

Australia's relationship with

TENNESSEE



KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 6,829,174 ([2019](#))
- **Major Cities:** Nashville (capital and largest), Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga
- **Gross Domestic Product:** \$376.6 billion ([2019](#))
- **Key Industries:** manufacturing (chemicals, polysilicon, transportation and electrical equipment), agriculture (poultry, soybeans, cattle), tourism
- **Known for:** 'Tennesseans'; 'Volunteer State' as second-highest source state for the Civil War; Great Smoky Mountains; Grand Ole Opry and Opryland; Jerry Lee Lewis, Aretha Franklin, Muddy Waters, Johnny Cash, Justin Timberlake
- **National Rankings:** (out of 50 states)
 - Economy: 12th
 - Healthcare: 43rd
 - Infrastructure: 13th
 - Education: 35th
 - Tax burden: 47th
 - State size by area: 36th
 - State size by population: 17th
 - Density: 20th

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two-way Trade:** \$862 million (goods)
- **Value of Australian exports to TN:** \$119 million (goods)
- **TN exports to Australia:** \$743 million (goods)
- **TN goods exported to Australia:** cars, medical equipment, alcoholic beverages

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:**
 - Nashville and Tamworth, NSW
 - Portland and Glenelg, SA
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Alabama is managed by the Consulate General in Washington, DC

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Bill Lee (R), next election in 2022
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Trump 60.7%
- **Senators:** Bill Hagerty (R), Marsha Blackburn (R)
- **House:** 7 Republicans, 2 Democrats

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Local Aussie-Inspired Shops:** Hearts, Boomerang Coffee: Nashville
- **Australians Living in Tennessee:** Nicole Kidman (film) and partner Keith Urban (music)
- **Australian Sporting Club:** Nashville Kangaroos ([USAFL](#))
- **Australian Community:** Australians in Nashville Facebook group; Australians in Tennessee Facebook group; [meetup.com/Aussies-in-Nashville](#)

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 20 Australian firms operate out of Tennessee. Notable examples include:

- **Pratt Industries (USA) Inc.:** Subsidiary of Pratt Industries/VISA, Pratt Industries is the world's largest privately held 100% recycled paper and packaging company and America's fifth-largest corrugated packaging company
- **BlueScope Steel:** World's largest supplier of metal-coated and painted steel, with products for building and construction markets
- **CSL Plasma:** The CSL Plasma Testing Laboratory located in Knoxville employs a combination of licensed technical, non-technical, and support personnel
- **Lendlease:** An international property and infrastructure group delivering innovative and sustainable real estate and investment solutions



GLOBAL BUSINESS

Tennessee is home to 967 foreign-based businesses that have invested over \$37.3 billion in capital and employed more than 147,000 Tennesseans.

Notable examples include:

- **FedEx:** Headquartered in Memphis, FedEx is the world's second biggest package-shipper
- **HCA Healthcare:** Headquartered in Knoxville, the operator of health care facilities was founded in 1968
- **Dollar General:** A chain of variety stores headquartered in Goodlettsville
- **AutoZone:** The largest retailer of aftermarket automotive parts and accessories in the US
- **International Paper:** one of the world's leading producers of fibre-based packaging, pulp and paper

CULTURE

Tennessee's capital Nashville is known as 'Music City' – the country music capital of the world. The city of Memphis known for Graceland and BBQ.

Notable landmarks from Tennessee include:

- The Great Smoky Mountains National Park: Most visited national park with 10 million visitors a year
- Graceland and the Elvis Presley Memphis Complex: Reportedly an attraction that is as popular as the White House
- Chattanooga and the Tennessee Valley Railroad
- Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum
- Dollywood Theme Park

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

- **Entrepreneurship Ranking:** 35th (based on new firm births as a share of total businesses in the state, rank out of 51)
 - **Tech Jobs Ranking:** 40th (based on share of engineers and computer scientists in the workforce, rank out of 51)
 - **BERD Intensity Ranking:** 39th (based on business expenditure on R&D per dollar of state output, rank out of 51)
 - **New Economy Index Ranking:** 32nd (based on composite index that reports on the innovation-driven economy, rank out of 51)
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