



## Australia: Fact sheet

- Australia's economy was one of only a handful of advanced economies to grow through the recent global economic turmoil.
- The World Bank rates Australia as one of the easiest places in the world to do business.
- Despite its relatively small population size (22 million), Australia's economy is the 14th largest in the world.
- Australians have won 11 Nobel Prizes - most of them in medicine and science - making it one of the leading Nobel Prize-winning countries in per capita terms.
- Australia has one of the world's highest rates of patent applications for innovations in renewable energy and biotechnology.
- Australians invented the modern standard for WiFi, with the breakthrough IEEE 802.11a for wireless internet.
- The cervical cancer vaccine was developed by an Australian (Professor Ian Frazer).
- Australians discovered the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in causing stomach ulcers (Professor Barry Marshall & Dr Robin Warren).
- Australians also invented or developed:
  - Google Maps
  - Black box flight recorder
  - The bionic ear (Cochlear implant)
  - Spray-on-skin
  - Penicillin as a medical antibiotic
  - Permaculture
  - Dual-flush toilets
  - CETO wave energy
  - Racecam TV sports coverage
- Australia has one of the highest life expectancy rates in the world.
- The Australian population is among the most educated in the world.
- Australia has the highest proportion of international students among the tertiary student population than anywhere else in the world.
- Australians have been received 91 Academy Award nominations and 41 Oscars.
- Australia is consistently one of the top performing nations, per capita, at the quadrennial summer Olympics.
- Australia is the world's largest net exporter of coal (accounting for 29 percent of all exports). It also has the world's largest known reserves of zinc, uranium, lead, nickel and silver.
- Australia is a world leader in mining technology and services. Mining software developed in Australia is used by mines throughout the world.
- Australia consistently ranks as one of the four most politically stable countries in the world.
- Australia has one of the highest rates of share ownership in the world.
- Australia has the world's fourth largest investment funds asset pool (and the largest in Asia) as a result of the Australian Government's compulsory retirement savings scheme.