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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	15.guide . . . . .	1
1.2	15.guide/Australia . . . . .	1
1.3	15.guide/Geography (Australia) . . . . .	2
1.4	15.guide/People (Australia) . . . . .	3
1.5	15.guide/Government (Australia) . . . . .	4
1.6	15.guide/Government (Australia 2. usage) . . . . .	5
1.7	15.guide/Economy (Australia) . . . . .	6
1.8	15.guide/Economy (Australia 2. usage) . . . . .	7
1.9	15.guide/Communications (Australia) . . . . .	7
1.10	15.guide/Defense Forces (Australia) . . . . .	8

# Chapter 1

## 15

### 1.1 15.guide

Texified version of data for Australia.

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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:

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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)