



A U S T R A L I A   A N D

# Croatia

## Key engagement

Promoting rules-based international order and free trade through cooperation in the European Union (EU), United Nations and international organisations.

## Outlook

Increased growth in two-way trade and investment, supported by an Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement, and continued development of bilateral links.

## Bilateral relations

Australia and Croatia enjoy friendly relations, based on strong people-to-people links. Australia recognised Croatia on 16 January 1992, following its declaration of independence from Yugoslavia on 25 June 1991.

Diplomatic relations were established on 13 February 1992 and the first Australian Ambassador to Croatia (resident in Vienna) presented credentials the following month. On 21 September 1992, an Australian Consulate was opened in Zagreb. Australia opened the Embassy in Zagreb in October 1999.

## Foreign policy

Croatia joined the United Nations on 22 May 1992, the World Trade Organization on 30 November 2000, NATO on 1 April 2009 and the EU on 1 July 2013.

Croatia is in the process of joining the 'Eurozone' monetary union, the Schengen Area and the OECD.

Croatia's first term Presidency of the Council of the EU: January-June 2020.

More information on Croatia's foreign policy:

<http://www.mvep.hr/en/foreign-politics/foreign-policy-aims/>



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

## FAST FACTS



Croatian visitors to Australia  
(2017 visitor arrivals) **3,200**



Australian visitors to Croatia  
(2017 resident returns) **43,800**



Resident Australian population born in Croatia (2016 census) **43,688**



Australian residents of Croatian descent (2016 census) **133,264**



Croatian students in Australia (2017) **69**

## High level engagement

- 2017 Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović visited Australia
- 2017 Australian Assistant Minister for Social Services and Multicultural Affairs Zed Seselja visited Croatia
- 2017 Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop visited Croatia
- 2014 Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanović and Defence Minister Ante Kotromanović visited Australia
- 2014 Australian Minister for Environment Greg Hunt visited Croatia
- 2012 Australian Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs Richard Marles visited Croatia



## Agreements with Croatia

Social Security Agreement (2004)

Extradition (Croatia) Regulations (2004)

Air Services Agreement (2013)

## Public diplomacy

The Australian Embassy in Zagreb manages a public diplomacy program focusing on showcasing Australian innovation, education and lifestyle, including arts, sport and culture.

### Australian Embassy in Zagreb

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<https://croatia.embassy.gov.au/>



[Australian Embassy Zagreb](#)

## Economic diplomacy

Australia's merchandise trade with Croatia in 2018 was \$41.1 million, up 3.9% from 2017. Australian goods exports to Croatia totalled \$2.8 million in 2018, with fruit and nuts, and specialised machinery and parts as the major sectors. Imports from Croatia totalled \$38.3 million in 2018, with electric power machinery and products, and edible products and preparations as the major sectors.

More economic and trade information can be found in the Croatia Country Brief:

<https://dfat.gov.au/trade/resources/Documents/croa.pdf>

Austrade's Warsaw Office, covering Croatia, aims to attract foreign direct investment into Australia, and promotes the Australian education sector.

### Austrade

<https://www.austrade.gov.au/Contact/Offices/poland>

### Travel

[smartraveller.gov.au](https://smartraveller.gov.au)

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See Smartraveller for Information on travelling to Croatia:

[Smarttraveller Croatia](#)