

The U.S.-Australia Strategic Innovation Alliance

Key U.S. Companies Invested in Australia

Overview

The United States remains Australia's largest source of foreign direct investment, with the value of U.S. commercial investment in Australia reaching approximately \$700 billion in 2025.¹ This investment spans energy, resources, technology, pharmaceuticals, finance, and infrastructure, playing a critical role in Australia's economic growth, technological advancement, and employment. U.S. companies are deeply involved in some of Australia's largest and most strategic projects, particularly in LNG, digital infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing.

Defense

Lockheed Martin

Lockheed Martin has deepened its strategic footprint in Australia in 2025 through significant investments in advanced defense capabilities, sovereign manufacturing, and technology transfer. As a principal U.S. partner in the Australian Defence Force's modernization, the company is delivering integrated systems and expanding Australia's domestic defense industrial base.

Key initiatives include the commencement of domestic Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) missile production under the **\$24.7 million USD** Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance (GWEO) program, supported by the transfer of technical data and workforce training. In April 2024, Lockheed Martin Australia was awarded a **\$330 million USD** contract for AIR6500 Phase 1 to build a sovereign Joint Air Battle Management System—enhancing Australia's integrated air and missile defense while supporting over 230 skilled jobs across Canberra, Adelaide, and Williamstown.

In parallel, the company opened a new 4,500 m² logistics facility near Sydney in March 2025 to support sustainment of the UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter fleet, further reinforcing its

¹ Australian Embassy in Washington, "Trade and Investment | Australia in the USA," accessed June 2025.

commitment to long-term capability development and interoperability under the AUKUS partnership.

Energy and Resources

Chevron

Chevron is a central figure in Australia's energy landscape, operating the Gorgon Project — Australia's largest single resource project and one of the world's largest LNG developments. Located on Barrow Island, Gorgon consists of a three-train, 15.6 million tonnes per annum LNG facility and a domestic gas plant supplying 300 terajoules of gas per day to Western Australia. The project, operated by Chevron (47.3 percent ownership), alongside ExxonMobil (25 percent), Shell (25 percent), and smaller partners, has a lifespan exceeding 40 years and represents a multi-decade, multi-billion-dollar investment. The Gorgon Project's ongoing stages, including the Gorgon Stage 2 and Jansz-Lo Compression projects, involve additional wells and subsea infrastructure to maintain supply.²

Chevron's commitment to environmental stewardship is notable, with Barrow Island being a Class A Nature Reserve and the site of the world's largest non-government quarantine initiative. The company's investments in Australia for 2025 include about \$1 billion USD in capital expenditures, primarily for Gorgon backfill and expansion.³

ExxonMobil

ExxonMobil has invested over \$8 billion USD in Australia's gas supply development over the past two decades.⁴ In 2025, ExxonMobil and Woodside Energy approved a \$221 million USD investment for the Turrum Phase 3 project in the Gippsland Basin, targeting new gas wells to support domestic supply beyond 2030.⁵ ExxonMobil's broader strategy includes up to \$30 billion USD in global investments between 2025 and 2030, with a significant portion dedicated to emissions reduction and LNG expansion.⁶

² Chevron Australia, "Gorgon Project," September 25, 2024.

³ Chevron, "Chevron Announces 2025 Capex Budget & 4Q24 Interim Updates," December 5, 2024.

⁴ Chevron Australia, "Gorgon Project," September 25, 2024.

⁵ Reuters, "ExxonMobil Australia, Woodside approve final investment decision: \$221 million gas project," March 17, 2025.

⁶ Chevron Australia, "Gorgon Project," September 25, 2024.

ExxonMobil's Australian operations also include the Bass Strait oil and gas fields, which have supplied energy to the east coast for decades. The company is a key player in ensuring domestic gas security, especially as supply challenges loom for the late 2020s.⁷

Other U.S. Energy Companies

Shell, a key Gorgon partner, and other U.S.-linked entities such as Cheniere and ConocoPhillips, are active in LNG, gas, and hydrogen projects. U.S. companies are also participating in Australia's emerging hydrogen and renewables sectors, with investments in large-scale solar, wind, and battery storage projects.⁸

Technology and Digital Infrastructure

Microsoft

Microsoft has invested billions of dollars in Australian data centers and cloud infrastructure, supporting government, enterprise, and digital transformation across the country. In 2025, Microsoft expanded its Azure cloud region footprint, with new facilities in Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth, and partnerships with Australian universities and research institutes to advance AI, cybersecurity, and quantum computing.⁹

Amazon and Google

Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google Cloud have also made multi-billion-dollar investments in Australian data centers, digital services, and customer support operations. These investments are critical for Australia's digital economy, enabling cloud computing, e-commerce, and fintech innovation.

Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare

Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson

Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson have longstanding operations in Australia, with investments in manufacturing, clinical trials, and R&D. Pfizer's Australian division supports vaccine and pharmaceutical production, while Johnson & Johnson operates research and manufacturing

⁷ Reuters, "ExxonMobil Australia, Woodside approve final investment decision: \$221 million gas project," March 17, 2025.

⁸ Clayton Utz, "Foreign investment in Australia: key insights from the latest Quarterly Report," March 19, 2025.

⁹ Microsoft Australia, "Digital Infrastructure Investment Report 2025," April 2025.

sites in Victoria and New South Wales.¹⁰

Finance and Insurance

U.S. financial institutions, including J.P. Morgan, Citigroup, and Bank of America, maintain significant operations in Australia's banking, asset management, and insurance sectors. These firms provide capital, expertise, and innovation in retail banking, wealth management, and fintech.

Commercial Real Estate

U.S. investors are active in Australia's commercial property market, with significant holdings in office buildings, logistics hubs, and retail centers in major cities such as Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane. Blackstone, a leading U.S. private equity firm, is one of the largest foreign owners of Australian commercial real estate.

Investment Trends and Approvals

In Q1 2024/25, U.S.-origin proposals accounted for \$14.9 billion in approved commercial investments, the highest among all foreign sources. The commercial real estate sector led with \$15.7 billion in approvals, followed by energy, resources, and services.¹¹

Impact and Examples

- **Gorgon LNG Project:** Over \$54 billion USD invested to date, with a projected 40-year lifespan, supporting thousands of jobs and significant export revenue.²
- **Turrum Phase 3 Project:** \$221 million USD investment to secure east coast gas supply into the 2030s.³
- **Microsoft Data Centers:** Multi-billion-dollar investment in digital infrastructure, supporting cloud services, AI, and cybersecurity.⁷
- **Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson:** Ongoing investments in pharmaceutical manufacturing and research, supporting healthcare innovation and employment.⁸
- **Blackstone:** Billions invested in commercial real estate, logistics, and retail property portfolios.

¹⁰ Pfizer Australia, "Corporate Overview 2025," March 2025.

¹¹ Clayton Utz, "Foreign investment in Australia: key insights from the latest Quarterly Report," March 19, 2025.

Challenges and Outlook

- **Regulatory Scrutiny:** Most U.S. investments are subject to Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) conditions, especially in critical infrastructure and resources.
- **Geopolitical Uncertainty:** U.S.-Australia investment ties are influenced by global trade and security dynamics.
- **Sectoral Shifts:** While energy and real estate remain dominant, technology, renewables, and advanced manufacturing are growing in importance.