



A U S T R A L I A   A N D

# ROMANIA

**Australia and Romania mark 50 years of bilateral relations in 2018.**

### Key engagement

An EU country and NATO member with similar values and a likeminded approach to international security.

### Outlook

Like all EU countries, Romania will have a voice in the Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement. Romania will hold the rotating 6-month EU Presidency in early 2019.

### Bilateral relations

The Australia-Romania relationship is modest, built on community ties and a likeminded approach to a range of global issues, including international security, disarmament and non-proliferation. We value Romania's views on the Balkans, Russia and Europe.

Romania has worked with Australia as part of the UN Missions in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and Southern Sudan (UNMISS). It is the fifth largest contributor of troops to Afghanistan (Australia is the ninth), with 693 personnel stationed in the Kandahar region and Kabul.

Since 2013, Romania has represented Australian consular interests in Syria.

### Foreign policy

Romania's foreign policy is predominantly focused on relations with its neighbours and within the EU and NATO. Romania's EU Presidency in the first half of 2019 is one of Romania's biggest foreign policy priorities for the next 12 months. Securing membership of the EU's visa-free Schengen arrangement is a priority. The country's NATO membership and relationship with the US (including the December 2011 agreement on hosting a US ballistic missile defence system) are of strategic importance.

Romania has participated in military interventions in Afghanistan (2015), Libya (2011) and Iraq (2009).



Foreign Policy White Paper:  
<https://www.fpwhitepaper.gov.au>

### FAST FACTS



Romanian visitors to Australia (2017/18) **2,600**



Australian visitors to Romania (2017/18) **3,600**



Resident Australian population born in Romanian (2016 census) **14,387**



Australian residents of Romanian descent [2016 census] **24,560**



Romanian students in Australia (Jan-May 2018) **103**

### High level engagement

- 2018 An Australian Parliamentary Delegation is planned to visit Romania in October 2018.
- 2013 State Secretary for Global Affairs, Mr Ovidiu Dranga, visited Australia.
- 2012 Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Richard Marles, visited Romania.



## Agreements with Romania

1994	Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement
1997	Trade and Economic Agreement
2012	Air Services Agreement
2001	Double Taxation Agreement

## Economic diplomacy

Romania's economy continues to perform above the EU average and is expected to grow by over 4 per cent in 2018. This growth is largely due to favourable external economic conditions and the continuation of a generous fiscal stimulus program. Structural problems, including widening budget and trade deficits, are becoming more acute and will likely begin to slow growth.

Australia's trade and investment priorities include promoting Romanian investment, including in Australia's IT and new technologies sectors. The building in Romania of Australia's next icebreaker presents a platform for further business engagement.

The Australian Embassy facilitates Australian businesses to establish operations in Romania, to take advantage of local favourable conditions such as a competitive and skilled labour force, low energy prices, and fast broadband speeds. In partnership with Austrade, the Australian Embassy will support the small number of Australian companies present in Romania.

Romania's energy, mining, IT, agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors present some opportunities for Australian businesses.

There are also opportunities in the defence sector in Romania. The Australian Embassy promotes in Romania Australia's Defence Export capability, and assists, in partnership with Austrade, Australian companies interested in pursuing defence opportunities in Romania. The Embassy seeks opportunities for business matching with Romanian companies by attending events such as Eurosatory (Paris) and DSEI (London).

More economic and trade information can be found in the Romania Country Brief:  
<https://dfat.gov.au/geo/romania/Pages/romania.aspx>

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## Travel



See Smartraveller for Information on travelling to Romania:  
<https://smartraveller.gov.au/Countries/europe/eastern/Pages/romania.aspx>