

AUSTRALIA - FACT SHEETS

Official Name	Commonwealth of Australia
Geographical location	(Latitude) 10° 41' South and 43° 39' South (Longitude) 113° 09' East and 153° 39' East
Area	7.7 million sq.km (coastline 25,760 km)
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer from December to February • Autumn from March to May • Winter from June to August • Spring from September to November <p>Conditions vary depending on location</p>
Population	22.5 million (Dec. 2011)
Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Capital Territory (370,700) • Northern Territory (232,400)
States:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New South Wales (7.2 mn) • Victoria (5.6 mn) • Queensland (4.5 mn) • Western Australia (2.4 mn) • South Australia (1.6 mn) • Tasmania (0.51 mn)
Federal Capital	Canberra (370,700)
Other Major Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sydney (4.4 mn) • Melbourne (4.0 mn) • Brisbane (2.1 mn) • Perth (1.7 mn) • Adelaide (1.2 mn) • Hobart (211,600) • Darwin (121,000)
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity (13.0 million) • Buddhism (0.68 million) • Islam (0.44 million) • Hinduism (0.153 million) • Judaism (0.092 million) • Other religion groups include Australian Aboriginal traditional religions, Sikhism etc.
Ethnic groups	Australia is a country of migrants; around 45% were either born overseas; have a parent who was born overseas. There are over 200 migrant nationalities, among whom are predominantly English, Irish, New Zealander, Italian, Croatian, Serbian, Vietnamese, Greek, Chinese, Indian (Caucasian 92%; Asian 7%; Aboriginal and others 1%)
Time difference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW, Queensland, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania: IST + 4½

	<p>hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Australia and Northern Territory: IST + 4 hours • Western Australia: IST + 2½ hours • NSW, VIC, SA, ACT, TAS have Daylight Saving • Time from October to March.
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Political

Polity	Federal parliament democracy, based on the constitution of 1901, with Queen as head of State. The Government is headed by a Prime Minister in Cabinet. The Parliament is bicameral: the 150-member House of Representatives (the lower house) is directly elected by a preferential voting system for a three-year term; and the Senate (the upper house) the 76 Senators (twelve from each of the six States and two from each of the Territories) directly elected by proportional representation for six-year terms, with one-half of Senate members retiring every three years, usually to coincide with elections for the House of Representatives. The Senate may not initiate or amend money bills.
State legislatures	Five of the six states have bicameral legislatures; that of Queensland is unicameral
Electoral system	Compulsory universal direct suffrage over the age of 18
National government	A cabinet, presided over by the Prime Minister, is appointed by the Governor-General on the basis of party strength in the House of Representatives; a minority Labor government is currently in power, supported by the Greens and four Independents
Major political parties	The Australian Labor Party (ALP), the Liberal Party, the National Party, the Democrats, the Greens.
Head of State	Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia represented by the Governor General.
Governor General	HE Ms. Quentin Bryce AC
Prime Minister	The Hon. Julia Gillard, MP
Foreign Minister	Senator the Hon. Bob Carr
Leader of Opposition	The Hon. Tony Abbott, MP
Party position Total	150
House of Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALP : 71 • Liberals* : 59 • Nationals* : 11 • Country Liberal Party* : 1 • Independents : 5 • Greens : 1 • KAP : 1 • Nationals (WA) : 1 <p>*(Liberals, Nationals & CLP are in a coalition with 71 seats)</p>

Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total : 76 • Liberal* : 28 • Nationals/ Country Liberal Party* : 6 • ALP : 31 • Greens : 9 • Democratic Labor Party : 1 • Independent : 1 <p>*(Liberals, National are in a coalition with 34 seats)</p>
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Economic

Composition of GDP	The Australian economy is based overwhelmingly on services, which account for 80.1% of GDP The mining sector accounts for 7.6%; manufacturing for 11%; agriculture, forestry and fishery for 2.3%.
Financial Year	July 1 - June 30
GDP (current prices)	US\$1,516.2 billion; (A\$1,486.5 bn) (2011)
GDP Per Capita	US\$66,807 (A\$ 65,497) (2011)
GDP Growth	2.2% (2011)
Foreign Exchange Reserves	US\$ 49.29 bn. (A\$ 46.83 bn) (July 2012)
Main natural resources	Coal, Gold, Iron Ore, Bauxite, Alumina, Uranium, Lead, Zinc, Copper, Nickel, Natural Gas.
Main natural resources	Wheat, Barley, Oats, Oilseeds
Principal crops	Wheat, Barley, Oats, Oilseeds
Currency	A\$ 1= US\$ 1.03 / Rs. 57.39 (August 2012)
Total Merchandise Trade(A\$bn)	598.23 (Exports:312.12, Imports:286.11) (2011)

Australia's Principal Trading Partners (2011, Australian \$)

Country	Total Trade	Rank	Exports	Rank	Imports	Rank
China	\$121.05 bn.	1st	\$77.12 bn.	1st	\$43.93 bn.	1st
Japan	\$72.46 bn.	2nd	\$52.38 bn.	2nd	\$20.07 bn.	3rd
USA	\$54.18 bn.	3rd	\$14.90 bn.	5th	\$39.28 bn.	2nd
Republic of Korea	\$32.66 bn.	4th	\$25.02 bn.	3rd	\$07.64 bn.	11th
Singapore	\$27.68 bn.	5th	\$09.52 bn.	9th	\$18.15 bn.	4th
United Kingdom	\$23.00 bn.	6th	\$11.46 bn.	6th	\$11.54 bn.	6th
New Zealand	\$21.58 bn.	7th	\$11.01 bn.	7th	\$10.57 bn.	8th
India	\$20.33 bn.	8th	\$17.38 bn.	4th	\$02.95 bn.	20th
Thailand	\$18.45 bn.	9th	\$07.72 bn.	10th	\$10.73 bn.	7th
Malaysia	\$16.02 bn	10th	\$06.13 bn.	12th	\$09.89 bn.	9th
Outward Investment	(A\$mnn.) 1,234,375 (2011)					

Inward Investment	(A\$mnn.) 2,114,589(2011)
Leading Destination countries	U.S.A(\$410.04 bn/32.7%) U.K.(\$192.3bn/15.3%) New Zealand (\$73.9 bn/5.8%) Japan(\$29.1bn/2.3%)Netherlands(\$24.54bn/1.9%)
Leading Investing countries	U.S.A (\$122.4 bn/24.1%) U.K. (\$69.7bn/13.7%) Japan (\$52.3bn/10.3%) Netherlands (\$32.9bn/6.5%) Switzerland (\$23.0/4.5)

India Australia Bilateral Trade 2011*

Bilateral trade in goods	A\$ 17.52bn. (US\$17.86 bn.) (2011)*
India's Exports	A\$ 2.28 bn. (US\$2.32 bn.) (2011)*
India's Imports	A\$ 15.24 bn. (US\$ 15.54 bn.) (2011)*
Main exports	Pearls & gems, Rotating electric plants, Jewellery Made-up textiles, and Medicaments (incl. veterinary).
Main imports	Non-monetary gold, Coal, copper and copper ores, Crude Petroleum, Fertilizers (excl. crudes), Confidential items of trade.
Bilateral trade in services	A\$ 3.19 bn. (US\$ 3.22 bn.) (2011)
India's Service Exports	A\$0.73 bn. (US\$ 0.75 bn.) (2011)
India's Service Imports	A\$ 2.14 bn. (US\$ 2.18 bn.) (2011)
Australia's main export destinations	China, Japan, Republic of Korea, India, U.S.A.
Australia's main import sources	China, USA, Japan, Singapore, Germany.

India – Australia Trade in Goods: 2006 - 2011 (All Figures In A\$)

Year	2006 - 07	2007 - 08	2008 – 09	2009 - 10	2010 - 11
Total trade	\$10.75 bn.	\$10.92 bn.	\$17.53 bn.	\$18.02 bn.	\$17.82 bn.
India's Exports	\$1.46 bn.	\$1.60 bn.	\$2.11 bn.	\$1.84 bn.	\$2.08 bn.
India's Imports	\$9.29 bn.	\$9.32 bn.	\$15.42 bn.	\$16.17 bn.	\$15.74 bn.

Australia is India's sixteenth largest trading partner and India is Australia's eighth largest. India's ranking among Australia's export destinations continues to be fourth during the year 2011.

India's exports of goods and services to Australia have increased by 13.2% in 2011 while imports from Australia has decreased by 7.2% during the same period.

Main Australian service exports are Education; education – related travel; tourism.

Main Indian service exports are Computer & information services; tourism.

September 2012

* Financial Year 1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011

Source: ABS, DFAT, R.B.A