

Australia's relationship with

SOUTH CAROLINA



KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 5.02 million (24th most populous state), 2017 estimate
- **Major Cities:** Columbia (Capital), Charleston (largest), Rock Hill, Mount Pleasant
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$200 billion (2017)
- **GDP Growth:** 2.6% (2017)
- **% College Educated:** 37%
- **Median Household Income:** \$46,898(2017)
- **Key Industries:** Agriculture, Service, Machinery, Automotive, Chemical Products
- **Known for:**
 - “South Carolinian”, 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 Dreamliner
 - Andrew Jackson, Joe Frazier
 - State dance is “shag”
- **National Rankings: (out of 50 states)**
 - Economy: 15th
 - Healthcare: 41st
 - Infrastructure: 33rd
 - Education: 48th
 - Tax burden: 20th
 - State size by area: 40th
 - State size by population: 24th
 - Density: 19th

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-Way Trade (goods only):** \$1.04 billion (2019)
- **Australia's Exports to South Carolina (goods only):** \$92 million (2019)

- **South Carolina's Exports to Australia (goods only):** \$944 million (2019)
 - Cars, Tires, Trucks, Agricultural Machinery

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister States:** South Carolina – Queensland. Encompasses study abroad programs, high school student exchanges, economic cooperation and tourism links.
- **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 in 2022
- **2016 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 54.9%
- **Senators:** Lindsey Graham (R), Tim Scott (R)
- **House:** 5 Republicans, 2 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 (U.S.) located in Greenville that provides robot-based packaging automation services.
- **Ainsworth Game Technology:** Manufacturer of global gaming products, fifth largest in the U.S.



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. The plant makes models of X3, X4, X5, X6 and X7, shipping to over 140 countries and BMW is the number one auto exporter in the U.S.
- **Boeing:** 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. The company is headquartered in Fort Mill and employs over 10,000 people.

SCIENCE & INNOVATION

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