

Spain – Alberta Relations



PROFILE

Capital: Madrid

Population: 46.3 million (2012 est.)

Language: Spanish

Government: Constitutional Monarchy

Head of State: King Juan Carlos I

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy (elected November 2011)

Currency: Euro (€), CAD\$1 = €0.71, €1 = CAD\$1.41 (November 2013)

GDP: US\$ 1.4 billion (2012 est.)

GDP (PPP): US\$ 1.5 billion (2012 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$ 32,165 (2012 est.)

GDP growth rate: -1.3% (2008-2012 average)

Inflation: 1.8% (2008-2012 average)

Unemployment: 25% (2012 est.)

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

DID YOU KNOW?

- By virtue of its geographic location, Spain often acts as a bridge between northern and southern Europe, but also between the Mediterranean and Africa.
- Over 56 million tourists visited Spain in 2011, making it one of the four most visited countries in the world after France, the United States and China.
- The Edmonton Hispanic Bilingual Association offers Spanish language and culture classes and celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2012.

SPAIN OVERVIEW

- Spain joined the European Union (EU) in 1986 and accounts for about 9% of the EU's population.
- Spain embarked on its transition to democracy in 1975 and built a very successful economy.
- Spain made great strides in fiscal reform in order to join the common European currency, the Euro, including the introduction of an intense privatization program.
- Spain's mixed capitalist economy is the 12th largest in the world.
- After almost 15 years of above-average economic growth, Spain entered a recession in 2008. The

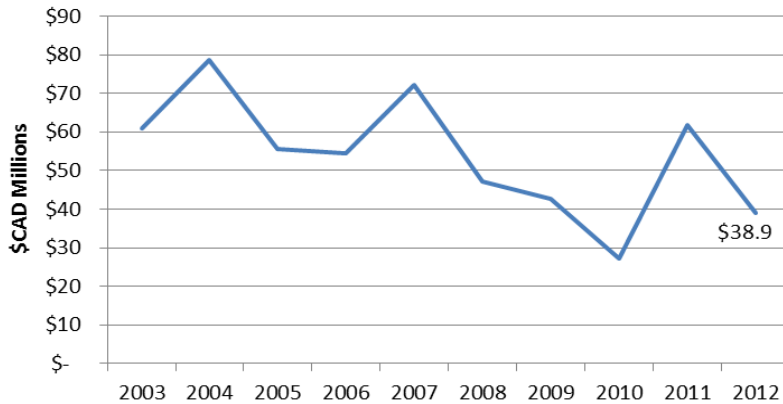
country emerged from the global recession in the first half of 2010, but fell into a second recession in the first quarter of 2012.

- Spain's economy is expected to grow in 2014, but the austerity measures that the government has committed itself to will inevitably slow down this process.
- Spain has been decentralizing its powers, devolving a considerable degree of power to its 17 regions which have varying degrees of autonomy. For example, in Catalonia, the Basque region and Galicia, regional languages have official status alongside the national Spanish language (Castilian).
- Spain, alongside Germany, is now one of the most decentralized democracies in Europe.

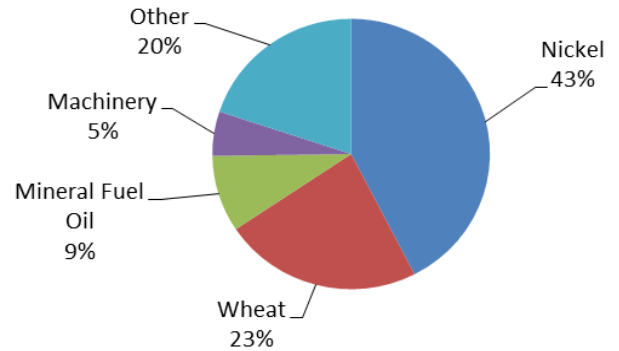
COMMUNITY

- There are approximately 30,000 Albertans of Spanish descent.
- Between 2008 and 2012, 131 immigrants from Spain chose Alberta as their destination, 60% were economic immigrants. During the same period, 794 temporary foreign workers from Spain were issued a permit to work in Alberta, and 179 Spanish students were issued a permit to study in the province.

Alberta's Exports to Spain, 2003-2012



Alberta's merchandise exports to Spain 2008-2012 (Total Average = CAD \$45.8 Million per year)



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Over the past 5 years (2008 - 2012), Alberta exports to Spain averaged CAD\$45.8 million per year. Exports included nickel, wheat, mineral fuel and oil, and machinery.
- From 2008 to 2012, Alberta's total imports from Spain averaged approximately CAD\$49.5 million per year; this figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces. Imports included iron and steel products, machinery, and red wine.
- Foreign direct investment stocks in Canada from Spain reached CAD\$1.7 billion in 2011.
- Canadian direct investment stocks in Spain reached CAD\$4.1 billion in 2012.
- 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 (ICT) industries.
- 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 2013 some 20 Alberta company representatives participated in the event.

AGRICULTURE

- In 2012, Alberta agri-food exports to Spain totaled CAD\$11.8 million, up 45 per cent from 2011. Top exports included wheat, pet food and alcoholic beverages. Wheat exports vary greatly from year to year, depending on world prices.

- The EU has adopted a 'technical solution' for low level presence of unapproved GMOs in feed. Before any GMO or product containing GMO's can be put on the market, it must meet the EU's approval process, and be labeled as GMO. Canada is at significant tariff disadvantage to EU countries. However, current free trade agreement negotiations hope to level this.
- Canada and the EU signed an Agreement in Principle on the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on October 18, 2013. Almost 94% EU agricultural tariff lines will be duty-free at entry into force of CETA, including durum wheat, other wheat, pulse crops such as peas and beans, and oils, including canola oil.
- The new beef quota under the CETA is significantly larger than Canada's total beef exports to the EU in 2012. Given Alberta is Canada's largest beef-producing province, the new quota creates a tremendous opportunity for beef producers in the province.

ENERGY

- Spain has very little domestic oil and gas production relying heavily on imports from Africa, the Middle East, countries of the former Soviet Union and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. All oil imports arrive by sea.
- Spain has 0.15 billion barrels (2012) of proven oil reserves, compared to Alberta's 170.5 billion barrels (2011).
- Compania Logistica de Hidrocarburos (CLH), S.A. has one of the largest and most efficient integrated oil product transport and storage networks in the world. The CLH oil pipeline network is over 4,000 kilometers long, which makes it the most extensive civil pipeline network in Western Europe.
- Spain is a global leader in wind and solar power generation, and ranks among the world's top ten countries for

wind power. For the first time in March 2011, wind power became Spain's main source of electricity generation. Spain has a 9.1 per cent share of global wind power production.

- In solar power, Sustainable Energy Technologies (headquartered in Calgary) provides solar technologies to Spain.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- The ICT market in Spain is one of the fastest growing in the EU. Spain's ICT industry is also a large supplier of ICT products to South America.
- Emerging areas of interest include health, biotechnology and nanotechnology. An 11-member biotechnology mission from Spain visited Alberta in March 2011.
- Banking and Finance is also an emerging sector, with strong linkages to the banking industry South America. Some of Alberta's Road Public-Private Partnerships are being built

EDUCATION

- Through its Embassy in Ottawa, Spain offers learning resources for Alberta's Spanish programs and supports teachers' professional development.
- The Spanish Ministry of Education posted a Spanish language advisor to Alberta Education to enhance cultural ties, support curriculum development, and promote Spanish language and culture.
- Alberta's International Education Exchange Program for Students

provides students with the opportunity to improve their second language skills through linguistic and cultural immersion. Alberta students can participate in an exchange in Spain.

- In 2011/2012, 16,882 students were enrolled in Spanish Language and Culture programming from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 193 schools.
- In 2011/2012, 3,984 students were enrolled in the Spanish bilingual program from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 21 schools.
- Ruta Quetzal BBA is an annual International Academic Adventure program for students co-sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education. This program aims to strengthen the foundations of the Latin-American Commonwealth of Nations among Spanish-speaking countries, Brazil, Portugal and other European, North American, African and Asian countries. Ruta Quetzal 2013 will involve students from different countries to travel across parts of Panama and Spain for more than one month during the summer in a unique learning experience. The student representing Canada during the 2013 program is from Edmonton, Alberta.
- Alberta schools have hosted teachers from Spain since 2005 through the Visiting Teacher Program. This program is 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 45 Spanish visiting teachers in Alberta schools during the 2012/2013 school year.
- Spain and Alberta are cooperating in the implementation of International Spanish Academies (ISA). An ISA is a special designation offered by Spain to schools abroad who meet certain standards in Spanish bilingual language programming. There are currently 24 Alberta schools that have received this designation.
- Alberta Education, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education of Spain, and four Alberta school jurisdictions hosted the annual conference for principals of ISA in

May 2011 in Calgary. This was the first ISA conference held in Canada.

- Scholarships are available for Alberta teachers and administrators to participate in summer courses in Spain. These courses provide study and professional development opportunities that focus on Spanish language, culture, and methodology.
- The Institute for Innovation in Second Language Education (IISLE) entered an agreement with the Ministry of Education and the University of Alberta (U of A) with the aim to establish a Spanish Resource Centre in Edmonton.
- The U of A has agreements with various Spanish Universities, including the University of Granada, the University of Navarra and the University Pontificia Comillas of Madrid.
- In January 2007, the Cervantes Institute, in cooperation with the University of Calgary (U of C), inaugurated the Aula Cervantes, Canada's first language resource centre dedicated to the promotion and teaching of Spanish. Learning resources are available online through four interactive levels of coursework.
- The U of C has agreements with five Spanish Universities including the University of Málaga and the University of Navarra.
- The U of C 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.
- Mount Royal University has agreements with the Universidad Pablo de Olavide in Seville, the Universidad de CEU San Pablo in Madrid and the Universitat de Vic, in Vic (Cataluña).
- 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. The spring school

has been offered since 2011. A student exchange program with the Autonomous University of Barcelona will be implemented during academic year 2013-2014.

RECENT VISITS

- May 2011: His Excellency Eudaldo Mirapaix, Ambassador of Spain made his first official visit to Alberta.
- June-July 2008: Alberta Energy Minister attended the World Petroleum Congress as a keynote speaker.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Spain's Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Carlos Gómez-Múgica Sanz.
- Mr. Jon Allen is Canada's Ambassador to Spain.
- Mr. Francisco Pascual de la Parte is the Consul General of Spain, in Toronto, with jurisdiction for Alberta.
- Mr. Benjamin Eusebio García Nieto is the Honorary Consul in Edmonton.



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