

Ukraine – Alberta Relations

Government
of Alberta



PROFILE

Capital: Kyiv

Population: 45.8 million (2010)

Language: Ukrainian (official); Russian widely spoken

Government: Republic

Head of State: President Viktor Yanukovich

Head of Government: Prime Minister Mykola Azarov

Currency: Hryvnia, \$1CDN = 8.35 UAH (August 2011)

GDP: US\$ 137.9 billion (2010)

GDP (PPP): US\$306.4 billion (2010)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US\$ 6,700 (2010 est.)

GDP growth rate: 1.0% (2006-2010)

Inflation: 14.3% (2006-2010)

Unemployment: 8.1% (2010)

Key Industry Sectors: coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food processing.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ukrainian independence in 1991 followed centuries of foreign rule by Poland, Austria-Hungary, Russia and finally the USSR.
- The former Premier Ed Stelmach was Alberta's first Premier of Ukrainian descent.

- In 2003, former Premier Klein received the first ever Hetman Award of Distinction from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) recognizing his leadership in enhancing Alberta-Ukraine relations.
- 2011 marks the 120th Anniversary of Ukraine Settlement in Canada.
- In 2012, Poland and Ukraine will be co-hosting the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) European Football Championship.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta has had a long history of involvement with Ukraine and has contributed to building social, political and economic reform in Ukraine.
- The Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (ACAUR), created in 2000, provides advice to the Alberta Government on its relations with Ukraine.
- In 2005, Alberta welcomed Lviv as its newest sister province.
- In 2004, Alberta entered into a sister province relationship with the western Oblast of Ivano-Frankivsk, which was renewed in 2010 for a further five years.

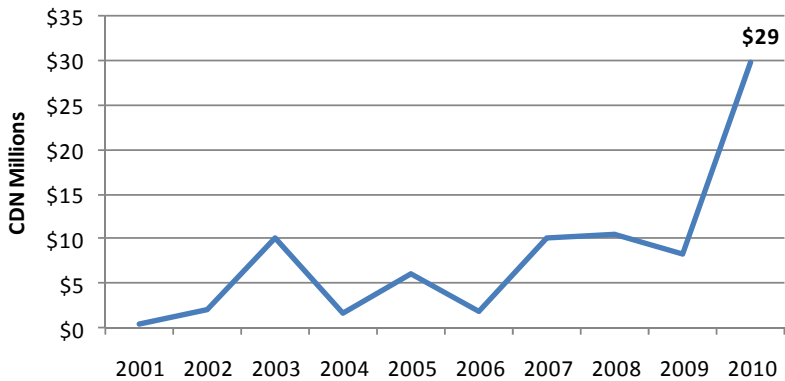
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2006 to 2010, Alberta's exports to Ukraine averaged \$12.1 million CDN, including machinery, pork, precision instruments and iron and steel products.
- Alberta's direct imports from Ukraine averaged \$3.9 million CDN from 2006 to 2010, including tires, iron and steel, and vodka and beer. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

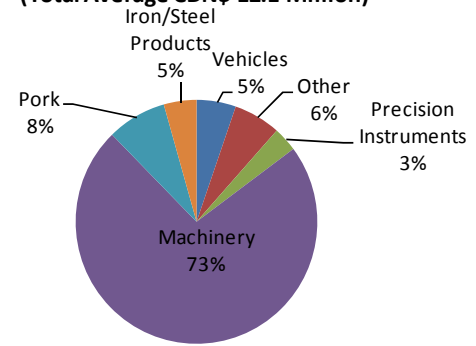
UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ALBERTA

- There are over 332,000 (one in ten) Albertans of Ukrainian descent in Alberta, making them the 4th largest ethnic group in the province.
- There are over 200 Ukrainian community organizations and associations in the province. There are also numerous Ukrainian political organizations.
- The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is an umbrella organization that encompasses most Ukrainian associations in Canada. The UCC has an Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC).

Alberta's Exports to Ukraine 2001-2010



**Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Ukraine 2006-2010
(Total Average CDN\$ 12.1 Million)**



ENERGY

- Ukraine has modest oil and gas deposits and, despite efforts to increase domestic supply, continues to rely heavily on imports to fill demand. The country imports approximately 80% of its oil and 77% of its natural gas, primarily from Russia and Turkmenistan.
- Ukraine's proven oil reserves are 400 million barrels (bbl) (July 2010) compared to Alberta's 170.5 billion bbl (June 2010).
- Ukraine's natural gas reserves are 39 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) (June 2010) compared to Alberta's 39 Tcf (June 2010).
- Ukraine is an important transit corridor for Russian oil exports and natural gas to Europe. Transit fees are a major source of revenue for Ukraine.
- After a two-week dispute in January 2009, Ukraine agreed to a ten-year gas supply and transit contract with Russia. The contract is now said to be under renegotiation in late 2011, with Ukraine urging Russia to review its gas prices.
- Due to a lack of infrastructure funding, Ukraine's natural gas pipelines have been in operation for more than 20 years without repairs. It is estimated that modernizing and reconstructing Ukraine's existing gas infrastructure would cost approximately \$4.8 billion, according to a feasibility study ordered by Naftogaz of Ukraine.
- Alberta-based exploration and production companies active in Ukraine include Calgary-based Shelton Canada's natural gas development joint-venture with Chornomornaftogaz. Alberta-based drilling and service companies that are active in Ukraine include Canam Services Inc.
- The Canada-Eurasia-Russia Business Association (CERBA) has been active in promoting Alberta-Ukraine business links in the energy sector.

EDUCATION

- Ukrainian language and culture education have had a place in Alberta schools since 1902. The first provincial curriculum for Ukrainian as a second language was introduced in 1956.
- Ukrainian has been offered as a language of instruction in Alberta public schools since 1974. In 2010/2011, twenty schools offered Ukrainian language programming. Eight hundred students were enrolled in an Ukrainian bilingual program and 278 students studied Ukrainian language and culture courses.
- Thirteen Alberta schools are twinned with schools in Ukraine.
- Since 2006, the Department of Education and Science of Lviv Oblast State Administration has assigned a Ukrainian language advisor to Alberta Education to enhance cultural ties, support curriculum development, and promote Ukrainian language and culture.
- Privately-run heritage schools have operated within the Ukrainian community since the turn of the century.
- The Ukrainian Folklore Program at the University of Alberta was established in 1987. It acts as a bridge linking Ukrainian and Western scholarship. The program provides financial and organizational support to Ukrainian institutions for projects in Ukraine and encourages study of the vibrant Ukrainian-Canadian culture that has evolved in Canada over the past 115 years.
- The University of Alberta (U of A) and Grant MacEwan University jointly formed the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT) in 2003 to collaborate with researchers and policy staff at the Institute of Special Pedagogy (ISP) in Kyiv. Their efforts focus on improving education services for children with disabilities.

- In 2003, the Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal (UKIP) Consortium Association was formed to support Ukrainian language education in Alberta. The Consortium developed an online Ukrainian Learning resource for schools called Oomroom (www.oomroom.ca).
- The U of A has had a student exchange program with the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv since September 2006.

SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD PROGRAMS

- Alberta has two post-secondary scholarships with Ukraine aimed at faculty, institutional and student exchanges. They are:
 - Alberta Ukrainian Centennial Commemorative Scholarships established in 1991 to acknowledge the significant contributions of Ukrainian settlers in Alberta.
 - The International Education Award – Ukraine established in 2003 by an endowment from Alberta Advanced Education and Technology as part of the ministry's commitment to international education. It is designed to promote and strengthen international relationships between Alberta and Ukraine.
- These awards are offered to graduate students from either Ukraine or Alberta who are involved in a practicum, co-op, internship, research project or apprenticeship program in either country.
- By 2011, 24 graduate students from Ukraine benefited from these awards by conducting their studies at Grant MacEwan University and the University of Alberta in the areas of Special Needs Education, Speech-Language Therapies, Disability Studies, English & French as a Foreign Language, etc.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Alberta Solicitor-General and Public Security is involved in a Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) Juvenile Justice Reform Project in Ukraine (2010-2015).
- Between 2008 and 2013 Grant MacEwan University, in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Studies in Disabilities (Winnipeg), is delivering the project "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine," funded in large part by the Canadian International Development Agency. The project is working with ministries, universities, institutes for professional teacher upgrading, schools, community non-governmental organizations and parent associations to develop the capacity for Ukraine to offer inclusive education schools and classrooms to the public.

AGRICULTURE

- Alberta's recent agri-food exports to Ukraine have included processed animal feed, but opportunities exist for Alberta companies specializing in animal genetics, farm machinery equipment, and seeds for sowing.
- In 2010 four universities created the Prairie Agricultural University Initiative in Ukraine (PAUIU) and visited several cities in October 2010 and February 2012. Partners in the initiative are the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Grant MacEwan University.

CULTURE

- In September 2006, Culture and Community Spirit signed an agreement with Lviv, establishing a genealogical research service between Alberta and Ukraine which provides a link between their archival institutions and record depositories (\$200,000 over 3 years donated by the Alberta government). This project was renewed in 2010 and will soon

embrace four Oblast archives in Western Ukraine.

- Alberta established formal relations with cooperating museums and scholarly institutions in Lviv and Chernivtsi in the areas of folklore, ethnography, and genealogy.
- Since 1975, the province has owned and operated the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, a 130 hectare open-air museum east of Edmonton which portrays life in the early pioneer days of Ukrainian settlement in Alberta. It cooperates with numerous Ukrainian museums and academic institutions, facilitating various scholarly exchanges.
- The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA), created in 1972, holds an extensive library and exhibits historical artifacts, archival documents and photographs. In all, there are six private museums devoted to the preservation of Ukrainian history and culture in Alberta.
- WORLD-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, with daily programming in Ukrainian.
- Alberta is the home of the only professional dance company in Canada, Shumka, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009. Shumka is world-renowned, and its tours have included performances in the opera houses of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, and Donetsk in Ukraine.

RECENT VISITS

- June 2010: The Governor of Ivano-Frankivsk, Mr. Mykhaylo Vyshyvanyuk, visited Alberta to attend the Canada-Ukraine Business Forum.
- May 2007: A group of Ukrainian educators visited Edmonton to meet with the U of A and Grant MacEwan University, and to learn about Alberta's inclusive education system.

- March 2007: Official visit to Alberta by His Excellency Ihor Ostash, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada.
- June 2006: Former Premier Klein led a mission to Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk; the delegation included the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, then Minister of Education.
- August 2005: Visit of Mr. Petro Oliynyk, Governor of the Lviv Oblast, in honour of Alberta's Centennial.
- August 2004: Visit to Alberta by a 14-member delegation from Ivano-Frankivsk, headed by Mr. Mykhailo Vyshyvanyuk, Governor of the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast.
- August 2004: Official visit to Alberta by His Excellency Mykola Maimeskul, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada.
- May 2003: Visit of Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine, Mr. Andrew Robinson.
- May 2002: Former Premier Klein led the first mission to Ukraine by an Alberta Premier.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada is currently vacant.
- Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine is Mr. Troy Lulashnyk.
- Ukraine's Consul General in Toronto, with jurisdiction over Alberta, is Mr. Oleksandr Danyleiko.
- Canada's Honorary Consul in Lviv is Dr. Oksana Wynnyckyj.

