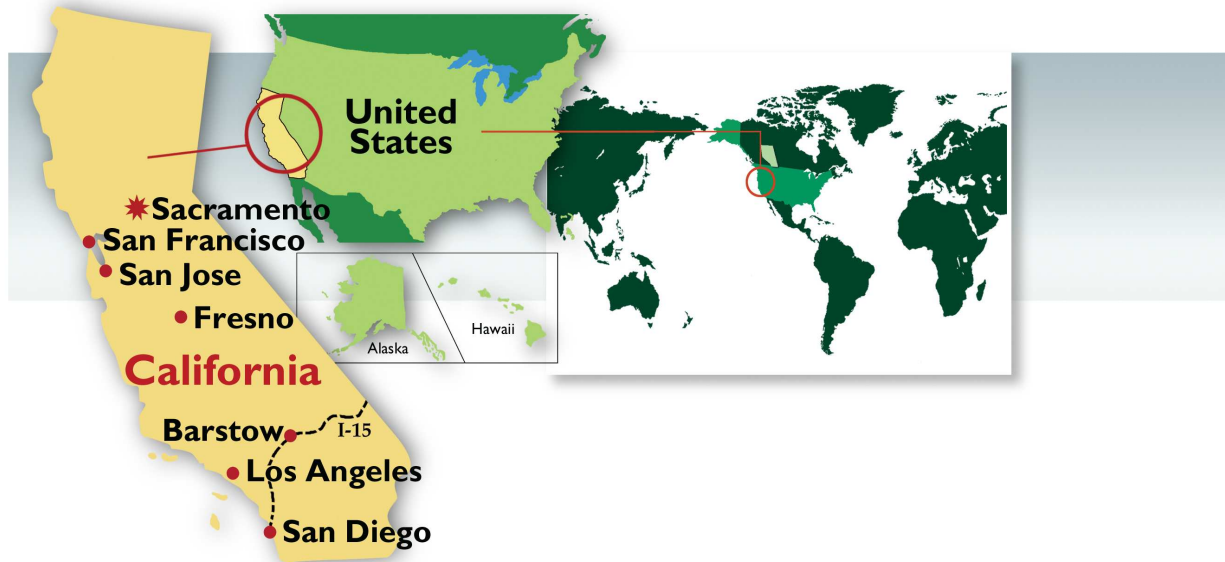


# California – Alberta Relations

International, Intergovernmental  
and Aboriginal Relations

Alberta



## PROFILE

**Capital:** Sacramento

**Population:** 36.5 million (2006 est.)

**Language:** English (Spanish)

**Government:** Bicameral state government

**Head of Government:** Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) Term expires: 2010

**Currency:** CDN\$1 = 0.95 USD (July 2007)

**GSP:** \$1.519 trillion US (2006)

**Per Capita Income:** \$41,663 US (2006)

**Unemployment Rate:** 4.9% (June 2006)

**Key Industry Sectors:** Electronic components and equipment, transportation equipment, aerospace, film, food processing, computers and computer software, tourism.

## DID YOU KNOW?

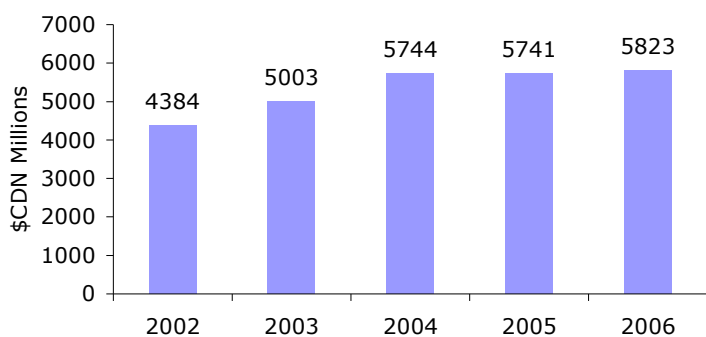
- California has the world's 6th largest economy, and is a major world center of learning, technology, and entertainment.
- The technology sector accounts for a large percentage of California's merchandise exports. High tech exports represented about 35% of the state's total exports of close to US\$127 billion in 2006.

## RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

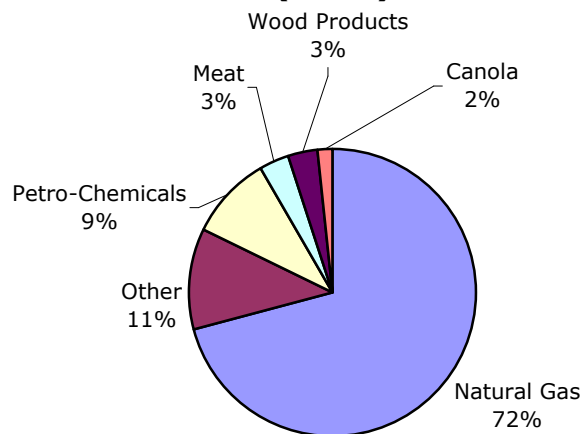
- Alberta's annual exports to California have averaged \$5.4 billion over the last five years, making it Alberta's third largest export market (after New York and Illinois).
- Alberta's imports from California totaled \$1.2 billion in 2006, including wine, fruits and vegetables, electrical parts, laboratory equipment, high tech apparatus, and airplane parts.

- California is connected to Alberta by the I-15 highway, providing the southern link along the CANAMEX intermodal transportation corridor.
- In 2002, Alberta Innovation & Science developed the Alberta-California Venture Channel (ACVC). This initiative is aimed at partnering expertise and capital from California with entrepreneurs from Alberta.
- Alberta Innovation & Science has been holding annual expatriate events in California since 1999. Alberta alumni are provided information on the high-technology opportunities that exist in Alberta and encourage their return, investment or participation in future developments.

## Alberta's Exports to California (adjusted for natural gas)



## Alberta's Merchandise Exports to California (2006)



### TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Canada is California's second largest export market, after Mexico.
- Alberta accounts for more than 11 percent of Canada-California trade.
- Alberta's top exports to California are natural gas, petrochemicals, beef, and particle board.
- During the past five years, two-way trade between Alberta and California averaged \$6.5 billion per year.
- Since the implementation of NAFTA, trade between California and Canada has increased by an average of 119%.
- Over the 2002-2006 period, California was Alberta's largest agri-food export market in the U.S. with annual agri-food exports to California averaging \$457 million (or 9.1% of Alberta's total international agri-food exports). Top exports include beef, oilseed cake and meal, pork, processed potatoes, canola oil, peat moss, and live hogs.
- Over the 2002-2006 period, Alberta's annual agri-food imports from California averaged \$333.2 million. Top imports included fruits and vegetables, beverages, foods and food materials, and cereal preparations.

### ENERGY

- Alberta exports a large volume of natural gas to California, via pipeline through Washington (these volumes are often reported as exports to Washington in statistical summaries).
- The impact of California's electricity market upon the Western energy grid creates challenges and opportunities for states and provinces.

### TOURISM

- California is Alberta's second largest source of U.S. visitors and tourist dollars spent, after Montana.
- California is a popular tourist destination for Albertans (Disneyland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Palm Springs).

### EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- High technology
- Multimedia & film
- Electronics & telecommunications
- Transportation equipment
- Value-added forest products
- Tourism
- Agri-food

### EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Alberta's universities are developing close linkages with their California counterparts on NAFTA issues and areas of bilateral mutual interest.
- Alberta is committed to facilitating development of new partnerships between film producers in Alberta and California. Alberta does not provide subsidies, but does offer: no provincial sales tax; low construction and service costs; experienced crews; technical capacity and spectacular locations.

### RECENT VISITS

- March 2007: Clint Dunford MLA for Lethbridge West, represented Alberta on a panel at the Alberta-California Energy Conference hosted by the University of California, Berkeley.
- Jan 2005: Minister Doerksen traveled to Los Angeles and Silicon Valley to develop closer cooperation in information and communication technology.
- Dec 2003: Richard Riordan – Governor Schwarzenegger's education advisor and the former mayor of Los Angeles – visited Edmonton.
- Oct 2003: Premier Klein traveled to Silicon Valley as part of the BC/Alberta Trade and Investment Mission.
- Nov 2001: Premier Klein traveled to Los Angeles as part of the Team Canada West trade mission.
- July 2001: Premier Klein led a Team Alberta mission to Los Angeles for Canada Day, to promote the Alberta Advantage.
- Alberta's Ministry of Innovation and Science has been undertaking regular missions to California to develop closer cooperation in information and communication technology.

### DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Mr. Tom Huffaker is the U.S. Consul General in Calgary.
- Canada's Consul General in Los Angeles is Mr. Alain Dudoit.