

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: 23.6 million (2017)

Language: Mandarin, Taiwanese and Hakka

Government: Representative Democracy

President: President TSAI Ing-Wen
[Democratic Progressive Party] (since May 2016)

Head of Government: Premier LAI William
(since September 2017)

Currency: CAD \$1 = 23.36 Taiwanese Dollar
(2017 average)

GDP: US \$1,177 trillion (2017)

GDP (PPP): US \$1,133 trillion (2016)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US \$49,901 (2017)

GDP Growth Rate: 1.5 per cent (2016)

Inflation: 1.4 per cent (2016)

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, CIA World Factbook, Global Affairs Canada

DID YOU KNOW?

- 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 and investment as well as academic and cultural links. Additionally, the CTOT provides the same support services as other Canadian missions abroad.
- In May 2011, Taiwanese President Ma indicated the goal that biotechnology becomes one of Taiwan's leading high-technology industries – to be "the star industry of the 21st century."

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Canada, and therefore Alberta, maintains a "One China" policy and therefore does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan.
- 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.

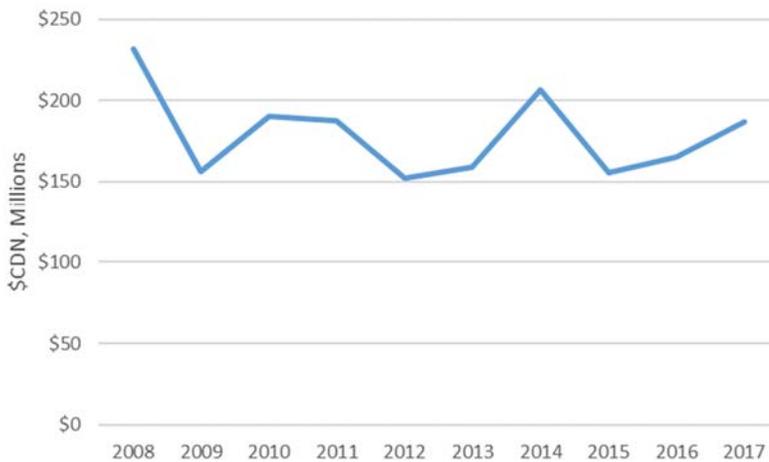
- Alberta has maintained a presence in Taipei since 1988. The Alberta Office is co-located with the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei.
- Taiwan ranks as Alberta's 15th largest export market.
- In March 2015, a reciprocal driver's license agreement was signed between Alberta and Taiwan, allowing for license holders to drive in each other's jurisdictions.
- In November 2010, Canada granted Taiwan a tourist visa waiver. Taiwanese visitors to Canada no longer require visitor visas. This development will reduce process for travelers and potentially make Canada more attractive to visitors.

- Between 2013 and 2017, 439 citizens of Taiwan became Permanent Residents of Canada, with Alberta as their intended destination. Approximately 42% were economic immigrants, including principal applicants, spouses, and dependents.

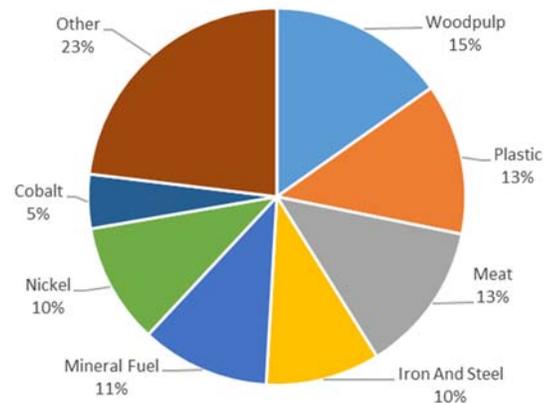
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2013-2017, Alberta's exports to Taiwan averaged \$174.6 million per year and consisted primarily of wood pulp, plastics, nickel, cobalt, meat, iron and steel.
- From 2013-2017 Alberta's direct imports from Taiwan averaged \$211 million per year and

Alberta's Exports to Taiwan 2008-2017



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Taiwan 2013-2017 (Total Average \$174.6 million)



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.

ENERGY

- Taiwan produces limited energy resources, and relies on imports to meet its energy demand.
- Taiwan has a well-developed petrochemicals sector with the key players being state owned China Petrochemical Corp., Taiwan (CPC) and numerous private firms including the Formosa Plastics Group.
- Taiwan imported more than 1.9 billion cubic feet per day of LNG in 2015, making it the world's fifth-largest LNG importer. CPC, which is the only company that imports LNG for Taiwan, is set to continue diversifying gas supply within the next few years.
- Oil and coal made up 48 per cent and 29 per cent of Taiwan's total energy supply in 2015, respectively. The remainder was mostly natural gas (13 per cent), and nuclear (7 per cent). Taiwan has small deposits of proven oil reserves, approximately 2.4 million barrels as of January 2016, according to the Oil & Gas Journal. Taiwan produced an average of 28,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) of total oil in 2015, virtually all of which was refinery processing gains at the end of 2015.
- In 2016, Taiwan imported 858,700 bbl/d of crude oil and 371,800 bbl/d of refined petroleum products. Taiwan exported 306,100 bbl/d of refined petroleum products in 2016.
- Taiwan consumed about 63 million metric tons of coal in 2015, all of which was imported. Coal consumption steadily increased overall since the 1990s and slowed after 2007 as a result of natural gas and renewables

substituting some coal supply in the power sector.

- Taiwan's electrical grid stability faces challenges as industrial and residential demand remains strong and nuclear power is phased out.
- Despite an at times tense political situation between Taiwan and China, Taiwan's state-owned CPC and China's stated-owned China National Petroleum Corporation have cooperated in offshore oil and gas exploration activities.
- In February 2014, the Alberta Taiwan office held the "Alberta Shale Gas Development and Opportunities Seminar" to share some of the latest developments in Alberta's energy industry for Taiwanese professionals with speakers from Alberta including Alberta Energy and the Canadian Energy Research Institute.

FORESTRY

- Taiwan is Alberta's fifth largest export market for forest products, valued at \$30 million in 2016.
- In March 2015, the GoA Forestry Division participated in an engineered wood products workshop, organized by Alberta Innovates Technology Futures, Alberta Taiwan Office and United Forestry Products Cooperation. The workshop launched a joint initiative to promote Alberta engineered wood products in Taiwan.
- In August 2013, Forestry Division and FPInnovations participated in the World Forestry Conference Good Practice Workshop – Application of Engineered Wood on Large-Scale Projects in Taipei. Presentations were made at the National Center for Research on Earthquake Engineering and attracted an

audience of over 70, largely comprised of civil engineers and architectural designers.

AGRICULTURE

- In 2016, Canada's agri-food exports to Taiwan were valued at \$216.2 million, with Alberta accounting for almost 15% of this total.
- Alberta agri-food exports to Taiwan were valued at \$31.1 million in 2016. Top agri-food products from Alberta included processed potatoes (\$7.9 million), beef (\$5.6 million), pork (\$4.2 million), canola/mustard oil (\$4 million) and other meat (\$2.8 million).
- In February 2014, Taiwan and Canada signed an arrangement to expand beef market access to include Canadian bone-in beef and other specified beef products from animals under 30 months of age (UTM). This is expected to help Canadian beef exporters expand their sales to the Taiwan market.
- 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 effects of foot and mouth disease on domestic stocks in the 1990s, Taiwan has invested heavily in offshore swine.

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 and regions including Taiwan.
- Between 2013 and 2017, 484 citizens of Taiwan had international study permits come into effect for Alberta.

- There are a number of partnerships between Alberta post-secondary and Taiwanese institutions, including:

- The University of Lethbridge and National Sun Yat-sen University
- The University of Calgary (UCalgary) Haskayne School of Business collaborates with National Chengchi University and UCalgary continuing Education provides English language training to students from Providence University and Aletheia University.
- The University of Alberta (UAlberta) and the National Taiwan Normal University
- The Athabasca University and National Kaohsiung First University of Science and Technology, the National Science and Technology Program Office for E-Learning, and the National Pingtung University of Science and Technology
- Medicine Hat College and National Taipei University of Business, Ming Chuan University, Providence University and Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages
- Since Winter 2012, the Department of East Asian Studies at the UAlberta has been delivering a "Semester in Taiwan" program to take students to National Taiwan Normal University.
- Over 10 faculty and research student exchanges have taken place from various Taiwanese universities to Athabasca University during 2010-2015 under the auspices of Athabasca University's Industrial Research Chair in Adaptivity and Personalization in Informatics.

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.

RECENT VISITS

- In February 2014, Alberta Energy participated in an investment attraction and information sharing mission looking at unconventional resources and the Alberta investment advantage for the local petrochemical industry arising from large shale gas feedstock.

REPRESENTATION

- The Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei is Mr. Mario Ste-Marie.
- The Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver is Mr. Tom Chih-chiang LEE.
- Alberta's representative in the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei is Ms. Li-an CHEN.



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