

Singapore – Alberta Relations

Government
of Alberta ■



This map is a generalized illustration only and is not intended to be used for reference purposes. The representation of political boundaries does not necessarily reflect the position of the Government of Alberta on international issues of recognition, sovereignty or jurisdiction.

PROFILE

Capital: Singapore

Population: 5.1 million (2010)

Languages: Mandarin, English, Malay and Tamil

Government: Republic, Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy

Head of State: President Sellapan RAMANATHAN (since September 1, 1999)

Head of Government: Prime Minister LEE Hsien Loong, People's Action Party (PAP) (since August 12, 2004)

Currency: CDN \$1 = 1.2632 Singapore Dollar (SGD) (June 2011)

GDP: US \$222.7 billion (2010)

GDP (PPP): US \$228.7 billion (2010 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US \$45,040 (2010 est.)

GDP growth rate: 14.5% (2010)

Unemployment: 2.2% (2010)

Inflation: 2.8% (2010)

Key Industry Sectors: Electronics, chemicals, financial services, oil drilling equipment, petroleum refining, rubber processing and rubber products, processed food and beverages, ship repair, offshore platform construction, life sciences and entrepot trade.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Singapore was formerly a British colony (1819-1963) and separated from the Malaysian Federation in 1965.
- Canada House opened in Singapore in 1998. This is a condominium of Canadian companies, a business support center and a Canadian information technology demonstration center.
- In 1998, Singapore and Canada signed an Agreement on Cooperation in Information and Computer Technology, which focuses on improving broadband connectivity and linkages.
- Singapore has the most advanced telecommunications infrastructure in South East Asia.
- Singapore is a city-state with virtually no natural resources; therefore, it depends heavily on external trade for much of its national income.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

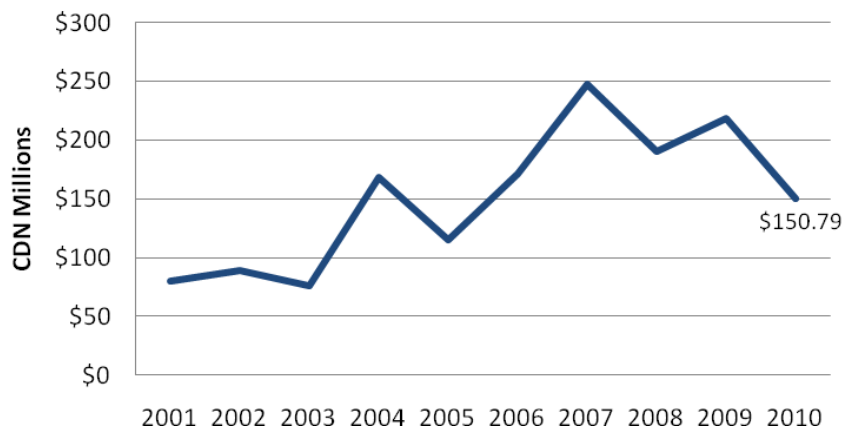
- Alberta's relations with Singapore stem largely from the importance of regional oil and gas related industries, and from a mutual interest in developing increasingly diverse and technical work forces.
- Singapore has been a significant entry-point into ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) markets for Alberta's exports.

- In 2010, Singapore was Alberta's 12th largest trading partner, with total exports of \$150.79 million.
- Canadian and Singaporean officials met in August 2007 in Ottawa for the eighth round of negotiations to reach a Free Trade Agreement.
- Between 2006 and 2010, 662 immigrants from Singapore chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 90% were economic immigrants.
- During the same time period, 382 foreign workers from Singapore were issued a permit to work in Alberta.

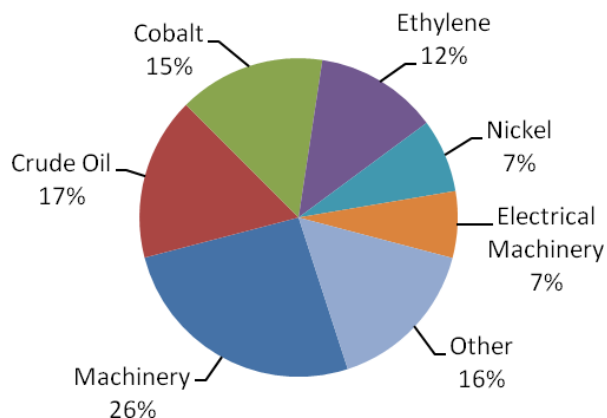
EDUCATION

- Since 1983, Bow Valley College has provided vocational and management training to improve the skills of Singapore's work force in English and mathematics.
- The University of Alberta has an agreement with Nanyang Technological University for activities including student exchange and internships. It also has an agreement with the National University of Singapore for student exchange, as well as cooperation in pharmacy and sciences.

Alberta's Exports to Singapore 2001-2010



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Singapore 2006-2010 (Total Average CDN\$195.66 million)



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Between 2006 and 2010, Alberta exports to Singapore averaged \$195.66 million annually. Alberta's primary exports to Singapore included machinery, crude oil, cobalt and ethylene.
- During the same time period, Alberta's imports from Singapore averaged \$138.03 million annually, consisting primarily of machinery and telecommunications equipment. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

AGRICULTURE

- In 2010, Alberta agri-food exports to Singapore totalled \$15.4 million. Top products include prepared animal feeds (\$11.1 million), pork (\$2.64 million) and processed potatoes (\$1.47 million).
- Alberta prepared animal feed exports continue to increase at a considerable rate. Revenue in 2010 is nearly double that of 2009 and seven times that of 2008.

ENERGY

- Singapore's strategic location at the entrance to the Strait of Malacca is the shortest sea route for oil shipments from the Persian Gulf suppliers to Asian markets, specifically to one of the world's fastest growing economies - China.
- Singapore is also a major refining centre for Southeast Asia. Its refining capacity, at 1.3 million bbl/d, is nearly double the rate of petrochemical consumption.

- About 80% of Singapore's electricity demand is fulfilled by electricity generated from natural gas. Natural gas is imported from Malaysia and Indonesia via pipelines.
- In 2006, the Singapore Government announced its plan to import LNG and build the nation's first LNG receiving terminal to diversify its sources of natural gas. The terminal is scheduled for completion by 2013.
- Singapore's net electricity generation has risen every year since 1980, reaching 39.2 billion kWh in 2008.
- Alberta has had significant sales of petroleum and gas equipment through Singapore. Many sales have resulted from participation in the 2000 Offshore South-East Asia Oil Show in Singapore, as well as numerous education arrangements focused on training programs.
- Alberta companies have provided drilling goods and services to Singapore.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Areas of interest to Alberta companies in Singapore include: electrical equipment, transport equipment, environmental goods and services, chemicals and mineral fuels and petroleum and gas equipment. There also exists opportunity for Alberta to export equipment and components for manufacturing and assembling products to Singapore.
- Singapore is ranked as the world's fourth-most information-driven economy. Additional opportunities for Alberta exist in information and communication technology and equipment, education and training services.

AGREEMENTS

- Alberta Advanced Education and Technology signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SPRING Singapore in October 2010. This MOU will help support, connect and foster collaboration between Alberta's and Singapore's small and medium size enterprises in areas of technology commercialization.
- A number of research agreements are in progress between TR Labs, the Alberta Research Council, and the Centre for Wireless Communication and the Singapore Institute of Materials Research Engineering (IMRE).

RECENT VISITS

- October 2010: Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner travelled to Singapore to strengthen innovation and educational bonds, and sign an agreement with the Standards Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING) of Singapore.
- July 2009: Minister of Education Dave Hancock participated in an international roundtable of education leaders to showcase and share best practices, and attended the ninth World Convention of the International Confederation of Principals.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Singapore's High Commissioner in New York, with jurisdiction for Canada is His Excellency Yong Guan KOH.
- Canada's High Commissioner in Singapore is Mr. David Sevigny.

