

The cities of Sydney and Melbourne are comparable to Toronto and Montreal, in as much as they are the main centres of financial and industrial activity.

Transportation

Regular shipping services connect Australian ports with Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands. The major shipping company is the government-owned Australia National Line.

There are approximately 70 ports along Australia's coastline. In addition, all state capitals are situated on the coast and are readily accessible to ocean liners.

Interstate domestic air travel is provided by two airlines: Australian Airlines which is government owned, and Ansett Airlines of Australia which is privately owned. In addition, there are several regional carriers. Air service between Australia and other countries is provided by government-owned Qantas Airways Limited and 22 other world air carriers. From Canada, Canadian Airlines flies to Australia via Honolulu or Fiji.

Ground transportation is relatively well developed with more than 845 000 km (525 000 miles) of roads and 40 750 km (25 000 miles) of railway lines. An east-west mainline standard gauge railway spans the southern portion of the continent and privately owned and state-owned railway lines carry ore from major mining developments to coastal ports.

Principal Australian cities are linked by government-owned railways and highways. One of the most highly motorized countries in the world, Australia has more than 415 vehicles per 1 000 people.

Weights and Measures

Australia uses the metric system.

Electricity

The standard electricity supply is 240 volts, single-phase, 50 cycles AC and 415 volts, three-phase, 50 cycles AC.

Video Standard: PAL — Australian.