

Germany - Alberta Relations



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: Berlin

Population: 81.7 million (2012 est.)

Language: German

Government: Federal Republic

Head of State: President Joachim Gauck (elected in March 2012)

Head of Government: Chancellor Angela Merkel (elected in October 2009; and re-elected in September 2013)

Currency: Euro, CAD\$1.00 = €0.71, €1.00 = CAD\$1.41 (October 2013)

GDP: US\$3.579 trillion (2012)

GDP (PPP): US\$3.3 trillion (2012 est.)

GDP per Capita (PPP): US\$ 40,708 (2012 est.)

GDP Growth Rate: 1.7% (2008-2012 avg.)

Inflation: 1.8% (2007-2011 avg.)

Unemployment: 5.5 % (2012)

Key Industry Sectors: among the world's largest and most technologically advanced producer of iron, steel, coal, cement, chemicals, machinery, vehicles, machine tools, electronics, food and beverages, shipbuilding and textiles

DID YOU KNOW

- As Europe's largest economy and second most populous country (after Russia), Germany is a key player in the continent's economic, political and defense organizations.
- In January 2011, Germany assumed a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2011-2012 term.
- Alberta and Germany have recognized each other's driver's licenses since 1996.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

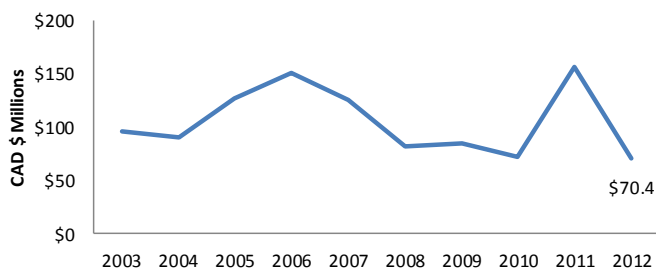
- Alberta established an international office in Munich in 2002.
- Alberta signed a twinning agreement with Saxony in 2002. This was renewed in 2010 for an additional five-year period.
- In 2009, Alberta signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on science, research and education co-operation with Bavaria.
- The German Canadian Centre for Innovation and Research, located in Edmonton, was established in 2011 to support collaboration and partnerships in science, research, and development between Germany and Canada. Alberta was chosen as the location due to strong research relationships that Alberta maintains with Germany.

- The City and County of Leduc has been twinned with Grimma since 2005.
- In September 2006, Germany opened an Edmonton branch of the Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

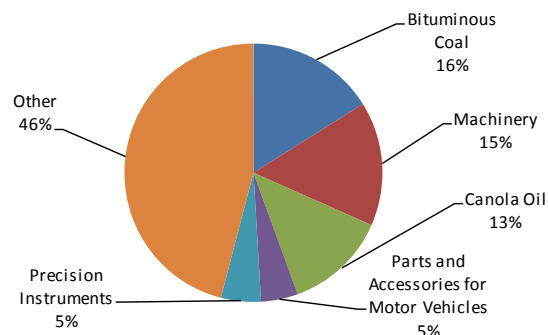
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- As an export-oriented country, Germany benefits from trade liberalization.
- Between 2008 and 2012, Alberta's exports to Germany averaged CAD\$93.1 million per year, consisting mainly of bituminous coal, canola oil, machinery and vehicle parts and accessories.
- During the same period, Alberta's direct imports from Germany averaged CAD\$514.4 million per year. Top imports included machinery, precision instruments, and iron or steel products. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- Canadian investment in Germany in 2011 was CAD\$9.2 billion and German Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Canada was also \$9.2 billion.

Alberta Merchandise Exports to Germany 2003-2012



Alberta Merchandise Exports to Germany 2008-2012 (Yearly Average CAD\$93.1)



- Frankfurt-based Lurgi AG, world leader in gas technologies, will upgrade 50,000 barrels per day of Alberta's oil sands, by early 2013. Calgary-based North West Upgrading awarded Lurgi AG the design and license for a gasification-based hydrogen plant in Sturgeon County, estimated at more than \$500 million.
- There are at least 25 German subsidiaries operating in Alberta, including: Siemens (multi-sectoral), Evonik Industries (chemicals), Refratechnik/Baymag (minerals), Heidelberg Cement/Lehigh Inland (construction), SAP (ICT), Daimler, BASF, ThyssenKrupp and Bayer CropScience.

PEOPLE

- Between 2008 and 2012, 2,295 immigrants from Germany chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 84 per cent were economic immigrants. This includes principal applicants and their dependents.
- From 2008 to 2012, 4,723 foreign workers from Germany were issued a permit to work in Alberta were mainly employed as carpenters and cabinet makers, computer and information system professionals, engineers, social services workers and agriculture and horticulture workers.
- During the same time period, 904 foreign students from Germany were issued a permit to study in Alberta.

ENERGY

- Germany is the 10th largest oil consumer and the 11th largest natural gas consumer (2011) in the world. In 2011, Germany consumed 2.4 million barrels per day (bbl/d) of refined petroleum products and 2.78 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas.
- Germany's net oil imports in 2011 equaled to about 93% of its total oil consumption (2.235 million barrels per day in imports compared to 2.400 million barrels per day in consumption).
- Net natural gas imports accounted for 80% of total natural gas consumption in Germany. Russia supplied

approximately 40% of Germany's natural gas imports in 2011.

- Germany is a world leader in renewable energy production. In 2011, almost 19% of generated electricity came from renewable sources. Of total electricity consumption, 20% of German consumption is from renewable sources.
- In March 2010, Alberta and the German state of North-Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) discussed ways to cooperate in the development of new CO2 capture and storage projects in western Canada. High-level representatives from Alberta companies were present.
- The University of Alberta (U of A) and the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres have partnered to create the Helmholtz-Alberta Initiative to find solutions to environmental issues facing energy production such as greenhouse gases, surface mining disturbances and water use. This partnership aims to increase sustainability in oil sands production.
- In December 2009, the Government of Alberta committed CAD\$25 million over five years to the Helmholtz-Alberta Initiative (funds that originated in the ecoTrust program).
- Germany-based Siemens was awarded a CAD\$100 million contract from TransCanada Pipelines Ltd. to supply the Keystone Pipeline project with electrical equipment, electrical power supply and pumping equipment.
- The electric shovels of Shell's Muskeg River Mine use Siemens-manufactured automation systems and electrical equipment.
- Siemens' Corporate Technology division is researching the use of Electromagnetic Gravity Drainage for in-situ extraction of bitumen. Siemens estimates that the method has the potential to extract 20% more bitumen when combined with conventional steam injection.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- The German Canadian Centre for Innovation and Research, located in Edmonton, was established in 2011 to support collaboration and partnerships

in science, research, and development between Germany and Canada. Alberta was chosen as the location due to strong research relationships that Alberta maintains with Germany.

- Germany is the largest ICT market in Europe with excellent opportunities in areas such as enterprise solutions, wireless applications and health.
- Germany is the largest medical devices and pharmaceuticals market in Europe. Given the country's aging population, increasing costs and focus on wellness, it provides broad opportunities for Alberta health technology companies.
- Germany is the 5th largest aerospace and defense industry in the world and ranks as one of the most important sectors for trade between Germany and Canada. Opportunities exist for Alberta firms that can offer specialized and innovative technologies, products or services for manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul, unmanned vehicle systems (UVS), defense in the 21st century (C3 capabilities: command, control, communication) and the EU's green initiatives (reduced emissions/noise, green operations and eco-design).

AGRICULTURE

- Germany is the world's largest importer of agricultural products, with the majority supplied by other EU countries. Products must meet strict German/EU food laws, packaging and labeling requirements.
- In 2011, Alberta's top agri-food exports to Germany were crude canola oil (\$59.6 million), prepared animal feeds (\$3.9 million), whiskey (\$2.5 million), wheat (\$2.4 million), and seeds for sowing (\$1.4 million).

- From 2007-2010, Alberta agri-food exports averaged approximately \$20 million until 2011 when exports increased to \$72.8 million. This is mainly due to the substantial increase in export of crude canola oil.

GERMAN LANGUAGE

- German language programming is offered in schools across Alberta, with classes taught from the Kindergarten to Grade 12 levels.
- Currently, there are 70 schools offering German language studies to over 4,000 students.
- Eight of these schools have bilingual programs. Alberta offered bilingual education in German to 800 students in Edmonton, Sherwood Park and Calgary in the 2010/2011 school year. The majority (80%) of these enrollments are reported in Edmonton and Sherwood Park.
- All six universities in Alberta offer credit programming in the German language.
- Alberta has an agreement with the Federal Office of German Schools Abroad providing the province with a German language consultant, Mr. Wieland Petermann, to advise on language programs and facilitate curriculum development. He is located in Alberta Education in Edmonton.

EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- Alberta Education co-operates in both teacher and secondary student exchange programs with Hesse, Bavaria and Saxony.
- Three Alberta high schools, Lindsay Thurber (Red Deer), Harry Ainlay (Edmonton), and Onoway High School have active twinnings with *Gymnasien* (high schools) in Hesse.
- Five Alberta high schools, Canmore Collegiate High School (Canmore), Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School (Red Deer), Harry Ainlay High School (Edmonton), Strathcona High School (Edmonton), and West Central High School (Rocky Mountain House), have partnerships with schools in Germany.
- Alberta Enterprise and Advanced Education (formerly Advanced Education and Technology) approved funding in January 2010 for the Alberta-Saxony Intercultural Internship Alliance, a co-operative venture with the State of Saxony to exchange students in industry and research placements.

- The University of Calgary is an active participant in the Alberta-Saxony Internship Program since 2010 and has active agreements with ten institutions in Germany.
- The Universities of Alberta and Calgary, Concordia University College, Athabasca University and MacEwan all have numerous agreements with German universities, areas such as dentistry, science, technology, engineering, and business.
- In February 2007, the Humboldt Foundation Liaison Office of Canada was established at the U of A. The U of A has more Humboldt fellows than any other university in Canada.

COMMUNITY & CULTURE

- Approximately 679,700 Albertans (20% of Albertans) are of German ancestry, forming the second-largest ethnic group in Alberta.
- The German-Canadian Association of Alberta (GCAA), which encompasses 29 German-speaking clubs and organizations from Medicine Hat to Grande Prairie, aims to share German culture with Alberta society as a whole.
- The GCAA organizes the German Culture Festival every year since 1986, revitalizing one of the most significant German events in Western Canada's history.
- The German Canadian Cultural Association's Library, located in Edmonton, has an excellent selection of German books and videos.
- The Children's German Community Library, which was created in April 2002, is accessible to more than 700 German-learning students in the greater Edmonton area.

RECENT VISITS

- June 2013: Alberta's Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education led a mission to Germany to renew the Alberta-Bavaria Memorandum of Understanding.
- April 2013: Visit of Mr. Harald Leibrecht, MP in the German Bundestag.
- January 2013: Alberta's Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations (IIR) led a mission to Bavaria to further the relationship between Alberta

and Germany.

- December 2012: His Excellency Werner Wnendt, German Ambassador to Canada made his official visit to Alberta.
- September 2012: The Minister of IIR led a mission to Alberta's sister-province of Saxony.
- March 2011: Bavaria's Vice Minister of Economic Affairs, Katja Hessel, and a delegation of 25 Bavarian politicians, business people, academics and government officials visited Alberta. The purpose of the visit was to increase trade and investment and scientific cooperation between Alberta and Bavaria.
- September 2010: Alberta's Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology visited Bavaria to pursue collaborative research projects, to market Alberta's knowledge-based industry and innovation capacity, and to promote Alberta internationally as a preferred partner in research, innovation and commercialization.
- March 2010: Alberta Energy's Parliamentary Assistant Diana McQueen visited Germany to showcase three Alberta-based carbon capture and storage projects and discuss potential opportunities for German companies.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The German Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Mr. Werner Franz Wnendt.
- Mr. Eric Walsh is *Chargé d'affaires* at the Canadian Embassy in Germany.
- Mr. Hermann Walter Sitz is the German Consul General in Vancouver.
- The Honorary Consul of Germany in Edmonton is Mr. Harald Kuckertz.
- The Honorary Consul of Germany in Calgary is Mr. Hubertus Liebrecht.
- Alberta's Germany office is co-located in the Canadian Consulate in Munich.

NOTE:

More detailed relations papers for Bavaria and Alberta's sister-province, Saxony, can be found on our website at:

www.international.alberta.ca



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