

Bavaria – Alberta Relations

Government of Alberta ■
International and Intergovernmental Relations



PROFILE

Capital: Munich

Population: 12.5 million (2009)

Language: German

Government: Elected Landtag

Head of State: Minister-President Horst Seehofer

Currency: \$1 CDN = € 0.74 (March 2011); € 1 = \$1.35 CDN

GDP: € 429.9 billion (2009)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): € 34,397 (2009)

GDP growth rate: 10% (2000-09 avg.)

Inflation: 2.9% (2007)

Unemployment: 4.8% (2009)

Key Industry Sectors: Mechanical engineering, automotive, electrical engineering, advanced technology.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Bavaria has oil refining facilities as well as two crude oil pipelines, which allow Bavaria to be part of the international oil processing and supply network.
- Bavaria is Germany's largest and oldest state and leading location of innovation, spending approximately 3% of its GDP on research and development.

- Two of the top eight German universities are located in Bavaria: Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) and Technical University of Munich (TUM); furthermore, Germany's most prestigious research societies have centres in Bavaria (Max-Planck, Fraunhofer, Helmholtz).
- Numerous global players have their head offices in Bavaria (BMW, EADS, MAN, Siemens, Adidas, Puma, Sandoz, Astellas Pharma, Dermapharm and Allianz).
- Bavaria has been pursuing political and economic relationships with central, eastern and southern Europe for more than 30 years.
- Bavaria is Germany's top tourism destination. In 2009, Bavaria had 264 million visitors, 21.9% of the German total.
- Munich is one of three official candidate cities to host the 2018 Winter Olympics.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- The Alberta Germany Office was opened in Munich in 2002 and has been instrumental in building relationships and forging ties between Alberta's and Bavaria's respective business

communities.

- In June 2009, Alberta signed a MOU on science, research and education cooperation with Bavaria.
- The Bavaria – Quebec – Alberta International Scientific Mobility Exchange Program is in place to aid the movement of researchers between Bavaria and Alberta.
- In September 2005, the Alberta Germany Office celebrated the Alberta Centennial in Munich, with attendance by over 150 special guests including Bavarian Minister for Europe, the Hon. Eberhard Sinner.
- Alberta and Bavaria have mutual economic interest, for instance in the aerospace, health technology or nanotechnology sectors. Germany's most important cluster in the UAV sector is located in Bavaria.
- Both Bavaria and Alberta share similar conservative governments and support strong provinces within a federated country.

COMMUNITY

- One in five Albertans is of German descent.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- In 2009, Bavaria exports totaled €124 billion (including sales to the rest of Germany), mostly automobiles, industrial equipment, electrical products and chemical products.
- Bavaria's top export markets are Austria, the United States, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and China (2009).
- In 2009, Bavaria imports totaled €110 billion.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Mechanical engineering, with more than 196,000 employees in over 1000 plants, traditionally ranks at the top in Bavaria with €43.1 billion in sales. Add to that a strong process engineering sector and you will find tremendous opportunities for Albertan companies from the conventional and unconventional oil & gas industry. This is particularly the case for high valued-added technologies required in the supply chain management of upgraders
- Munich-based Siemens will deliver 37 pumping stations and 19 substations to supply the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline project, estimated at \$200 million CAN. The pipeline will transport crude oil from Northern Alberta's oil sands to the U.S.
- On both the international and national level, Bavaria has taken a leading position in almost all new technologies – including nanotechnologies as well as environmental technologies.
- Bavarian environmental technology is aimed at increasing economic efficiency while simultaneously conserving natural resources and protecting the environment in fields such as water and air filtration.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- The Bavaria – Quebec – Alberta International Scientific Mobility Exchange Program is in place to aid the movement of researchers between Bavaria and Alberta.
- In 2009 the Cluster of Excellence CoTeSys Munich – Cognition for Technical Systems – signed a cooperation agreement with the Alberta Ingenuity Centre for Machine Learning (AICML) at the University of Alberta that facilitates the intensified scientific cooperation between the two world-renowned research centres.
- Since February 2007, the University of Alberta (U of A) has partnered with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, at the Munich University, to fund researcher exchanges between both regions. About 30 Humboldt fellows are at the U of A.
- The U of A has also established a partnership with Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg and with Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) in Munich.
- Since 2007, the Bavarian Research Alliance has been engaged in developing research cooperation with Alberta.
- In 2007, 7 researchers from different Bavarian universities and research centres specialized in chemical, mechanical, computer, materials and environmental engineering visited Alberta universities.
- Mount Royal University has established a partnership with Munich University of Applied Sciences.

VISITS

- September 2010: Alberta's Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology visited Bavaria to pursue collaborative research projects, market Alberta's knowledge-based industry and innovation capacity, and to promote Alberta internationally as a preferred partner in research, innovation and commercialization.
- September 2010: Nanotechnology delegation from Alberta visited Bavaria to explore opportunities for collaboration.

- June 2009: The Alberta Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, Mr. Doug Horner, visited Munich/Germany.
- November 2008: Visit of the Alberta Premier, Mr. Ed Stelmach, to Germany/Munich, introducing the new Managing Director of the Alberta Germany Office, Mr. Wesley Sawatzky.
- June 2007: A business delegation from Bavaria attended Calgary's Gas & Oil Exposition GO EXPO.
- June 2007: An economic and scientific delegation under the lead of the Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Transport and Technology visited Calgary, Fort McMurray and Edmonton.
- October 2006: A business delegation from Alberta visited the IBA international baking fair and explored potential joint ventures.
- July 2006: the Calgary Stampede Showband visited Germany and played concerts in Munich and Garmisch-Partenkirchen.
- May 2006: The Hon. Hans Spitzner, Bavarian Vice-Minister for the Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology led a delegation of business leaders and government officials on a mission to Alberta.
- April 2006: The Honourable Emilia Müller, Bavarian Minister of State for Federal and European Affairs, visited Alberta to learn more about Canada's federal system.

REPRESENTATION and OFFICES

- The German Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Mr. Georg Witschel.
- Canada's Ambassador to Germany is Mr. Peter M. Boehm.
- Mr. Alan Minz is Canada's Consul in Munich.
- Alberta has an office co-located in the Canadian Consulate in Munich, headed by Mr. Wes Sawatzky, Managing-Director.
- Bavaria has an office located in Montréal, Québec.

