



NEW CALEDONIA

What's happening in this economy

New Caledonia is a French territory in the Pacific.

It has a GDP per capita third only to Australia and New Zealand in the region. This is largely due to the nickel industry and major inflows of French funds for public services, and for grants to municipal and provincial government.

New Caledonia is moving to diversify its economy and to reduce its reliance on nickel (which constitutes 90 per cent of exports by value). Key priorities are fisheries, agriculture and tourism.

New Caledonia expects one million cruise passengers by 2020, most of who will come from Australia. The Gold Coast is the second largest tourist destination for New Caledonians (after metropolitan France).

New Caledonia also aims to be a hub for Australian companies wishing to re-export their products to Europe.

Key Facts and Figures

- Population: 282,200 (2018)
- Real GDP growth: 2.5% (2017)
- GDP per capita: USD 38,270 (2018)
- Political system: French territory with local representative government
- Two-way goods and services trade: AUD 718 million (2018)
- Two-way investment: \$341 million (2018)

Trade, investment, and commercial opportunities and activities

- Australian companies present in New Caledonia are engaged in tourism, the construction industry, mining, the food and beverage sector and some services:
 - Australian companies active in New Caledonia include ANZ, Qantas, Carnival Australia, QBE, Weir Minerals, BlueScope and Origin, as well as clothing suppliers such as Lorna Jane and Billabong, and
 - more than 2,000 Australian companies export to this market.
- Our geographic proximity, similar climate, deep supply chains and sophisticated industries are gateways to greater economic cooperation:
 - Australia should look to capitalise on the growing French business presence in Australia as a result of the Future Submarine Program.
- We will continue to promote our expertise in:
 - infrastructure and energy (especially for major projects planned around the expansion of Noumea's port and construction of a gas-fired plant)
 - mining (as nickel prices rebound and cobalt prices remain high) in partnership with Austmine
 - building and construction, given our tropical building expertise
 - agribusiness technologies, given the similar climate and need for innovative solutions, and
 - education given the growing New Caledonian interest in studying in Australia.



connecting Australian business to the world

- We will continue to develop Australia–New Caledonian business and investment relations through the Australia–New Caledonia Business Forum.

Trade policy and negotiations

New Caledonia became a member of the Pacific Islands Forum in 2016, but is not a party to the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations Plus (PACER Plus).

Regional integration is seen as critical for economic growth, but the economy remains significantly protected through tariff and non-tariff barriers.

New Caledonia will not participate directly in the Australia–EU FTA negotiations, but will be following the negotiations closely given its own favourable trading arrangements with the EU.

New Caledonia is not a member of the World Trade Organization—its interests are represented by France.

We will continue to highlight the benefits of economic liberalisation for the New Caledonian population, and encourage removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers which continue to hamper our economic relations.

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