

WASHINGTON- ALBERTA RELATIONS



PROFILE

Capital: Olympia

Population: 6.2 million (2005 Estimate)

Language: English

Government: Bicameral state government

Head of Government: Governor Christine Gregoire
(D) Term Expires: 2008

Currency: US Dollar
CDN\$1 = 0.89 US (August 2006)

GSP: US\$239.2 billion (2005)

Per Capita Income: US\$35,409 (2005)

Key Industry Sectors:

Aerospace, agriculture, forestry, fishery, high tech, mining, manufacturing, tourism, energy, shipping & transport

Unemployment: 4.7% (July 2006)

Primary Cities:

- Seattle: 573,911 (metro area: 3.5 million)
- Spokane: 196,818
- Tacoma: 195,898
- Vancouver: 157,493
- Olympia: 44,114

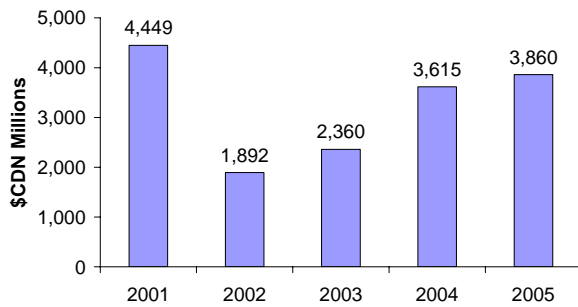
DID YOU KNOW?

- Microsoft and Boeing are two of Washington's leading industries.
- Due to the steep drop from its origin to its mouth, the Columbia River is one of the greatest sources of hydroelectric power in the world.
- Both Alberta and Washington have sister state relationships with Jalisco, Mexico.

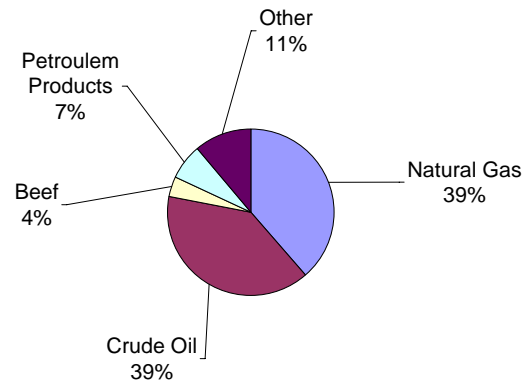
RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Washington is Alberta's 6th largest export market in the U.S., with a five-year average of \$3.24 billion, (adjusted for natural gas exports, most of which was trans-shipped to California).
- Alberta and Washington have a common interest in Pacific Northwest trade and transportation, as well as gaining access to the Asian market.
- Spokane business leaders have identified Alberta as their number one international priority.
- Washington's participation in transboundary co-operation bodies reflects a strategy of strengthening their relations at the state and regional level and coincides with Alberta's emphasis in this area.
- Washington has focused on the I-5 Corridor, "Cascadia", from Portland through Seattle to Vancouver, B.C. Alberta is keen to attract attention to the other side of the mountains.

Alberta Exports to Washington (adjusted for oil and gas exports)



2005 Alberta Exports to Washington



TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Adjusted Alberta exports to Washington were worth approximately \$3.8 billion in 2005. (Of Alberta's total exports of \$7.6 billion about \$3.8 billion is natural gas and oil that flows to consumers in California and other states).
- Top exports to Washington include oil, natural gas, petrochemicals, and beef.
- Alberta imports from Washington totalled more than \$941 million in 2005, and included aircraft, steel pipes, cellular phone parts, and precious metals.

Agriculture

- After declining significantly since 2000, agri-food exports to Washington rebounded by 108% in 2005, totaling \$235 million. This increase was largely fuelled by the re-opening of the border to Canadian beef.
- Alberta and Washington participate in the Restricted Feeder Cattle Project, implemented in October 1997 to facilitate two-way trade in feeder cattle between the northern tier U.S. states and Canada.
- Alberta worked hard for many years to lift the King County beef ordinance, a regulation that prevented the sale of beef that was not USDA graded. This effectively banned Alberta beef sales in the Seattle area, until the regulation was repealed in August 1998.

Forestry

- There have been no specific Alberta-Washington issues on softwood lumber.
- Both jurisdictions have significant interests in developments leading to re-negotiation or replacement of the Softwood Lumber Agreement.
- Alberta is a member of the Western Legislative Forestry Task Force, which has a mandate to monitor U.S. state and federal forest policies, and lobby for sound forest management practices.

Transportation

- Alberta supports an integrated, efficient regional transportation system and has potential export interests relating to the proposed Inland Highway Corridor that would link the B.C. Interior, eastern Washington, northern Idaho, and Oregon.
- Alberta monitors the availability of the ports of Seattle and Tacoma as alternatives to Vancouver B.C. for the export of Alberta products.

EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Food and agricultural products
- Aerospace
- Tourism
- Environmental technology
- High technology

SHARED ORGANIZATIONS

- Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER)
- Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA)
- Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)
- Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO)
- Western Legislative Forestry Task Force

RECENT VISITS

- July 2005: Alberta delegation attended the PNWER annual summit in Seattle.
- January 2005: Minister of Innovation & Science met with Microsoft executives.
- April 2001: IIR delegation visit to Pacific North West.
- April 2000: Minister of Innovation & Science met with Microsoft executives.
- March 2000: Economic Development Minister led a trade and investment mission to Seattle.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The U.S. Consul General in Calgary is Mr. Tom Huffaker.
- A new Canadian Consul General in Seattle will be named shortly.