

# Singapore – 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:** Singapore

**Population:** 5.6 million (2017)

**Languages:** English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil

**Government:** Republic, Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy

**Head of State:** President Halimah Yacob (since September 14, 2017).

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, People's Action Party (PAP) (since August 12, 2004).

**Currency:** CAD \$1 = 1.06 Singapore Dollar (2017 average)

**GDP:** US \$311.3 billion (2017 est.)

**GDP (PPP):** US \$508.4 billion (2017 est.)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US\$ 55,252 (2017 est)

**GDP Growth Rate:** 3.6% (2017)

**Inflation:** 0.6% (2017)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Electronics, chemicals, financial services, oil drilling equipment, petroleum refining, rubber processing and rubber products, processed food and beverages, ship repair, offshore platform construction, and life sciences.

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Singapore was formerly a British colony (1819-1963) and then separated from the Malaysian Federation in 1965.
- Canada House opened in Singapore in 1998. This is a condominium of Canadian companies, a business support center and a Canadian information technology demonstration center.
- In 1998, Singapore and Canada signed an Agreement on Cooperation in Information and Computer Technology, which focuses on improving broadband connectivity and linkages.
- Singapore has the most advanced telecommunications infrastructure in South East Asia.
- Singapore is a city-state with virtually no natural resources; therefore, it depends heavily on external trade for much of its national income.
- Singapore was one of the five founding members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) when it was established in 1967.
- Singapore has topped the World Bank's global ranking on the ease of doing business since the ranking was developed in 2006.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta's Singapore office opened in January 2014 and serves as a regional hub to access Singapore and other priority markets in Southeast Asia and Oceania.
- A number of research agreements are in progress between organizations in Alberta and Singapore, including TRILabs, Alberta Innovates, and the Centre for Wireless Communication and the Singapore Institute of Materials Research

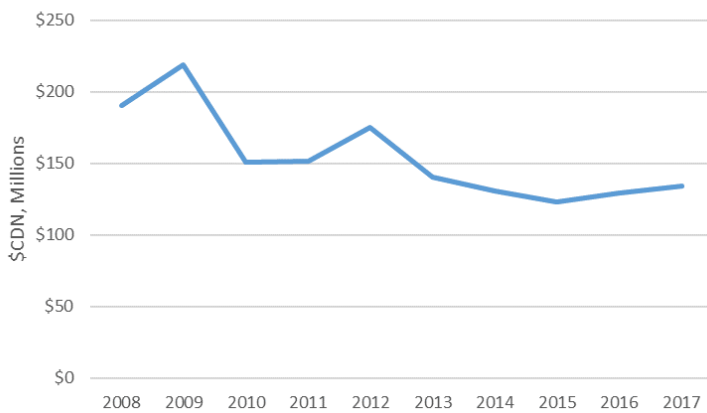
Engineering.

- Between 2013 and 2017, 141 citizens of Singapore became Permanent Residents of Canada, with Alberta as their intended destination. Approximately 69% were economic immigrants, including principal applicants, spouses, and dependents.

## EDUCATION

- Advanced Education provides funding to Alberta post-secondary institutions through the Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning which allows institutions to develop short-term study programs in other countries including Singapore.
- From 2016 to 2017, 93 foreign students from Singapore were issued a permit to study in Alberta.
- Since 1983, Bow Valley College has provided vocational and management training to improve the skills of Singapore's work force in English and mathematics.
- The University of Alberta (UAlberta) has an agreement with Nanyang Technological University (NTU) for activities including student exchange and internships. It also has an agreement with the National University of Singapore for student exchange, as well as cooperation in pharmacy and sciences.
- The University of Calgary has agreements with Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore and the Singapore Management University. As of November 2017, there are 290 active members of the UCalgary Alumni Branch.
- As of July 2016, there are 270 active members of the UAlberta Singapore Alumni Branch. A

Alberta's Exports to Singapore, 2008-2017



Number of them, who were former Columbo Scholars, hold key positions in Singaporean government, educational institutions and the private sector.

### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2013 to 2017, Alberta's direct imports from Singapore averaged CAD \$74.9 million. Imports included machinery, electrical machinery, medical instruments and tools made of base metals for machinery.

### ENERGY

- Singapore's strategic location at the entrance to the Strait of Malacca is the shortest sea route for oil shipments from the Persian Gulf suppliers to East Asian markets.
- With more than 400 companies trading in petroleum and petroleum products, Singapore is Asia's leading oil trading hub and an important oil product pricing centre. Singapore is also has extensive trading in energy-linked financial products.
- With refining capacity of 1.4 million bbl/d Singapore is a major refining centre for Southeast Asia. Singapore is planning to increase both refining and oil storage capacity.
- Singapore is the world's largest bunkering port consuming close to 830,000 bb/d of fuel oil in 2015.
- About 95 per cent of Singapore's electricity demand is supplied by electricity generated from natural gas. Natural gas is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia via pipelines but this arrangement is being phased out in favor of

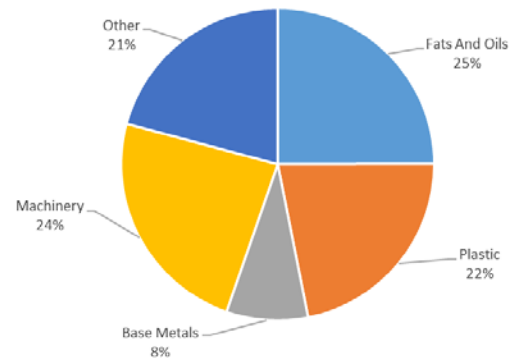
liquefied natural gas by 2024.

- In 2006, the Singapore Government announced its plan to import Liquefied Natural gas (LNG) and build its first LNG receiving terminal to diversify its sources of natural gas. The terminal's launched commercial operations in 2013 and plans to build additional terminals are in the works. Singapore plans to rely on LNG imports to meet its natural gas imports by 2024.
- Singapore is working towards becoming an LNG trading hub and has both LNG import and export capabilities. It has also built LNG bunkering facilities to leverage its strength as at bunkering hub into LNG.
- Alberta has had significant sales of petroleum and gas equipment through Singapore. Many sales have resulted from participation in the Offshore South-East Asia Oil Show in Singapore, as well as numerous education arrangements focused on training programs.

### AGRICULTURE

- In 2017, Canada's agri-food exports to Singapore totaled \$116.2 million. Alberta's agri-food exports to Singapore totaled \$51.5 million in 2017 contributing to roughly 44 per cent of Canada's total. Alberta's exports declined from 2016 (\$66.1 million) due to lower tallow exports.
- Top Alberta exports included tallow (\$35 million), other oils (\$10.9 million), processed potatoes (\$2.2 million) and prepared animal feeds (\$1.4 million).
- Alberta Agriculture and Forestry has lead trade missions for Alberta food exporters to exhibit at the Food and Hotel Asia regional food industry trade show in Singapore in both 2018 and 2016.

Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Singapore, 2013-2017 (Total Average CAD \$131.4 Million)



### FORESTRY

- In 2016, Canada's wood product exports to Singapore totaled \$15 million. Singapore imported over \$3.5 billion in wood products in 2016, primarily from Asia-Pacific nations. Alberta's wood product exports to Singapore are negligible at this time.

### COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

- The Malaysian Singaporean Bruneian Community Association located in Calgary actively promotes activities for its members.

### RECENT VISITS

- April 2018: The Minister of Economic Development and Trade attended the Alberta Partnership and Investment Networking events, helping Alberta companies develop stronger relationships with local investors.
- March 2015: Alberta Education hosted a delegation from Singapore interested in curriculum redesign, career and technology studies, and teaching excellence and leadership.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Singapore's High Commissioner with jurisdiction for Canada is His Excellency Heng Nee Philip Eng.
- Canada's High Commissioner in Singapore is Her Excellency Lynn McDonald.
- The Honorary Consul General Singapore in Vancouver is Mr. Terrence. K Salman.
- The Managing Director of the Alberta Singapore Office is Mr. Shane Jaffer.



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