

# Australia-Alberta Relations



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Canberra

**Population:** 24.02 Million (2015)

**Language:** English

**Government:** Federal Parliamentary Democracy

**Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove (since 2014)

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (since September 2015)

**Currency:** 1 CAN\$ = 1.04 Australian \$ (AUD) (2015 average)

**GDP:** CAD\$1565 billion (2015)

**GDP (PPP):** USD\$1.1 billion (2014 est.)

**GDP per head (PPP):** USD\$ 44, 989 (2014 est.)

**GDP growth rate:** 2. 48% (2015)

**Inflation:** 1.53% (2015)

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

*Sources: Bank of Canada, Economy Watch, EIU, Global Affairs Canada*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2013, Australia ranked second on the UN's Human Development Index, ahead of Canada (eleventh).
- 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 were signatories of 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.
- On August 18, 2014, Alberta's Ministry of Human Services signed a Signs of Safety MOU with the Government of Western Australia to draw on its Signs of Safety model so that it can be implemented across Alberta. The Signs of Safety focuses on tools to help workers determine a family's strengths and resources to reduce the risk to children and to create a safer healthier environment.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Australia and Canada have many similarities such as a federal system with strong provinces and states; significant indigenous communities; large, sparsely populated land masses; and significant natural resource endowments.
- Australia and Alberta have similar economies that are mainly developed through the export of resource commodities and related products and

services. As a result, they are major competitors in the agri-food and education and training sectors, particularly in Asia.

- 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.
- Between 2012 and 2016, 1,258 citizens of Australia became Permanent Residents of Canada, with Alberta as their intended destination. Approximately 53% were economic immigrants, including principal applicants, spouses, and dependents.

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

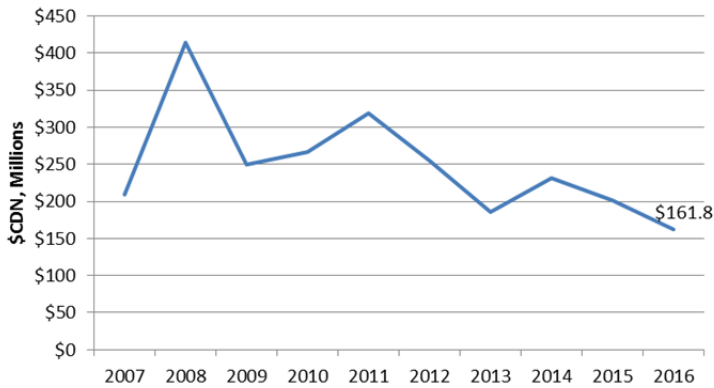
- Between 2012 and 2016 Alberta's exports to Australia averaged CAD\$207 million. Top exports were machinery, sulfur, pork and woodpulp.
- Between 2012 and 2016 Alberta's direct imports from Australia averaged CAD\$114 million per year. Major imports included beverages (primarily wine), machinery and precision instruments.

- 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.

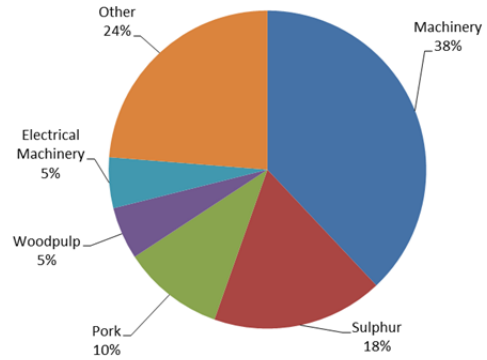
## TOURISM

- In 2014, Alberta received 114,000 overnight visitors from Australia accounting for \$189 million in tourism expenditures.

## Alberta's Exports to Australia (2007 - 2016)



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Australia 2012-2016 (Total Average \$207.1 Million)



### ENERGY

- Australian companies have been investing heavily into Alberta's coal sector. Xstrata, Coalspire, and Riversdale Resources Ltd., have recently acquired coal assets in Alberta.
- Australia's total proven natural gas reserves are the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the world at 3.8 trillion cubic meters.
- 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.
- A number of Alberta companies are active or have an interest in exploration, production, drilling and related services in Australia's energy sector.
- TransAlta has been active in Western Australia for nearly two decades and currently has six power plants in the region totaling 425 megawatts of capacity.
- In July 2014, TransAlta announced a \$580-million plan to build, own and operate a new gas-fired power plant in Western Australia. The 150-megawatt power station will provide electricity to state-owned utility Horizon Power and to a subsidiary of Fortescue Metals Group, a major iron ore producer in the area.
- 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%, in partnership with OMV Australia.

### AGRICULTURE

- Alberta exported \$15.9 million worth of agri-food products to Australia in 2016. Alberta's top agri-food export to Australia was pork (\$13.5 million). Alberta accounting for 20% of Canada's total pork exports to Australia.
- 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.

### FORESTRY

- Australia is Alberta's eighth largest forest products export market, valued at \$13 million in 2016 and led by chemical wood pulp exports.

### EDUCATION

- Advanced Education supports several programs enabling post-secondary institutions to develop study and research collaboration involving Australia including Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning (CAGFIL) and MITACS Globalink. CAGFIL supports Alberta students to study in Australia, while Globalink provides scholarships to allow Australian undergraduate students to participate in an elite research internship program in Canada.
- Between 2012 and 2016, 293 citizens of Australia had international study permits come into effect for Alberta.

- 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 (U of C) have had agreements with many Australian universities, including staff and student exchanges and research collaboration.

- In 2014, U of C's Werklund School of Education, Queensland University of Technology's Faculty of Education and Beijing Normal University's Faculty of Education signed an agreement to offer a Joint Doctoral Workshop for the next five years. U of C's Faculty of Environmental Design offers unique opportunities for students to work with Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology sessionals and Australian practitioners.

- Grant MacEwan University signed a MOU with AustraLearn, an agency that provides study abroad opportunities for Alberta Students in Australia.

- Mount Royal University has partnerships with Charles Darwin University (2006), Griffith University (2006), the University of Canberra (2009) and James Cook University (2015). Students are actively exchanged in both directions on an annual basis.

### COMMUNITY

- Approximately 6,770 Albertans are of Australian descent.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- His Excellency, Tony Negus is the Australian High Commissioner to Canada.
- Ms. Portia Maier is the Australian Consul General and Senior Trade Advisor in Toronto.
- Mr. Kevin Lamb is Honorary Consul at Australia Consulate in Vancouver.
- His Excellency Paul Maddison is the High Commissioner of Canada in Australia.

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