



# Spain



## Alberta Relations

### PROFILE

**Capital:** Madrid

**Population:** 46.45 million (2018)

**Language:** Spanish

**Government:** Constitutional Monarchy

**Head of State:** King Felipe VI

**Head of Government:** President Pedro Sanchez  
Perez-Castejon

**Currency:** Euro, C\$1.00 = €0.6613 (2018 Annual  
Average)

**GDP:** \$1.851.77 billion (2018)

**GDP per capita:** \$39,680.53 (2018)

**GDP Growth Rate:** 2.53 per cent (2018)

**Inflation:** 1.68 per cent (2018)

**Unemployment:** 15.26 per cent (2018)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Textiles and apparel, food  
and beverages, metals and metal manufactures,  
chemicals, shipbuilding, automobiles, machine tools,  
tourism, clay and refractory products, footwear,  
pharmaceuticals, medical equipment

*Sources: World Bank, Bank of Canada, Global Affairs  
Canada*

### OVERVIEW

- By virtue of its geographic location, Spain often acts as a bridge between northern and southern Europe, and also between the Mediterranean and Africa.
- Over 68 million tourists visited Spain in 2015, generating receipts of \$70.5 billion. This makes Spain the third most visited country after the United States and China.
- Spain joined the European Union (EU) in 1986 and accounts for about 9 per cent of the EU's population.
- Spain's mixed capitalist economy is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest in the world.
- Spain, alongside Germany, is now one of the most decentralized democracies in Europe.

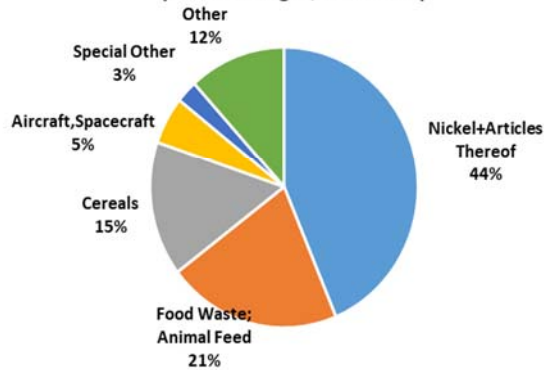
### RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Spain and Canada are committed to defending global security, democratic values and human rights. Both countries work with the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Trade Organization, and other institutions.
- Economic relations between Canada and Spain have grown significantly over recent years and continue to have a great potential for growth. The economies have natural synergies in high priority sectors such as aerospace, agri-food, seafood, pharmaceuticals, information and communication technologies, and financial services.

### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Under the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, tariff elimination and other provisions will enhance the competitiveness of Canadian exports.
- From 2014 to 2018, Alberta goods exports to Spain averaged \$58 million per year. Exports included nickel, food waste and animal feed, cereals, and aircraft. The export figures do not include trade in services such as tourism, architecture, engineering, and information technology.

**Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Spain 2014 to 2018**  
(Total Average \$58 Million)



- In the same time frame, Alberta's total imports from Spain averaged approximately \$98.4 million per year. This mostly consisted of iron and steel products, machinery, beverages, and chemical products. This figure does not include goods that have reached Alberta via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- Foreign direct investment stocks in Canada from Spain reached \$4.8 billion in 2018. Canadian direct investment stocks in Spain reached \$7 billion in the same year.
- Over the last few years, a wide scope of investment projects have been initiated, particularly in the transportation, communications, renewable energy, gas, chemical, and information and communications technology industries.

## ENERGY

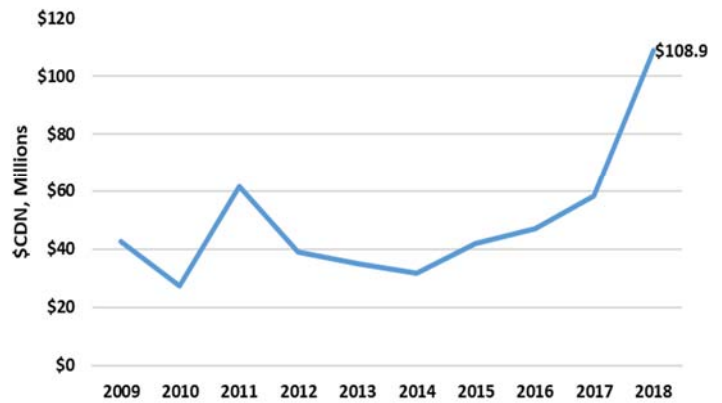
- Spain has very little domestic oil and gas production. It relies heavily on imports from Africa, the Middle East, countries of the former Soviet Union and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. All oil imports arrive by sea.
- Spain has 150 million barrels of proven oil reserves, compared to Alberta's 165.4 billion barrels (2016).
- In 2014, Spain's Repsol bought Talisman Energy, Canada's fifth-largest independent oil producer, for \$13 billion.
- Between May 2014 and April 2015, two 500,000 barrel shipments of Western Canadian crude were sent to Repsol refineries in Cartagena and Bilbao.
- Compania Logistica de Hidrocarburos S.A. has one of the largest and most efficient integrated oil product transport and storage networks in the world. Their 4,000 km pipeline network is the most extensive civil pipeline network in Western Europe.
- Spain is a global leader in wind and solar power generation. It is second only to Germany in the European Union for the most wind power, and ranks among the top ten wind producers in the world. In March 2011, wind power became Spain's main source of electricity generation.
- Sustainable Energy Technologies (headquartered in Calgary) provides solar technologies to Spain.

## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

### Information and Communications Technologies:

- Spain has a well-defined ICT sector with high potential for

**Alberta Exports to Spain (2009-2018)**



growth. The country has some of the best bandwidth penetration (fixed and mobile), and mobile telephony. Spain's video games market is the fourth largest in Europe.

- Alberta participates in Mobile World Congress, the world's largest event for the sector, which takes place in Barcelona every February. The event has generated significant interest among Alberta's wireless sector. In 2019, 22 delegates from 14 Alberta companies participated in the event.

### Clean Technologies:

- The bio-energy sector (biomass and waste-to-energy) is growing as Spain increasingly turns to bio-energy as a means of reaching their renewable energy production targets. Opportunities exist for Alberta companies in materials for production and biofuels as well as technology development. To access the large unexploited potential for biomass, Alberta suppliers must bring customized, affordable and sustainable solutions.
- There are opportunities for Alberta to compete in wind energy niche markets: small wind turbines, off grid energy supply by integrated wind-diesel or wind-fuel cell systems, hydrogen storage of wind power and cold climate operations. There is opportunity for Alberta companies to participate through integration into the wind turbine supply chain. Europe has led this market for 20 years, and knowledge transfer from the Europe market to the growing North American market is expected.
- Alberta water and wastewater companies will find demand for solutions in agriculture and mining operations. Water and wastewater treatment solutions are in demand to address water shortages and upgrading to ageing infrastructure.
- Smart grids and related technologies are being developed in Europe to improve energy efficiency, reliability and the sustainability of electrical grids. There are plans to deploy upgrades to generation, transmission and distribution systems.

### Aerospace and Defence:

- Spain is a significant buyer, supplier and manufacturer in the aerospace industry with research and development being an intensive sub-sector. Spain is home to Airbus Defence and Space, a world leader in military aircraft, and location for the final assembly of several aircraft.

### Life Sciences:

- Key areas of interest in Spain are oncology, diagnostics, new drug delivery systems, stem cells technology and tissues,

cardiology and immunology. An eleven-member biotechnology mission from Spain visited Alberta in March 2011.

#### **Advanced Manufacturing and Materials:**

- The Spanish manufacturing industry provides opportunities for Alberta technologies in instrumentation, SCADA, robotics, photonics, nanotechnology, sensors, test/scientific equipment, and coatings and other materials in a variety of verticals.

## **AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

- In 2016, Alberta agri-food exports to Spain totaled \$16 million. The top export was prepared animal feed (\$15 million).
- Spain's food service industry is thriving with an annual influx of some 68 million tourists. To meet demand, the country's agri-food imports have also increased. This trend presents strong opportunities for Canadian exporters looking to enter the lucrative Spanish marketplace.
- Spain has the fourth largest forest resources in Europe, occupying close to 29 per cent of the country's total land area. A forest plantation programme has been in place for 50 years with soil protection and erosion prevention as the main goals.

## **EDUCATION**

- The Spanish Ministry of Education posted a Spanish advisor to Alberta Education to enhance cultural ties, support curriculum development, and promote Spanish language and culture.
- For the 2015/2016 academic year, 110 citizens of Spain had international study permits for Alberta.
- Alberta's International Education Exchange Program for Students provides the opportunity to improve second language skills through linguistic and cultural immersion. Alberta students can participate in an exchange in Spain.
- Alberta schools have hosted teachers from Spain since 2005 through the Visiting Teacher Program, intended for foreign teachers to teach their native language in Alberta and assist an Alberta school jurisdiction with the development of their second language program. There were 57 Spanish visiting teachers in Alberta schools during the 2016/2017 school year.
- Spain and Alberta are cooperating in the implementation of International Spanish Academies, a special designation offered to schools who meet certain standards in Spanish bilingual language programming. There are currently 24 Alberta schools that have received this designation.
- The Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education entered an agreement with the Ministry of Education and the University of Alberta with the aim of establishing a Spanish Resource Centre in Edmonton.
- The University of Alberta has agreements with various Spanish Universities, including the University of Granada, the University of Navarra and the University Pontificia Comillas.
- In January 2007, the Cervantes Institute, in cooperation with the University of Calgary, inaugurated the Aula Cervantes, Canada's first Spanish language resource centre dedicated to promotion and teaching of Spanish.
- The University of Calgary has agreements with five Spanish Universities, including the University of Málaga and University

of Navarra, and offers a number of Group Study Programs in Spain which give students the opportunity to increase their understanding of the Spanish language, history, culture and society. Programs regularly offered include Food Culture in Spain, Environmental Design in Barcelona, and a semester program with Universidad Pablo de Olavide.

- MacEwan University's School of Business offers a spring school at the Toulouse Business School's Barcelona campus. Students spend a month studying a business course at the Master's level, and a 'Spanish for Business' course. A student exchange program with the Autonomous University of Barcelona was implemented in 2013/2014 academic year.
- Mount Royal University has agreements with the Universidad Pablo de Olavide in Seville, the Universidad de CEU San Pablo in Madrid and the Universidad de Vic, in Vic (Cataluña).
- Concordia University of Edmonton has active partnerships for exchange with the University of the Basque Country (UPV), Bilbao; Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid; and the University of Malaga. With UPV, Concordia has an active Erasmus+ agreement for students, staff and faculty exchanges.
- Advanced Education supports the Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning program enabling post-secondary institutions to develop study and research collaboration involving Spain.

## **IMMIGRATION AND COMMUNITY**

- Between 2014 and 2018, 572 citizens of Spain became Permanent Residents of Canada, with Alberta as their intended destination. 78 per cent were economic immigrants, including principal applicants, spouses, and dependents.
- Between 2014 and 2018, 225 citizens of Spain had Temporary Foreign Worker Program permits come into effect for Alberta.

## **RECENT VISITS**

- June 2015: Alberta Education welcomed Maria José Fabre González, Counsellor of Education of Spain to Canada.
- September 2013: His Excellency Carlos Gómez-Múgica, Ambassador of Spain, made his official visit to Alberta and signed a renewed MOU between Alberta Education and the Spanish Ministry of Education.

## **DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION**

- Spain's Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Enrique Ruiz Molero.
- Mr. Matthew Levin is Canada's Ambassador to Spain.
- Mr. Pablo Ruiz-Jarabo is the Consul General of Spain in Toronto, with jurisdiction for Alberta.
- Mr. Benjamin Eusebio García Nieto is the Honorary Consul in Edmonton.