

Australia's relationship with

# VIRGINIA

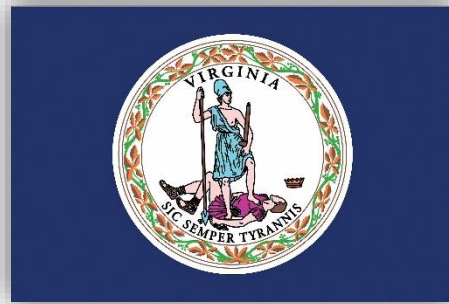
## KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 8.47 million (12<sup>th</sup> most populous state), 2017 estimate
- **Major Cities:** Richmond (Capital), Virginia Beach (Most Populous), Norfolk, Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Alexandria
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$466.9 billion (2017)
- **GDP Growth:** 1.8% (2017)
- **% College Educated:** 46%
- **Median Household Income:** \$66,149 (2017)
- **Key Industries:** Agriculture, Federal Agencies, Technology, Winery
- **Known for:**
  - Jamestown was the first English settlement in the U.S
  - Virginia General Assembly is the oldest continuous law making body in the New World
  - Forest covers 65% of the state
  - Fastest average and peak internet speeds in the U.S. and third fastest in the world
- **National Rankings: (out of 50 states)**
  - Economy: 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Healthcare: 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Infrastructure: 39<sup>th</sup>
  - Education: 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Tax burden: 27<sup>th</sup>
  - State size by area: 35<sup>th</sup>
  - State size by population: 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Density: 14<sup>th</sup>

## ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

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

- **Two-Way Trade (goods only):** \$298 million (2019)
- **Australia's Exports to Virginia (goods only):** \$52 million (2019)
- **Virginia's Exports to Australia (goods only):** \$247 million (2019)



- Auto Parts, Perfumes, Medical Devices, Chemicals

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

*In 2013, Australian tourists spent \$156 million dollars in Virginia.*

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

## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Australian Community:**
  - Fleet Reserve Association
  - Australians in Virginia USA @AussiesIntl
  - 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:**
  - Australian Football Association of North America
  - Virginia Hams
  - DMV Tigers (Australian Netball)
- **Australian Cultural Links:**
  - Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection at the University of Virginia is the only museum in the U.S. dedicated to the exhibition and study of Australian Aboriginal Art
  - Australia Street Fair in the small town of Culpepper features entertainment and Australian food offerings

## POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Ralph Northam (D), next election in 2021
- **2016 Presidential Outcome:** Clinton 49.9%
- **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. Australia is the largest foreign investor in Virginia, employing over 8,500 people. 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

*Virginia has the highest concentration of technology workers in the country. Northern Virginia's data centres can handle up to 70% of the nation's internet traffic.*

There are 19 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Virginia including:

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

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Virginia is home to numerous nationally ranked universities, including University of Virginia #24, College of William and Mary #32, Virginia Tech #74.

- **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.
- **Professor Howard Morphy and Associate Professor Frances Morphy** from the Australian National University are members of the Kluge-Ruhe Advisory Council.

## CULTURE

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

## SCIENCE & INNOVATION

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