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# Chapter 1

## 15

### 1.1 15.guide

Texified version of data for Australia.

Texified using wfact from

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Bitnet, Compuserve, ATTMAIL or MCI mail).

Australia

### 1.2 15.guide/Australia

Australia  
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Geography (Australia)  
 People (Australia)  
 Government (Australia)  
 Government (Australia 2. usage)  
 Economy (Australia)  
 Economy (Australia 2. usage)  
 Communications (Australia)  
 Defense Forces (Australia)

### 1.3 15.guide/Geography (Australia)

Geography (Australia)

=====

Location:

Oceania, between Indonesia and New Zealand

Map references:

Southeast Asia, Oceania, Antarctic Region, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

7,686,850 km<sup>2</sup>

land area:

7,617,930 km<sup>2</sup>

comparative area:

slightly smaller than the US

note:

includes Macquarie Island

Land boundaries:

0 km

Coastline:

25,760 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

12 nm

continental shelf:

200 m (depth) or to depth of exploitation

exclusive fishing zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

territorial claim in Antarctica (Australian Antarctic Territory)

Climate:

generally arid to semiarid; temperate in south and east; tropical in north

Terrain:

mostly low plateau with deserts; fertile plain in southeast

Natural resources:

bauxite, coal, iron ore, copper, tin, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten,  
 mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, natural gas, petroleum

Land use:

arable land:

6%  
 permanent crops:  
 0%  
 meadows and pastures:  
 58%  
 forest and woodland:  
 14%  
 other:  
 22%  
 Irrigated land:  
 18,800 km2 (1989 est.)  
 Environment:  
 subject to severe droughts and floods; cyclones along coast; limited  
 freshwater availability; irrigated soil degradation; regular, tropical,  
 invigorating, sea breeze known as "the Doctor" occurs along west coast in  
 summer; desertification  
 Note:  
 world's smallest continent but sixth-largest country

## 1.4 15.guide/People (Australia)

People (Australia)

=====

Population:  
 17,827,204 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 1.41% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 14.43 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 7.38 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 7.01 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 7.4 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 77.36 years  
 male: 74.24 years  
 female:  
 80.63 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 1.83 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Australian(s)  
 adjective:  
 Australian  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 Caucasian 95%, Asian 4%, Aboriginal and other 1%  
 Religions:  
 Anglican 26.1%, Roman Catholic 26%, other Christian 24.3%

Languages:  
 English, native languages

Literacy:  
 age 15 and over can read and write (1980)  
 total population:  
 100%  
 male:  
 100%  
 female:  
 100%

Labor force:  
 8.63 million (September 1991)  
 by occupation:  
 finance and services 33.8%, public and community services 22.3%, wholesale and retail trade 20.1%, manufacturing and industry 16.2%, agriculture 6.1% (1987)

## 1.5 15.guide/Government (Australia)

Government (Australia)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 Commonwealth of Australia  
 conventional short form:  
 Australia

Digraph:  
 AS

Type:  
 federal parliamentary state

Capital:  
 Canberra

Administrative divisions:  
 6 states and 2 territories\*; Australian Capital Territory\*, New South Wales ←  
 ,, Northern  
 Territory\*, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria,, Western ←  
 Australia

Dependent areas:  
 Ashmore and Cartier Islands, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands,  
 Coral Sea Islands, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island

Independence:  
 1 January 1901 (federation of UK colonies)

Constitution: 9 July 1900, effective 1 January 1901

Legal system:  
 based on English common law; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with  
 reservations

National holiday:  
 Australia Day, 26 January

Political parties and leaders:  
 government:  
 Australian Labor Party, Paul John KEATING  
 opposition:

Liberal Party, John HEWSON; National Party, Timothy FISCHER; Australian Democratic Party, John COULTER

Other political or pressure groups:  
 Australian Democratic Labor Party (anti-Communist Labor Party splinter group); Peace and Nuclear Disarmament Action (Nuclear Disarmament Party splinter group)

Suffrage:  
 18 years of age; universal and compulsory

Elections:  
 House of Representatives:  
 last held 13 March 1993 (next to be held by NA May 1996); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (147 total) Labor 80, Liberal-National 65, independent 2

Senate:  
 last held 13 March 1993 (next to be held by NA May 1999); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (76 total) Liberal-National 36, Labor 30, Australian Democrats 7, Greens 2, independents 1

Executive branch:  
 British monarch, governor general, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Cabinet

Legislative branch:  
 bicameral Federal Parliament consists of an upper house or Senate and a lower house or House of Representatives

Judicial branch:  
 High Court

## 1.6 15.guide/Government (Australia 2. usage)

Government (Australia 2. usage)

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Leaders:  
 Chief of State:  
 Queen ELIZABETH II (since 6 February 1952), represented by Governor General William George HAYDEN (since 16 February 1989)

Head of Government:  
 Prime Minister Paul John KEATING (since 20 December 1991); Deputy Prime Minister Brian HOWE (since 4 June 1991)

Member of:  
 AfDB, AG (observer), ANZUS, APEC, AsDB, Australia Group, BIS, C, CCC, COCOM ←  
 ,  
 CP, EBRD, ESCAP, FAO, GATT, G-8, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LORCS, MINURSO, MTCR, NAM (guest), NEA, NSG, OECD, PCA, SPARTECA, SPC, SPF, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNOSOM, UNTAC, UNTSO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in US:  
 chief of mission: Ambassador Michael J. COOK  
 chancery:  
 1601 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20036  
 telephone:  
 (202) 797-3000  
 consulates general:

Chicago, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Pago Pago (American Samoa), and San Francisco

US diplomatic representation:  
 chief of mission:  
 (vacant)

embassy:  
 Moonah Place, Yarralumla, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory 2600

mailing address:  
 APO AP 96549

telephone:  
 [61] (6) 270-5000

FAX:  
 [61] (6) 270-5970

consulates general:  
 Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney

consulate:  
 Brisbane

Flag:  
 blue with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant and a large seven-pointed star in the lower hoist-side quadrant; the remaining half is a representation of the Southern Cross constellation in white with one small five-pointed star and four, larger, seven-pointed stars ←

## 1.7 15.guide/Economy (Australia)

### Economy (Australia)

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#### Overview:

Australia has a prosperous Western-style capitalist economy, with a per capita GDP comparable to levels in industrialized West European countries. Rich in natural resources, Australia is a major exporter of agricultural products, minerals, metals, and fossil fuels. Of the top 25 exports, 21 are primary products, so that, as happened during 1983-84, a downturn in world commodity prices can have a big impact on the economy. The government is pushing for increased exports of manufactured goods, but competition in international markets continues to be severe.

#### National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$293.5 billion (1992)

#### National product real growth rate:

2.5% (1992)

#### National product per capita:

\$16,700 (1992)

#### Inflation rate (consumer prices):

0.8% (September 1992)

#### Unemployment rate:

11.3% (December 1992)

#### Budget:

revenues \$68.5 billion; expenditures \$78.0 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (FY93)

#### Exports: \$41.7 billion (f.o.b., FY91)

commodities:

coal, gold, meat, wool, alumina, wheat, machinery and transport equipment partners:

Japan 26%, US 11%, NZ 6%, South Korea 4%, Singapore 4%, UK, Taiwan, Hong Kong

Imports:

\$37.8 billion (f.o.b., FY91)

commodities:

machinery and transport equipment, computers and office machines, crude oil and petroleum products

partners:

US 24%, Japan 19%, UK 6%, FRG 7%, NZ 4% (1990)

External debt:

\$130.4 billion (June 1991)

Industrial production:

growth rate NA%; accounts for 32% of GDP

Electricity:

40,000,000 kW capacity; 150,000 million kWh produced, 8,475 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

mining, industrial and transportation equipment, food processing, chemicals ←

steel

Agriculture:

accounts for 5% of GDP and 37% of export revenues; world's largest exporter of beef and wool, second-largest for mutton, and among top wheat exporters; major crops - wheat, barley, sugarcane, fruit; livestock - cattle, sheep, poultry

Illicit drugs:

Tasmania is one of the world's major suppliers of licit opiate products; government maintains strict controls over areas of opium poppy cultivation and output of poppy straw concentrate

Economic aid:

donor - ODA and OOF commitments (1970-89), \$10.4 billion

Currency:

1 Australian dollar (\$A) = 100 cents

## 1.8 15.guide/Economy (Australia 2. usage)

Economy (Australia 2. usage)

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Exchange rates:

Australian dollars (\$A) per US\$1 - 1.4837 (January 1993), 1.3600 (1992), 1.2836 (1991), 1.2799 (1990), 1.2618 (1989), 1.2752 (1988)

Fiscal year:

1 July - 30 June

## 1.9 15.guide/Communications (Australia)

Communications (Australia)

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Railroads:

40,478 km total; 7,970 km 1.600-meter gauge, 16,201 km 1.435-meter standard gauge, 16,307 km 1.067-meter gauge; 183 km dual gauge; 1,130 km electrified ↔  
 ;  
 government owned (except for a few hundred kilometers of privately owned track) (1985)

Highways:

837,872 km total; 243,750 km paved, 228,396 km gravel, crushed stone, or stabilized soil surface, 365,726 km unimproved earth

Inland waterways:

8,368 km; mainly by small, shallow-draft craft

Pipelines:

crude oil 2,500 km; petroleum products 500 km; natural gas 5,600 km

Ports:

Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Devonport, Fremantle, Geelong, Hobart, Launceston, Mackay, Melbourne, Sydney, Townsville

Merchant marine:

82 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 2,347,271 GRT/3,534,926 DWT; includes 2 short-sea passenger, 8 cargo, 7 container, 8 roll-on/roll-off, 1 vehicle carrier, 17 oil tanker, 3 chemical tanker, 4 liquefied gas, 30 bulk, 2 combination bulk

Airports:

total:

481

usable:

439

with permanent-surface runways:

243

with runways over 3,659 m:

1

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

20

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

268

Telecommunications:

good international and domestic service; 8.7 million telephones; broadcast stations - 258 AM, 67 FM, 134 TV; submarine cables to New Zealand, Papua ↔  
 New  
 Guinea, and Indonesia; domestic satellite service; satellite stations - 4 Indian Ocean INTELSAT, 6 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth stations

## 1.10 15.guide/Defense Forces (Australia)

Defense Forces (Australia)

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Branches:

Australian Army, Royal Australian Navy, Royal Australian Air Force

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 4,830,068; fit for military service 4,198,622; reach  
military age (17) annually 135,591 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$7.1 billion, 2.4% of GDP (FY92/93)