranston, Newport
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** GDP was \$61.88 billion (2019)
- **GDP Growth:** per-capita GDP was \$58,416 in 2019 which is \$6,824 lower than the US per-capita GDP
- **Key Industries:** Finance, insurance, real estate, rental and leasing.
- **Known for:** Producing fine silverware and jewellery, sailing and boating, smallest state in size in the US, first of the original 13 colonies to renounce allegiance to the British crown but the last to become a state, Pawtucket has the nation's first successful water-powered textile mill and is considered the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, home to the Tennis Hall of Fame, nick named "The Ocean State"
- **National Rankings:** (out of 50 states)
Economy: 20th
Healthcare: 5th
Infrastructure: 49th
Education: 41st
Tax burden: 8th
Density: 2nd

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-way trade:** \$US 21.1 Million (2019)
- **Australian exports to Rhode Island:** \$US 7.6 Million (2019)
- **Rhode Island exports to Australia:** \$US 12.5 Million ([2019](#))

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:**
Warwick RI – Warwick QLD
- **Local Aussie-Inspired Shops:** (2019)
Meg's Aussie Milk Bar: Newport



- **The Walkabout Trail Loop** is George Washington Memorial Camping Area's #1 hiking trail. It was built by Australian naval members stationed near Chepachet.
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Rhode Island is managed by the Australian Consulate in New York
- **Consul General New York:** the Hon Nick Greiner AC
- **Defence Personnel:** 5

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Governor: Gina Raimondo (D), next election in 2022. On January 7, 2021, President-elect [Joe Biden](#) selected Gina Raimondo to serve in his administration as the [United States secretary of Commerce](#)

- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Biden 59.4 %
- **Senators:** Jack Reed (D), Sheldon Whitehouse (D)
- **Congressional Delegates:** 2 Democrats

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

There are no known Australian community groups or Australian industry groups based in Rhode Island.

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

- **East Side Clinical Laboratory:** A full-service laboratory with over 50 locations throughout Rhode Island and South eastern Massachusetts
- **Liberty Travel:** A travel company owned by Flight Centre Limited.
- **SmartBus Live:** A school bus service in Providence.
- **VPI Inc:** A leader in the third-party logistics industry, VPI designs, implements and manages a client's supply chain logistics needs.

GLOBAL BUSINESS

- **CVS Health:** CVS Health has almost 10,000 locations across 49 states. Its headquarters are in Woonsocket
- **Textron:** Textron serves clients across the following industries: aerospace and defence, specialised vehicles, turf car, fuels systems and tools and test equipment
- **United Natural Foods:** A distributor of natural and organic foods
- **Citizens Financial Group :** Provider of commercial banking services. Headquartered in Providence

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

- The University of New South Wales has a study abroad program with **Brown University**
- **The Rhode Island School of Design** has student exchanges with RMIT University, Australian National University and University of Sydney

Nationally Ranked Universities:

Brown University
The University of Rhode Island
The Rhode Island School of Design

MAJOR EVENTS

- **Newport Winter Festival:** New England's largest winter extravaganza with food, music and entertainment.
- **Newport Jazz Festival:** the first ever jazz festival in the United States and one of the most popular in the country.
- **Newport Folk Festival:** annual folk festival held at the end of July at Fort Adams.

OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

In 2016, it was announced that historic documents showed that Captain Cook's *HMS Endeavour* (renamed the *Lord Sandwich*) was scuttled in Newport Harbour in 1778 by the British navy in order to blockade a channel during the American Revolution.

US archaeologists from the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project (RIMAP), together with marine researchers from the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) in Sydney, are excavating and mapping a number of the wreckages in Newport Harbour in an attempt to confirm which wreckage is the *Lord Sandwich ex Endeavour*.

Work on the project has been slow as it is conducted by volunteers with limited financial support. As of early 2018, further excavations have been delayed until RIMAP can develop an artefact management and storage facility.

The relationship between RIMAP and the ANMM was formalised in 2014 when the Director of the ANMM, Kevin Sumption, and Dr Kathy Abbass from RIMAP signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the Australian Embassy. Former Australian Ambassador to the US Kim Beazley witnessed the signing.