

Vietnam – 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: Hanoi

Population: 87.8 million (2010 est.)

Language: Vietnamese (official), English, French and Chinese

Government: Communist State, one-party rule

Head of State: President Trong Tan SANG (since June 25, 2011)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Nguyen Tan DUNG (since June 27, 2006)

Currency: \$1CDN = 21,133.52 Dong (VND) (August 2011)

GDP: \$103.6 billion US (2010)

GDP (PPP): \$276.6 billion US (2010 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): \$3,150 US (2010 est.)

GDP growth rate: 6.8% (2010)

Inflation: 9.0% (2010)

Unemployment: 5.0% (2010)

Key Industry Sectors: Food processing, garments, shoes, machine-building, mining, coal, steel, cement, chemical fertilizer, glass, tires, oil and paper.

DID YOU KNOW?

- By joining the World Trade Organization in 2007, Vietnam has committed itself to a stable and predictable rules-based trade regime including specific commitments for tariffs on goods and services.
- Vietnam's commitment to establishing a dispute resolution agency governed by common international law may be key in increasing foreign investment.
- Vietnam became a member of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) in 1998 and hosted the 2006 APEC Summit in Hanoi. Canada is also a member of this 21-member regional forum, established in 1989, to further enhance economic growth and prosperity for the Asia-Pacific region.
- Vietnam became a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1995. The 10-member association was established in 1967.
- Following the conclusion of the second Indochina War, South Vietnam was officially integrated with the North as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on July 2, 1976.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- The Government of Alberta is participating in the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)-funded Vietnam-Judicial

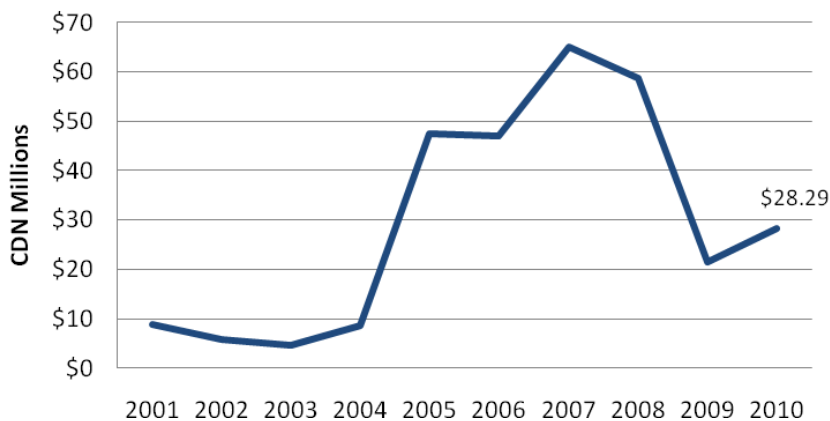
Development and Grassroots Engagement (JUDGE) Project. This five-year (2006-2011) project aims to strengthen the capacity of the Vietnamese legal-judicial sector in support of more transparency and accountability. Alberta will be sharing its expertise in court administration and procedural reform.

- Since 2006, Vietnam has received funding from the Government of Alberta for flood relief and for other projects to relieve poverty.

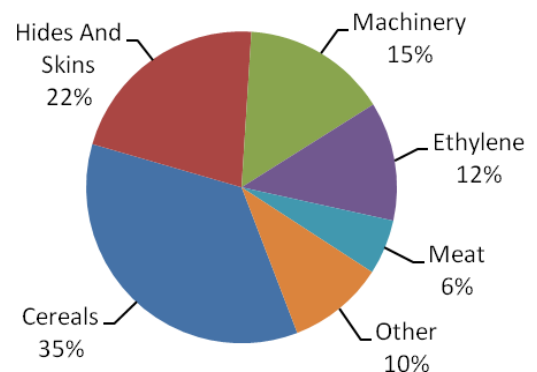
COMMUNITY

- Approximately 25,100 Albertans are of Vietnamese descent.
- Between 2006 and 2010, 11,447 immigrants from Vietnam chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 17% were economic immigrants. During the same time period, 634 foreign workers from Vietnam were issued a permit to work in Alberta.
- From 2006 to 2010, 282 foreign students from Vietnam were issued a permit to study in Alberta.
- Active Vietnamese community associations have been established in Calgary and Edmonton, including the Vietnamese Chinese Association and the Viets Association.
- CKER-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, including Vietnamese.

Alberta's Exports to Vietnam 2001-2010



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Vietnam 2006-2010 (Total Average CDN\$44.09 Million)



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Between 2006 and 2010, Alberta's annual exports to Vietnam averaged \$44.09 million CDN. Exports included cereals, hides and skins, machinery and ethylene.
- During the same period, Alberta's imports from Vietnam averaged approximately \$27.04 million CDN annually, consisting of furniture and bedding, iron and steel products, woven material and plastic. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

AGRICULTURE

- In 2006, the Alberta government worked with the Alberta Swine and Bovine genetic industries and the Canada Beef Breeds Council to organize and conduct seminars in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in support of Alberta industry to promote agricultural products, develop networks for trade and increase trade.
- Alberta's 2010 agri-food exports to Vietnam totalled \$12.5 million. Key exports include raw hides and skins (\$9.09 million) and beef (\$2.29 million).
- In August 2011, Vietnam renewed market access for Canadian exports of live breeding cattle, sheep and goats. The country had previously banned these exports in 2003, due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) concerns. Alberta livestock exporters are expected to benefit.

ENERGY

- Alberta and Vietnam have a long history of cooperation in the energy sector. Calgary-based Talisman Energy has interests in three offshore oil drilling projects off Vietnam's coast, in the South China Sea. Keeper Energy, also based in Calgary, has partnered with a subsidiary of government-owned PetroVietnam to explore coalbed methane onshore.
- Vietnam's proven oil reserves were 600 million barrels (bbl) in 2009. Comparatively, Alberta's proven oil reserves were 171.4 billion bbl in 2009.

- In 2009, Vietnam's crude oil production averaged 328,000 barrels per day (bbl/d). Although Vietnam is a significant oil producer it remains reliant on imports of value-added petroleum products owing to a lack of refining capacity.
- Vietnam's first oil refinery opened in February 2009, and processes 148,000 bbl/d. It is owned by PetroVietnam, and is designed to meet one-third of Vietnam's fuel demand.
- In 2010, Vietnam's oil exports were 171,500 bbl/d.
- Vietnam's proven gas reserves are 6.8 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). Currently, all production is consumed domestically.
- Vietnam's natural gas production and consumption have risen sharply since the late 1990s, as additional fields come on stream.
- Opportunities exist in Vietnam's electricity sector, as the country faces acute power shortages. This has led to Vietnam's government to approve large infrastructure projects.

EDUCATION

- In 2009, K-12 school representatives and postsecondary institutions joined and Alberta mission to Vietnam to visit schools and attend the Canada Education Week fair in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, in order to attract K-12 and postsecondary students to study in Alberta. A similar mission is scheduled for 2011.
- Vietnam offers enormous opportunities for education institutions with the increased demand for skilled professionals. Vietnamese families continue to seek out high quality education for their children.
- Vietnam is poised to be in the top 25 foreign student source countries for Canada. Alberta led a Study in Canada Mission and participated in the first Canada Education Week in Vietnam with three other provinces in October 2009.

- A Vietnamese Association of Community Colleges Delegation visited Edmonton in November 2009 to discuss potential cooperation in higher education and visit several post-secondary institutions.
- Alberta sponsored a delegation of Vietnamese and Thailand education representatives to Alberta as part of a cross-Canada tour June 2010.
- Vietnam has been sending senior civil servants to Alberta since 2010 to improve English language skills and acquire broader knowledge related areas ranging from rural development and agriculture to finance and higher education through Project 165.

AGREEMENTS

- Alberta and Vietnam have agreements to advance cooperation in the areas of vocational training, labour mobility, trade and agriculture-related training and research.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Alberta export opportunities exist in information communication technology, education and training and agri-food.
- Vietnam's largest import sectors include machinery and equipment, petrochemicals, fertilizers, steel products, grain, cement and raw cotton.

RECENT VISITS

- November 2007: A Vietnamese business delegation visited Alberta to advance economic cooperation.
- August 2003: Alberta's Minister of Learning attended a leadership summit in Hanoi to highlight Alberta learning system successes.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Vietnam's Ambassador in Ottawa is Her Excellency Le Sy Vuong Ha.
- Canada's Ambassador to Vietnam, located in Hanoi, is Ms. Deborah Chatsis.
- Canada's Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City is Mr. Audri Mukhopadhyay.

