

Rhode Island Trades with Australia

Rhode Island exported goods worth over \$23 million to Australia in 2007. Rhode Island's major exports to Australia include plastic products, computers, computer parts and pneumatic tools.

Product	Value (\$)	Percent
Computers & Electronic Products	6,779,849	29.4
Miscellaneous Manufactures	4,670,615	20.3
Plastic & Rubber Products	3,894,620	16.9
Machinery Manufactures	2,851,264	12.4
Transportation Equipment	1,507,725	6.5
Primary Metal Manufactures	677,452	2.9
All Others	2,663,008	11.6
TOTAL	23,044,533	100%

Source: US Department of Commerce 2007 CY

Did you know?

- Approximately 670,000 Australians visited the United States in 2007 for vacation, personal, business and other reasons - an increase of 24% since 2000 - and spent \$3.3 billion in the course of this travel.
- Australia is the fifth most popular study abroad destination among US students.
- The United States is the number one destination for Australian investment abroad, with total investment of US\$355.6 billion, and direct investment of US\$133.1 billion. Australia is the eighth largest foreign investor in the United States. There is considerable investment in the US manufacturing, finance and real estate sectors.
- One third of foreign-held Australian equities are owned by US investors.

Australia Invests in Rhode Island

- **Oceanlinx Limited** is working with state authorities in Rhode Island to harness ocean energy to produce clean electricity, specifically by developing a 15 to 20 MW generating unit offshore.
- **Ronstan**, a leader in the international sailboat hardware market, has an office in Portsmouth which oversees sales and distribution of yachting-related products throughout the United States.

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.