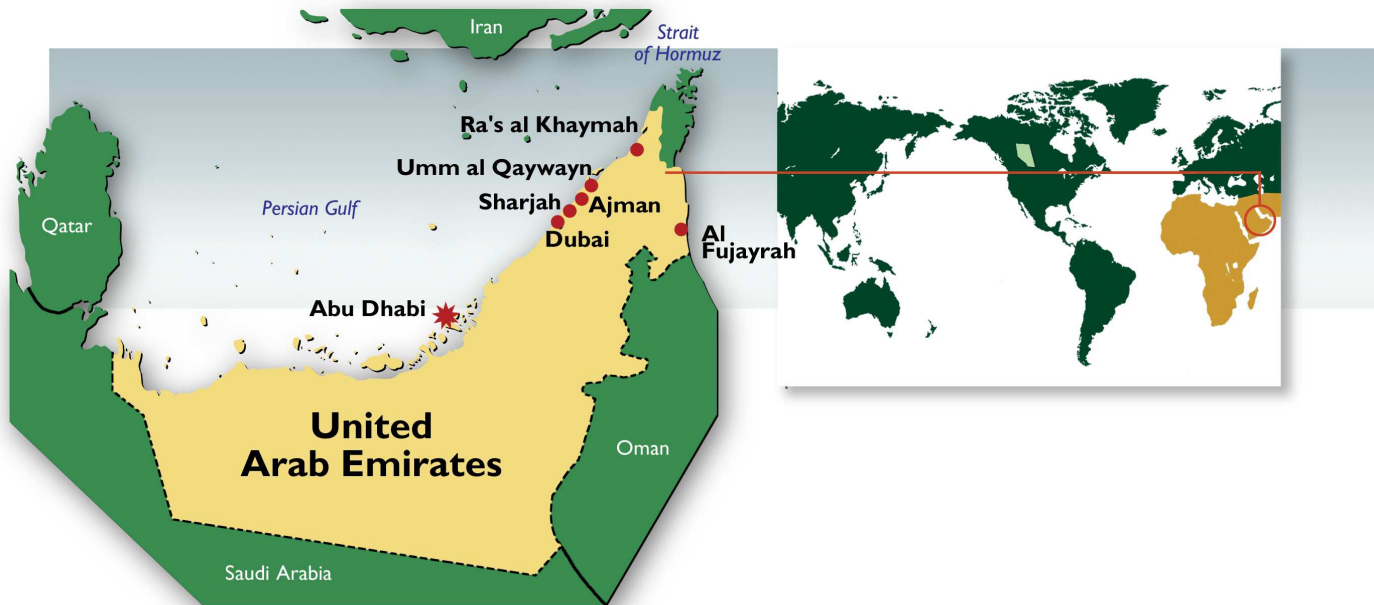


United Arab Emirates – Alberta Relations

International and
Intergovernmental Relations

Alberta



PROFILE

Capital: Abu Dhabi

Population: 4.2 million (2007 est.)

Language: Arabic (official), Farsi. Large expatriate communities also speak English, Hindi, and Urdu.

Government: Federation of 7 emirates: Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Fujairah, Sharjah, Dubai, Umm al-Qaiwain, Ras al-Khaimah

Head of State: President, His Highness Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan (also ruler of Abu Dhabi)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum (also ruler of Dubai)

Currency: UAE Dirham (AED), \$1 CDN = 3.72 AED (May 2008)

GDP: US\$184.1 billion (2007 est.)

GDP (PPP): US\$146.4 billion (2007 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$27,930 (2007 est.)

GDP growth rate: 7.5% (2007 est.)

Inflation: 9.9% (2003-07 average)

Key Industry Sectors: petroleum, petrochemicals, large-scale hydrocarbon-based activities, aluminium and other metals, tourism, construction materials, boat building, fishing, handicrafts, pearling.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES OVERVIEW

- Although United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of seven states, each state maintains a large degree of autonomy. The UAE is governed by a Supreme Council of Rulers made up of the seven emirs, who appoint the prime minister and the cabinet.
- Political power is concentrated in Abu Dhabi, which controls the vast majority of the UAE's economic and resource wealth.
- Despite an economy that is somewhat more diversified than most of the other Persian Gulf oil exporters, the UAE is taking steps to reduce its dependence on oil and gas revenues.
- The government has invested heavily in sectors such as aluminium production, tourism, aviation, re-export commerce, and telecommunications. Non-oil sectors presently contribute approximately 70% of the UAE's GDP, and about 30% of its total exports.

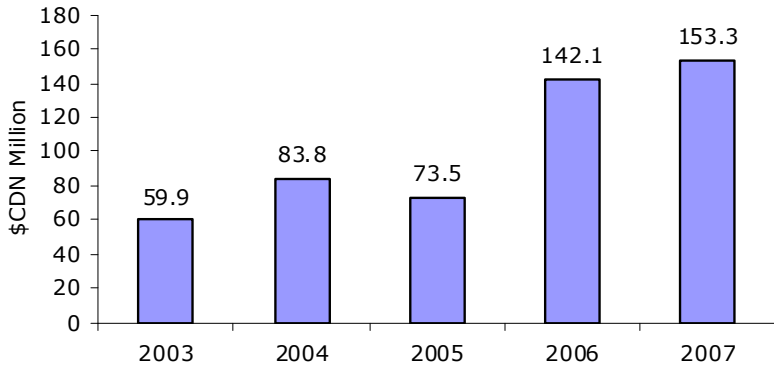
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- The Government of Alberta has sent several trade missions to the UAE in recent years.
- Alberta participates in the annual Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC).
- The UAE posted a Senior Trade Officer in Alberta for 6 weeks in 2004. This was reciprocated by Alberta in the fall of 2004, with an AED official being posted to Abu Dhabi for 6-week period.

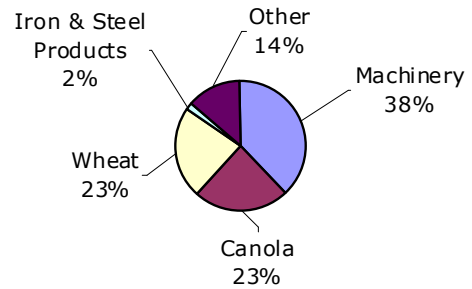
DID YOU KNOW?

- The United Arab Emirates is one of the most prosperous countries in the world.
- Dubai has become a central Middle East hub for trade and finance.
- In 2007, the Abu Dhabi National Energy Company TAQA invested in energy companies in Alberta, buying Calgary-based PrimeWest for \$5 billion; Northrock Resources Ltd for \$2 billion; and Pioneer Natural Resources Canada for \$540 million.
- In 2006, the UAE signed a one-year contract for flight training in NATO Training Base in Cold Lake.

Alberta's Merchandise Exports to UAE (2003-07)



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to UAE (2007)



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Over the last five years (2003-07), Alberta's exports to the UAE averaged \$102.4 million per year, including canola, machinery, iron and steel products, and wheat.
- Exports have dramatically increased in 2006-07 due mainly to a significant increase in market share of canola.
- Over the last five years, Alberta's imports from the UAE averaged \$6.5 million, including jewelry, oil and gas equipment, seafood, and iron and steel products.
- A leading member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the UAE is experiencing dramatic economic growth and is Canada's primary export market in the region. More than 40% of goods exported to the UAE are re-exported as the country is a major regional distribution centre.

ENERGY

- In 2007, the UAE had approximately 7.4% of the world's proven oil reserves (98 billion barrels [bbl]). In comparison, Alberta has 175 billion barrels, or 13% of reserves.
- The UAE has the world's fifth-largest natural gas reserves (214.4 Tcf in 2007). Almost 95% of these reserves are found in Abu Dhabi. In comparison, Alberta reserves are 41 Tcf.
- In 2008, the Abu Dhabi National Energy Company formally acquired Prime West Energy, a Calgary-based conventional oil and gas royalty trust that actively acquires, develops, produces and sells natural gas, crude oil and natural gas liquids for the generation of monthly cash distributions to unit holders. The new company is now known as TAQA North Ltd.

- In 2007, Calgary's Sonic Energy Services expanded to the Middle East, providing specialized oilfield services in a joint venture with UAE-based Shaikh Mana bin Khalifa Al-Maktoum (MKM) Commercial Holdings estimated at \$5 million.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Construction and Engineering Services:** Opportunities exist for Alberta firms due to the expansion of a number of plants and onshore gas development. Due to the expansion of the transport network, infrastructures are needed for roads, airports, and railways.
- Building Materials:** Rapid economic and population growth has fuelled the construction and renovation boom. Opportunities exist for suppliers of materials and machinery, including cement, concrete, steel, high-level communications infrastructure, etc. UAE relies completely on imported equipment.
- Computers:** Annual market growth for computers is estimated at 20-25% over the next three years. Calgary-based EFA Software Services has already signed several contracts in the Gulf region, including the UAE.
- Energy:** Expansion in the energy sector generates opportunities in petrochemicals and electricity generation. Providers of new and innovative oil and gas equipment and services will be required as the modernization and expansion of the oil and gas industry continues. There is particular interest in Sour Gas technology and Alberta is viewed as being a leader in this field.
- The UAE is an important market for firms looking to expand their Middle East revenue, and remains an important hub for accessing larger regional markets, given its broadly favourable business climate and strong logistics.

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

- Approximately 400 students annually are enrolled in Edmonton's Arabic bilingual program. Locally developed second language courses in Arabic are also offered to approximately 400 other students province-wide.

COMMUNITY

- While there are very few Albertans of UAE descent, there are 38,000 of Arab origin.
- CKER-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, including Arabic.

RECENT VISITS

- June 2004: A large delegation from the UAE, including members of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), participated in the Global Petroleum Show in Calgary.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- His Excellency Hassan Mohammed Obaid Al Sowaidi is the Ambassador for the UAE to Canada.
- Mrs. Sara S. Hradecky is the Canadian Ambassador to UAE.

For more information, contact:

Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations

Tel: (780) 427-6543 Fax: (780) 427-0699

E-mail: feedback@inter.gov.ab.ca