

# Taiwan - 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:** Taipei

**Population:** 23.3 million (2012)

**Language:** Mandarin, Taiwanese and Hakka

**Government:** Representative Democracy

**President:** President MA Ying-jeou [Kuomintang] (since May 2008)

**Head of Government:** Premier JIANG Yi-huah (since February 2013)

**Currency:** \$1 CAD = 29.14 Taiwanese Dollar (2013 average)

**GDP:** US\$ 474 billion (2012)

**GDP (PPP):** US\$ 902.8 billion (2012)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US\$ 38,832 (2012)

**GDP Growth Rate:** 2.9 percent (2008-2012 average)

**Inflation:** 1.4 percent (2008-2012 average)

**Key Industry Sectors:** electronics, communications and information technology products, petroleum refining, armaments, chemicals, textiles, iron and steel, machinery, cement, food processing, vehicles, consumer products, and pharmaceuticals.

*Sources:*

*Bank of Canada, Economist Intelligence Unit*

## CANADA'S "ONE CHINA" POLICY

- Canada does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan. With the support of the Canadian government, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce opened the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (CTOT) in 1986 to facilitate and increase two-way trade, investment as well as academic and cultural links. Additionally, the CTOT provides the same support services as other Canadian missions abroad.
- Taiwan does not have a diplomatic or consular mission accredited to Canada. Their private-sector offices are staffed from several departments and agencies in Taiwan to promote trade and culture under the auspices of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices (TECO) in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver, and the Far East Trade Service Inc. (FETS) in Montreal.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Canada established its first presence in Taiwan in 1986.
- In May 2011, Taiwanese President MA indicated the goal for biotechnology to become one of Taiwan's leading high-technology industries – to be "the star industry of the 21st century."

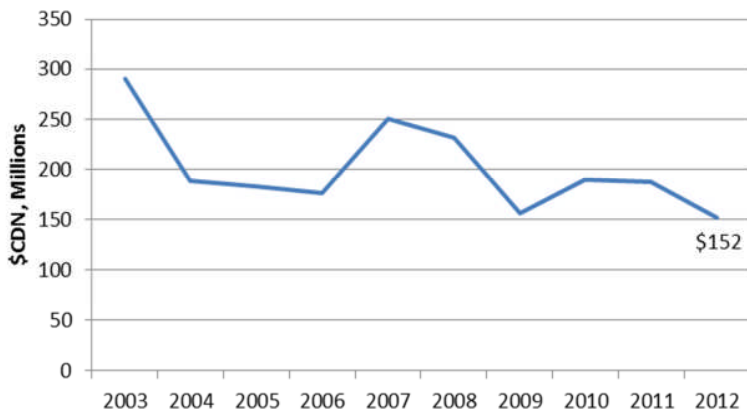
## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta has maintained a presence in Taipei since 1988. The Alberta Office is co-located with the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei.
- Taiwan ranks as Alberta's 10<sup>th</sup> largest export market.
- In November 2010, Canada granted Taiwan a tourist visa waiver. Taiwanese visitors to Canada no longer require visitor visas. This development will reduce bureaucracy for travelers and potentially make Canada more attractive to visitors.

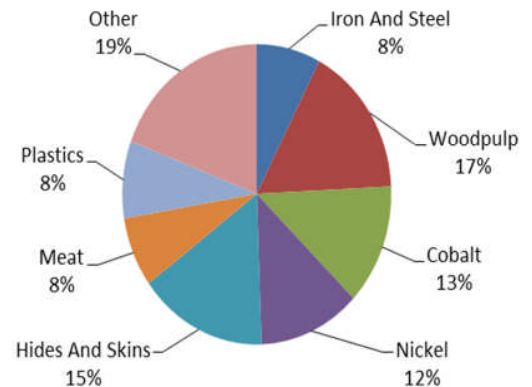
## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2008-2012, Alberta's exports to Taiwan averaged \$183.6 million per year and consisted primarily of hides, skins, wood pulp, plastics, nickel, cobalt, meat, and iron and steel.
- From 2008-2012, Alberta's direct imports from Taiwan averaged \$181 million per year and included electrical machinery, iron and steel products, machinery, vehicles, rubber and plastics. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta after first being delivered to distribution hubs in other provinces.

## Alberta's Exports to Taiwan (2003 - 2012)



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Taiwan 2008 - 2012 (Total Average \$ 183.6 Million CAD)



### AGRICULTURE

- In 2012, Alberta's agri-food exports to Taiwan were valued at \$35.7 million, and consisted primarily of raw hides and skins (\$15.9 million) and pork (\$4.6 million). Taiwan has been Alberta's second largest market for raw hides and skins for the past five years, valued at \$28 million per year (on average).
- Canada's agri-food exports to Taiwan were valued at \$189 million in 2012, with Alberta accounting for almost 20% of this total.
- Taiwan is currently Alberta's sixth largest market for beef exports. Exports have benefitted from Taiwan's decision in 2007 to permit Alberta market access for boneless beef derived from cattle under thirty months of age.
- In September 2012, Taiwan adopted maximum residue levels (MRLs) of 10 parts per billion for ractopamine in beef muscle product imports. Taiwan continues to maintain a ban on ractopamine (Paylean) treated beef offal and pork products.
- As a result of the increasing demand for pork in Asia and the devastating effects of foot and mouth disease on domestic stocks in the 1990s, Taiwan has invested heavily in offshore swine.

### EDUCATION

- Between 2008 and 2012, 390 foreign students from Taiwan were issued a permit to study in Alberta.
- A number of Alberta post-secondary institutions have partnerships with Taiwanese institutions:

- The University of Alberta and National Chiao Tung University.
- Olds College and National Pingtung University of Science and Technology.
- The University of Lethbridge and National Sun Yat-sen University
- The University of Calgary Haskayne School of Business and National Chengchi University.
- Five students in the Chinese program at University of Calgary have successfully become the recipients of the 2012 Taiwan Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, which is sponsored by the Ministry of Education in Taiwan.

### EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Alberta focuses on attracting Taiwanese investment/partnership in sectors such as agri-food (with links to health, diet or the environment), advanced technology industries (including nanotechnology, life science technologies, environmental products and services, telecommunications and high-tech materials), pharmaceutical products, petrochemicals and oil sands production.
- Companies in Taiwan are dedicating resources to develop applications and technologies in hopes of making Taiwan one of the key centres of the computing industry.
- Taiwan has made large investments in nanotechnology research in hopes of becoming a leader in this industry.

- Increased urbanization and globalization of the Taiwanese market has created opportunities for "western style" supermarket chains, as well as imported processed and packaged food products.

### COMMUNITY

- There are roughly 137,000 Albertans of Chinese descent, including approximately 650 Albertans who have identified themselves as being of Taiwanese origin.
- Between 2008 and 2012, 637 immigrants from Taiwan chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 73 percent were economic immigrants.
- From 2008 to 2012, 3,323 foreign workers from Taiwan were issued a permit to work in Alberta and largely occupied positions as food counter attendants, kitchen helpers and related occupations; childcare and home support workers; cleaners; cashiers; chefs and cooks; and laborers in processing, manufacturing and utilities.

### REPRESENTATION

- The Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei is Ms. Kathleen Mackay.
- The Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver is Mr. Michael TSENG.
- Alberta's representative in the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei is Ms. Li-an CHEN.



### 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)