

## Alabama Trades with Australia

Australia is the 11th largest market for Alabama goods exports, worth \$203.8 million in 2007. Alabama's major exports to Australia include passenger vehicles, chemicals, civil engineering equipment and tires.

| Product                         | Value (\$)         | Percent     |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Transportation Equipment        | 110,475,961        | 54.2        |
| Computers & Electronic Products | 22,494,706         | 11.0        |
| Machinery Manufactures          | 17,094,687         | 8.4         |
| Chemical Manufactures           | 16,710,533         | 8.2         |
| Plastic & Rubber Products       | 11,977,053         | 5.9         |
| Fabricated Metal Products       | 4,442,037          | 2.2         |
| All Others                      | 20,637,268         | 10.1        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>203,832,245</b> | <b>100%</b> |

Source: US Department of Commerce 2007 CY

## Australia Invests in Alabama

- **Austal USA**, the US branch of operations of Australia-based ship building company Austal, designs and builds a range of water craft for military and commercial use from its state-of-the-art facility in Mobile, and has won several contracts from the US military.
- **Boral USA**, owned by Australia's Boral Limited, is the US's largest brick manufacturer and has facilities in Alabama, as does **Boral Material Technologies**, a leading marketer of fly ash to the concrete industry.
- **Macquarie CountryWide Trust**, a leading property trust with investments in grocery-anchored shopping centers around the world, owns the Southgate Center in Guntersville. **Macquarie DDR Trust** owns the Riverchase Promenade shopping center in Birmingham.
- **Pratt Industries USA**, sister to Visy, Australia's largest packaging and recycling company, has a production plant in Birmingham.

## Did you know?

- **Avantogen**, an Australian biotechnology company, has licensed the **University of Alabama** and others to use in their own work an adjuvant developed by Avantogen to boost immune responses to various vaccines still in the research phase.
- **Mobile** has a Sister City relationship with **Cockburn** in Western Australia.

## Australia: Strong economy, important trading partner

- Total trade between Australia and the United States was \$44 billion in 2007, with US exports to Australia amounting to \$29 billion. Australia ranks in the top 10 export markets for 14 states and the top 25 markets for 48 states.
- Australia is among the most highly developed and economically successful countries in the world with a gross domestic product (GDP) of \$1 trillion for the 2007/08 financial year.
- Australia has one of the world's most open and innovative economies. The OECD's 2008 annual review of economic reform assesses that Australia's economy is the least regulated among OECD member countries and imposes the least impact on economic behaviour.

## AUSFTA

The **Australia-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** came into force on 1 January 2005. The FTA gives US businesses price advantages and preferential access over international competitors in the Australian market. The FTA eliminates 99% of Australia's manufacturing tariffs, giving US firms a 5% average cost advantage over their international competitors in the Australian market. Additionally the FTA:

- Grants enhanced preferential access for American service exporters to Australia.
- Grants tariff-free access to Australia's agricultural market for US exporters.
- Removes foreign investment screening for a range of foreign investment activities, including establishment of all new businesses in Australia.