

Sweden - 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: Stockholm

Population: 9.9 million (2016)

Language: Swedish

Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Head of State: King Carl XVI Gustaf

Head of Government: Prime Minister Stefan Löfven (since 2014)

Currency: Swedish Krona (SEK), CAD \$1.00 = 6.49 SEK, 1 SEK = CAD \$0.15 (October 2017)

GDP: USD \$511 billion (2016)

GDP (PPP): 486.96 billion current international dollars (2016)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): 49,175 current international dollars (2016)

GDP Growth Rate: 3.18 per cent (2016)

Inflation: 0.98 per cent (2016)

Unemployment: 7.0 per cent (2016)

Key Industry Sectors: iron and steel, precision equipment (bearings, radio and telephone parts, armaments), wood pulp and paper products, processed foods, motor vehicles.

Sources: World Bank, Bank of Canada, OECD

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sweden is the third largest European Union (EU) country in land area after France and Spain. It also has the largest population among the Nordic countries.
- Sweden has a history of neutrality stretching back to 1814, the world's longest record of refraining from officially going to war. Neutrality was formally proclaimed by King Gustav XIV in 1834. However, Sweden's military and government have been involved in major peacekeeping actions and other military support functions around the world.
- Swedish living standards and purchasing power are among the highest in the world.

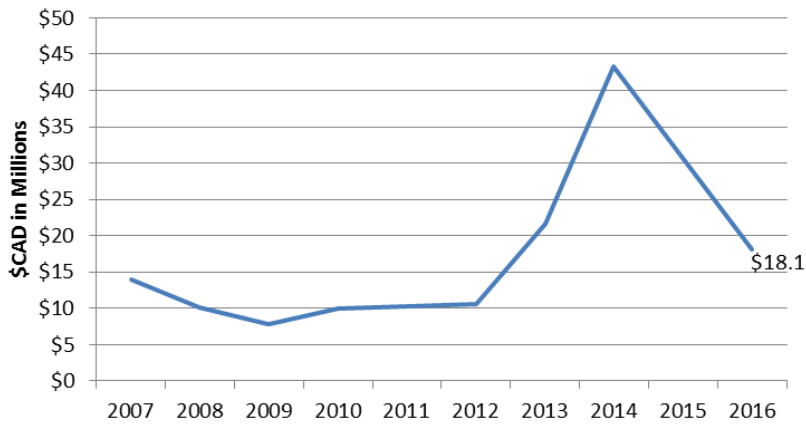
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Canada-Sweden bilateral relations are close, positive and constructive. The like-minded values of Canadians and Swedes are reflected in our strong commitment to free trade, protection of human rights, peacekeeping, United Nations reform, and environmental protection.
- As an active EU member, Sweden is a valuable interlocutor on the Canada-EU agenda with Canada greatly appreciating Sweden's strong support during its EU

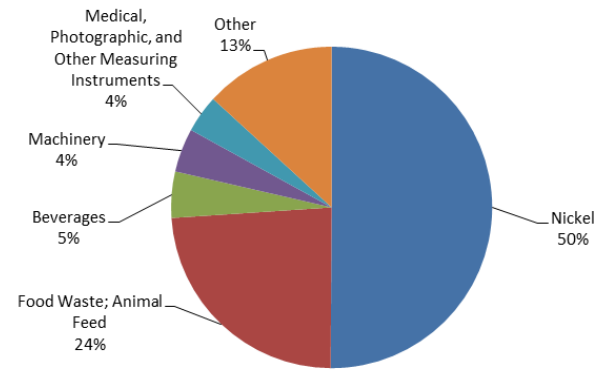
Presidency in 2009 for the now concluded negotiations on the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Signed in October 2016, CETA was provisionally applied in September 2017.

- Canada and Sweden enjoy a strong commercial relationship with growing trade flows and two-way investment, as well as great innovation and technology cooperation. Both countries are highly industrialized and technologically advanced.
- Sweden is an active advocate in the World Trade Organization (WTO) for liberalizing global trade.
- The Canada-Sweden MOU on Youth Mobility was signed in spring 2007, opening the doors for youths to work and travel.
- Sweden was the first European country to join the Canadian-initiated International Model Forest Network in 2004.

Alberta's Exports to Sweden (2007 to 2016)



**Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Sweden 2012 to 2016
(Total Average CAD \$24.9 Million)**



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Under CETA, tariff elimination and other provisions will enhance the competitiveness of Canadian exports to Sweden.
- From 2012-16, Alberta's exports to Sweden averaged CAD \$28.87 million per year including nickel (CAD \$12.5 million), food waste and animal feed (CAD \$5.9 million), beverages (CAD \$1.2 million) and machinery (CAD \$1.1 million). The export figures do not include trade in services (e.g. tourism, architecture and engineering or IT services).
- During the same time, Alberta's direct imports from Sweden averaged CAD \$72.37 million per year. Imports included machinery (CAD \$27.4 million), electrical machinery (CAD \$17.9 million), vehicles (CAD \$6.8 million) and plastic (CAD \$6.1 million). This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- Swedish foreign direct investment in Canada amounted to CAD \$1.95 billion in 2016; Canadian direct investment in Sweden was CAD \$3.68 billion the same year.
- Sweden's main export partners in 2015 were Germany (USD \$14.4 billion), Denmark (USD \$10.4 billion), the United Kingdom (USD \$10.3 billion) and the United States (USD \$9.9 billion). Top exports included refined petroleum (USD \$7.22 billion), packaged medicaments (USD \$6.22 billion), cars (USD \$5.85 billion) and vehicle parts (USD \$4.76 billion).

ENERGY

- Sweden has no proven reserves of oil or natural gas, and only small reserves of coal; however, the country possesses the ability to refine crude oil.
- Sweden has invested heavily in renewable energy since the oil crisis of the early 1970s. In 1970, oil accounted for over 75 per cent of energy supplies but today, the figure is

around 20 per cent. This is mostly attributed to the declining use of oil for residential heating.

- In 2016, Sweden consumed 300,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) of oil, continuing a downward trend.
- In 2015, Sweden imported 410,600 bbl/d of crude oil mainly from Russia (50 per cent), Norway (20 per cent) and Denmark (15 per cent).
- About 80 per cent of the country's total gas demand is consumed by 30 large consumers, especially in the area of district heating, which accounts for 55 per cent of total consumption.
- With many rivers, waterfalls and lakes, Sweden has favorable conditions for hydropower.
- In 2016, of total electricity generated, hydroelectricity accounted for about 44 per cent of the mix, nuclear for 38 per cent, and renewables and thermal generation for the remaining amount

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Opportunities for cooperation between Canada and Sweden include research in forestry, advanced materials, genomics and pharmaceuticals, information technology, environmental technologies as well as arctic studies.
- Sweden's excellence in the field of research and development (R&D) adds to its appeal as a business location. With clusters of established research facilities and a highly skilled labour force, Sweden remains an attractive location for firms engaged in high-tech businesses requiring considerable investment in R&D.
- Approximately 3.2 per cent of GDP is spent on research and development annually.

- Information and Communications Technology (ICT):** Sweden is one of the most advanced countries in the world in terms of its telecommunications and internet infrastructure and usage, consistently ranking among the leading countries in terms of fixed-line, mobile phone, personal computer, internet and broadband penetration.

- Sweden offers reliable infrastructure, robust power grids and high connectivity, making it a good location for data centers. Many of the world's top digital providers have built data centers in Sweden; for example, Amazon, Facebook and NASDAQ.

- Over the past five years, Stockholm-based companies received 18 per cent of all private placements in financial technology (FinTech) companies across Europe. Swedish online payment providers such as iZettle and Trustly, as well as personal finance app Tink, have all attracted substantial investment.

- Computer game development has also seen success in Sweden. Notable games include Minecraft and Candy Crush which were developed in the Stockholm-Uppsala region. This is now the second largest hub of game developers in Europe after London.

- Life Sciences:** Sweden is a world leader in biomaterials and orthopedic implants, regenerative medicine, medical imaging and visualization. The country excels in research in oncology, neuroscience, inflammation and metabolic diseases.

- Clean Energy:** The Swedish solar-cell market, though still limited, has begun to grow with the aid of government funding. The Swedish Energy Agency invested SEK 123 million (CAD \$18 million) in research into solar cells, thermal solar power and solar fuels.

- Sweden reached its goal of a 50 per cent renewable energy share several years ahead of the government's 2020 schedule, in 2012.

This is the highest across the EU. The government's aim was to boost renewable generation by 25 TWh from 2002 to 2020, mostly through biofuels and wind power.

- Bioenergy (including peat) represents 22 per cent of Sweden's total energy supply in 2016. Most of this was used in industrial processes and district heating.
- **Advanced Manufacturing and Materials:** Swedish industries provide opportunities for Alberta technologies in instrumentation, SCADA, robotics, photonics, nanotechnology, sensors, test/scientific equipment, and coatings and other materials in a variety of verticals.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

- In 2016, Alberta agri-food exports to Sweden totaled CAD \$11.4 million. Alberta's largest export was prepared animal feed (CAD \$10.2 million).
- The Swedish functional food (nutraceutical) industry is one of the most advanced in the world.
- Opportunities for Alberta products within the Swedish market include high-quality, niche, natural (organic and non-organic) and specialty-type products (e.g. gluten-free, lactose-free, wholegrain).
- Sweden is the fourth largest importer of industrial roundwood in the world.
- Sweden and Canada continue to advance the longstanding collaboration in the field of Model Forests, first launched by the Government of Canada at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The International Model Forest Network (IMFN) has more than 60 member sites in over 30 countries and is coordinated by the IMFN Secretariat in Ottawa.

EDUCATION

- For the academic year of 2015/2016, 58 citizens of Sweden had international study permits for Alberta.
- The University of Alberta (U of A) has an active agreement with Uppsala University, and faculty specific agreements with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences with the Transatlantic Master's Program leading to dual degrees in Forestry and Environmental Management.
- The U of A is a leader in Nordic Studies with its Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies. It

also has a very active Scandinavian Studies program with courses in Norwegian and Swedish

- The University of Calgary has student exchange agreements with Uppsala University, University of Orebro, Umea University and Lund University.
- Mount Royal University has a partnership with University West, Trollhattan.
- MacEwan University has had an exchange partnership with Umea University since 2013.
- Advanced Education supports the Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning (CAGFIL) program enabling post-secondary institutions to develop study and research collaboration involving Sweden.

IMMIGRATION AND COMMUNITY

- From 2012-16, 136 citizens of Sweden became Permanent Residents of Canada, with Alberta as their intended destination. Approximately 34 per cent were economic immigrants, including principal applicants, spouses, and dependents.
- In that same time frame, 61 citizens of Sweden had Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) work permits come into effect for Alberta
- There are approximately 93,800 Albertans of Swedish descent. Almost 1,150 Albertans reported Swedish as their mother tongue.

RECENT VISITS

- November 2015: Ambassador Per Sjögren was in Alberta as part of a Nordic Baltic Joint Heads of Mission visit.
- March 2015: Alberta Education hosted a delegation that included the Minister for Upper Secondary School, Adult Education and Training, the Swedish Ambassador to Canada, and members of the Swedish education ministry.
- February 2011: Visit of His Excellency Teppo Markus Tauriainen, Ambassador of Sweden

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Sweden's Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Per Sjögren.
- Canada's Ambassador to Sweden is Ms. Heather Grant.
- Mr. Joseph Peter Lougheed is the Honorary

Consul for Sweden in Calgary.

- Ms. Kristina Williams is the Honorary Consul for Sweden in Edmonton.



For more information, contact:

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