

Taiwan – 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: Taipei

Population: 23.2 million (2011 est.)

Language: Mandarin (official), Taiwanese, and Hakka dialects

Government: Parliamentary Democracy

President: President MA Ying-jeou [Kuomintang] (since May 2008)

Head of Government: Premier Wu Den-yih (since September 2009)

Currency: \$1 CDN = 30.18 Taiwanese Dollar (2011 average)

GDP: US\$ 429.8 billion (2010)

GDP (PPP): US\$ 898.9 billion (2011)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$ 38,783 (2010)

GDP growth rate: 4.1% (2006-2010 average)

Inflation: 1.2% (2006-2010 average)

Unemployment: 5.1% (2010 estimate)

Key Industry Sectors: electronics, communications and information technology products, petroleum refining, armaments, chemicals, textiles, iron and steel, machinery, cement, food processing, vehicles, consumer products, pharmaceuticals.

CANADA'S "ONE CHINA" POLICY

- Canada does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan. With the support of the Canadian government, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce opened the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (CTOT) in 1986 to facilitate and increase two-way trade, investment as well as academic and cultural links. Additionally, the CTOT provides the same support services as other Canadian missions abroad.
- Taiwan does not have a Diplomatic or Consular Mission accredited to Canada. Their private-sector offices are staffed from several departments and agencies in Taiwan to promote trade and culture under the auspices of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices (TECO) in Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver, and the Far East Trade Service Inc. (FETS) in Montreal.

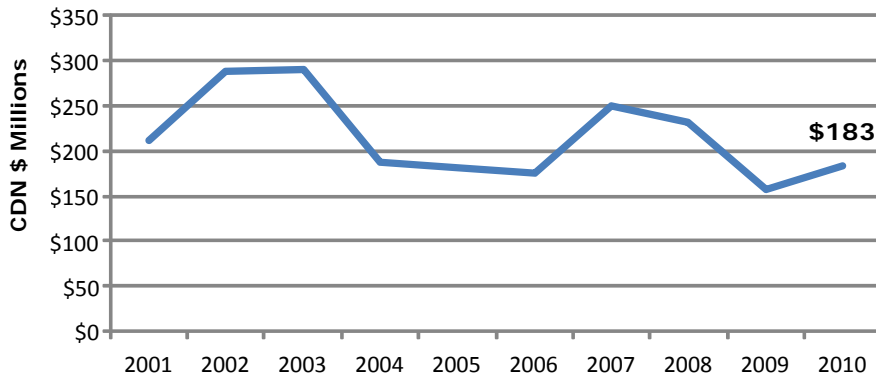
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta has maintained a presence in Taipei since 1988. The Alberta Office is co-located with the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei.
- Taiwan ranks as Alberta's 10th largest export market.
- In November 2010, Canada granted Taiwan a tourist visa waiver. Taiwanese visitors to Canada no longer require visitor visas and this development will reduce bureaucracy for travelers and potentially make Canada more attractive to visitors.

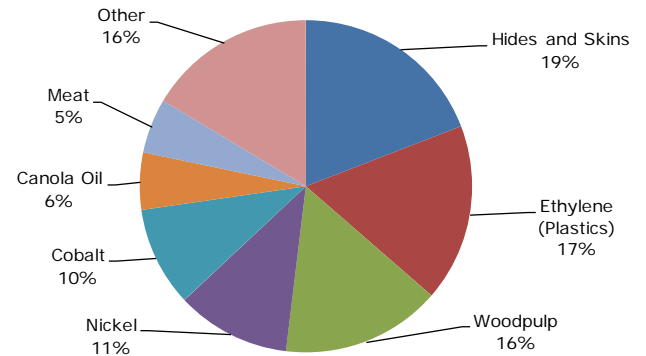
DID YOU KNOW

- Canada established its first presence in Taiwan twenty-five years ago.
- Taiwanese President MA in May 2011 indicated the goal for biotechnology to become one of Taiwan's leading high-technology industries – to be "the star industry of the 21st century."

**Alberta's Exports to Taiwan
2001-2010**



**Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Taiwan
2006-2010 (Total Average CDN\$199 million)**



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2006-2010, Alberta's exports to Taiwan averaged \$199 million per year and were primarily consisted of plastic, raw hides and skins, canola oil, woodpulp, nickel, and cobalt.
- From 2006-2010, Alberta's direct imports from Taiwan averaged \$172 million per year and included electrical machinery, iron and steel products, machinery, vehicles, and plastics. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta after first being delivered to distribution hubs in other provinces.

AGRICULTURE

- In 2010, Alberta's agrifood exports to Taiwan totaled \$58.3 million, consisting mostly of raw hides and skins (\$31.2 million), beef (\$8.42 million), pork (\$4.88 million), canola oil (\$4.26 million) and processed potatoes (\$3.27 million).
- Alberta accounted for 28 percent of Canada's total agri-food exports to Taiwan, the highest among Canadian provinces and territories.
- Taiwan is currently Alberta's sixth largest market for beef exports. Exports have benefitted from Taiwan's decision in 2007 to permit Alberta market access for boneless beef derived from cattle under thirty months of age.
- As a result of the increasing demand for pork in Asia and the devastating effects of foot and mouth disease on domestic stocks in the 1990s, Taiwan has invested heavily in offshore swine.

EDUCATION

- A number of Alberta post-secondary institutions have partnerships with Taiwanese institutions:
 - The University of Alberta and National Chiao Tung University.
 - Olds College and National Pingtung University of Science and Technology.
 - The University of Calgary Haskayne School of Business and National Chengchi University as well as National Sun Yet Sen University.
 - The University of Lethbridge and National Sun Yat-sen University.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Alberta focuses on attracting Taiwanese investment/partnership in sectors such as agri-food (with links to health, diet or the environment, such as functional and processed products), advanced technology industries (including nanotechnology, life science technologies, telecommunications, environmental products and services and high-tech materials), pharmaceutical products, petrochemicals and oil sands production.
- Companies in Taiwan are dedicating resources to develop applications and technologies in hopes of making Taiwan one of the key centers for the computing industry.
- Taiwan has made large investments in nanotechnology research in hopes of becoming a leader in this industry.

- Increased urbanization and globalization of the Taiwanese market has created opportunities for "western style" supermarket chains, as well as imported processed and packaged food products.

COMMUNITY

- There are roughly 137,000 Albertans of Chinese descent, including approximately 650 Albertans who have identified themselves as being of Taiwanese origin.

REPRESENTATION

- The Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei is Mr. Scott Fraser.
- The Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver is Mr. Wei-Chung CHOU.
- Alberta's representative in the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei is Ms. Li-an CHEN.