

Australia - 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: Canberra

Population: 22.5 Million (2011)

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 Julia Eileen Gillard (since June 24, 2010)

Currency: \$1 CDN = \$0.96 Australian Dollar [AUD] (2012)

GDP: \$1.486 Trillion (2011)

GDP (PPP): \$923.4 USD billion (2011)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): \$40,977 US (2011)

GDP Growth Rate: 1.7% (2007-2011 average)

Inflation: 2.9% (2007-2011 average)

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

Sources:

Bank of Canada, Economist Intelligence Unit

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2011, Australia ranked 2nd on the UN's Human Development Index, before Canada (46th).
- 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. At the UN there is frequent consultation among the CANZ group (Canada-Australia-New Zealand).
- 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

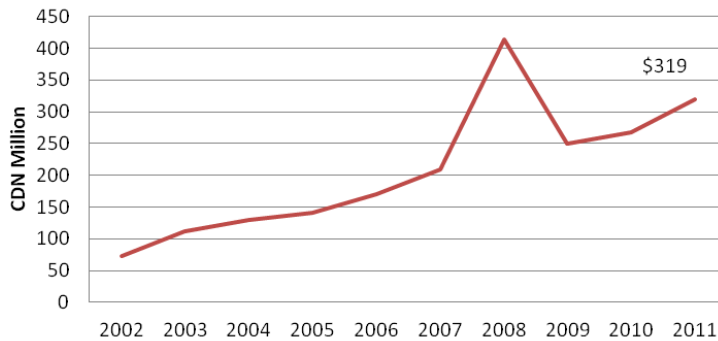
- A number of Canadian public servants have been placed in Australian ministries on exchange. Areas of assignment include Foreign Affairs and Trade, Environment, Employment and Workplace Adjustment, the Australian Defence Forces and the Australian Security Intelligence Organization. The arrangements have been reciprocated with Australians working in Canadian federal departments on exchange as well.

- Australia and Canada have many similarities such as a federal system with strong provinces and states; significant Aboriginal communities, and large, sparsely populated land masses.
- 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.

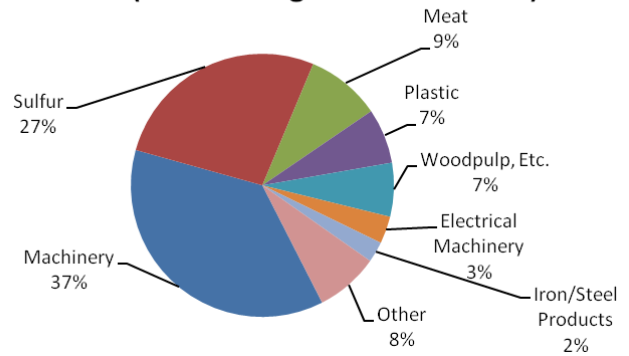
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Between 2007 and 2011 Alberta's exports to Australia totaled \$291.8 million CDN. Primary exports included Machinery; Sulfur; Meat; and Woodpulp.
- Between 2007 and 2011, Alberta's direct imports from Australia averaged \$103 million per year. Major imports included wine and other spirits, machinery and medical instruments. Please note, this figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

Alberta Merchandise Exports to Australia (2002-2011)



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Australia 2007-2011 (Total Average = 291.8 Million)



- Alberta exported \$37 million CDN worth of agri-food products to Australia in 2011. The single largest export was pork.

- Increased production of canola in Australia has created opportunities in Alberta's agricultural machinery exports and investment.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Her Excellency Ms. Louise Hand is the Australian High Commissioner to Canada in Ottawa.

ENERGY

- A number of Alberta companies are active or have an interest in exploration, production, drilling and related services in Australia's energy sector.
- 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. Once construction is complete in April 2010, the station, fully-owned and operated by ATCO, will supply electricity to residential and business consumers.
- Since 2000, Calgary-based energy company Nexen has been involved in Australia's Buffalo offshore oilfield and is now the sole owner and operator.
- 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.
- Bengal Energy Ltd. Also has 35% working interest in another exploration block in the Copper Basin with Santos Ltd., the largest onshore operator in Australia.

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 recently signed an MOU with AustraLearn, an agency that provides study abroad opportunities in Australia.

- Mr. Michael Small is the High Commissioner of Canada in Canberra.

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.
- 2006: Australia's Minister of Agriculture, Peter McGaukran, visited Alberta.
- 2005: Victoria's Minister of Employee and Youth Affairs, Ms. Jacinta Allan, visited Alberta.
- 2005: Australia's Federal Minister of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs, Ms. Amanda Vanstone, visited Alberta.
- 2005: Alberta's Minister of Health and Wellness traveled to Adelaide and Sydney to speak at the Australian College of Health Service Executives National Congress.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Key sectors for Alberta businesses in Australia include telecommunications equipment, mineral fuels and chemicals, environmental goods and services, agricultural goods and agricultural biotechnology, food processing and packaging equipment.



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