

Australia's relationship with

VIRGINIA



KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 8.53 million (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Richmond (Capital), Virginia Beach (Most Populous), Norfolk, Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Alexandria
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$566 billion (2019)
- **GDP Growth:** 1.9% (2019)
- **% College Educated:** 38.8% (2019)
- **Median Household Income:** \$74,222 (2019)
- **Key Industries:** Service Sector, Public Sector (local, state, and federal government) Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Technology
- **Known for:** Nick named "The Old Dominion State", Jamestown was the first English settlement in the US, Virginia General Assembly is the oldest continuous law making body in the New World, home to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Robert E. Lee, Woodrow Wilson, Arthur Ashe, Warren Beatty, Sam Snead, Booker T. Washington, Ella Fitzgerald, home of Pentagon, CIA

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

Priority sectors for the Australia-Virginia economic relationship include aircraft parts, pharmaceuticals, defence, chemicals and dump trucks.

- **Two-Way Trade:** US\$298 Million (2019)
- **Australian Exports to Virginia:** US\$52 Million (2019)
- **Virginia Exports to Australia:** US\$247 Million (2019)

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Virginia is managed by the **Consulate General in Washington DC**

AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australian Community:** Fleet Reserve Association, Facebook Group: Australian in Virginia

Australians Living in Virginia:

Michael Darby (Real Estate Mogul and his wife appeared on "Real Housewives of the Potomac")

Australian Sporting Clubs:

RVA Lions (USAFL), DMV Tigers (Australian Netball)

Australian Culture:

Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection at the University of Virginia is the only museum in the US dedicated to the exhibition and study of Australian Aboriginal Art

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Ralph Northam (D), next election - 2021
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Biden 54.1%
- **Senators:** Mark Warner (D), Tim Kaine (D)
- **House:** 4 Republicans, 7 Democrats

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 22 Australian firms operate out of Virginia across sectors including biosciences, industrial and infrastructure. Notable Australian companies in Virginia include:

- **American Rigid Plastics:** Headquartered in Wythe County
- **AmplPhi Biosciences Corporation:** Headquartered in Richmond City
- **Ikuka Resources:** Headquartered in Sussex County
- **Integrated Research:** Headquartered in Fairfax County
- **Transurban USA Development:** Headquartered in Alexandria City

GLOBAL BUSINESS

There are 19 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Virginia including:

- **Capital One Financial**

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- Hilton Worldwide
 - Northrop Grumman
 - Dollar Tree
 - Norfolk Souther
 - Genworth Financial

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

- **UQ Abroad Program:** Students from University of Queensland can study in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Engineering and Applied Science and School of Nursing at the University of Virginia
- **Virginia Tech Global Business Program in Australia:** A 16 days program where participants visit businesses in Cairns and Sydney across industries including entertainment, tourism, transportation, beverages, biotechnology and more.
- **Nationally ranked universities**
University of Virginia #24
College of William and Mary #32
Virginia Tech #74.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

- **Entrepreneurship Ranking:** 28th (based on new firm births as a share of total businesses in the state, rank out of 51)
- **Tech Jobs Ranking:** 2nd (based on share of engineers and computer scientists in the workforce, rank out of 51)
- **BERD Intensity Ranking:** 28th (based on business expenditure on R&D per dollar of state output, rank out of 51)
- **New Economy Index Ranking:** 4th (based on composite index that reports on the innovation-driven economy, rank out of 51)

CULTURE

- Oceana Air Show
 - East Coast Surfing Championships
 - Pungo Strawberry Festival
 - Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival
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