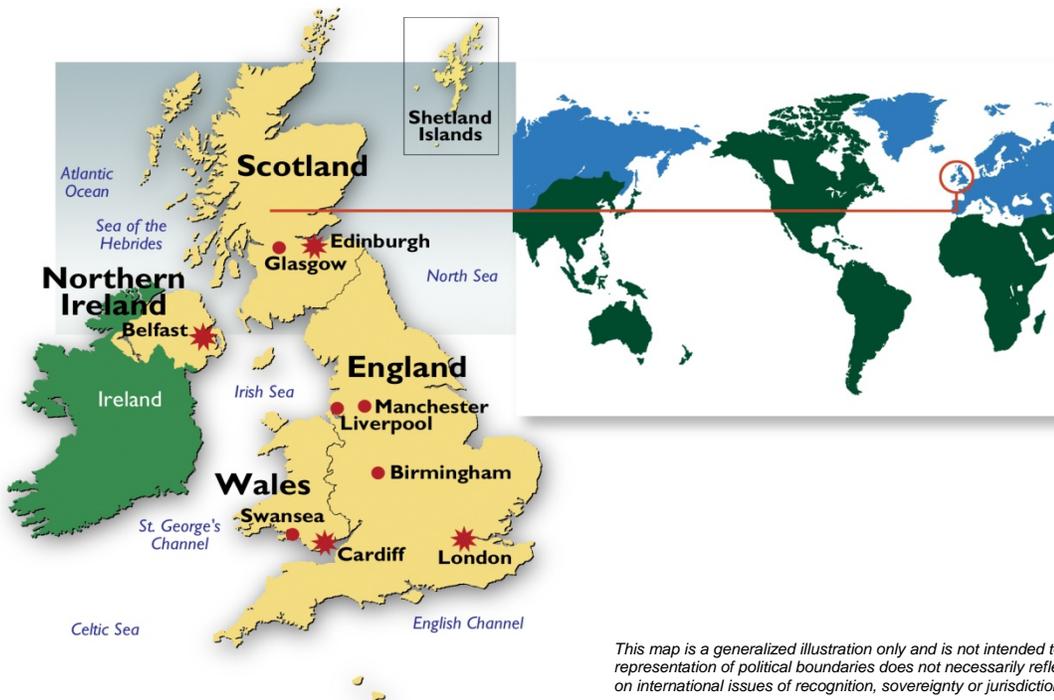


# United Kingdom – Alberta Relations



*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:** London

**Population:** 62.7 million (2011 est.)

**Language:** English

**Government:** Parliamentary Monarchy

**Head of State:** Queen Elizabeth II

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister David Cameron (elected in May 2010)

**Currency:** Pound (£), CAD\$1 = £0.62, £1 = CAD\$1.61 (May 2012)

**GDP:** US\$2.4 trillion (2011)

**GDP (PPP):** US\$2.3 trillion (2011 est.)

**GDP per Capita (PPP):** US\$36,825 (2011 est.)

**GDP growth rate:** 0.1% (2007-2011 avg.)

**Inflation:** 3.2% (2007-2011 avg.)

**Unemployment:** 8.1% (2011)

**Key Economic Sectors:** financial and business services (accounts for over 70% of UK's GDP), machine tools, electric power equipment, automation equipment, railroad equipment, shipbuilding, aircraft, motor vehicles and parts, electronics and communications equipment, metals, chemicals (particularly pharmaceuticals), coal, petroleum, pulp and paper products, food processing, textiles, clothing, other consumer goods

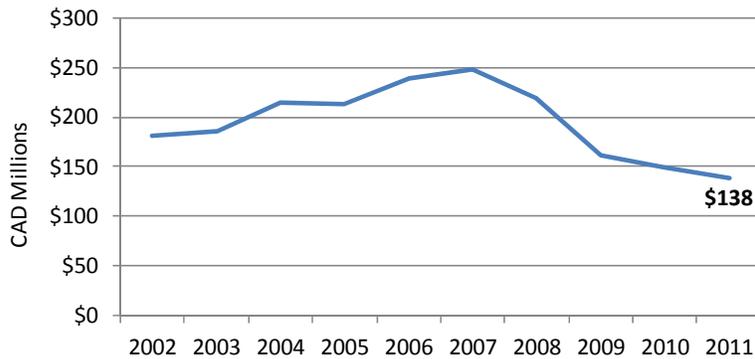
## DID YOU KNOW?

- Recent devolution has brought a new parliament to Scotland and a National Assembly to Wales.
- In May 2007, power was returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly after a five year suspension.
- Britain is a member of the European Union (EU) but has chosen to remain outside the Euro and Schengen zones.
- London is Europe's leader in the financial sector. In 2010, the European Cities Monitor again ranked London the 1<sup>st</sup> European city to locate a business, based on international and internal transport links; easy access to markets; availability of quality staff; quality of telecommunications and languages spoken.
- The last General Election, held in May 2010, resulted in the formation of a coalition government between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, the first coalition government since 1945.
- London hosted the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

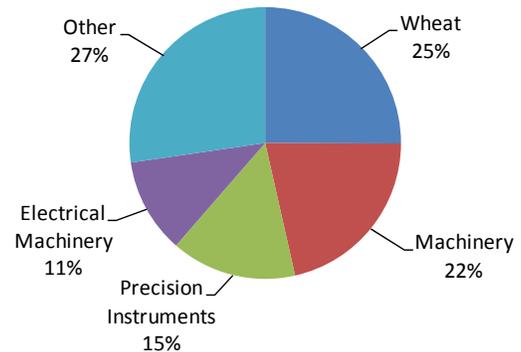
- Traditionally, relations with Britain have been very close, with many Albertans serving in Britain during both the First and Second World Wars, and many more Britons making Alberta their new home throughout the last century.
- Alberta's oldest international office opened in London in 1913, with a focus on immigration, trade and investment.
- Alberta's relations with Britain ebbed somewhat during the 1990s as the British closed their Consulate General in Edmonton and Alberta closed its office in London. During this period Britain focused increasingly on Europe, and Alberta intensified ties with the U.S. and Asia.
- Reinvigoration of economic relations between the UK and Alberta started in the late 1990s when the UK opened a trade office in Calgary and Alberta reopened its international office in London in November 2003.
- In recognition of the potential benefits to both jurisdictions in strengthening Alberta-UK relations, in September 2012, the UK official opened a Consulate-General in Calgary.

**Alberta's Merchandise Exports to the UK 2002-2011**



**Alberta's Merchandise to the UK 2007-2011**

**Total Average CAD\$183 Million**



**TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

- The UK serves as a preferred entry point for many Alberta companies seeking market access to the EU, due to the common language and similar business and legal environments. Britain's prominent role in the EU and its ability to influence EU standards and practices makes it an important ally for Alberta.
- Alberta's exports to the UK from 2007 to 2011 averaged CAD\$183 million per year, consisting mainly of wheat, machinery and precision instruments.
- During the same period, Alberta's direct imports from the UK averaged CAD\$410 million per year. Top imports included machinery, precision instruments and organic chemicals. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- In 2011, the UK was Canada's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest source of foreign direct investment reaching CAD\$38.9 billion.
- The UK ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> for Canada's direct investment abroad with CAD\$83.3 billion in 2011.
- Alberta companies in the Advanced Industries sectors (e.g. ICT, Aerospace, Defence, Health) are growing players in the UK market.
- In 2010, Alberta received approximately 162,000 tourists from the UK, who brought in revenues of approximately CAD\$165 million.

**ENERGY**

- The UK is the largest oil producer in the EU, with total oil production of 1.16 million barrels per day (bbl/d) (2011). The UK has 2.8 billion barrels (2011) of proven oil reserves vs. Alberta's 170.5 billion barrels.
- The majority of the country's oil reserves are located in the North Sea in the UK Continental Shelf and the Shetland Islands. The UK also has the largest onshore oil field in Europe, the Wytch Farm.
- The UK is the second-largest producer of natural gas in the EU with 9.04 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of proven natural gas reserves (2011), a 12% decline from the previous year.

- Despite the UK's large coal, natural gas and oil resources (particularly in the North Sea), oil and natural gas reserves continue to decline, since peaking in 1999, mostly due to a lack of new reserves to replace existing mature fields.
- The country became a net importer of energy in 2005, and its net oil imports amounted to 444,330 bbl/d in 2011.
- The UK government is attempting to decrease its dependence on energy imports and promote energy security. It is focusing on enhanced recovery from maturing oil and gas fields and decreasing the use of fossil fuels through heavy investment into renewable energy.
- The country has a large network of pipelines that allow the transport of oil from the North Sea via Scotland and northern England.
- London-based BP has invested in three Alberta oil sands leases. It has partnered with Calgary-based Husky Energy for the Sunrise Energy Project. It is expected to start production in 2014, and produce 60,000 bbl/d through steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD).
- Calgary-based Talisman Energy has two core operating areas in the UK with production in the area being about 71,500 barrels of oil equivalent (boe) per day, or 17% of the company's worldwide production in 2011. In July 2012, Talisman announced plans to sell a 49% interest in its UK division to Chinese firm Sinopec Corporation.
- Many Alberta-based drilling and service companies operate in the UK. Calgary's Pure Technologies Ltd. has licensed its Smart Ball technology in the UK, which detects leaks in energy pipelines.

**EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Agri-Food:** Alberta's agri-food exports to the UK totaled \$47 million in 2011, comprised predominantly of wheat (88%), beef and pet food. The UK is a significant net importer of food, and the trade gap over exports is widening. Innovation and opportunities for growth are being seen in premium products. The greatest current growth is in "free

from" foods, especially gluten free and dairy free. Beef must be hormone free, and all products must be GMO free. Canada is at a significant tariff disadvantage to EU countries. However, current free trade agreement negotiations hope to level this.

- **Information and Communications Technology:** The UK ICT market was estimated at \$144 billion in 2009, making it the largest ICT market in Western Europe. The UK government has announced significant investments into broadband, calling for broadband access for every home by 2012. This will provide increased opportunities for offerings in internet access and services. Enterprise software is also a growth segment as well as mobile communications, where growth is driven by rising demand for multimedia and value-added content.
- **Aerospace:** The UK is Europe's biggest single market for military and civil aerospace and defence products and services. The outlook is good despite a tough 2010 with declines in defence but growth anticipated on the civil side.
- Since 2006 the Alberta government along with an estimated dozen organizations participates in the biennial Farnborough International Air Show. For the 2012 show, 13 Alberta organizations will be featured and 8 companies are anticipated to have representatives on site.
- **Health Technologies and Medical Devices:** Opportunities exist for Alberta firms offering innovative new products, specialty products and cost-effective cutting-edge technologies.
- **Infrastructure/Building Products & Technologies:** With Alberta's Inventory of major projects touting an estimated \$200 billion of infrastructure spending, Alberta is attracting interest from UK firms such as Laing O'Rourke and Haley Sharpe Design, members of two design-build teams who bid on the Royal Alberta Museum Request for Proposal; and Foster + Partners who partnered with Zeidler Partnership Architects to design The Bow skyscraper in Calgary.

- **Oil and gas Equipment:** The UK's oil and gas production capacity offers promising opportunities for Alberta equipment and services suppliers.
- **Environmental Technology:** There are opportunities for companies with environmental expertise such as soil remediation technologies.

## EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- The Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE) along with representatives from the Governments of British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario led a joint education mission which included post-secondary institutions from each jurisdiction to England and Scotland in September 2011.
- EAE and representatives from the University of Alberta (U of A) and Mount Royal University (MRU) participated in a British Council – China Guanghua Science and Technology Nurse Fund Joint Symposium in Manchester in February 2012 on the topic of China Nursing Education and Standards.
- There are a number of agreements between post-secondary institutions in Alberta and the UK to facilitate student and faculty exchanges, including the following:
  - The University of Leeds has agreements with the four Alberta universities for student exchanges.
  - The University of Edinburgh has agreements with the U of A, the University of Calgary (U of C) and Athabasca University.
  - The U of A has agreements with numerous other British institutions, such as Queen's University Belfast, Keele University, University of Sheffield, University of Dundee, University of Lancaster, Swansea University, University of London Royal Holloway, and University of Warwick Medical School.
  - The U of C also has agreements with many British institutions, including University of Salford, University of Manchester, University of Strathclyde, Oxford Brookes University, University of London and Lancaster University.
  - Grant MacEwan University (GMU) has a letter of understanding with the Liverpool Institute of the Performing Arts (LIPA—a school started by Paul McCartney) that allows GMU music students to enter second year of a three-year Bachelor of Music degree program. Edmonton is one of two stops in Canada on LIPA's audition tour.

- GMU also has an MOU with the University for the Creative Art, which is located on five campuses close to London.

## MILITARY

- BATUS (British Army Training Unit Suffield) is a training site just north of Medicine Hat for the British Army. Personnel range from 200 to over 8,000 personnel during training periods, receiving 1,500 soldiers per month from May to October. Battle Group and Brigade sized units train to reach their Operational Readiness states.
- NFTC (NATO Flying Training College) is based at Cold Lake where pilots of all NATO member countries are eligible to train.

## COMMUNITY AND IMMIGRATION

- Over 1.68 million Albertans claim English, Welsh or Scottish ancestry. The English are the largest ethnic group in the province and the Scots are the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest.
- Between 2007 and 2011, 8,454 immigrants from the UK chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 83 per cent were economic immigrants.
- The UK continues to be a top source country of workers destined to Alberta. From 2007 to 2011, 10,540 foreign workers from the UK were issued a permit to work in Alberta.
- International labour attraction initiatives continue to take place in key areas where critical shortages cannot be filled by Albertans or Canadians. Research, analysis and evaluation will continue on identified countries as potential labour sources.
- Alberta employers are actively recruiting workers from the UK, in part because of lower barriers, including language, credential recognition and licensing requirements, similar occupational health and safety standards, and education systems.
- The Government of Alberta recently completed a study assessing the training and certification systems of select trade occupations in the UK in comparison to Alberta's system. The study also provided a comparison of occupational definitions to assist Alberta employers in recruiting trades people from the UK.
- A similar study on labour supply and foreign qualifications recognition was completed for engineering occupations in the UK, Ireland, France, Germany and Netherlands.

## ROYAL VISITS

- Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited Alberta as part of their first visit royal tour to Canada as a married couple in July 2011.
- Her Majesty The Queen has visited Alberta four times (21 times in Canada) since her coronation in 1953:
  - 1973: Calgary Stampede
  - 1978: Commonwealth Games in Edmonton
  - 1990: Queen Elizabeth II Cup show jumping championship at Spruce Meadows
  - 2005: Alberta's Centennial celebrations.

## RECENT VISITS

- September 2012: The Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations (IIR) led a mission to Aberdeen, Scotland to attend the World Heavy Oil Congress.
- July-August 2012: The Premier of Alberta led a mission to the London Olympics to increase investment and open new markets and opportunities for the province's energy, tourism and cultural industries.
- April 2012: UK Parliamentarians visited Edmonton and Fort McMurray.
- December 2011: The Minister of IIR led a mission to London for energy and business-focused meetings.
- March 2011: His Excellency Dr. Andrew Pocock, British High Commissioner visited Edmonton to learn more about Alberta's oil sands and environmental policies.
- January-February 2011: Alberta's Minister of Energy was in the UK to advocate for Alberta's oil and gas industry and to emphasize Alberta's commitment to sustainable and responsible energy development.

## DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Ms. Corin Robertson is the UK's Acting High Commissioner to Canada since November 2012.
- Mr. Gordon Campbell is the Canadian High Commissioner to the UK.
- Mr. Tony Kay is the British Consul General in Calgary.
- The Alberta-UK Office in London is led by Managing-Director Jeffrey Sundquist.



For more information, contact:  
 Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations  
 Phone: 780-427-6543 Fax: 780-427-0699  
[albertacanada.com](http://albertacanada.com)  
[international.alberta.ca](http://international.alberta.ca)