



This map is a generalized illustration only and is not intended to be used for reference purposes. The representation of political boundaries does not necessarily reflect the position of the Government of Alberta on international issues of recognition, sovereignty or jurisdiction.

PROFILE

Capital: Pretoria (administrative); Cape Town (legislative centre); Bloemfontein (judicial centre)

Population: 50.591 million (2012)

Languages: IsiZulu, IsiXhosa, Afrikaans, Sepedi, English (business language), Setswana, Sesotho, Xitsonga and others

Government: Republic

Head of State/Government: President Jacob Zuma (since May 2009)

Currency: South African Rand
\$1 CDN = 7.3 ZAR (2011)

GDP: \$364.6 billion USD (2012 est.)

GDP (PPP): \$578.6 billion USD (2012 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): \$11,854 USD (2012 est.)

GDP growth rate: 2.9% (2012 est.)

Inflation: 5.3% (2012 est.)

Unemployment: 24.4% (2012 est.)

Key Industry Sectors: Mining, automobile assembly, metalworking, machinery, textiles, iron and steel, chemicals, fertilizer, foods and commercial ship repair.

DID YOU KNOW?

- South Africa rejoined the Commonwealth of Nations in 1994, 33 years after its expulsion due to apartheid. The country's first democratic elections for national and provincial government were held in the same year. South Africa was divided into nine provincial districts.
- South Africa is a nation of diversity that includes a wide variety of cultures, languages and religious beliefs giving rise to the term 'rainbow nation'.
- South Africa's policy of Black Economic Empowerment (BEE), which seeks to address the inequalities of the apartheid era, has contributed significantly to social stability.
- The landscape in the South African highlands resembles that of the prairies in Southern Alberta.
- South Africa is Canada's third-largest trading partner in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- South Africa is the world's largest producer of platinum, gold and chromium.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

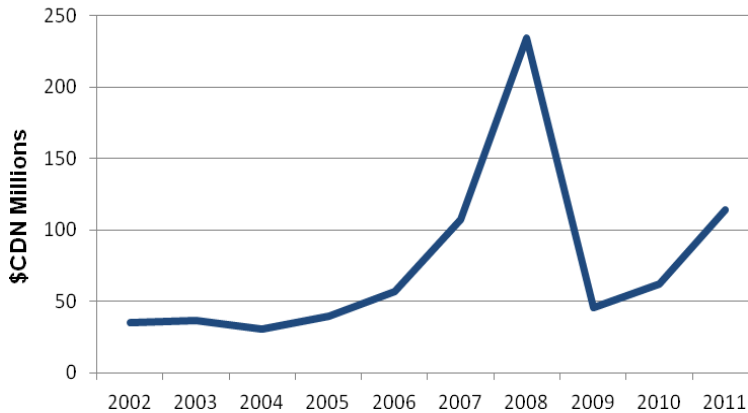
- Throughout the apartheid era, Alberta supported Canada's policy of sanctions against South Africa in order to bring about a more democratic political system.

- In 1996, Alberta twinned with the South African province of Mpumalanga (formerly the eastern Transvaal) under a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) sponsored project to assist South African provinces develop democratic government structures and practices.
- The University of Calgary has supported the expansion of South African scholarship opportunities and has recently conducted land tenure and biology field research in Cape Town and Western Cape province. Currently, the U of C offers a student exchange program with the University of Kwazulu-Natal.
- The Alberta government has contributed matching grants to Alberta organizations for several projects in South Africa that have focused on education/literacy, infrastructure support, program delivery, building projects and HIV/AIDS initiatives.

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY

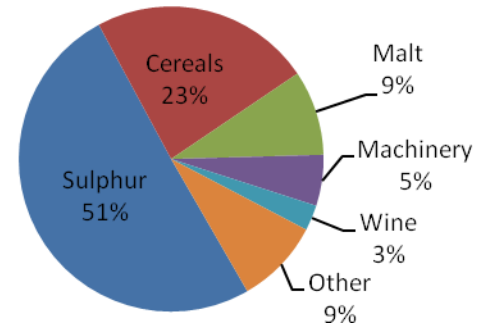
- The South African Community in Alberta numbers approximately 3,410.
- Between 2005 and 2010, Alberta received 1,343 economic immigrants, 1,316 temporary foreign workers and 357 international students from South Africa.

Alberta's Exports to South Africa (2002 - 2011)



Alberta Merchandise Exports to South Africa 2007 - 2011

(Total average \$112.7 million)



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Between 2007 and 2011, Alberta exports to South Africa averaged \$112.7 million CDN, and included sulfur, barley, rye, malt, and machinery.
- During the same period, Alberta imports from South Africa averaged approximately \$43.4 million a year, and included organic chemicals, wine and machinery.
- South Africa is considered to have the most sophisticated free-market economy in Africa. It is also considered a major gateway to the African market.
- Major strengths for the South African economy include its developed infrastructure, abundant supply of natural mineral and metal resources, a growing manufacturing sector, and strong growth potential in tourism, higher value-added manufacturing and services industries.

ENERGY

- The bulk of South Africa's energy consumption mix is comprised of coal, which the country primarily uses to produce synthetic fuels. South Africa also consumes a substantial amount of oil. Only a small percentage of the energy consumption mix is comprised of natural gas and nuclear.
- South Africa has 15 million barrels of proven oil reserves (2011 est.). All are located off shore in the southern Bredasdorp basin.
- South Africa has a refining capacity of approximately 0.49 million barrels per day, the 2nd largest in Africa, surpassed only by Egypt (2012). The majority of crude oil imports destined for South Africa refineries arrive from Saudi Arabia and Iran followed by Nigeria and Angola.
- South Africa has conventional natural gas reserves of 0.32 billion cubic feet (Bcf) (2009 est.), while Alberta has reserves of 39.8 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) (2009 est.).

- South Africa has the world's fifth-largest shale gas reserves and recently lifted a moratorium on the resource's exploration. It is estimated that South Africa's shale gas reserves could hold about 485 tcf of shale gas.
- Coal is the primary fuel produced and consumed in South Africa providing 71% of the country's primary energy supply (2008 est.). The country has the world's 9th largest amount of recoverable coal reserves at about 33 billion short tons.
- South Africa's Sasol Limited uses technology to convert coal into liquid petrochemicals, based on techniques similar to Alberta's Swan Hills Synfuels' in-situ coal gasification operations.
- South Africa plans to generate 15% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020.
- Calgary's Pure Technologies Ltd. has licensed its Smart Ball technology, which detects leaks in energy pipelines, to South African companies.
- In 2011, Calgary-based Talisman Energy sold 50% working interests in both its Farrell Creek and Cypress A assets, in British Columbia's Montney shale gas play, to Sasol Limited.
- In May 2012, Canadian Natural Resources Limited announced its search for a partner with off-shore experience in drilling its first oil exploration well off the coast of South Africa.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities for Alberta exist in the petrochemicals, livestock management, mining, tourism, forestry, information communication technology, consulting and engineering and agri-processing sectors.
- South Africa's market is in the midst of

a fundamental transformation as the black majority is increasingly drawn into the mainstream, commercial economy, boosting demand for services and for higher-value-added processed foodstuffs, household durables, electronic equipment and motor vehicles, as well as financial products and telecommunications services.

RECENT VISITS

- June 2011: South Africa's High Commissioner to Canada, Her Excellency Mohau Pheko, visited Alberta.
- May 2011: South Africa's High Commissioner to Canada, Her Excellency Mohau Pheko, was a guest speaker at the International Academy of African Business and Development conference in Edmonton.
- April 2007: Delegation from Mpumalanaga Legislature visited Alberta to study Alberta's policies and programs related to women, children and disabled persons.
- July and August 2006: Two Mpumalanga ministerial delegations visited Alberta to study Alberta's environmental policies and practices.
- September 2005: Alberta's Premier visited South Africa for the World Petroleum Congress, and to renew and expand the Alberta-Mpumalanga twinning relationship.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- South Africa's High Commissioner designate in Ottawa is Membathisi Mphumzi Shepherd Mdladlana.
- Canada's High Commissioner to South Africa, located in Pretoria, is Ms. Adèle Dion.

