

Norway – Alberta Relations

Government
of Alberta ■



PROFILE

Capital: Oslo

Population: 4.9 million (2010 est.)

Language: Norwegian

Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Head of State: King Harald (acceded in 1991)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg (since 2005)

Currency: \$1 CDN = 5.57 Norwegian Krone (NKR), (July 2011)

GDP: US\$413.0 billion (2010)

GDP (PPP): US\$271.8 billion (2010 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$55,260 (2010 est.)

GDP growth rate: 0.3% (2010)

Inflation: 2.3% (2006-2010 avg)

Unemployment: 3.6% (2010)

Key Industry Sectors: petroleum and gas, food processing, shipbuilding, pulp and paper products, metals, chemicals, timber, mining, textiles, fishing

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta and Norway share a number of similar interests because of their northern climates and oil and gas productions.
- Canada and Norway enjoy good political relations, cooperating in a number of areas including the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum for Arctic governments.
- Alberta hosts an annual Birkebeiner ski race, named after one of the largest sporting events in Norway.
- In January 2008, Canada signed a free trade agreement with the four countries of the European Free Trade Association: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

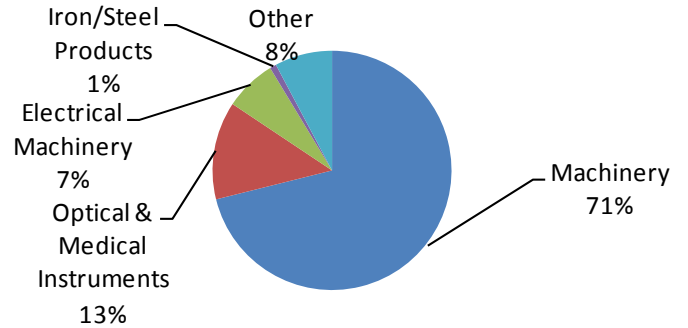
DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2010, Norway was ranked number one on the United Nations Human Development Index.
- Norway separated from Sweden in 1905 after a referendum.
- Alberta and Norway both celebrated their Centennials in 2005.
- Norway is one of very few western European countries not to be a member of the European Union. Norway has held a referendum on the issue of EU membership twice, first in 1972 and then again in 1994. On both occasions, the Norwegian population rejected membership.
- New Norway is a small rural village located in the central prairies of Alberta. It was named in 1895 due to the large number of Norwegian families who settled in the area.

Alberta's Exports to Norway 2002 -2011



**Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Norway 2007-2011
(Total Average CDN \$47.7 Million)**



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Norway is Canada's most important Nordic trading partner and its 11th largest worldwide (2010).
- From 2007-2011, Alberta exports to Norway averaged \$47.7 million CDN per year, consisting mostly of machinery, optical and medical instruments, electrical machinery and iron and steel products.
- Alberta direct imports from Norway have averaged \$23.8 million per year from 2007-2011. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

ENERGY

- Norway has the largest reserves of oil and natural gas in Europe, and is a key supplier for the region.
- In 2010, Norway was the 2nd largest natural gas exporter behind Russia and the 6th largest oil exporter in the world.
- Norway has 6.7 billion barrels (bbl) of proven oil reserves (January 2010), compared to Alberta's oil reserves of 170.5 billion bbl (2010).
- In April 2011, Norwegian companies Statoil and Eni made Norway's largest oil and gas discovery in over a decade. The discovery was made in the Barents Sea, located north of Norway.
- In 2010, Norway's oil production was 2.13 million barrels per day (bbl/d), with a refining capacity of 310,000 bbl/d.

- In April 2010 following a 40-year dispute, Norway and Russia signed an agreement dividing the Barents Sea into two equal parts. Norway's Statoil and Russia's Gazprom are working on the development of the Shtokman gas field located in the Russian sector.
- The Norwegian oil sector, characterized by extensive public ownership, has recently undergone restructuring. The government still retains 67% of Statoil, one of the largest Norwegian crude oil and gas suppliers.
- North Sea oil and gas were first discovered in the late 1960s. Its political stability and proximity to major European markets have allowed the North Sea to play a major role in world oil and gas markets.
- Norway has 82 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of proven natural gas reserves (January 2010), compared to Alberta's 39.8 tcf (2010).
- Calgary-based Talisman Energy operates 10 oilfields in the Southern North Sea Area, off the Norwegian coast. In 2010, production averaged 54,000 bbl/d, accounting for approximately 30% of the company's global production.
- Statoil Canada's Heavy Oil Technology Centre, located in Calgary, is the first technology centre outside Norway focused on research and technology development to support the company's heavy oil business and the development of new technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Statoil Canada operates a steam assisted gravity drainage project to develop oil sands in the Athabasca region. It currently produces 3,500 bbl/d.
- In Norway, 99% of total electric power production comes from hydropower and it produces the highest amount in Europe.
- Norway is a leader in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) initiatives and CCS forms a key part the Norwegian government's policy on energy and the environment. The largest of this is at Statoil's Mongstad refinery, a US \$1 billion project.
- Statoil has operated the Sleipner CCS Project since August 1996 and is currently storing almost 1 million tonnes of CO2 per year.
- In June 2009, the Norwegian government passed legislation allowing for offshore wind-power development. The region typically has wind speeds of 8 to 10 meters per second (m/s).
- Enova, a public agency owned by Norway's Ministry of Petroleum and Oil, announced in February 2010 their intention to build the world's most powerful wind turbine.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Though Norway has a tradition of state control over major industries, dominating the oil, banking and telecoms sectors, the government has plans for limited privatization in the oil and telecommunications sectors.

COMMUNITY

- According to the 2006 census, there are over 144,580 Albertans of Norwegian descent, making them the 8th largest ethnic group in Alberta.
- Norwegian settlers first arrived in Alberta in 1880. Between 1894 and 1914, a large influx of Norwegian settled in Central Alberta following the completion of the Calgary-Edmonton railroad in 1891. Camrose became a major centre for Norwegian settlement.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Sexsmith Secondary School in Sexsmith, Alberta has a school partnership with a school in Oslo, Norway.
- The University of Calgary (UofC) has a university wide linkage agreement with the University of Oslo. The UofC Faculty of Nursing has a Practicum Exchange with the University of Stavanger. The UofC has agreements with the University of Stavanger, including Faculty of Nursing Practicum Exchange and research and student exchange for the School of Engineering.
- The University of Calgary (UofC) has a linkage agreement for business students with the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)
- The UofC is part of a consortium (CaNoRock) involving Universities of Calgary, Alberta and Saskatchewan in Canada and University of Oslo and University of Tromsø in Norway to provide student access to Andøya Rocket Range for teaching in space instrumentation and rocket mission training.

- The Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) is a non-profit membership organization and a multi-disciplinary research institute of the UofC. The institute's mandate is to advance the study of the North American and circumpolar Arctic through the natural and social sciences, the arts and humanities and to acquire, preserve and disseminate information on physical, environmental and social conditions in the North. AINA provides opportunities for Alberta/Canada and Norway collaborative research.
- The University of Alberta (U of A) also has various agreements with universities in Norway including the University of Oslo, the Norwegian School of Sport Science, and Telemark University College.
- The U of A is a leader in Nordic Studies with its Canadian Institute for Nordic Studies.
- In May 2008, U of A Professor Christopher Hale was bestowed the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit for excellence in promoting Norwegian literature and culture in Canada. He is the Head of Scandinavian Studies Program, the only degree-granting program in this field in Canada. He is also one of the founding members of the Association for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies in Canada.
- The U of A's Augustana Campus is the only institution in Canada teaching the Norwegian language.
- Mount Royal University has a student exchange agreement with Akershus University College and is also working with Hedmark University to develop a partnership agreement.

RECENT VISITS

- November 2011: Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy, Ola Borten Moe, visited Alberta and toured the oil sands facilities of Statoil.
- January 2009: Minister of Finance and Enterprise, Iris Evans visited Norway. The meetings with major energy companies in Norway allowed her to engage in substantive discussions on the challenges and opportunities related to the sustainable development of our oil sand resources and to outline the province's commitment to the development of an integrated hydrocarbon industry.
- November 2006: Norway's Ambassador to Canada made his official visit to Alberta.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Norwegian Ambassador to Canada is Her Excellency Else Berit Eikeland.
- Canadian Ambassador in Norway is John Hannaford.
- Canadian Honorary Consul in Bergen is Dr. Karin A. Pittman.
- Mr. Roar Tungland, Honorary Consul in Edmonton, with jurisdiction for Alberta, excluding Calgary.
- Mr. Egil Bjornsen, is the Honorary Consul in Calgary.

