

Algeria – Alberta Relations

Government
of Alberta ■



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: Algiers

Population: 36.3 million (2010)

Languages: Arabic, French and Berber dialects

Government: Republic

Head of State and Government:
President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, National Liberation Front (FLN) (since April 28, 1999)

Currency: \$1 CDN = 70.19 Dinar (DZD) (2010)

GDP: US \$151.5 billion (2010 est.)

GDP (PPP): US \$294.5 billion (2010 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US \$8,110 (2010 est.)

GDP growth rate: 4.1% (2010 est.)

Unemployment: 10.0% (2010)

Inflation: 3.9% (2010)

Key Industry Sectors: Petroleum, natural gas, light industries, mining, electrical, petrochemical and food processing.

ALGERIA OVERVIEW

- Over 80% of Algeria's territory is covered by the Sahara desert.
- After years of war and civil unrest Algeria is experiencing a significant economic upturn. This recent growth is largely aided by increasing prices for Algeria's oil and gas exports.
- Algeria gained its independence in 1962, after a lengthy uprising against rule by France. The National Liberation Front (FLN) political party has dominated politics ever since independence.
- In the 1980s, Algeria began to move away from a centralized socialist state and towards more economic and political liberalization.
- By liberalizing its trade regime, Algeria hopes to obtain membership in the World Trade Organization.
- Algeria belongs to the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), along with other Maghreb states: Tunisia, Libya, Morocco and Mauritania. The aim of the AMU is to promote regional peace by establishing a Maghreb economic union.
- Algeria buys half of the amount of durum wheat traded on international markets each year. Between 1987 and 1997, this represented an average of 2.5 million tons of durum wheat per annum.

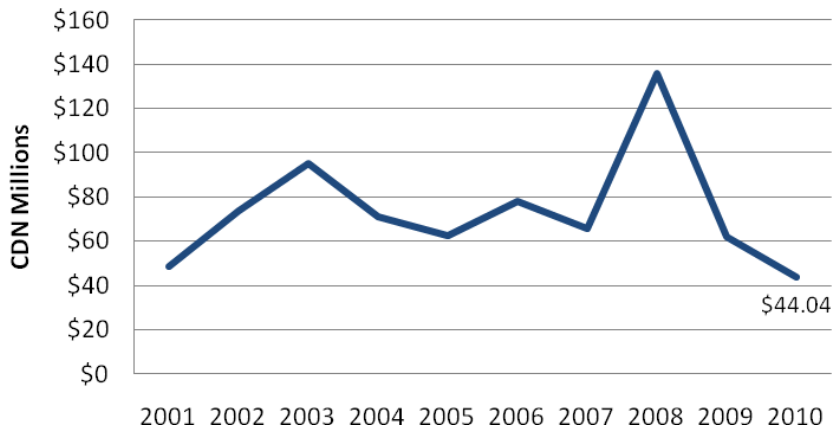
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Since 1964, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has provided more than \$155 million CDN to Algeria in the form of grants and loans. These funds help develop the private sector, and support occupational training in Algeria.
- CIDA recently signed an agreement with Algeria, under the Private Sector Development Fund (PSDF), for support of economic reform programs.
- Between 2006 and 2010, 245 immigrants from Algeria chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 43 per cent were economic immigrants.
- During the same time period, 27 foreign workers from Algeria were issued a permit to work in Alberta.

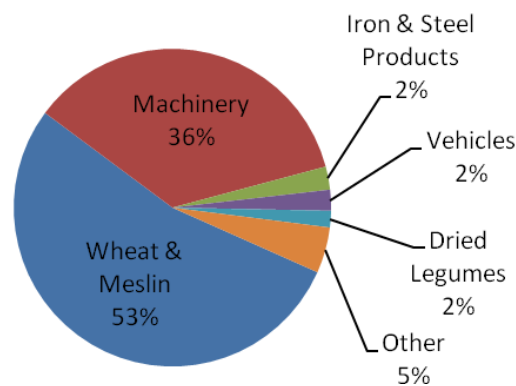
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Between 2006 and 2010, Alberta's annual exports to Algeria averaged \$77.08 million, consisting mostly of wheat and meslin, and machinery.
- During the same time period, Alberta imported an average of \$25,579 annually from Algeria. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

Alberta's Exports to Algeria 2001-2010



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Algeria 2006-2010 (Total Average CDN\$77.08 Million)



ENERGY

- The hydrocarbons sector is the backbone of the economy, accounting for roughly 60% of budget revenues, 30% of GDP, and over 95% of export earnings.
- Algeria has 12.3 billion barrels (bbl) of proven oil reserves (2007). In 2007, Algeria produced an average of 1.834 million barrels per day (bbl/d). Comparatively, Alberta has 176 billion bbl of proven oil reserves, and produced 1.8 million bbl/d in 2007.
- Algeria has 161.7 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) versus Alberta's 41 Tcf of proven natural gas reserves (2007).
- Algeria is a major gas exporter, especially to European markets, accounting for about 8% of world gas exports in 2006 (compared to 10% for Alberta).
- Algeria was the world's fourth largest exporter of natural gas in 2006 (8% of the world gas exports); Alberta was the third largest (10% of the world gas exports).
- Algeria is the fourth largest exporter of Liquefied Natural Gas (behind Indonesia, Malaysia and Qatar), exporting around 14% of the world's total. The vast majority of Algeria's LNG exports go to Western Europe, especially France, Spain and Turkey.
- There are over 30 active Albertan companies in Algeria including First Calgary Petroleum Ltd., Stream-Flo and Talisman.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- Alberta agri-food exports to Algeria consist mainly of wheat and pulses. The quantities are very dependent on world price.
- Wheat peaked at \$108 million in 2008, and pulses at \$3 Million in 2006.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Direct investors into the manufacturing industries will enjoy the benefits of a large pool of inexpensive labour, as well as preferential access to the European Union (EU) because of Algeria's Association Agreement with the EU.
- **Oil and Gas Field Machinery:** Promising markets include wellhead, down-hole equipment and supplies, and drilling machinery.
- **Building Products:** Due largely to a housing shortage, opportunities exist in lumber and other wood products, steel products, and portland cement.
- **Mining Industry Equipment:** Processing Algeria's mineral reserves is forecast for the near future.

EDUCATION

- The Canadian Petroleum Institute, in collaboration with Naftogaz, provides ongoing health, safety and environment training programs to supervisors and engineers of the Algerian National Enterprise for Drilling (ENAFOR).
- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology delivers, in cooperation with Naftogaz, customized two to six week training courses in Algeria for oil and gas clients, primarily Sonatrach.

- Over 400 students are enrolled in Edmonton's Arabic bilingual program. Locally developed second language courses in Arabic are also offered to approximately 400 students province-wide.

COMMUNITY

- There are approximately 450 Albertans of Algerian descent and 1,515 of Maghrebi origins.
- CKER-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, including Arabic.

RECENT VISITS

- September 2006: Algeria's Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Smail Benamara, joined a Heads of Mission Tour to Alberta on an energy focused visit that included a tour of the oil sands.
- June 2005: Algeria's former Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Youcef Yousfi, visited Alberta.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Algeria's Ambassador in Ottawa is His Excellency Smail Benamara.
- Canada's Ambassador to Algeria, located in Algiers, is Ms. Geneviève des Rivières.

