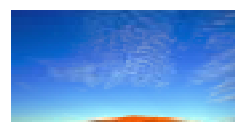


# Australia



## 1. General Information

Population <sup>*1</sup>	19,357,594 (July 2001)
Population Density[/km <sup>2</sup> ] <sup>*1</sup>	3 (July 2001)
Languages <sup>*1</sup>	English, native languages
Ethnic Groups <sup>*1</sup>	Caucasian 92%, Asian 7%, aboriginal and other 1%
Climate <sup>*1</sup>	Generally arid to semiarid; temperate in south and east; tropical in north
Land Area[km <sup>2</sup> ]	7,686,850

### Comments for General information <sup>\*1</sup>

Australia became a commonwealth of the British Empire in 1901. It was able to take advantage of its natural resources to rapidly develop agricultural and manufacturing industries and to make a major contribution to the British effort in World Wars I and II. Long-term concerns include pollution, particularly depletion of the ozone layer, and conservation of coastal areas. A referendum to change Australia's status, from a commonwealth headed by the British monarch to an independent republic, was defeated in 1999. The government of Australia is democratic, federal-state system recognizing the British monarch as sovereign. Australia has a prosperous Western-style capitalist economy, with a per capita GDP at the level of the four dominant West European economies.

## 2. Economy

GDP [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	445.8 billion (2000)
GDP-per capita [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	23200 (2000)
Imports [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	77 billion (2000)
	Machinery and transport equipment, computers and office machines, telecommunication equipment and parts; crude oil and petroleum products
Exports [US\$] <sup>*1</sup>	69 billion (2000)

	Coal, gold, meat, wool, alumina, iron ore, wheat, machinery and transport equipment	
Composition of Sector (Ratio to GDP) *1	Agriculture & Fishery [%]	3% (1996)
	Industry [%]	26% (1996)
	Service [%]	71% (1996)

#### Comments for Economy \*1

Rich in natural resources, Australia is a major exporter of agricultural products, minerals, metals, and fossil fuels. Commodities account for 57% of the value of total exports. The government is pushing for increased exports of manufactured goods. While Australia has suffered from the low growth and high unemployment in the early 1990s and during the recent financial problems in East Asia, the economy has expanded at a solid 4% annual growth pace in the last five years.

### 3. Energy

Electricity	Electricity production [kWh] *2		191.727 billion (1999)
	Electricity consumption [kWh] *2		178.306 billion (1999)
	Electricity *2 - production by source		Fossil fuel:89.93%; hydro:8.36%; nuclear: 0%; other: 1.71% (1999)
Energy Resources	Production *2	Oil	805 (thousand barrels per day)
		Coal	337.15 (million tons)
		Gas	1.12 (trillion cube feet)
	Consumption *2	Oil	859 (thousand barrels per day)
		Coal	337.15 (million tons)
		Gas	755 (billion cubic feet)

#### Comments for Energy \*6

There is no nuclear plant in Australia. The main energy source is coal and a natural gas in Australia. However, it chiefly depends on hydropower in Tasmania because precipitation and the flowing quantity of the river are steady.

#### Introduction of Renewal Energy Use \*3

The Government has provided a major boost to renewable energy as a key part of the strategy for reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately \$387 million has been made available to support the renewable energy industry over the period 1998 to 2003. The Government mandates an increase in the contribution of renewable energy to Australia's electricity supply mix to achieve a target of 9,500 GWh per annum by 2010. This measure is expected to generate at least \$2 billion in renewable energy investment in Australia and will be a significant driver for the industry's growth.

4. Water

Precipitation <sup>*4</sup>		534.5 mm (Average from 1961 to 1990)	
Internal renewable Water Resources <sup>*4</sup>		343 cubic kilometers	
Population with Access to Improved Water Supply <sup>*4</sup>		100%	
Total Water Withdrawl <sup>*4</sup>	14.6 km <sup>3</sup>	Industry [%]	2
		Domestic [%]	65
		Agriculture [%]	33

Comments for Water<sup>\*6</sup>

The Marie River and the Darling River have the maximum catchments area in Australia. It supports a lot of irrigation area in this country in the background of abundant precipitation of Southeast. However, because the salt damage because of the rise of the water table influences the farm production in a part of region, the improvement of the water quality is advanced.

5. Environment and Pollution

CO <sub>2</sub> Emission <sup>*5</sup>	Total metric tons	306633 (1996)
	Metric tons per capita	16.74 (1996)

Comments for Environment<sup>\*1</sup>

- Soil erosion from overgrazing, negative affection of the environment because of the industrial development and urbanization
- Soil salinity rising due to the use of poor quality water. It results in desertification.
- Clearing for agriculture threatens the natural habitat of unique animal and plant species.
- Increased shipping and its popularity as a tourist site threaten the Great Barrier Reef off the northeast coast.

References

\*1 <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook>

\*2 <http://www.eia.doe.gov>

\*3 <http://www.powernet.nsw.gov.au>

\*4 <http://geodata.grid.unep.ch>

\*5 <http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov>

\*6 Encyclopedia of World Geography

Information

<http://www.nla.gov.au>