

Norway - Alberta Relations



PROFILE

Capital: Oslo

Population: 5.0 million (2012 est.)

Language: Norwegian

Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Head of State: King Harald (acceded in 1991)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Erna Solberg (since October 2013)

Currency: Norwegian Krone, CAD\$1 = 5.5.73NKR, 1 NKR = CAD\$0.17 (October 2013)

GDP: US\$499.8 billion (2012)

GDP (PPP): US\$ 329.4 billion (2012)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$65,756 (2012 est.)

GDP growth rate: 0.6% (2008-2012 avg.)

Inflation: 2.1% (2008-2012 avg.)

Unemployment: 3.2% (2012 est.)

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

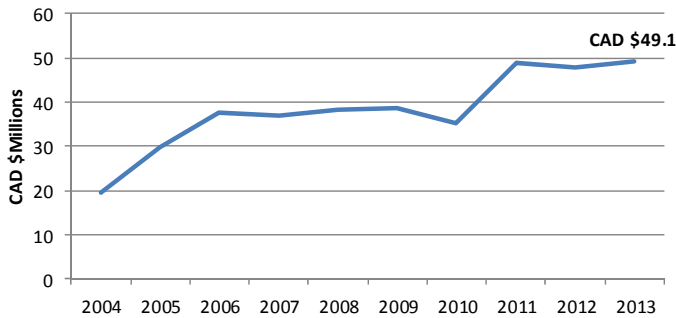
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta and Norway share a number of similar interests because of our northern climates and oil and gas production industries.
- 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.
- 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.

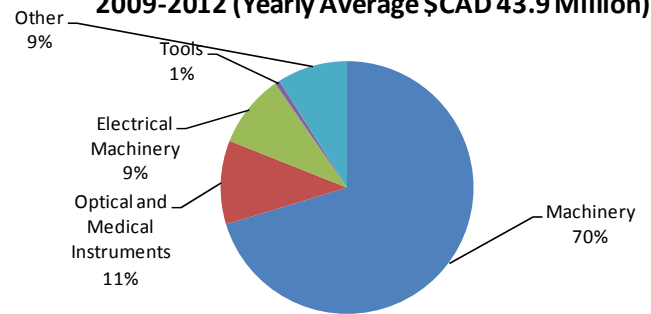
DID YOU KNOW?

- 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.
- Following the worst flooding in Alberta's history in June 2013, Statoil Canada Ltd., a subsidiary of the Norwegian energy company Statoil, donated CAD\$500,000 to the Red Cross to assist flood-affected communities Alberta.

Alberta's Exports to Norway 2004-2013



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Norway 2009-2012 (Yearly Average \$CAD 43.9 Million)



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2009-2013, Alberta exports to Norway averaged CAD\$43.9 million per year, consisting mostly of machinery, optical and medical instruments and electrical machinery.
- Alberta's direct imports from Norway averaged CAD\$34.8 per year from 2009-2013. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- Foreign direct investment stocks in Canada from Norway reached CAD\$ 2.3 Billion in 2012.
- Canadian direct investment stocks in Norway reached CAD\$3.3 Billion in 2012.

ENERGY

- Norway has the largest reserves of oil and natural gas in Europe, and is a key supplier for the region.
- In December 2012, Norway was the 2nd largest natural gas exporter behind Russia and the 7th largest oil exporter in the world, reportedly exporting an estimated 1.45 million barrels per day (bbl/d) of crude oil, of which 90 per cent went to Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) European countries (2011).
- Norway has 5.32 billion barrels of proven oil reserves (January 2012), compared to Alberta's oil reserves of 170.2 billion bbl (2011).
- In April 2011, Norwegian companies Statoil and Eni made Norway's largest oil and gas discovery in over a decade in the Barents Sea, north of Norway. New exploration and production is also taking place in this region.
- In 2011, Norway's crude oil production plus condensate was 1.752 million bbl/d, with a refining capacity of 319,000 bbl/d (January 2012).

- 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 per cent of Statoil, controlling 80 per cent of Norway's crude oil and gas production.
- 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 71 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of proven natural gas reserves (January 2012), compared to Alberta's reserves of 35.7 tcf (2011).
- Calgary-based Talisman Energy operates 10 oilfields in the Southern North Sea Area, off the Norwegian coast. In 2011, production averaged 34,600 barrels of oil equivalent per day (boe/d), accounting for approximately 68 per cent of Norway's 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 on the Kai Kos Dehseh Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD) project in the Athabasca region to develop Alberta's oil sands. The next expansion phase, Corner, is projected to produce 40,000 bbl/d by 2015.

- In Norway, 95 per cent of total electrical power production comes from hydropower, with 4 per cent derived from conventional thermal sources (International Energy Agency [IEA] 2009).
- 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 CO2 technology centre (TCM) in Norway is at the Mongstad refinery.
- Since the commencement of the Sleipner CCS Project in August 1996, Statoil has captured and stored over 10 million tonnes of CO2.
- In June 2009, the Norwegian government passed legislation allowing for offshore wind-power development. The region typically has wind speeds of 8 to 10 metres per second (m/s).
- Enova SF, a public agency owned by Norway's Ministry of Petroleum and Oil, in conjunction with Statoil ASA, invested a total of Norwegian Kronor (NOK) 459 million in Norway's Hywind 2.3-megawatt wind turbine (2011).

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 Norwegians settled in central Alberta following the completion of the Calgary-Edmonton railroad in 1891. Camrose became a major centre for Norwegian settlement.
- Between 2008 and 2012, 98 immigrants from Norway chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 69 per cent were economic immigrants. This includes principal applicants and their dependents.
- From 2008 to 2012, 374 workers from Norway were issued a permit to work in Alberta. Approximately 35% were issued open employment permits and the rest were largely occupied as managers in engineering, architecture, science and information technology; engineers; legislators and senior managers.
- From 2008 to 2012, 76 students from Norway were issued a permit to study in Alberta.

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 also has agreements with the University of Stavanger, including a Faculty of Nursing Practicum Exchange and research and a student exchange for the School of Engineering.
- The U of C has a cooperation agreement for business students with the Norwegian School of Economics.

- The U of C is part of a consortium (CaNoRock) involving the Universities of Calgary, Alberta and Saskatchewan in Canada and the Universities of Oslo and Tromsø in Norway to provide student access to Andøya Rocket Range for teaching 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 the 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 partnerships with Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences and Hedmark University.

RECENT VISITS

- March 2013: Her Excellency, Mona Brøther, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, made her official visit to Alberta.
- March 2012: A delegation of 13 parliamentarians, and three officials which included Her Excellency Else Berit Eikeland, Ambassador of Norway, Maryann Løcka, Energy Counselor, and Kari Hoel, First Secretary from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Ottawa, visited Alberta and met with the Ministers of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, Finance and Justice.
- November 2011: Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy, Ola Borten Moe, visited Alberta and toured the oil sands facilities of Statoil.
- January 2009: Alberta Minister of Finance and Enterprise, Iris Evans, visited Norway. Meetings with major energy companies in Norway allowed the Minister to engage in substantive discussions on the challenges and opportunities related to the sustainable development of oil sand resources and to outline the province's commitment to the development of an integrated hydrocarbon industry.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Norwegian Ambassador to Canada is Her Excellency Møna Elisabeth Brøther.
- Canadian Ambassador in Norway is David Sproule.
- Canadian Honorary Consul in Bergen is Dr. Karin A. Pittman.
- Mr. Roar Tungland is the Honorary Consul in Edmonton, with jurisdiction



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