



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Washington D.C.

**Population:** 303 million (July 2008 est.)

**Language:** English

**Government:** Federal Republic

**Head of State & Government:** President Barack Obama (D)

**Currency:** CDN\$1 = 0.971 USD, (October 2009)

**GDP (PPP):** US\$14.58 trillion (2008 est.)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US\$48,000 (2008 est.)

**GDP growth rate:** 1.4% (2008 est.)

**Inflation:** 4.2% (2008 est.)

**Unemployment:** 9.4% (May 2009)

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

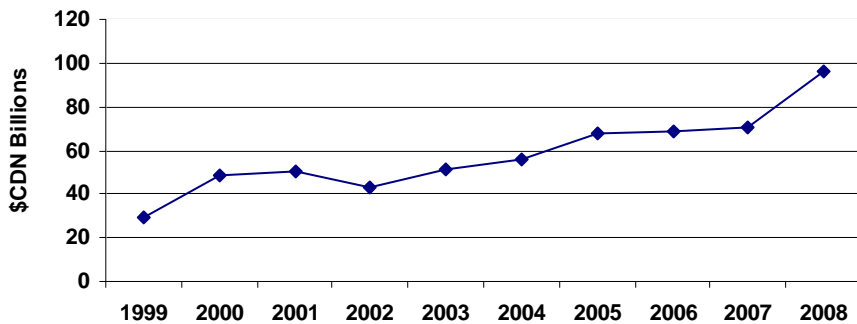
- The US is Alberta's largest trading partner, buying 85% of provincial exports, in 2008. Alberta's annual merchandise exports to the US have averaged approximately \$72 billion over the past 5 years.
- The US provides 2/3 of foreign investment and 60% of foreign tourists to Alberta.
- 17 states are among Alberta's top 20 international export markets.
- Alberta has had close ties historically with the US West, from where many early pioneers emigrated to southern Alberta in the early 20th century.
- The US oil industry has been an important source of investment and technology for the Alberta oil patch since the 1940s.
- Growth of Alberta's energy sector, energy trade liberalization under NAFTA, and rapid development of the oil sands have made Alberta vital to Canadian and US energy security.

- Alberta's relationship with the US seeks secure and enhanced market access, and cooperation to address common problems and avoid disputes.
- Alberta was the first province to promote free trade with the US and has benefited greatly. Alberta exports to the US have increased dramatically under free trade.

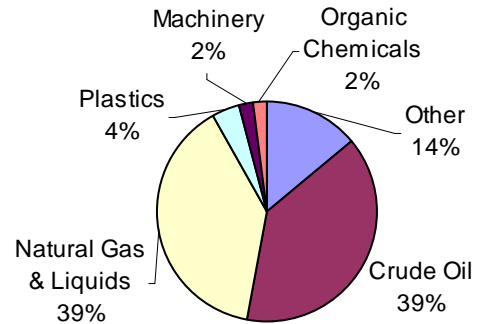
## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- The US is Alberta's largest investment partner.
- Significant investments have recently been made in Alberta by Johns Manville (Denver), Center Partners (Fort Collins), Sysco (Houston) and Argon Capital (Redwood City).

Alberta-US Domestic Exports (1999-2008)



Alberta's Exports to US (2004-2008 Average)



**ENERGY**

- Alberta will play a key role in meeting ongoing US energy security needs with a proven track record as a secure, reliable and environmentally responsible supplier of energy and petrochemical products.
- In 2008, Alberta oil, gas, natural gas liquids, mining, chemical and petrochemical exports to the US totaled approximately \$79 billion.
- Alberta is strongly committed to working with the US on the development of continental energy markets, fostering innovation in all aspects of energy exploration, development and production, and sharing information about energy policy issues.
- Alberta is strongly supportive and is actively engaged in the Clean Energy Dialogue (CED) that was announced in February 2009 during President Obama's visit to Ottawa. The CED's goal is to foster Canada-US collaboration on clean energy technology development and deployment. Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan are the only three Canadian provinces participating in the CED's Carbon Capture and Storage Working Group which will help to coordinate our efforts with the rest of Canada and the US.
- Over half of the oil and gas produced in Alberta is exported to the US, supplying markets from New York to California.
- Alberta's proven oil reserves, at 172 billion barrels, are the second largest in the world, after Saudi Arabia. Oil sands, at 170 billion barrels, account for the majority of Alberta's reserves. Significant production growth from Alberta oil sands will bring Alberta's total oil production to over 3 million barrels per day in the next decade and create a wealth of opportunity for value-added investments.

- Canada continues to be the largest supplier of crude oil to the US with Alberta providing the vast majority. As of May 2009, Alberta crude oil exports to the US totaled 1.476 million barrels per day (bbl/d). After Canada, the top suppliers of crude oil imports into the US are Venezuela, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria.
- About 60 Alberta-based companies are active in all aspects of the US energy industry, including exploration and production, drilling and service, and pipelines.

**Natural gas**

- Alberta is the largest supplier of natural gas to the US delivering all of our exports to the US with the majority going to the Midwest.
- In 2008, Alberta exported approximately 2.0 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas to the US, accounting for 8 per cent of the total gas consumed.
- The Alberta gas pipeline hub transports approximately 13.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of Alberta and Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (WCSB) natural gas to the pipeline system and is key to delivering Alaskan gas to southern markets.

**AGRICULTURE**

- In 2008, Alberta agri-food exports to the US totaled \$3.2 billion, an 18% increase over 2007. The US is Alberta's largest trading partner for agri-food products and received 39 % of Alberta's total agri-food exports in 2008. In 2002, this share was 58%.
- In the last five years, Alberta exported roughly 33% of its primary agricultural exports and 66% of its value added processed exports to the US. Alberta's strength has been in supplying beef, cattle, wheat, canola seed, canola and mustard oil, processed potatoes, oilseed cake and make, barley, malt and oats. Major exports include beef products (\$820.7 million), live cattle (\$542.3 million), wheat (\$318.6 million) and Canola seed (\$218.6 million).

- The US is Alberta's sole market for live cattle and remains Alberta's first market for: beef wheat, malt, barley and processed potatoes and Canola oil refined. The US is Alberta's 2nd market for pork, Canola oil crude. The US is Alberta's 4th market for Canola.
- Alberta industry is concerned with the mandatory regulations on country of origin labeling that took effect on September 30, 2008.
- Alberta continues to be concerned over increasing border fees and inspections that slow trade and increase costs.
- Alberta supports free trade in agriculture and will work toward a continued collaborative effort between the US and Canada in increasing trade between the two countries.

**TRANSPORTATION**

- Alberta recognizes that effective intermodal transportation links to US markets are vital to provincial prosperity.
- Alberta is working with several US jurisdictions to develop the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Coalition which the province joined in 2009. This is in addition to previously being a member of CANAMEX – a trade and transportation corridor stretching from Alaska, through Alberta and western states to Mexico.
- A Canada-US joint customs and immigration facility at the Coutts-Sweetgrass border crossing opened in August 2003.

## EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Alberta post secondary institutions have active relationships with many US institutions.
- Alberta and the US co-operate in a teacher exchange program for elementary and high school teachers.
- Alberta College of Art and Design is an international affiliate of the US-based Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design.
- Mount Royal College has agreements with Texas Christian University, West Virginia University and the University of Iowa.
- The University of Lethbridge currently has a student exchange agreement with Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio.
- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), through Corporate Training - North America, has partnerships and training relationships with numerous companies including BP America Inc.; Honeywell Ltd.; and Wyoming Contractors Association.
- SAIT Polytechnic has developed transfer option relationships with University of Wyoming, University of Texas (Austin), University of Houston, University of Montana, Montana State University (Havre), Northwood University, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.
- SAIT Polytechnic in Calgary belongs to a network called the Global Education Network (GEN) where they have a partnership with three other institutions around the world.

## FORESTRY

- The softwood lumber agreement now in force between Canada and the US constrains Alberta for exports but is preferable to ongoing costly and uncertain trade litigation.

## TOURISM

- Approximately 1 million Americans visit the province every year, accounting for more than 60% of Alberta's international tourists.

## RECENT VISITS/MISSIONS

- June 2009: Premier Stelmach met with U.S. leaders at the Western Governors' Association meeting in Park City, Utah.
- February 2009: Premier Stelmach, Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall and Manitoba Premier Gary Doer led a delegation to Houston to promote the value of the trade and energy relationships between the U.S. and Western Canada.
- December 2008: Premier Stelmach led a delegation to Austin, Texas for a Texas-Alberta Summit. He met with Texas Governor Rick Perry, to discuss the common interests of North America's two leading energy jurisdictions.
- June 2008: Premier Stelmach led and Alberta delegation to San Diego, California to introduce Alberta's action plan, *Bringing Technology to Market* and participate in BIO 2008.
- January 2008: Premier Stelmach undertook a mission to Washington D.C.
- June 2006: Premier Klein led an Alberta delegation to Washington D.C. for Alberta Week in Washington, which coincided with Alberta being featured at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.
- March 2006: Premier Klein's mission to Alaska to discuss energy.
- June 2005: Premier Klein traveled to Colorado for the Annual Western Governor's Association Meeting and to New York for investment attraction.
- March 2005: Premier Klein traveled to Washington D.C. for the official opening of the Alberta Office in Washington D.C., and to Boston, to speak at Harvard University.
- April 2004: Premier Klein traveled to New Mexico to participate in the Western Governor's Association North American Energy Summit.
- March 2004: Premier Klein traveled to Washington D.C. to make a formal presentation to the US Government on reopening the US border to Canadian beef.
- Alberta Cabinet Ministers undertake regular missions to the US to showcase the province and promote Alberta policy objectives in areas such as agriculture, energy, and technology.

## TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION

The Alberta government works as a partner with American states in a wide range of forums and organizations, including:

- Montana Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council (MABAC)
- Alaska-Alberta Bilateral Council (AABC)
- Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)
- Western Governors' Association (WGA)
- Council of State Governments (CSG)
- Council of State Governments West (CSG-West)
- National Assn. of State Directors of Agriculture (NASDA)
- Western Assn. of State Highway & Transportation Officials (WASHTO)
- Energy Council
- Western Interstate Energy Board
- Western Legislative Forestry Task Force
- CanAm Border Trade Alliance
- Ports to Plains Trade Corridor Alliance

## DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- David Jacobsen is the US Ambassador in Ottawa.
- The Canadian Ambassador in Washington is Gary Doer.
- The US Consul General in Calgary is Laura Lochman.
- Gary Mar is Alberta's representative to the US, heading up the Alberta Washington Office, which is co-located in the Canadian Embassy.