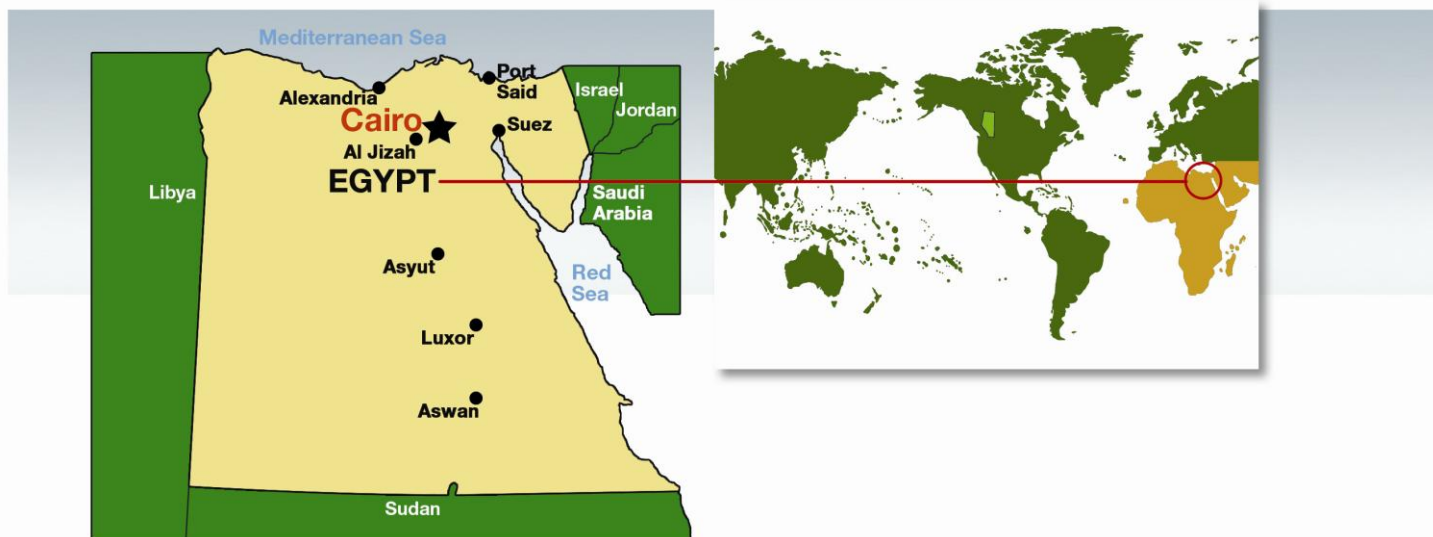


# Egypt – Alberta Relations

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:** Cairo

**Population:** 84.6 million (2010 est.)

**Language:** Arabic; English and French widely spoken

**Government:** Parliamentary Republic

**Head of State:** Vacant (Following the resignation of President Mohamed Hosni MUBARAK in February 2011, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, headed by Defense Minister Muhammad Hussein TANTAWI, assumed control of the government)

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Essam Abdel Aziz SHARAF (since March 4, 2011)

**Currency:** \$1 CDN = 5.42 Pounds (EGP) (2010)

**GDP:** US \$218.5 billion (2010 est.)

**GDP (PPP):** US \$497.8 billion (2010 est.)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US \$5,890 (2010 est.)

**GDP growth rate:** 5.1% (2010)

**Inflation:** 11.1% (2010 est.)

**Unemployment:** 9.0% (2010 est.)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Textiles, food processing, tourism, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, hydrocarbons, construction, cement, metals and light manufactures.

## EGYPT OVERVIEW

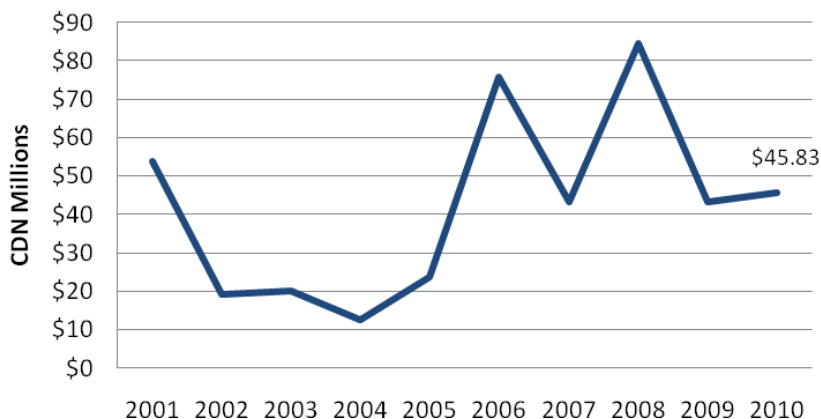
- Egypt is located between the Middle East and Africa making it an historical meeting point for different civilizations.
- Egypt controls the Suez Canal, a sea link that links the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.
- Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world.
- Since the late 1970s, under President Anwar Sadat and his successor Hosni Mubarak, Egypt has been a staunch American ally.
- Egypt was the first Arab nation to sign a peace accord with Israel (1978).
- Egypt joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in mid-1995 and has since become one of the most open and free markets in Africa and the Middle East.
- The Egyptian economy is fairly diversified compared with other countries in the region, though still heavily reliant for foreign exchange on oil and gas and on tourism.
- Egypt has strategic importance because of its operation of the Suez Canal and Sumed (Suez-Mediterranean) Pipeline, two routes for export of Persian Gulf oil.

- In February 2011, protests ousted President Hosni Mubarak, putting Egypt at a crossroads. The following month, Egyptians approved a package of constitutional reforms aimed at paving the way for new elections.

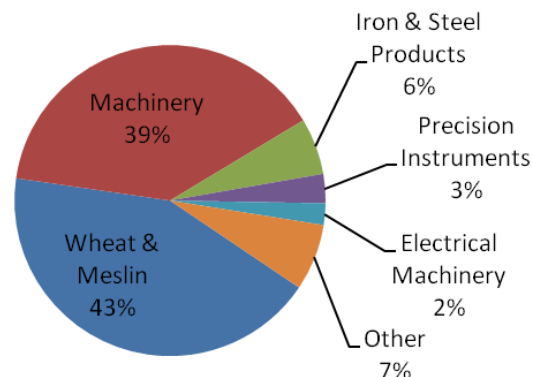
## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Canada and Egypt established diplomatic ties in 1954 and enjoy positive relations.
- Canada first gained prominence in Egypt with its intervention in the 1956 Suez Crisis.
- Canada views Egypt as a key Arab partner and ally in the search for a resolution to the Middle East conflict.
- A Memorandum of Understanding to enhance environmental cooperation was signed in April 2000 by Industry Canada and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency.
- Alberta companies are currently involved in Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)-funded joint ventures in waste recycling, in sales of drilling equipment and services, and in the production of chemicals.
- Since 2006, Egypt has received funding from the Government of Alberta to support a project aimed at empowering students and teachers.

## Alberta's Exports to Egypt 2001-2010



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Egypt 2006-2010 (Total Average CDN\$58.56 Million)



### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Between 2006 and 2010, Alberta's annual exports to Egypt averaged \$58.56 million, including wheat and meslin, machinery, iron and steel products, and precision instruments.
- From 2006 to 2010, Alberta's annual direct imports from Egypt averaged approximately \$1.2 million, consisting mainly of carpets and machinery. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

### ENERGY

- Egypt has 4.4 billion barrels of proven crude oil reserves (2010) and produces 660,000 barrels per day (bbl/d). Comparatively, Alberta has 170.8 billion bbl of proven oil reserves and produces 2.1 million bbl/d in (2010).
- Egypt is a net importer of oil, importing a net amount of 37,600 bbl/d in 2009. This is generally attributed to refinery capacity, rather than production.
- Egypt is the largest producer of refined products on the African continent with 10 refineries having a processing capacity of 975,000 bbl/d. Egyptian oil consumption in 2010 was 710,000 bbl/d.
- Egyptian oil production primarily comes from the Gulf of Suez, Niger Delta, Western Desert, Eastern Desert and Mediterranean Sea.
- Egypt has 77 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of proven gas reserves (January 2011 est.), which makes the country the third-largest source of natural gas in Africa.
- In May 2010, the U.S. Geological Survey estimated that 223 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas could be recovered in the Nile Delta Basin using currently available technology and industry best practices.
- In 2009, 2.3 Tcf of natural gas was produced in Egypt. The country consumed 1.6 Tcf in that time. Egypt imported 646.9 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas that same year.

- Egypt exports natural gas to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria via the Arab Gas Pipeline. Further additions are planned in the future.
- In January 2008, the World Bank approved loans for the Natural Gas Connections Project as the Egyptian government wants consumers to switch from liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) to natural gas to lower costs and pollution.
- Calgary-based TransGlobe Energy Corporation, an oil and gas exploration and production company, major working interests in Egypt, operating in West Gharib, East Ghazalat and Nuqra.
- Rally Energy, based in Calgary, holds a 100% interest in the Issaran Heavy Oilfield in the Egyptian Eastern Desert, located near the Gulf of Suez.

### AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- Although less than 4% of Egypt's total land area is arable (consisting primarily of the intensively farmed Nile Valley), agriculture remains the single most important sector in Egypt, accounting for 13.5% of GDP and 32% of employment in 2010. With Egypt's wheat yields already among the world's highest, there will be little potential to raise its agricultural productivity.
- Alberta's top agri-food exports include wheat (\$25 Million, or 86% of the total), beef (7%) and dairy products.
- Alberta considers Egypt a strong potential customer of beef and canola.

### EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Agri-food:** Since the late 1980s, Egypt has seen a drop in food self-sufficiency and now imports over 65% of its food supply. This is likely to persist as Egypt's population increases. With its population projected to reach 101 million by 2025, further opportunities exist in the agri-food sector.
- Agricultural Equipment:** Demand for sophisticated agricultural equipment has increased. Egypt imports 80-85% of its machinery.

- Biotechnology:** The Egyptian biotechnology laboratory equipment market is expected to grow at an annual rate of 20%.
- Construction/Engineering Equipment and Services:** A recent building boom made the construction industry one of the most dynamic sectors in Egypt, creating a strong demand for engineering services.
- Mining Equipment:** Recent discoveries have led to an increase in demand for mining equipment.
- Environment:** Management of scarce natural resources is a priority for the Egyptian government, which indicated an increased need for garbage incinerators, water treatment and purification systems, and sewage treatment facilities.

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- The University of Calgary has a partnership with the Ain Shams University (engineering program) and the Information Technology Institute (social sciences programs).
- NAIT and the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum built a petroleum training institute in Egypt. NAIT also provides customized training for Egypt Gas.

### COMMUNITY

- There are approximately 3,335 Albertans of Egyptian descent and 37,850 of Arab origins.
- Between 2006 and 2010, 1,084 immigrants from Egypt chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 59% were economic immigrants.
- During the same time period, 229 foreign workers from Egypt were issued a permit to work in Alberta.
- CKER-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, including Arabic.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Egypt's Ambassador in Ottawa is His Excellency Wael Ahmed Kamal ABOUL MAGD.
- Canada's Ambassador in Egypt, located in Cairo, is David Drake.

**For more information, contact:**  
 Alberta Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations  
 Tel: 780-427-6543 Fax: 780-427-0699  
[www.albertacanada.com](http://www.albertacanada.com)

