

European Union - 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

Capitals: Brussels (Administrative)
Strasbourg (Legislative)
Luxembourg (Judicial)

Population: 511 million (July 2014 est.)

Official Languages: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish.

Council Presidency: Italy (July 1 – December 31, 2014). The Council Presidency rotates every six months, and Latvia will assume office on January 1, 2015.

Parliament Elections: Elections were held in May 2014, with the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) winning the largest number of seats (currently 221 out of 751). The next elections will be held in 2019.

President of the European Council: Donald Tusk (Poland, elected for a second two-and-a-half-year term in March 2012)

President of Parliament: Martin Schulz (Germany, elected for a second two-and-a-half-year term in August 2014).

President of Commission: Jean-Claude Juncker (Luxembourg, elected for a five-year term in July 2014).

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy: Catherine Ashton (United Kingdom, in office since December 2009).

Currency: Euro, CAD\$1.00 = €0.71, €1.00 = CAD\$1.41 (December 2014)

GDP (EU28): US\$15.83 trillion (2013)

Real GDP Growth Rate (EU28): 0% (2013 est.)

Inflation (Euro Area only): 1.5% (2013 est.)

European Union (EU) OVERVIEW

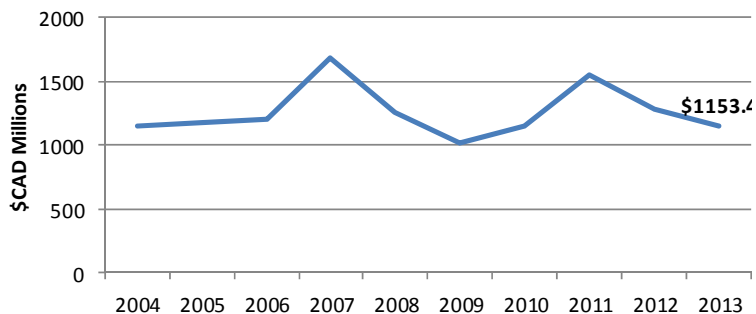
- The EU is an association of 28 sovereign member-states:
 - Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands founded the EU in 1951;
 - Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom joined the EU in 1973;
 - Greece, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Finland and Sweden joined from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s;
 - Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia became members of the EU in 2004;
 - Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU in January 2007;
 - Croatia joined the EU in July 2013; and

- Iceland, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Albania are currently official candidate countries to join the EU.

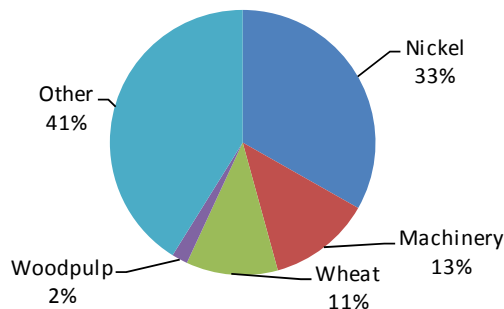
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Final technical negotiations on the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) concluded in September, 2014. The text of the agreement will undergo a legal scrubbing followed by a translation into all official languages of the EU. The agreement will need to be approved by the Council and the European Parliament.
- Alberta opened an office in Munich in 2002 and an office in London in 2003.
- The EU was Canada's second largest and Alberta's fourth largest export destination in 2013.
- In 2013, Alberta's leading EU-member-state export-markets were (overall global ranking): the Netherlands (6th), United Kingdom (18th) and Italy (19th).
- From 2009-2013, Alberta's exports to the EU28 averaged CAD\$1.2 billion per year. Top exports included nickel, machinery and wheat.
- From 2009 to 2013, Alberta's direct imports from the EU28 averaged CAD\$2.1 billion per year, including machinery, optical and medical instruments, and alcoholic beverages. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- The EU represents Canada's second largest trade and investment partner.
- In 2012, the stock of EU direct investment in Canada amounted to CAD\$161 billion. In the same year, Canadian investment in the EU totalled CAD\$172 billion.
- Each year, Alberta receives many tourists from the EU, especially from the UK, Germany and the Netherlands. In 2011, UK visitors spent almost \$150 million in the province, German visitors \$75.7 million and Dutch visitors \$27.6 million.

Alberta's Merchandise Exports to EU-28 2003-2014



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to EU-28 2009-2013 (Total Average = CAD \$1.23 Billion)



EURO (€) OVERVIEW

- The Euro was introduced in January 1999 for financial transactions, and in January 2002, Euro bills and coins became the legal tender for the Eurozone, which at the time consisted of twelve of the original EU members.
- 18 out of 28 Member States of the European Union use the euro as their currency. Denmark, Sweden and the UK chose to remain outside the Eurozone, while other recently-admitted EU members must fulfill certain economic criteria before adopting the currency.

ENERGY

- The EU consumes nearly 17 per cent of global energy production, and is therefore a net importer of energy. It is expected that up to two-thirds of the EU's total energy requirement will be imported by 2020.
- The primary fuel source in Europe is oil, which comprises 40 per cent of the EU's total energy consumption, followed by natural gas at 24 per cent, nuclear energy at 14 per cent, coal at 13 per cent, hydroelectric power at 4 per cent, and other renewables (such as geothermal, biomass, wind and solar) at 2 per cent.
- EU consumption of natural gas declined significantly to 478 bcm in 2012 due to a sluggish economy and increasing reliance upon renewables and coal. This demand is expected to rebound to 559 bcm by 2040.
- EU natural gas production is expected to decline from 174 bcm in 2012 to 106 bcm by 2040; it is the only major region expecting a decline of this magnitude.
- EU oil demand is expected to decline from 11 million barrels per day in 2013 to 7.2 million barrels per day by 2040. Similarly, oil production in the EU is also expected to decline from 3.3 million barrels per day in 2013 to 2.2 million barrels per day by 2040.
- Russia is Europe's primary oil and gas supplier (in 2012 Russia supplied the EU with one-third of its oil imports and one-quarter of its gas imports), with additional amounts of gas coming from

Norway and Algeria. The current conflict between Russia and Ukraine has heightened energy security concerns in Europe.

- The EU is a world leader in wind energy capacity with several offshore projects. It is estimated that Europe's wind energy output will triple by 2020 (European Wind Energy Association, July 2011).
- In November 2010, the EU implemented two policies: a '20-20-20' integrated energy and climate change policy to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions each by 20 per cent, and improve renewable energy source market share by 20 per cent, as well as the 'Energy Roadmap 2050' to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80-95 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, while maintaining supply security and industry competitiveness.
- Major European firms with significant investments in Alberta include BP plc (UK), Total SA (France), Royal Dutch Shell (Netherlands), and Statoil SA. Alberta continues to attract interest from additional EU energy companies, such as Repsol SA (Spain).
- Several Alberta-based energy companies have investments in Europe, including Talisman Energy (UK and Norway) and Vermilion Energy (France, Germany, Ireland, and the Netherlands).

EDUCATION

- The EU Centre of Excellence at the University of Alberta was opened in October 2013. The Centre, led by Jean Monnet Chair Dr. Lori Thorlakson, aims to build a critical mass of EU scholarship through academic exchange, development of EU curriculum resources, promotion of research on the EU and development of EU-related outreach activities in areas of the University of Alberta's research excellence.
- The University of Calgary's Study Abroad office offers a Trans-Atlantic Science Student Exchange Program (TASSEP) with European and American institutions for exchanges of 4-6 weeks every spring and summer.

- The University of Calgary's Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts regularly runs a European group study summer program that targets several European countries each year. The current program is entitled "Sustainable Cities Geography Field School 2015: Learning from Europe." It will include visits to Spain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Sweden.
- From 2007-2013, University of Alberta researchers were involved in 15 projects funded through the FP7 Framework – a funding program created by the EU to support and foster research in the European Research Area.
- The Wirth Institute for Austrian and Central European Studies at the U of A facilitates a number of EU-focused initiatives. The mandate of the institute is to sponsor and encourage scholarship on Central European subjects across the broad range of disciplines within the University of Alberta Faculty of Arts and to raise the profile of Central Europe and Central European Studies in Canada.
- From 2009 to 2013, 3,321 international students from the EU were issued a permit to study in Alberta.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Europe has expertise in many areas associated with food production, processing and packaging. Opportunities exist for Alberta in building stronger strategic alliances for the development of joint ventures, investments and partnerships for the licensing of products with European counterparts.
- The implementation of EU directives dealing with environmental issues such as air pollution, waste incineration and water management will provide opportunities in the environmental technologies and service sectors.
- The mobile market continues to be the driving force in the ICT sector with next generation networks, mobile data and edutainment as the fastest growing fields. The enterprise ICT market is also expected to grow

as companies are looking to increase efficiency and reduce cost.

Opportunities exist in areas such as mobile communications, wireless networks, business solutions software, eHealth, eLearning, and gaming.

- The aging population and escalating costs for healthcare will provide opportunities for new innovative products and services in healthcare delivery, including products for diagnostics, remote monitoring, wellness, homecare, and rehabilitation.
- Implemented in December 2010, the EU's renewable energy directive provides opportunities for Alberta's agricultural sector. Combined exports of canola seed and crude canola oil to the EU rose to \$147 million in 2011, an increase of nearly 750 per cent from 2010.
- Innovation and Advanced Education has established technology partnership programs with partners in Germany and Finland that leverage existing resources, accelerate technology commercialization, and open new opportunities for companies.

AGRICULTURE

- In 2012, Alberta agri-food exports to the EU totalled CAD\$280 million, consisting mostly of wheat (\$134 million), pet food (\$31 million), canola seed (\$22.7 million), other oil seeds (\$19.4 million) and horse meat (\$15.3 million).
- The EU is Alberta's 2nd largest market for exports of horse meat.
- The EU agreed to raise its duty-free quota on high quality beef imports from North America from 20,000 tonnes to 48,200 tonnes beginning August 2012. Alberta beef producers are expected to benefit from this agreement.
- Alberta attaches great importance to the reform of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, and encourages agricultural trade liberalization. CAP subsidies distort world markets and depress world prices.

AGREEMENTS

- The 1976 Canada-EU Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation facilitates trade and investment and encourages industrial, research, and technical cooperation.
- The Joint Political Declaration and Action Plan of 1996, outlines commitments to work together in areas ranging from strengthening

trade to coordinating policies in development assistance, human rights, disarmament, migration, asylum, the fight against organized crime and increased exchange among our citizens.

- A 1996 Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Canada and the European Community supports cooperation in scientific and technological research and encourages the application of the results of such cooperation to the economic and social benefit of both parties to the agreement.
- Canada agreed in 1999, through the Joint Statement on Northern Cooperation, to work together with the EU on northern issues. Areas of cooperation include: environment, ehealth, science and technology, and education.
- The Canada-Europe Round Table for Business, established in 1999, is a transatlantic business forum for companies with business interests on both sides of the Atlantic. CERT promotes greater Canada-EU trade liberalization.
- The Canada-EU Partnership Agenda of 2004 acknowledges the significant evolution of EU-Canada relations.
- A number of bilateral agreements designed to facilitate closer trade have been signed, including agreements on cooperation between EU and Canadian customs administrators (1997); a Veterinary Agreement (1999); a Wine and Spirits Agreement (2003); a Civil Aviation Safety Agreement (2009) and a Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement (2009).

COMMUNITY

- Alberta has a proud European heritage, with the majority of the provincial population originating from Europe. The five largest ethnic groups in Alberta are British or Irish (3.8 million), Germans (683,000), French (792,000), Ukrainians (345,000), and Dutch (182,000).

IMMIGRATION

- Between 2009 and 2013, 15,466 immigrants from the EU chose Alberta as their destination. Of this number, approximately 78 percent were economic migrants. This includes principal applicants and their dependents. During this period, 31,671 temporary foreign workers from the EU were issued a permit to work in Alberta.
- From 2009 to 2013, 31,671 foreign workers from the EU were issued a

permit to work in Alberta and were largely occupied as truck drivers, sports and fitness instructors, university professors, pipefitters, and farm workers.

RECENT VISITS

- October 2013: The Ambassador of Canada to the EU, Mr. David Plunkett, met with Government of Alberta officials in Edmonton and Calgary.
- October 2013: The EU's Ambassador to Canada, Her Excellency Marie-Anne Coninx, attended the official launch of the University of Alberta's European Union Centre of Excellence.
- September 2013: The Hon. Cal Dallas, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations (IIR) and the Hon. Diana McQueen, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD), undertook a mission to several EU member states including Bulgaria, Lithuania, France and Sweden, to meet with EU officials on the implementing measures of the proposed Fuel Quality Directive.
- May 2013: The Hon. Thomas Lukaszuk, Deputy Premier and Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education, undertook a mission to several EU member states to discuss market access opportunities and to renew a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Bavaria in Germany.
- January 2013: The Hon. Fred Horne, Minister of Health undertook a mission to London to attend a Ministerial G8 summit on dementia.
- January 2013: The Hon. Cal Dallas, Minister of IIR and the Hon. Diana McQueen, Minister of ESRD undertook a mission to Ireland, France, Germany, Italy and the Czech Republic to meet with EU officials on the implementing measures of the proposed Fuel Quality Directive.
- September 2012: The Hon. Cal Dallas, Minister of IIR, visited the EU to attend the World Heavy Oil Congress, and meet with EU and other officials from Alberta's twinning partner, the State of Saxony.
- July 2012: The Hon. Allison Redford, Premier, the Hon. Heather Klimchuk, Minister of Culture, and the Hon. Christine Cusanelli, Minister of Tourism Parks and Recreation, visited the United Kingdom to meet with officials and discuss opportunities for Alberta's energy,

