



# Australia

Joined the OECD: 1971

Prime Minister: Julia Gillard

Ambassador to the OECD:  
Chris Barrett

Delegation website:

[www.france.embassy.gov.au/pari/OECD.html](http://www.france.embassy.gov.au/pari/OECD.html)

Parliament website: [www.aph.gov.au](http://www.aph.gov.au)

Capital city: Canberra



## Highlights

- GDP in Australia rose by more than 65% over the past decade.
- The total population stood at 22.3 million, of which 26.8% were foreign-born.
- Unemployment fell over the last decade, to 5.1%, bucking the trend in the OECD area where the rate rose from 6.3% to 8%.
- The employment rate for women was at 66.7%, compared with 78.7% for men and an OECD figure of 56.7%.
- All-in taxes on the average worker came to 26.7% of labour cost, below the OECD average of 35.2%.
- Renewable energy accounted for 6.1% of Australia's energy supply, equivalent to the level in 2001, compared with 8.2% for the OECD.

### ECONOMY

	2001	2011 <sup>3</sup>
Gross domestic product (US\$ bln, PPPs)	567.9	946.4
GDP per capita (US\$)	29 077	40 790 <sup>2</sup>
Real GDP growth (annual %)	3.9	1.8
Household disposable income (annual growth %)	3.5	..
Budget balance (% of GDP)	-0.1	..
Public debt (% of GDP)	34.2	..
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-2.0	-2.3
Inflation rate: all items (annual %)	4.4	3.4
Unit labour cost (annual growth %)	1.3	..
Long-term interest rates (%)	5.62	4.88
Public expenditure on health (% of GDP)	5.4	..
Private expenditure on health (% of GDP)	2.7	..
Public expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..	4.5 <sup>4</sup>
Private expenditure on education (% of GDP)	..	1.5 <sup>4</sup>

### NEW SOURCES OF GROWTH

Renewable energy (% of energy supply)	6.1	6.1
Primary energy supply (Mtoe)	105.8	119.8
CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from fuel combustion (mln tonnes)	351	383 <sup>2</sup>
R&D expenditure (US\$ mln, 2005 prices, PPPs)	..	..
Tertiary graduation rates (% of population)	..	37.6 <sup>2</sup>
Households with internet access (%)	..	..

### GLOBALISATION

	2001	2011 <sup>3</sup>
Imports of goods and services (% of GDP)	20.6	..
Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	20.6	..
Net official development assistance (% of GNI)	..	0.35
Foreign-born population (% of population)	..	26.8 <sup>2</sup>
Migration for work (% of total migration)	..	22.3 <sup>2</sup>
Outward FDI stocks (US\$ bln)	..	382
Inward FDI stocks (US\$ bln)	..	555

### SOCIETY

Population (thousands)	19 413	22 298 <sup>2</sup>
Life expectancy at birth (years)	79.7	81.8 <sup>2</sup>
Population, 65 and over (% of population)	12.5	13.7
Employment rates: men (%)	76.4	78.7
Employment rates: women (%)	61.7	66.7
Self-employment rates (% of employed)	10.2	8.6
Unemployment rates (%)	6.8	5.1
Long-term unemployment (% of unemployed)	23.9	18.9
Income inequality, rank out of 34 (1: least unequal)	..	26 <sup>1</sup>
Average hours actually worked (per year)	1 737	1 693
Taxes on average worker (all-in, % of labour cost)	27.6	26.7
Road fatalities (per mln inhabitants)	90	61 <sup>2</sup>

1. Late 2000s data, based on Gini coefficient 2. 2010 data 3. Unless otherwise indicated 4. 2009 data