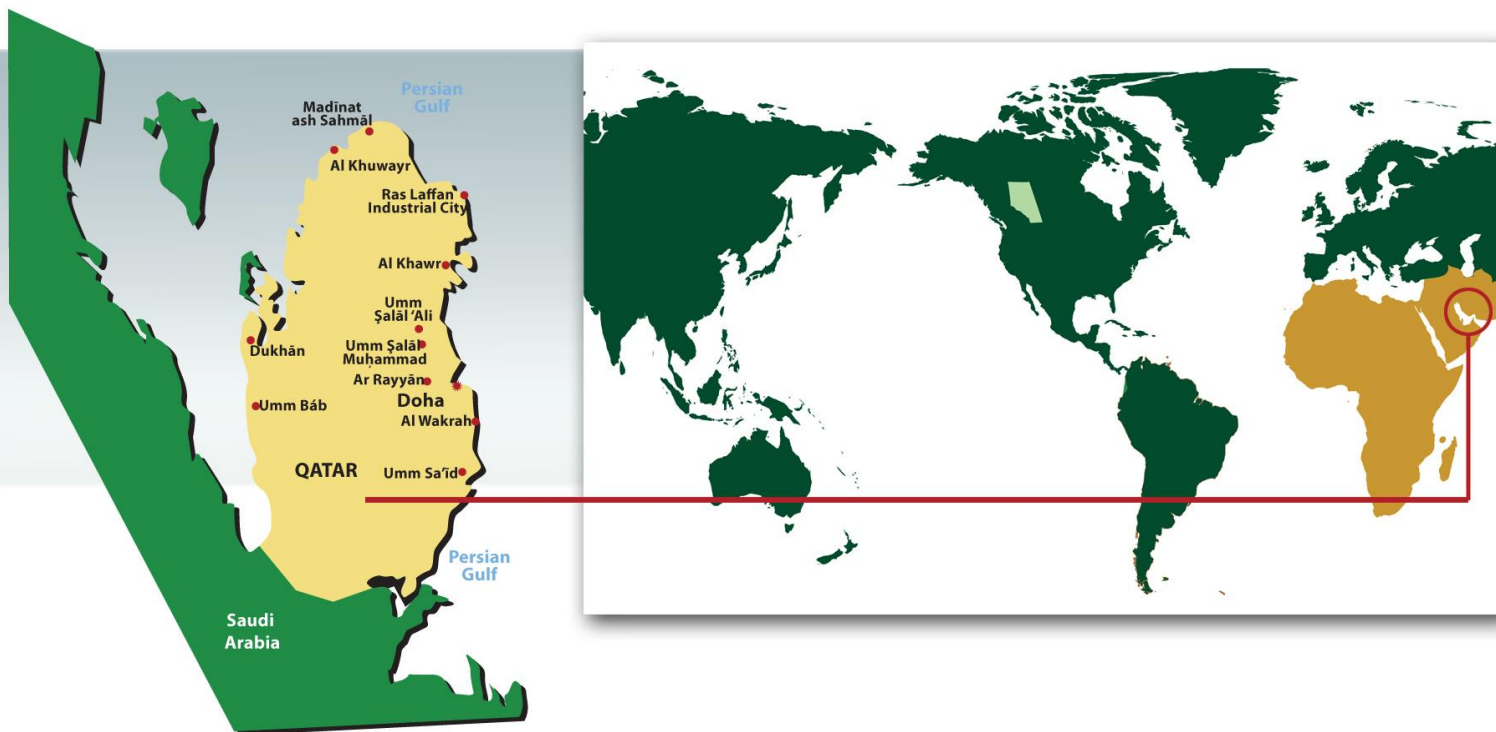


# Qatar – Alberta Relations

Government  
of Alberta



*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:** Doha

**Population:** 1.7 million (2010 est.)

**Language:** Arabic (official); English widely spoken.

**Government:** Constitutional Emirate

**Head of State:** Emir HAMAD bin Khalifa Al Thani (since June 27, 1995)

**Head of Government:** Prime Minister HAMAD bin Jasim bin Jabir Al Thani (since April 3, 2007)

**Currency:** \$1 CAN = 3.53 Rial (QAR) (2010)

**GDP:** US \$128.1 billion (2010)

**GDP (PPP):** US \$116.8 billion (2010 est.)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US \$68,160 (2010 est.)

**GDP growth rate:** 14.0% (2010 est.)

**Inflation:** -2.4% (2010)

**Unemployment:** 0.5% (2010 est.)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Liquefied natural gas, crude oil production and refining, ammonia, fertilizers, petrochemicals, steel reinforcing bars, cement, and commercial ship repair.

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

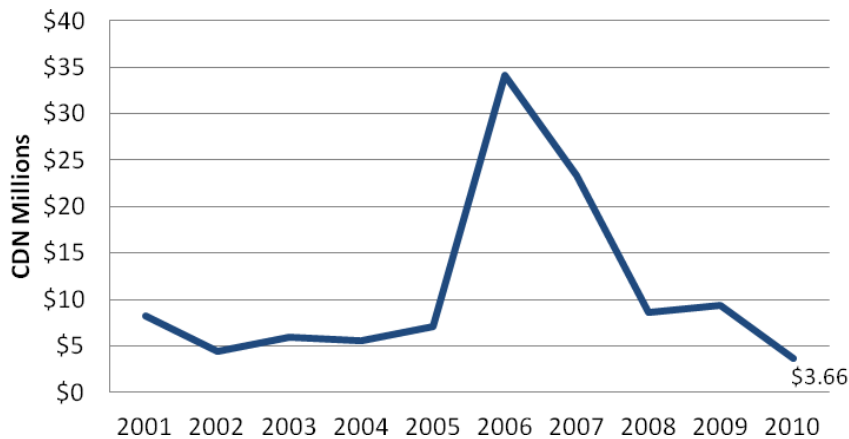
- Ruled by the Al-Thani family since the mid-1800s, Qatar transformed itself from a poor British protectorate noted mainly for pearl diving into an independent state with significant oil and natural gas revenues.
- Power in Qatar is concentrated in the hands of the Emir, who governs with the assistance of a cabinet of ministers that he appoints. However, under the new constitution—passed overwhelmingly in a nationwide referendum in 2003—a new national assembly was created.
- In May 2008, the electoral law was adopted and proposed that 30 of the 45 members of the national assembly be elected. Legislative elections affected by this decision took place in June 2010.
- Qatar is the world's second highest per capita income country (second to Liechtenstein) and the world's second fastest growing economy (second to Macau).
- Qatar's security is guaranteed by the US, which has substantial military facilities in the emirate.
- Qatar is home to Al Jazeera, the popular Arabic satellite television network.

- In December 2011, Qatar will host the 20th World Petroleum Congress (WPC) in Doha. This will be the first time this event will be held in the Middle East and the first time it will be held in an OPEC country.
- Doha will host the 2022 World Cup.

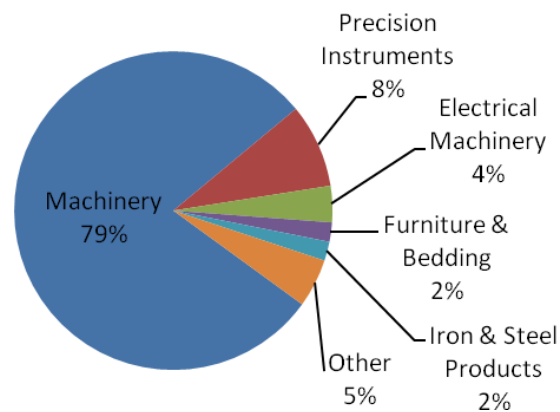
## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Qatari diplomacy has been supportive of Canadian foreign policy initiatives and the country has become an important partner in the international campaign against terrorism.
- Qatar remains one of the few Middle East countries to have signed and ratified the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines.
- Qatar contributed generously to a Canadian-designed and sponsored scholarship project for Palestinian women refugees.
- In June 2009, Qatar Petroleum International (QPI) and Canadian Natural Resources Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) confirming a mutual intention to establish an alliance to explore international investment opportunities.

## Alberta's Exports to Qatar 2001-2010



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Qatar 2006-2010 (Total Average CDN\$15.82 Million)



### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Qatar is heavily dependent on earnings from hydrocarbons, with the oil and gas sector comprising around 50% of its GDP. However, the government is seeking to diversify the economy.
- Between 2006 and 2010, Alberta's annual exports to Qatar averaged \$15.82 million and included machinery, precision instruments, and electrical machinery.
- During the same period, Alberta's annual direct imports from Qatar averaged \$322,289 and included fertilizers, chemical products, and electrical machinery. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- In 2006, Alberta's exports to Qatar almost quintupled largely due to distilling plant exports valued at \$27.3 million CDN.
- In 2009, Alberta's imports from Qatar increased by more than 15 times largely due to fertilizer imports valued at more than \$1 million CDN.

### ENERGY

- Production of crude oil in 2009 was 1.2 million barrels per day (bbl/d), compared to Alberta's production of 1.8 million bbl/d (2009).
- Qatar has proven oil reserves of 25.4 billion barrels (bbl) (2010), compared to Alberta's reserves of 170.5 billion barrels (2010).
- In 2010, Qatar's oil refining capacity was 338,000 bbl/d.
- State-owned Qatar Petroleum (QP) controls all aspects of Qatar's oil sector, including exploration, production, refining, transport, and storage.

- Although QP owns all aspects of Qatar's upstream and downstream oil sector, offshore fields outside of the Maydan Mahzam and Bul Hanine fields are operated by international oil companies through production sharing agreements (PSAs).
- Qatar is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the 16<sup>th</sup> largest crude oil exporter in the world (2009).
- Qatar has proven natural gas reserves of 896 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), compared to Alberta's reserves of 40 Tcf (2011). The country's reserves rank 3<sup>rd</sup> in size behind Russia and Iran (2011). Qatar contains the world's largest non-associated (contains no crude oil) natural gas field.
- Qatar is the world's largest producer and exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

### EDUCATION

- From 2006 to 2010, 37 foreign students from Qatar were issued a permit to study in Alberta.
- In 2009/2010, some 2,900 students were enrolled in locally developed Arabic language programs in Alberta schools. In addition to the 910 students in Arabic bilingual programs (grades 1-7) in Edmonton and Fort McMurray, just over 2,000 students in two public jurisdictions, one charter school and two private schools in Alberta were enrolled in the Arabic Language and Culture program, receiving second language instruction.
- In August 2007, the University of Calgary opened a nursing faculty in Qatar. The program, funded by the Qatari government, is expected to expand to accommodate 100 students annually. The project is the largest overseas program involving a Canadian university.

### EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- In February 2010, Qatar amended its foreign investment law. Some new areas are now completely opened to non-Qatari foreign investment and ownership, including consultancy services, information technology, culture and entertainment and distribution services. Other areas open to investment include energy, mining, healthcare, education, and tourism.

### COMMUNITY

- Between 2006 and 2010, 366 immigrants from Qatar chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 96% were economic immigrants.
- During the same period, 79 foreign workers from Qatar were issued a permit to work in Alberta.

### RECENT VISITS

- January 2011: The Honourable Iris Evans, Alberta Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations, led a mission to the Middle East to strengthen economic ties with Alberta, and met with key business and government leaders in Qatar.
- July 2010: The Honourable Ron Liepert, Alberta Minister of Energy, attended the first-ever convocation ceremony of the University of Calgary's Nursing program in Qatar and met with top energy leaders for discussions on shared energy issues and potential investment in Alberta's energy sector.
- June 2010: His Excellency, Dr. Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Sada, Qatar Minister of Energy and Industry visited Calgary with a senior delegation to attend the 2010 Global Petroleum Show.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Qatar's Ambassador designate to Canada is Mr. Salem Bin Mubarak Shafi Al-Shafi.
- Canada's Ambassador to Qatar is Mr. Gary Luton.

