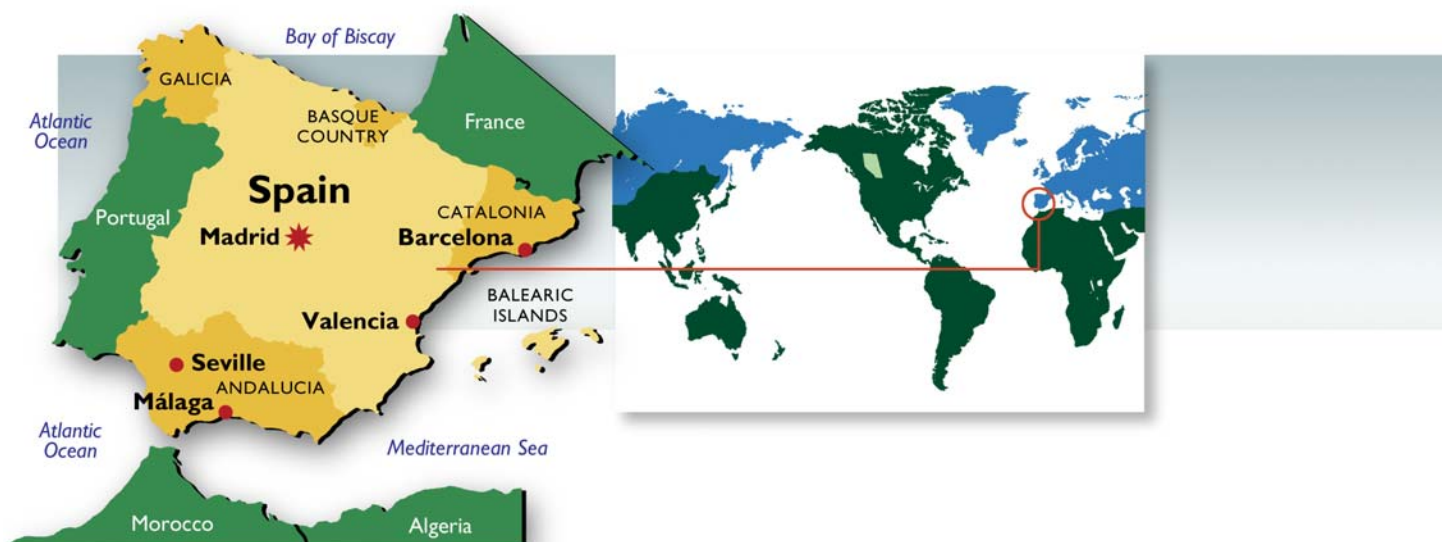


# Spain – Alberta Relations



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Madrid

**Population:** 46.1 million (2011)

**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 = €0.78, €1 = CAD\$1.40 (June 2012)

**GDP:** US\$1,493.8 billion (2011)

**GDP (PPP):** US\$1,504.0 billion (2011 est.)

**GDP Per Capita (PPP):** US\$32,603 (2011 est.)

**GDP growth rate:** -0.5% (2007-2011 average)

**Inflation:** 1.8% (2007-2011 average)

**Unemployment:** 21.7% (2011)

**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.

## SPAIN OVERVIEW

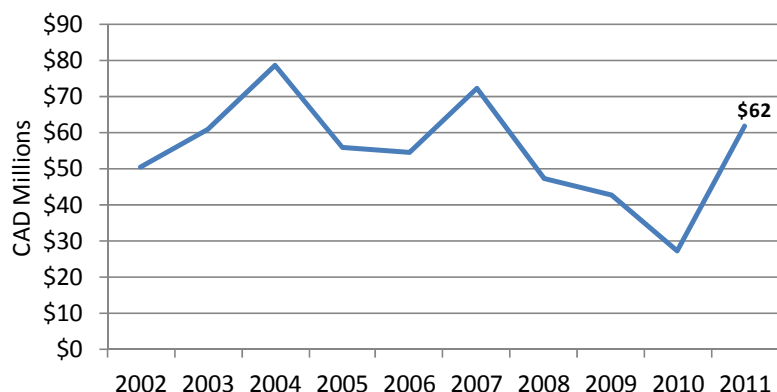
- Spain joined the European Union (EU) in 1986 and accounts for about 9% of the EU's population.
- Spain embarked on its transition to democracy in 1975 and built a very successful economy.
- Spain made great strides in fiscal reform in order to join the common European currency, the Euro, including the introduction of an intense privatization program.
- Spain's mixed capitalist economy is the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

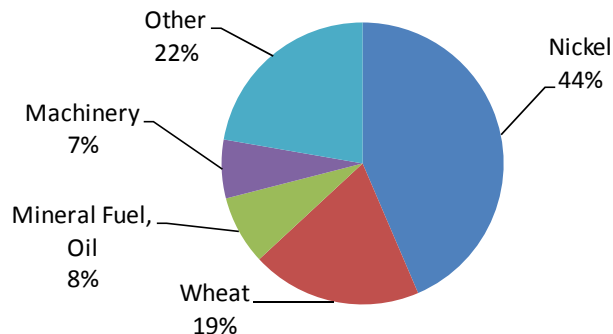
## COMMUNITY

- There are approximately 30,000 Albertans of Spanish descent.
- Between 2007 and 2011, 97 immigrants from Spain chose Alberta as their destination, 51% of which were economic immigrants.
- During this period, 382 Spanish temporary foreign workers were issued a permit to work in Alberta and 102 Spanish students were issued a permit to study in Alberta.
- The Edmonton Hispanic Bilingual Association offers Spanish language and culture classes and celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

**Alberta's Exports to Spain 2002-2011**



**Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Spain 2007-2011  
(Total Average CAD\$50.2 Million)**



## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Over the past 5 years (2007 - 2011), Alberta exports to Spain averaged CAD\$50.2 million per year. Exports included nickel, wheat, mineral fuel and oil, and machinery.
- From 2007 to 2011, Alberta's total imports from Spain averaged approximately CAD\$44.4 million per year; this figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- Foreign direct investment stocks in Canada from Spain reached CAD\$1.7 billion in 2011.
- Canadian direct investment stocks in Spain reached CAD\$5.1 billion in 2011.
- 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 technology (IT) industries.
- In April 2010, Alberta engaged in a multi-sector company mission from Madrid, which included biotechnology, engineering and information and communication technology (ICT).

## AGRICULTURE

- In 2011, Alberta agri-food exports to Spain totaled CAD\$8.2 million, consisting mostly of pet food (\$2.9 million), wheat (\$2.5 million), alcoholic beverages (\$894,000), and barley (\$844,000). Wheat exports vary greatly from year to year, depending on world prices.

## 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 (2011) of proven oil reserves, compared to Alberta's 170.5 billion barrels (2011).
- Compania Logistica de Hidrocarburos (CLH) 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.
- Enbridge International (a Canadian-based company with its head office in Calgary) has a 25 per cent interest in CLH and continues to explore new investment opportunities in Spain.
- Spain is a global leader in wind and solar power generation. 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.
- Alberta participates in Mobile World Congress, the world's largest event for the sector, which takes place in Barcelona each February. The event has generated significant interest among Alberta's wireless sector – in 2011 nearly 20 Alberta company representatives participated in the event.
- Emerging areas of interest include health, biotechnology and nanotechnology. An 11-member biotechnology mission from Spain visited Alberta in March 2011.

## EDUCATION

- Alberta Education renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Spanish Ministry of Education in February 2006.
- The Spanish Ministry of Education has posted a Spanish language advisor to Alberta Education to enhance cultural ties, support curriculum development, and promote Spanish language and culture.
- Alberta's Student Exchange Program 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 2010/2011, 17,637 students were enrolled in Spanish Language and Culture programming from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in 200 schools.

- In 2010/2011, 3,500 students were enrolled in the Spanish bilingual program from Kindergarten to Grade 11 in 17 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 2012 will involve students from different countries to travel across parts of Columbia and Spain for more than one month during the summer in a unique learning experience. The student representing Canada during the 2012 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 14 Spanish visiting teachers in Alberta schools during the 2011/2012 school year.
- The North American Visiting Teachers to Spain Program was established by the Spanish Ministry of Education to develop and promote English as a foreign language and bilingual English-Spanish curriculum programs throughout Spain. Two teachers from Alberta will be participating in this program in Spain in the 2012/2013 school year.
- Grant MacEwan University's School of Business offers a spring school at the Toulouse Business School's Barcelona Campus. Students in the Barcelona spring school program take Spanish for Business and an elective in either Strategy, Entrepreneurship or Accounting. In the first two years the program has been offered (2011 & 2012), 32 MacEwan business students have participated in the program. A student exchange program with the Autonomous University of Barcelona is scheduled for implementation in 2013-2014.
- The University of Calgary runs a regular semester abroad study program at the Universidad de Pablo de Olavide, Seville to explore Spanish language, literature, politics, business and culture.
- 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.
- Spain, with its Embassy in Ottawa, provides curriculum materials for Alberta's Spanish bilingual programs and supports teachers' professional development through a MOU renewed in February 2006.
- In January 2007, the Cervantes Institute, in cooperation with the University of Calgary (U of C), inaugurated the Aula Cervantes, Canada's 1<sup>st</sup> language resource centre dedicated to the promotion and teaching of Spanish. Learning resources are available online through four interactive levels of coursework.
- 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 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.
- The U of C has agreements with five Spanish Universities including the University of Málaga and the University of Navarra.
- 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).
- The MacEwan School of Business is offering a pilot program at the Toulouse Business School's Barcelona Campus in May 2011. Students in the Barcelona spring school program take Spanish for Business and an elective in either Entrepreneurship or Accounting. 12 MacEwan business students will be taking part in the pilot program in May 2011 with plans for more students in future years.
- From 2006 to 2010, 87 foreign students from Spain were issued a permit to study in Alberta.

## RECENT VISITS

- May 2011: His Excellency Eudaldo Mirapax, 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.
- June 2006: Visit of Mr. Javier Garcia Calvo, Trade Analyst of the Economic and Commerce Office of the Embassy of Spain, Ottawa.

## DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Spain's Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Eudaldo Mirapax, Baron of Abella.
- Mr. Graham Shantz 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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