

Australia's relationship with

# WASHINGTON



## KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 7.6 Million (2019)
- **Major Cities:** Seattle (largest), Spokane, Bainbridge Island, Bellevue, Olympia (capital)
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$603.77 billion (2019)
- **GDP Growth:** 1.2% (2018-2019)
- **Key Industries:** In 2019, the largest industry sector in Washington was Aerospace, transportation equipment, software, biotechnology, film & video and manufactured goods. The largest contributor to real GDP growth in Washington was information technology
- **Known for:** The nation's largest concentration of STEM workers; Starbucks HQ in Seattle; named after first President of the US; the Cascade Range; Boeing /Amazon/Microsoft, nick named "The Evergreen State"

## ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Two way trade:** \$US 1,439,851,811 (2019)
- **Australian exports to Washington:** \$US 436,200,333 (2019)
- **Washington exports to Australia:** \$US 1,003,650,785 (2019)
- **Priority Sectors for the Australia-Washington economic relationship:** Aviation (Boeing), Retail, Agriculture, Infrastructure and Technology

## PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

- **Sister Cities:** Bellingham, WA and Port Stephens, NSW  
Tacoma, WA and Warringah, NSW
- **Local Aussie owned or inspired Shops:** (2020) - Aussie Pie Company: Burian, WA
- **Representation:** Australia's relationship with Washington is managed by the San Francisco Australian Consulate-General (12 Austrade staff)
- **Consul General and Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner:** Mr Nick Nichles

- **Defence Personnel:** 29 (Additionally, 45 RAAF under short term training)

## AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY

- **Associations:** Australia New Zealand America Society ([ANZAS](#))
- **Australian Football:** [Seattle Grizzlies](#), [Seattle Grizzlies Women](#)
- **Australian Netball:** [Emerald City Netball Club](#)
- **Australians Living in Washington:**  
Peter Cray - Corporate Vice President, Marketing & Operations, the most senior Australian at Microsoft  
  
William Lyons - Regional Director, International Strategy & Business Development, Boeing  
  
Melany Smart - University of Washington distance running team (2019)

## POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Governor:** Jay Inslee (D), next election in 2024
- **2020 Presidential Outcome:** Biden 58%
- **Senators:** Patty Murray (D), Maria Cantwell (D)
- **House:** 7 Dems, 3 Reps

## AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 32 facilities or offices operating are wholly or majority-owned by Australian Firms (2017), employing over 4,200 people. Firms include:

- **Amtor PET Packaging**
- **Amtor Rigid Plastics**
- **BIEC International Inc**
- **Bradken - Atlas L.P.**
- **Bradken - Engineered Products**
- **Macquarie Infrastructure Company LLC**
- **Pratt Industries**
- **QBE North America**
- **Steelscape Inc.**
- **Treasury Wine Estates**
- **Unigard Insurance Group**



## GLOBAL BUSINESS

There are 15 Fortune 500 companies' headquarters in Washington including:

- Amazon.com
- Costco
- Microsoft
- Starbucks
- Paccar
- Nordstrom
- Expedia
- Weyerhaeuser
- Alaska Air Group
- Puget Energy
- TrueBlue

Other organisations to note include Boeing, Blue Origin and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

## UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

There are 15 active university partnerships between Australian Institutions and Universities in Washington including:

- RMIT and **North Seattle College** (NSC) Global Work Integrated Learning project started in 2015. In 2017 the program included a third tertiary institution - ALC College in Malaysia. In 2018 RMIT was the host Institution. Students provided a research report on Australian Freight Forwarding companies.
- The Global Burden of Disease study, at the University of Melbourne works in partnership with the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the **University of Washington**, Seattle. The program identifies and prepares for looming health challenges.
- [Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions](#): This Centre aims to answer fundamental questions in astrophysics including the origin of matter and the periodic table of elements, and the origin of ionisation in the Universe. It intends to use Australian three-dimensional technology to transform our understanding of the Universe. It is expected the research will propel Australia to the forefront of astronomical research for the coming decade while capitalising on innovative instrumentation.

## MAJOR EVENTS

- **Seattle Boat Show**: considered to be the largest boat show on the north western coast of the US
  - **Seattle International Film Festival**: the largest and most highly-attended event of its kind in the United States
  - **Washington State Fair**: the biggest annual event in The Evergreen State, and one of the top ten largest fairs in the world
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