

Australia's relationship with

# SOUTH CAROLINA



## KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 5,148,714 (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Columbia (Capital), Charleston (Largest), Rock Hill, Mount Pleasant
- **Gross Domestic Product:** \$247.5 billion (2019)
- **Key Industries:** agriculture, service, machinery, automotive, chemical products
- **Known for:** Nicknamed the 'Palmetto State'; Settled in 1670 and split north-south Carolina in 1710; state saw 137 battles in the American revolution; Boeing opened a factory in South Carolina for the Dreamliner aircraft series; Andrew Jackson, Joe Frazier; State dance is the 'shag'
- **National Rankings: (out of 50 states)**
  - Economy: 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Healthcare: 36<sup>th</sup>
  - Infrastructure: 36<sup>th</sup>
  - Education: 43<sup>rd</sup>
  - Tax burden: 42<sup>nd</sup>
  - State size by area: 40<sup>th</sup>
  - State size by population: 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Density: 19<sup>th</sup>

## ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-way Trade:** \$1.04 billion (goods)
- **Value of Australian exports to SC:** \$92 million (goods)
- **SC exports to Australia:** \$944 million (goods)
- **SC goods exported to Australia:** cars, tyres, trucks, agricultural machinery

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister States:** South Carolina – Queensland
- **Australian Ties:** The Queensland Government has provided koalas to Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with South Carolina is managed by the Consulate General in Washington, DC

## POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Henry McMaster (R), next election - 2022
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 55.1%
- **Senators:** Lindsey Graham (R), Tim Scott (R)
- **House:** 6 Republicans, 1 Democrats

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

12 Australian firms operate out of South Carolina, employing over 750 people. Notable examples include:

- **Hartness Visy Automation:** Joint venture between Visy (Australia) and Hartness International (US) located in Greenville that provides robot-based packaging automation services
- **Ainsworth Game Technology:** Manufacturer of global gaming products, fifth largest in the US

## GLOBAL BUSINESS

More than 1,200 operations of international firms call South Carolina home. Majority-owned, foreign-affiliated companies employ more than 131,900 South Carolinians. Notable companies with operations in South Carolina include:

- **BMW:** BMW has a manufacturing plant in South Carolina with 10,000 people and located in Spartanburg, producing models of X3, X4, X5, X6 and X7, shipping to over 140 countries and BMW is the number one auto exporter in the US
- **Boeing:** The final assembly and delivery centre in Charleston has more than 7,500 employees in South Carolina
- **Domtar:** Makes and sells a variety of fibre-based products in two segments based on product type: pulp and paper and personal care, is headquartered in Fort Mill and employs over 10,000 people



## SCIENCE & INNOVATION

- **Entrepreneurship Ranking:** 16<sup>th</sup> (based on new firm births as a share of total businesses in the state, rank out of 51)
  - **Tech Jobs Ranking:** 34<sup>th</sup> (based on share of engineers and computer scientists in the workforce, rank out of 51)
  - **BERD Intensity Ranking:** 34<sup>th</sup> (based on business expenditure on R&D per dollar of state output, rank out of 51)
  - **New Economy Index Ranking:** 35<sup>th</sup> (based on composite index that reports on the innovation-driven economy, rank out of 51)
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