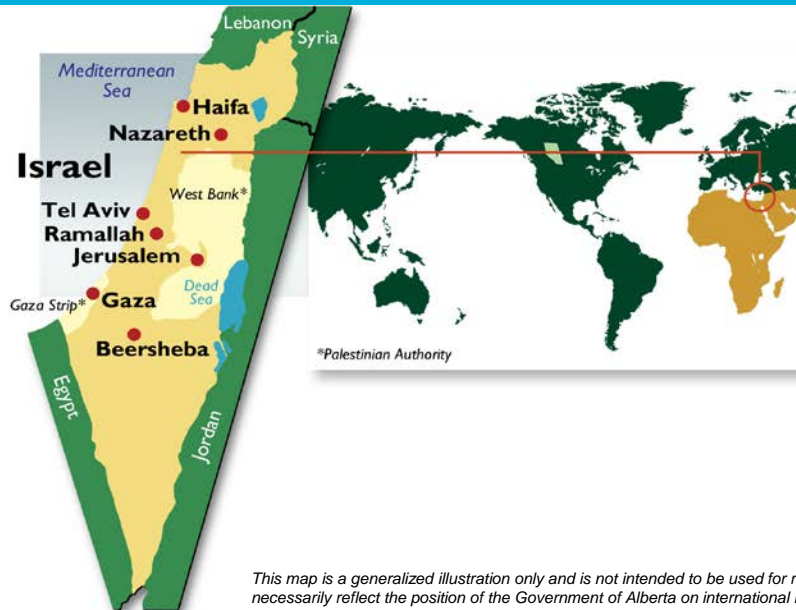


Israel - Alberta Relations



PROFILE

Population: 8.0 million (2013)

Language: Hebrew, Arabic, English

Government: Parliamentary democracy

Head of State: President Shimon Peres (as of July 15, 2007)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu (as of March 31, 2009)

Currency: Israel New Shekels (ILS)
\$1 CAD = 3.19 ILS, 1 ILS=\$0.31 CAD (June 2014)

GDP: US\$291.4 billion (2013)

GDP (PPP): US\$269.2 billion (2013 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$33,470 (2013 est.)

GDP growth rate: 3.5% (2009-2013 avg.)

Inflation: 2.5% (2009-2013 avg.)

Unemployment: 6.2% (2013)

Key Industry Sectors: high-technology products (including aviation, communications, computer-aided design and manufactures, medical electronics, fiber optics), wood and paper products, potash and phosphates, food, beverages, and tobacco, caustic soda, cement, construction, metals products, chemical products, plastics, diamond cutting, textiles and footwear.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Israel is in the unique position of having free trade agreements with the U.S., the European Union and Canada.
- Although kosher certification is not a legal requirement to export to the Israeli market, supermarkets and hotels will not purchase non-Kosher products.

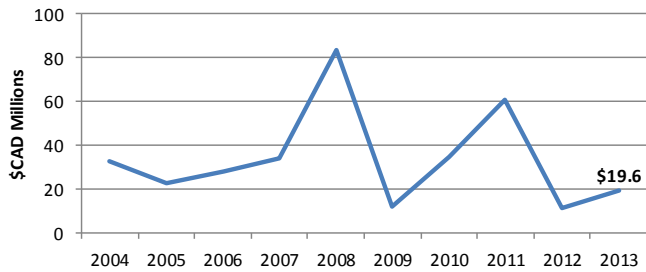
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- 2009 marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Israel.
- In 1995, Premier Ralph Klein led a 29-member delegation of Alberta companies on a trade and investment mission to Israel.
- In 1994, Canada and Israel created the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF) to promote collaborative R&D between firms in both countries. This program was renewed in 2006. Alberta and Israel have a Memorandum of Understanding under the CIIRDF which supports research activities between the two regions.

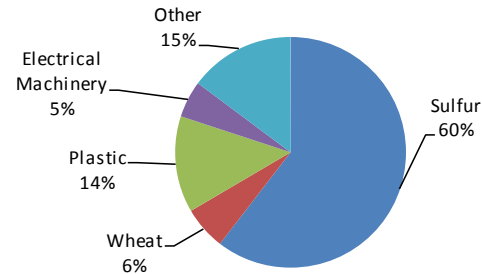
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Alberta exports to Israel averaged CAD \$27.7 million between 2009 and 2013. Primary exports included sulfur, wheat and plastics.
- During the same time period, Alberta's direct imports from Israel averaged approximately CAD\$35.9 million. Imports included aircraft, electrical machinery and diamonds. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- 2011 marked the 14th Anniversary of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA), a goods-only agreement. Bilateral merchandise trade has more than tripled since the CIFTA's implementation in 1997 from \$507.3 million in 1996, to a record high of \$1.8 billion in 2008.
- Israel foreign direct investment (FDI) in Canada was valued at \$1.2 billion CAD in 2011. Canadian FDI in Israel was \$311 million CAD in 2009.

Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Israel 2004 - 2013



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Israel 2009 - 2013 (Yearly Average = CAD\$ Million)



EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

- In June 2012, Canada and Israel signed an Energy cooperation agreement. One aspect of the agreement will encompass how Canada can help Israel develop its recently discovered massive unconventional oil and gas deposits.
- The University of Alberta has academic relations with several Israeli universities (but no formal agreement).
- The University of Calgary (U of C) has an agreement, which includes faculty and student exchanges, with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- The Israel Studies Program in the Faculty of Arts makes the U of C an important centre of this emerging multidisciplinary analysis of Israeli history, politics, society, and culture.
- The U of C has an innovative interdisciplinary M.A. program in Israel Studies that explores critical issues in contemporary Israeli history and politics, and provides insight into the issues that Israel will face in the future.
- In 2005, Alberta's Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation signed a water conservation and irrigation research agreement with the Jewish National Fund of Canada.
- The University of Lethbridge has offered its students the opportunity to train at the Tel Beth Shemesh Archaeological Field School in Israel since 1989. Participants have uncovered significant archaeological finds such as a seal discovered at Beth Shemesh, an archaeological site located between the Biblical cities of Zorah and Eshtaol, along with other finds on the floor of an excavated house dated by archaeologists to the 12th century BCE.

ENERGY

- Israel is strategically located for regional energy transit to the Middle East, Europe and Asia. It shares pipeline access with several Middle Eastern countries, including both Jordan and Egypt. However, the reliability of pipeline operation is questionable in the region due to the political instability in the area and previous attacks on several different lines.

- As of January 2014, the Oil & Gas Journal estimated Israel's proved reserves of oil at 11.5 million barrels and its proved reserves of natural gas at 10.1 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). While neither figure places Israel in the top-40 globally, these totals are significantly higher than they were a few years ago.
- In January 2009, 9 tcf of natural gas was discovered in the Tamar fields (located offshore, near Haifa). Israel began commercial production of natural gas from the Tamar field in March 2013.
- The most recent offshore discovery occurred at the Tamar Southwest exploration well. Located 8 miles southwest of the Tamar Field, the Tamar Southwest field may contain more than 500 billion cubic feet of natural gas.
- The most significant find in offshore Israel is the Leviathan field, located approximately 80 miles off the coast and situated in water that is more than 5,000 feet deep. Assessments of the Leviathan field indicate that there could be as much as 19 Tcf of recoverable natural gas in place. Production could begin at Leviathan in 2016 at the earliest.
- Commercially viable amounts of natural gas from the Mari B reserve have been supplying Israel with natural gas since 2004, but production plummeted in 2012 as the field entered the final stages of depletion.
- While historically Israel has been an importer of natural gas the discoveries of the Tamar and Leviathan fields (among several others) should allow the country to become a significant exporter of natural gas in the next decade. There are competing proposals to develop pipelines and LNG infrastructure to support natural gas exports, but deliberations about how Israel will get its natural gas to market are ongoing.

COMMUNITY

- The Jewish community in Alberta numbers approximately 15,000, mostly in Edmonton and Calgary.
- Of the many Jewish cultural and charitable organizations and activities in Alberta, the Jewish Federation, Hadassah and the Jewish National Fund have been the most prominent.
- Since 1979, Calgary-based Kahanoff Foundation has provided close to \$50 million to charitable programs in Israel in the areas of health, education, culture, social services, philanthropy and community development, and research.

VISITS

- December 2012: Her Excellency Miriam Ziv visited Edmonton and met with the Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy to discuss strategies for expanding Alberta-Israel relations.
- October 2012: Dr. Uzi Landau, Israeli Minister of Energy and Water Resources, visited Calgary and met with Premier Redford.
- September 2012: Official visit of Mr. DJ Schneeweiss, Consul General of Israel in Toronto.
- February 2009: Her Excellency Miriam Ziv, Israel Ambassador to Canada, visited Edmonton.
- November 2008: Minister Ron Stevens led a mission to Israel and Ramallah.
- January 2007: Israeli Consul General in Toronto visited Edmonton.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Israel's Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Rafael Barak.
- Canada's Ambassador to Israel is Vivian Bercovici. A Canadian Representative Office in Ramallah handles issues related to Gaza and the West Bank.
- Mr. DJ Schneeweiss is Israel's Consul General in Toronto with jurisdiction over Alberta.



For more information, contact:
 Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations
 Phone: 780-427-6543 Fax: 780-427-0699
 albertacanada.com