

Australia's relationship with

Washington

KEY FACTS

- **Population:** 7.3 Million (2018)
- **Major Cities:** Seattle, Spokane, Bainbridge Island, Bellevue, Olympia (Capital)
- **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** \$603.77 billion (2019 Q3)
- **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 was founded in Seattle; named after first President of the United States George Washington; the Cascade Range; Boeing /Amazon/Microsoft

ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP

- **Priority Sectors for the Australia-Washington economic relationship:** Aviation (Boeing), Retail, Agriculture, Infrastructure and Technology
- **Two way trade** \$US 1,093.9 million (2016)
- **Australian exports to Washington** \$US 441.0 million (2016)
- **Washington exports to Australia** \$US 652.9 million (2016)

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE LINKS

Australian visitors spent \$175m in Washington in 2013

- **Sister Cities:** Bellingham, WA and Port Stephens, NSW
- **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](#)
- **Australian Netball:** [Emerald City Netball Club](#)
- **Well known Australians Living in Washington:** Peter Cray, Corporate Vice President, Marketing and Operations, the most senior Australian at Microsoft. William Lyons, Regional Director, International Strategy & Business Development, Boeing.

AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS

Over 32 facilities or offices operating in Washington are wholly or majority-owned by Australian Firms (2017), employing over 4,200 people. Sectors include engineering, scientific research and property management. Notable firms include;

- Amcor PET Packaging
- Amcor Rigid Plastics
- Aviation Technical Services (not sure if this is Australian)
- BIEC International Inc
- Bradken - Atlas L.P.
- Bradken-Engineered Products
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- Macquarie Infrastructure Company LLC
- Pratt Industries
- QBE North America.
- Steelscape Inc.
- Treasury Wine Estates
- Unigard Insurance Group

Airport Operations/ air transport support services is a key industry in Washington. Australian Companies such as Macquarie Infrastructure Company employ over 1,000 people in this sector (2017)

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

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Academic institutions and associations with Australian partnerships:

There are 15 active university partnerships between Australian Institutions and Universities in Washington State. This includes 12 student and five staff exchange programs, and four research collaborations, 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.

Sport - In 2019, University of Washington signed Melany Smart from Perth, Australia to the distance running team.

MAJOR EVENTS

Seattle Boat Show - considered to be the largest boat show on the north western coast of the USA

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