

# Kenya – 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:** Nairobi

**Population:** 40.9 million (2010 est.)

**Language:** English (official) and Kiswahili (official)

**Government:** Republic

**Head of Government:** President Mwai Kibaki (since December 2002)

**Currency:** \$1CDN = 73.95 Kenyan Shillings KES (2010)

**GDP:** US \$30.9 billion (2010 est.)

**GDP (PPP):** US \$67.4 billion (2010 est.)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US 1,650 (2010 est.)

**GDP growth rate:** 5% (2010 est.)

**Inflation:** 4% (2010)

**Unemployment:** 40% (2008 est.)

**Key Industry Sectors:** coffee, tea, plastics, furniture, batteries, textiles, soap, cigarettes, flour, oil refining, agricultural products, horticulture, aluminum, steel, lead, commercial ship repair and cement.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Kenya's former Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Wangari Muta Maathai was named winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Kenya is the most industrialized country in East Africa, even though manufacturing accounts for just over 10% of GDP.

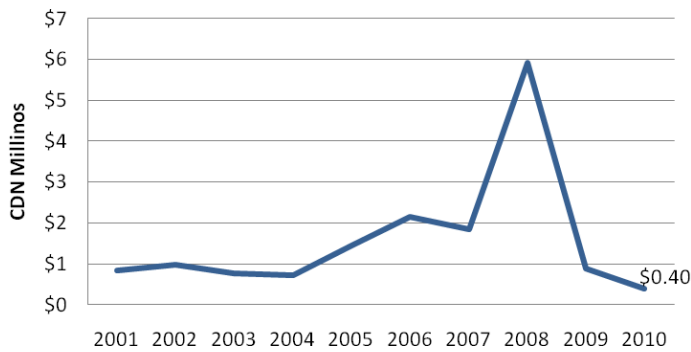
## KENYA OVERVIEW

- Kenya is located in East Africa and borders the Indian Ocean. The Kenyan highlands comprise one of Africa's most productive agricultural regions.
- Kenya gained independence in 1963, and operated under a single-party system until 1991 when pressure from domestic political forces and the international community culminated in reform.
- A coalition government was established in 2008 between President Mwai Kibaki (Party of National Unity—PNU) and Prime Minister Raila Odinga (Orange Democratic Movement—ODM), and will remain intact until the next election in 2012.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

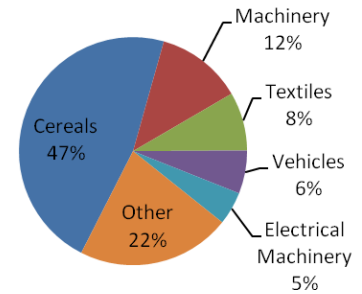
- Between 2005 and 2010, Alberta received 242 economic immigrants, 81 temporary foreign workers and 124 international students from Kenya.
- Between 2008 and 2011, the Alberta government contributed nearly \$85,500CDN in matching grants to Alberta organizations for humanitarian and social aid projects exclusively in Kenya, which focused on education, health, and nutrition.
- Canada has supported Kenya's development for over 40 years in governance, primary education, gender equality and HIV/AIDS prevention. These are consistent with the goals in the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Millennium Development Goals.
- In 2009/2010, CIDA provided approximately \$31.13 million in aid to Kenya; with a focus on basic education and governance.
- Kenya is an active member of the Commonwealth and chairs the ministerial mediation committee of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on Sudan with a view to ending that country's civil war. Kenya also plays a key role in efforts to re-establish peace in Somalia, which Canada actively supports.

Alberta's Exports to Kenya 2001-2010



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Kenya 2006-2010

(Total Average CDN\$2.24 million)



**TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

- Over the 2006-2010 period, Alberta's annual exports to Kenya averaged \$2.24 million CDN, and included cereals, machinery, textiles, and vehicles.
- During the same period, Alberta's direct imports from Kenya averaged over \$316,000 CDN per year and included such items as coffee, beer, semiprecious stones, and cashew nuts. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- Kenya's economic growth has picked up after a sharp decline in 2008 and 2009, rising to 5% in 2010. However, Kenya continues to face numerous constraints, including weak infrastructure and institutions, corruption and crime, and vulnerability to drought.
- Kenya's "Vision 2030" is the country's long-term policy framework for development for 2008 to 2030. The strategy aims to double the real GDP growth rate by 2012 and propel Kenya to the ranks of middle-income countries by 2030, by focusing on six key sectors: tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, trade, information technology, and financial services.

**ENERGY**

- Kenya does not have any proven oil or natural gas reserves. However, Kenya is encouraging foreign interest in oil exploration and found coal in two of its basins in 2008.
- In 2010, the Kenyan and Ugandan governments agree to partner to build a pipeline to move oil from Uganda, through Kenya, to the east African coast for export.

- Exploration drilling has been mostly left to international oil companies in recent years. The National Oil Corporation of Kenya (NOCK) is responsible for overseeing the fulfillment of petroleum exploration companies' obligations in accordance with contracts signed with the Kenyan government. NOCK also focuses on downstream activities like importing oil and the retail sale of gasoline.
- Kenya has one oil refinery with the crude processing capacity of 90,000 bbl/d. The country is currently seeking over \$1 billion USD to raise its capacity.
- Kenya is highly dependent on hydroelectricity plants, providing about 75% of all electrical output, but is moving toward wind and geothermal energy. In early 2011, Kenya also approved an offshore energy project to generate electricity via sea wave energy.
- Kenya launched Africa's first carbon exchange platform in 2010, enabling all countries to sell carbon credits.
- The country's National Power Development Plan calls for Kenya to increase its electricity generation capacity by 280 MV using geothermal generation over the next several years.
- Kenya's three geothermal electrical stations, Olkaria I, II, and III, together generate 164 MW of electricity.
- The Kenyan government estimates that the country has the potential to generate a further 7,000-10,000 MV of geothermal electricity in 14 locations.

**EDUCATION AND CULTURE**

- The University of Alberta (U of A) has participated in two CIDA-funded agro-forestry projects in Kenya, promoting the adoption and practice of land use systems compatible with improved natural resource management, and improving the qualifications of teaching staff and students of the institutions involved.

- The U of A also participated in a CIDA-funded project enhancing the capacity of the Home Economics Department at Kenyatta University to offer a strong Master's Program.
- Red Deer College is very active in Kenya through its annual Kenya Field Studies Program.
- According to the 2006 Canadian Census, Alberta is home to approximately 1,000 Albertans of Kenyan decent.

**VISITS**

- June 2009: The Honourable Robinson Githae, Minister for Nairobi Metropolitan Development, visited Alberta and met with key government and business leaders.
- March 2007: Her Excellency, Judith Mbulah Bahemuka, Kenyan High Commissioner to Canada, visited Edmonton.
- May 2005: The Honourable Ndile Kalembe, Kenyan Member of Parliament, and Mr. Davider Lamba, Executive Director of the Mazingira Institute of Nairobi, visited Edmonton as part of their cross-Canada tour to discuss transparency, accountability and good governance. The Mazingira Institute is a key institution in Kenya fighting to bring about constitutional and governance reforms. While in Edmonton, the two officials met with key Government of Alberta officials.

**DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION**

- The Kenyan High Commissioner in Ottawa is His Excellency Mr. Simon Nabukwesi.
- Canada's High Commissioner to the Republic of Kenya, in Nairobi, is Mr. David Collins.