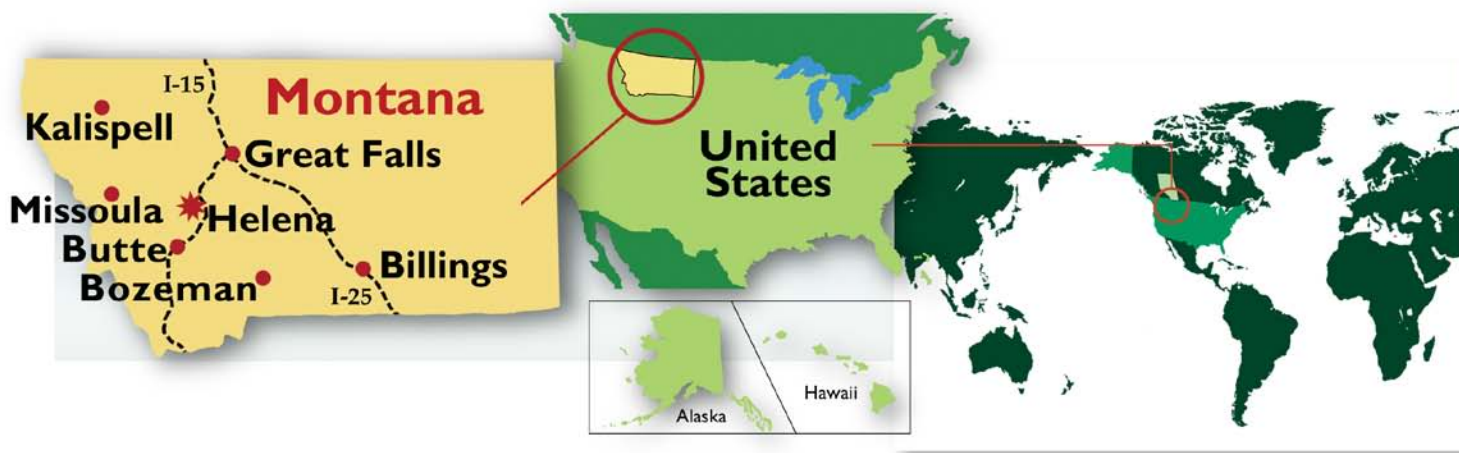


Montana – Alberta Relations

Government
of Alberta ■



PROFILE

Capital: Helena

Population: 989,415 (2010)

Language: English

Government: Bicameral state government

Head of Government: Governor Brian Schweitzer (D)

Currency: U.S. Dollars
\$1 CDN = \$0.9830 U.S. (November 2011)

Gross State Product (GSP): U.S. \$37.2 billion (2010)

Per Capita Income: U.S. \$37,200 (2010)

Unemployment: 7.7% (September 2011)

Key Industry Sectors: wheat, chemicals, industrial machinery, vehicle parts, mining, forestry, pharmaceutical products, aircrafts

Main Cities (Metropolitans): (2010)

- Billings: 104,170
- Missoula: 66,788
- Great Falls: 58,505
- Bozeman: 37,280
- Butte-Silver Bow: 34,200
- Helena: 28,180

DID YOU KNOW?

- Montana's largest export is wheat and wheat products.
- 71% of Montana's population is employed by small business.
- Like Alberta, Montana has a large prairie, with a grain economy, but also a significant mountain region, with large forestry and mineral industries.
- The Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park straddles the Alberta-Montana border.

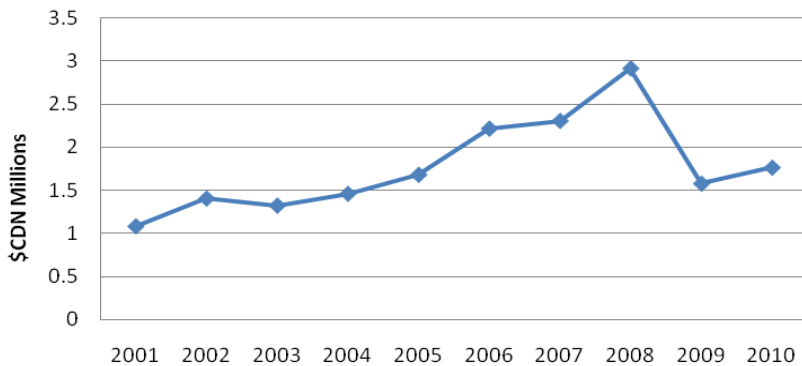
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Montana is the only U.S. state Alberta borders and as such is important to the province's export trade sector.
- Canada is one of Montana's largest export markets with more than U.S. \$613 million.
- Lethbridge and Great Falls have a twinning relationship and are involved in various initiatives through the Advisory Commission on International Relationships (ACIR).
- Montana is Alberta's 11th largest export market.
- Alberta oil supplies the major refinery at Billings.
- Alberta firefighters provided assistance in fighting wildfires in Montana in the summer of 2006. Montana's Governor acknowledged their contribution in a letter of thanks to Premier Klein.

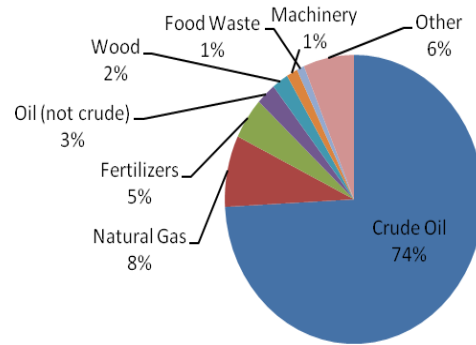
MABAC (Montana Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council)

- Alberta and Montana agreed to form MABAC in 1985 to discuss area of common interest, identify opportunities for cooperation and resolve emerging issues.
- In March 2000, Premier Klein and Governor Racicot signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" formalizing MABAC as an ongoing forum for transboundary dialogue and cooperation, and committing the parties to an informal dispute resolution process.
- Members include government legislators and senior officials, and representatives from the business community.
- MABAC meetings are usually held annually, alternating in Alberta or Montana.
- The 2010 MABAC meeting was held in Coumts, October 18. Agriculture, Transportation, Energy, and Environment were among the agenda topics.

**Alberta's Domestic Exports to Montana
(2001-2010)**



**Alberta's Domestic Exports to Montana
(2006-2010 Average)**



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Over the past five years, Alberta exports to Montana have averaged \$2.1 billion per annum.
- Alberta's merchandise exports to Montana consist of oil and natural gas, oil and gas equipment, wood, and food wastes.
- The majority of the exports to Montana are related to the oil and gas industry.

AGRICULTURE

- Alberta's 2009 agri-food exports to Montana totalled \$45.6 million. Top exports included oilseed cake and meal (\$19.9 million), mustard seed (\$5.8 million), prepared animal feeds (\$3.5 million), wheat (\$2.9 million) and seeds for sowing (\$2.4 million).
- Alberta participates in a number of regional forums providing opportunities to engage with Montana on common agricultural issues.

ENERGY

- Montana and Alberta are part of the Western Energy Corridor Initiative (WECI), to develop carbon neutral and environmentally suitable unconventional fuel sources. A carbon capture and storage framework is also under development.
- Montana approved a renewable energy standard in April 2005, requiring 15% of the state's energy to come from renewable sources by 2015.
- Calgary-based Connacher Oil and Gas Limited is an integrated oil sands company that owns and operates a 9,500 barrels per day (bbl/d) heavy oil refinery in Great Falls, Montana. Great Falls is the closest refinery in the U.S. to the Alberta oil sands.

- Montana ranks 1st in the U.S. in coal reserves with 119 billion tons (2009 est.). It is the 5th largest coal producing state providing about 4% of total U.S. coal production, delivering to markets in 15 states.
- Calgary-based Montana Alberta Tie Ltd. received final regulatory approvals in October 2008 from the Canadian and U.S. Governments for a privately-funded 600 megawatt, 230-kilovolt power transmission line between Alberta and Montana planned to be in service by 2010.
- Wind energy projects located in Montana have contracted to use the full capacity of the new Montana Alberta Tie line.

TRANSPORTATION

- Montana is Alberta's chief ally in advancing CANAMEX, a seamless North-South trade and transportation corridor, stretching from Alaska, through Alberta, Montana, and other western states to Mexico.
- Alberta and Montana contributed to a plan that has led to the "flagship" Canada/U.S. joint border crossing facility at Coutts/Sweetgrass, which opened in August 2003.
- Alberta and Montana operate a single Joint Use Vehicle Inspection Station at Coutts/Sweetgrass.

ENVIRONMENT

- The waters of the St. Mary and Milk Rivers traverse the Alberta-Montana border; Alberta and Montana jointly manage this resource.
- Alberta and Montana's water management partnership predates the International Joint Commission's call for state-province watershed boards.
- Alberta and Montana cooperate on wildlife conservation and fire management strategies along the border area.

- Alberta and Montana signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2007 regarding cooperation on the Crown of the Continent, a unique eco-system located in Waterton Glacier National Park.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Alberta and Montana work together to improve public safety and emergency management entities' ability to effectively respond to emergencies in the border region.
- In 2005, this ongoing relationship was given more structure with the establishment of the Western Border Region Interoperability Working Group (WBRIWG), which includes representatives from all three levels of government.
- Law enforcement and emergency first responders from Alberta and Montana regularly participate in joint exercises responding to simulated emergencies at or near the border.

EDUCATION

- The University of Alberta and University of Montana have an agreement for student and faculty exchanges, focusing on natural resources, environment, and business.
- Three Alberta colleges have university transfer and course recognition agreements with the University of Great Falls.
- In 2004, SAIT was approved by the Montana Post Secondary Educational Opportunities Council to participate in their annual student recruitment fairs.
- Olds College has a transfer agreement with Montana State University-Northern.
- Other Alberta institutions, such as NAIT, work in partnership with Montana on specific projects.

- In 1998, Alberta and Montana signed an agreement to provide for cross-border schooling of grade 1 through 12 for students living along the border.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- The aerospace industry is an area that offers potential for collaboration and opportunity. Similarities in the areas of aerospace maintenance repair and overhaul capabilities, strong research and academic communities and common interests in developing and commercializing emerging technologies are examples of the possibilities emerging in this sector.

SHARED ORGANIZATIONS

- Alberta and Montana participate in other multi-lateral bodies, including:
 - Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER),
 - Can/Am Border Trade Alliance,
 - Western Governors' Association (WGA),
 - Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor,
 - and several U.S. sectoral and legislative forums.

RECENT VISITS

- March 2011: MLA Mitzel represented Alberta at a roundtable meeting with the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency.
- October 2010: IIR Minister Evans and MLA Len Mitzel attended the 2010 MABAC meeting in Coutts, Alberta.
- June 2010: IIR Minister Evans represented Alberta at the WGA meeting in Whitefish.
- February 2010: MLA Mitzel represented Alberta at the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor Alliance mission to Helena and Malta.
- March 2009: MLA Mitzel represented Alberta at the Canada Day's festival in Helena.
- January 2009: MLA Mitzel represented Alberta at the PNWER legislator visit to Helena.
- May 2008: MABAC meeting in Helena, Montana.

- January 2008: MLA Mitzel represented Alberta at the Border Communities Roundtable in Great Falls.
- October 2007: Governor Schweitzer visited Alberta to discuss energy issues and to sign an MOU on environmental stewardship between the two jurisdictions.
- June 2007: MABAC meeting held in Edmonton, Alberta.
- January 2007: MLA Mitzel represented Alberta at a Port of Wild Horse hearing in Helena.
- September 2006: Alberta Energy Executives led an investment mission to Montana.
- May 2006: IIR Minister Mar led an Alberta delegation to Helena for the 2006 MABAC meeting.
- October 2005: Two Montana State legislators, Representatives Jacobsen and Gallik visited Alberta as part of an economic development mission from Helena.
- September 2005: Governor Schweitzer attended Alberta's Centennial celebrations in Edmonton.
- June 2005: Seven Montana state legislators visited Alberta to discuss agricultural issues with government and industry representatives.
- June 2005: Premier Klein met with Governor Schweitzer at the WGA Annual Meeting in Colorado.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The U.S. Consul General in Calgary is Laura Lochman.
- The Canadian Consulate responsible for Montana is located in Denver, Colorado. Dale Eisler is the Consul General.
- The Canadian Honorary Consul in Montana is Shirley Ball.

