

Germany – Alberta Relations

Government of Alberta ■
International and Intergovernmental Relations



PROFILE

Capital: Berlin

Population: 82.8 million (2009)

Language: German

Government: Federal Republic

Head of State: President Christian Wulff (Christian Democratic Union)

Head of Government: Chancellor Angela Merkel (Christian Democratic Union)

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

GDP: US\$3,53.9 billion (2009)

GDP (PPP): US\$2,757.9 billion (2009)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$33,307 (2009)

GDP growth rate: 0.5% (2005-2009 avg.)

Inflation: 1.7% (2005-2009 avg.)

Unemployment: 7.5% (2009)

Key Industry Sectors: vehicles, chemicals, iron, steel, electronics, machinery, machine tools, coal, cement, shipbuilding, food and beverage and textiles

DID YOU KNOW

- Alberta and Germany have recognized each other's driver's licenses since 1996.
- Germany is one of the key partners in the European Union and a driving force behind the Euro and European integration.
- Germany is the world's fourth-largest economy and the largest in Europe.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta established an international office in Munich in 2002.
- Alberta signed a twinning agreement with Saxony in 2002. This was renewed in 2010 for a further five years.
- In 2009, Alberta signed a MOU on science, research and education co-operation with Bavaria.
- The City and County of Leduc has been twinned with Grimma since 2005.
- In September 2006 the Germans opened an Edmonton branch of the Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.
- One in five Albertans claim German ancestry.

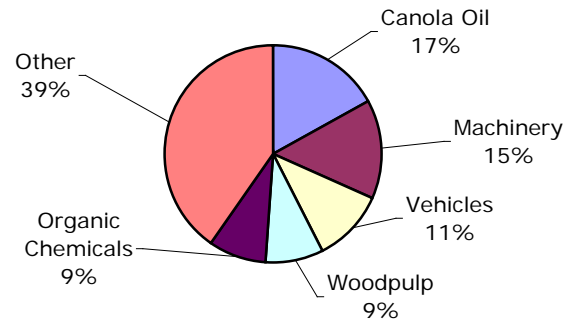
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Over the past five years (2005-2009) Alberta exports to Germany have averaged \$113.6 million CDN per year, including canola, machinery, vehicles, and wood pulp.
- From 2005-2009, Alberta's direct imports from Germany averaged \$455 million CDN per year. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.
- Foreign direct investment in Canada from Germany totaled \$13.9 billion CDN in 2009, making Germany the 7th largest global investor in Canada.
- Canadian direct investment abroad in Germany totaled \$9.6 billion CDN in 2009, making Germany the 12th largest market worldwide for Canadian investment.
- Frankfurt-based Lurgi AG, world leader in gas technologies, will upgrade 50,000 barrels per day of Alberta's oil sands, by early 2013. Calgary-based North West Upgrading awarded Lurgi AG the design and license for a gasification-based hydrogen plant in Sturgeon County, estimated at more than \$500 million.

Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Germany (2000-2009)



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Germany (2005 - 2009 Average)



- In November 2007, Homburg Investment along with the German pension fund DEGI purchased a Calgary high-rise project, the Homburg-Harris Centre, which is valued at more than \$400 million.
- In 2008, over 90,000 German tourists visited Alberta, spending \$87 million, making Germany one of Alberta's largest sources of tourism.
- There are at least 25 German subsidiaries operating in Alberta, including: Siemens (multi-sectoral), Evonik Industries (chemicals), Refratechnik/Baymag (minerals), Heidelberg Cement/Lehigh Inland (construction), SAP (ICT), Daimler, BASF, ThyssenKrupp and Bayer CropScience.

PEOPLE

- From 2004-2008, over 1,150 immigrants and 4,400 temporary foreign workers from Germany were destined to Alberta. Immigrants came in mostly under the economic category. Temporary foreign workers from Germany came to Alberta to be employed mostly in skilled occupations.
- German/Canadian youth workers exchange program (18-35) facilitates the movement of skilled German workers to Canada for job placements.
- Since 2003, Alberta has held successful job fairs in Germany to attract German skilled workers in key sectors for Alberta. In 2008 and 2009, fairs in Essen and Leipzig were attended by up to 2,400 people.

ENERGY

- Germany is one of the world's largest energy consumers. Due to the country's limited domestic energy resources (except for coal), Germany imports the majority of its energy.
- Germany is the 5th largest oil consumer and 3rd largest natural gas consumer in the world.
- Germany imports 95% of its oil consumption from abroad and 83% of its natural gas. Russia supplies over 39% of Germany's gas imports.
- As a world leader in renewable energy (mainly in wind and solar), 10.6% of all German energy consumption and 16% of electricity originates from renewable sources. At almost 20%, Germany ranks 2nd behind the United States for global wind energy output.
- Completed in April 2010, Alpha Ventus is Germany's first offshore wind energy plant.
- The German government committed CDN \$2.68 billion between 2006 and 2008 for energy technologies. The private sector has also invested additional capital for research of renewable energy sources.
- Future research funding will be in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energies including a continued focus on solar power, off-shore wind farms, energy storage, energy optimized buildings, biomass and modern coal technologies (such as carbon capture and storage).
- On January 20, 2010, the German government announced a 15% cut to solar panel subsidies on new roof-mounted solar power. These subsidies are referred to as feed in tariffs and utilities are currently required to pay 39 euro cents per kilowatt of solar power to generators of renewable energy until the point at which the solar energy costs the same as fossil fuel-based power.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Identified opportunities include:
 - Tourism
 - Construction and building products
 - Environmental technology and services
 - Plastics machinery
 - Partnerships in advanced chemicals derived from petroleum
 - Biotechnology
 - Health technologies
 - Information and Communication technology
- Alberta was the site for several German 'made for television' film productions in recent years.
- Germany is the largest ICT market in Europe with excellent opportunities in areas such as enterprise solutions, wireless applications and health.
- Germany is the largest medical devices and pharmaceuticals market in Europe. With aging population, increasing costs and focus on wellness, it provides broad opportunities for Alberta health technology companies.
- Germany is the 5th largest aerospace and defense industry in the world and ranks as one of the most important sectors for trade between Germany and Canada. Opportunities exist for Alberta firms that can offer specialized and innovative technologies, products or services for manufacturing, maintenance, repair and overhaul, Unmanned Vehicle Systems, Defense in the 21st century (C3 capabilities Command, Control, Communication) and the EU's green initiatives (reduced emissions/noise, green operations and eco-design).

AGRICULTURE

- Germany is the world's largest importer of agricultural products, with the majority supplied by other EU countries. Products must meet strict German/EU food laws, packaging and labeling requirements.
- On average over the past five years (2005-2009), Alberta has exported over \$30 million worth of agricultural goods per year to Germany, consisting mainly of canola oil.

GERMAN LANGUAGE

- German language programming is offered in schools across Alberta, with classes taught from the Kindergarten to Grade 12 levels.
- Currently there are over 72 schools offering German language studies to almost 4,000 students.
- Seven of these schools have bilingual programs. Alberta offered bilingual education in German to more than 700 students in the 2006/2007 school year. The majority of these schools are in Edmonton and the surrounding area.
- All six universities in Alberta offer credit programming in the German language.
- Alberta has an agreement with the Federal Office of German Schools Abroad providing the province with a German language consultant, Mr. Wieland Petermann, to advise on language programs and facilitate curriculum development. He is located in Alberta Education in Edmonton.

EDUCATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- Alberta Education co-operates in both teacher and secondary student exchange programs with Hesse, Bavaria and Saxony.
- Alberta Advanced Education and Technology approved funding in January 2010 for the Alberta-Saxony Intercultural Internship Alliance, a co-operative venture with the State of Saxony to exchange students in industry and research placements
- Three Alberta high schools, Lindsay Thurber (Red Deer), Harry Ainlay (Edmonton), and Onoway High School have active twinnings with "gymnasien" in Hesse.

- The Universities of Alberta and Calgary, Concordia University College, Athabasca University and MacEwan all have numerous agreements with German universities, in such areas as dentistry, science, technology, engineering, and business.
- The University of Alberta has signed an agreement to work with the German Helmholtz Association on a five-year research project on the energy and environmental challenges of the oil sands.

COMMUNITY & CULTURE

- Approximately 679,700 Albertans are of German ancestry, the second-largest ethnic group in Alberta.
- There are currently about 60 German-Canadian organizations active across Alberta.
- WORLD-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, with daily programming in German.

RECENT 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.
- March 2010: Alberta Energy's Parliamentary Assistant Diana McQueen visited Germany to showcase three Alberta-based carbon capture and storage projects and discuss potential opportunities for German companies.
- February 2010: A delegation led by the Minister-President of Saxony, including the German Ambassador to Canada, visited Alberta to sign MOUs with the Government of Alberta and the U of A.
- October 2009: A delegation of the German Research Foundation visited Alberta.
- June 2009: Hon. Doug Horner, Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, travelled to Bavaria to discuss joint funding of

collaborative research projects. He also signed an MOU with the Bavarian State Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts on research and technology development co-operation.

- December 2008: The Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Rob Renner, met with German officials and environmental experts in Berlin.
- November 2008: Premier Stelmach led a mission to Munich to promote trade and investment with Alberta.
- June 2008: Four German Parliamentarians visited Alberta through the Partnership of Parliaments.
- June 2008: The Minister of Employment and Immigration, the Hon. Hector Goudreau, led an immigration mission to Germany.
- June 2008: Consul General for Germany in Vancouver, Mr. Klaus Achenbach, visited Alberta.
- September 2006: His Excellency Matthias Höpfner, German Ambassador to Canada, visited Alberta.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The German Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Mr. Georg Witschel.
- Canada's Ambassador to Germany is Mr. Peter M. Boehm.
- Mr. Hermann Sitz is the German Consul General in Vancouver.
- The Honorary Consul for Germany in Edmonton is Mr. M. Bernd Reuscher.
- Mr. Alan Minz is Canada's Consul in Munich.
- Co-located in the Consulate is Alberta's Germany office, led by managing director Wes Sawatzky.

NOTE:

More detailed relations papers for Bavaria and Alberta's sister-province, Saxony, can be found on our website at:

www.international.alberta.ca

