

Australia-Alberta Relations



PROFILE

Capital: Canberra

Population: 23.1 Million (2013 est.)

Language: English

Government: Federal Parliamentary Democracy

Head of State: Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor General Quentin Bryce (since September 2008)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Tony Abbott (since September 18, 2013)

Currency: \$1 CAD = \$0.95 Australian Dollar [AUD] (November 2012)

GDP: \$1.542 trillion (USD, 2012 est.)

GDP (PPP): \$961.0 billion (USD, 2012 est.)

GDP growth rate: 3.6% (2012 est.)

Inflation: 1.8% (2012 est.)

Key Industry Sectors: petroleum, natural gas, textiles, apparel, footwear, mining, cement, chemical fertilizers, plywood, rubber, food and tourism.

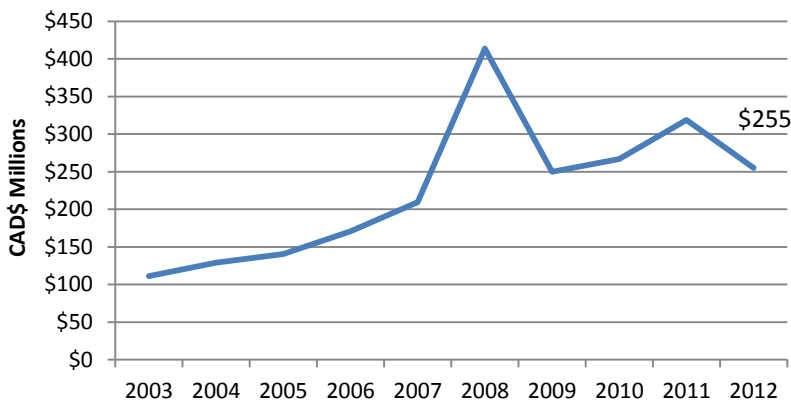
DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2012, Australia ranked 2nd on the UN's Human Development Index, ahead of Canada (11th).
- Australia and Canada are both members of the Commonwealth, United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Pacific Islands Forum.
- Both Canada and Australia are negotiating entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a regional trade agreement that also includes Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam.
- There are more than 180 formal agreements between Australian and Canadian universities, almost 300 members of the Association for Canadian Studies in Australia and New Zealand and more than 2000 Australian and Canadian students enrolled in universities in each country.

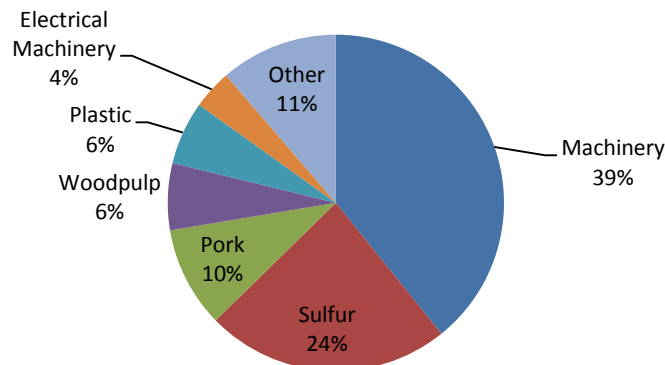
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Australia and Canada have many similarities such as a federal system with strong provinces and states; significant Aboriginal communities; large, sparsely populated land masses; and significant natural resources endowments.
- Australia and Alberta have similar economies, developed through the export of resource commodities and related products and services. As a result, they are major competitors in the agri-food, coal, and education and training sectors, particularly in Asia.
- Approximately 3,000 Albertans are of Australian descent.
- Through its leadership in the Cairns Group of 18 agricultural exporting countries, Australia advocates increased liberalization of world agricultural trade. Alberta is a strong supporter of this initiative.

Alberta Merchandise Exports to Australia 2003-2012



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Australia, 2008-2012 (Average=\$301 Million)



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Between 2008 and 2012 Alberta's exports to Australia averaged \$301 million CAD. Top exports include Machinery; Sulfur; Pork; Woodpulp; and Plastics.
- Between 2008 and 2012, Alberta's direct imports from Australia averaged \$102 million per year. Major imports included beverages (primarily wine and spirits), machinery and precision instruments. Please note, this figure does not include goods that have been transhipped.
- Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec signed a MOU with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in 2012. This agreement provides investor protections to businesses operating in each other's jurisdictions.
- Australian companies have been investing heavily into Alberta's coal sector. Xstrata, Coalspore, and Riversdale Resources Ltd., have recently acquired coal assets in Alberta.

ENERGY

- Australia's total proven natural gas reserves are the 10th largest in the world at 3.8 trillion cubic meters.
- A number of Alberta companies are active or have an interest in exploration, production, drilling and related services in Australia's energy sector.
- Australia has a number of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) projects currently in varying stages of development. The Gorgon Gas Project is expected to

be Australia's fourth largest LNG export project once developed. Other projects such as Wheatstone, Greater Sunrise, and the North West Shelf are also planned.

- Calgary-based ATCO Power has begun construction on the Karratha Power Station located in Pilbara, Western Australia. With an initial capacity of 86 megawatts (MW), the station is set up to be the most energy efficient in the region.
- Nexen Inc., is now the sole owner and operator of Australia's Buffalo offshore oilfield.
- Calgary-based Bengal Energy Ltd., has 2 exploration blocks in the Timor Sea; one with 100% working interest, and another with 10% working interest in partnership with OMV Australia.

AGRICULTURE

- Alberta exported \$32 million CDN worth of agri-food products to Australia in 2012. The single largest export was pork.
- Australia is a large agricultural producer. Australia has significant beef and pork exports throughout Asia. Alberta and Australia may have some common agricultural interests or barriers in the region.
- Increased production of canola in Australia has created opportunities in Alberta's agricultural machinery exports and investment.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Key sectors for Alberta businesses in Australia include energy extraction technology, services, environmental

goods and services, agricultural goods and agricultural biotechnology, food processing and packaging equipment.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Alberta has active teacher exchange programs with the Australian states of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory.
- The University of Alberta and the University of Calgary have had agreements with many Australian universities, including staff and student exchanges and research collaboration.
- Grant MacEwan University signed a MOU with AustraLearn, an agency that provides study abroad opportunities for Alberta Students in Australia.

RECENT VISITS

- 2008: Australia's Public Service Commissioner, Ms. Lynelle Briggs, met with Alberta's Agency Governance Secretariat as part of an Alberta visit to attend meetings of the Centres of Governance.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Her Excellency Ms. Louise Hand is the Australian High Commissioner to Canada in Ottawa.
- Mr. Paul Nelson is Australia's Honorary Consul in Calgary, with responsibilities for Alberta.
- Ms. Portia Maier is the Australian Consul General and Senior Trade Commissioner.
- Mr. Michael Small is the High Commissioner of Canada in Canberra.



For more information, contact:

Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations
Phone: 780-427-6543 Fax: 780-427-0699
albertacanada.com
international.alberta.ca