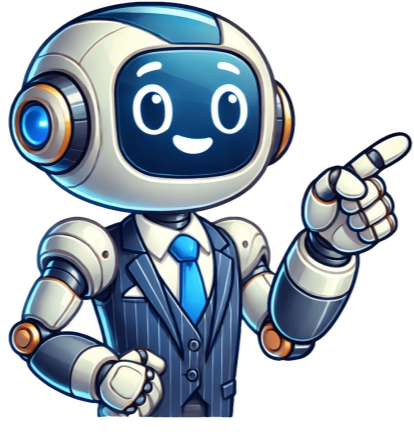


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over recent decades, however it is still almost double its death rate, which gives Australia one of the highest natural population growth rates of any high-income country. Due to high rates of net migration, Australia also has high overall population growth, and this is set to continue well into the century. Economics Australia has one of the world's largest economies, with a GDP of 1.7 trillion U.S. dollars. Classified as an advanced economy by the IMF, Australia ranks second (behind the U.S) in terms of GDP per capita when compared with other G20 members. The COVID-19 pandemic brought about Australia's first recession in almost three decades; Australia avoided a national recession during the global financial crisis in 2008 due to its strong mining industry and stimulus initiatives. Although the mining industry is slowly declining, the export of raw materials continues to make up the majority of Australian exports, while fuels and vehicles or machinery are the largest imports. Australia is a net exporter of goods, and its most important trading partner is China. Politics Australia is divided into six states, three internal territories, and seven overseas territories. It uses a federal parliamentary system of government, while being a constitutional monarchy. The government is led by the Prime Minister, who is typically the leader of the party or coalition with the most seats in the House of Representatives. The monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, is represented by the governor-general; who performs a similar role in Australia to the Queen's role in the UK. The most recent federal election in Australia was in 2022, and was won by the Labor Party, with Anthony Albanese as Prime Minister. Since the 2019 election, Australia was hit by a series of severe wildfires and comparatively late waves of the coronavirus pandemic; both factors had dented public trust in both the government and Prime Minister, contributing to the voters' swing toward Labor.