

UKRAINE - ALBERTA RELATIONS



PROFILE

Capital: Kyiv

Population: 47.2 million (2004)

Language: Ukrainian (official); Russian widely spoken

Government: Republic

Head of State: President-elect Viktor Yushchenko

Head of Government: Prime Minister
Mykola Azarov (*Acting*)

Currency: Hryvnia,
\$1CDN = 4.35 UAH (January 2005)

GDP: US \$69.2 billion (2004 est.)
GDP (PPP): US \$279.5 billion (2004 est.)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US \$5,930 (2004 est.)

GDP growth rate: 11.8% (2004 est.)

Inflation: 9.0% (2004 est.)

Unemployment: 3.5% (2004 est.)

Key Industry Sectors: coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food processing (especially sugar)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ukrainian independence in 1991 followed centuries of foreign rule by Poland, Austria-Hungary, Russia and finally the USSR.
- Ukraine's black soil (*chernozem*) is some of the richest soil in the world.
- Ten of Alberta's 83 Members of the Legislative Assembly are of Ukrainian ancestry.

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](#)) was created in 2000. The ACAUR provides advice to the Alberta Government on relations with Ukraine.
- In August 2004, Alberta signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation with the western Oblast of Ivano-Frankivsk, to foster closer cooperation in a variety of areas, including education, agriculture, volunteerism, museological cooperation. A similar MOU with Lviv is expected for early 2005.
- The last Canada-Ukraine Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC) meeting was in the Fall of 2001.

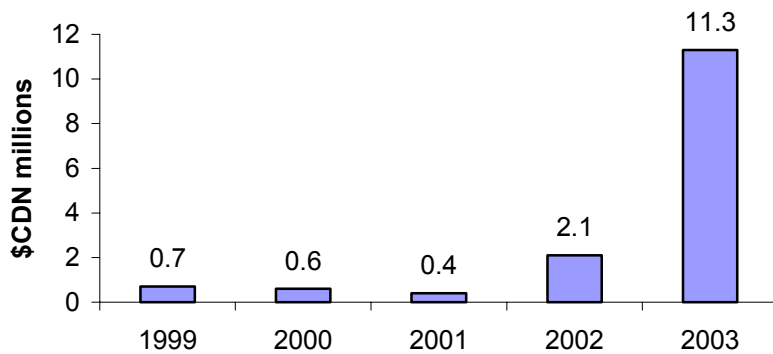
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Ukraine experienced its fourth straight year of economic growth in 2003, continuing its transition from a centrally planned economic system to a market economy.
- Alberta exports to Ukraine usually average around \$1 million annually. In 2003, Alberta saw a significant increase in exports, particularly wheat (\$8 million), due to poor grain harvest in Ukraine.
- Alberta's imports from Ukraine have averaged \$8 million between 1999-2003, consisting mostly of iron and steel pipes, metals and minerals, and alcoholic beverages.

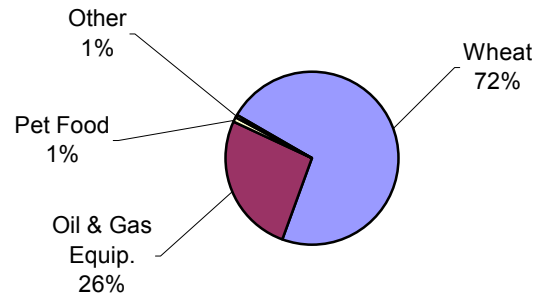
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

- In October 2003, Premier Klein received the first ever Hetman Award of Distinction from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress-Alberta Provincial Council (UCC-APC) in recognition for his important role in establishing the Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations, and for his leadership in expanding and solidifying Alberta-Ukraine relations.

Alberta Exports to Ukraine (1999-2003)



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Ukraine in 2003



ENERGY

- Ukraine has modest oil & gas deposits, relying heavily on imports (mainly from Russia and Turkmenistan) to fill the demand.
- Ukraine would like to exploit its own 395 million barrels (63 million metric tonnes) of proven oil reserves by developing new wells, boosting production and increasing foreign investment.
- Nearly 90% of Russia's natural gas exports travel to Western Europe via Ukraine. Transit fees are a major source of revenue for Ukraine.
- To upgrade its pipelines, Ukraine needs large infusions of capital and technology from foreign partners.
- Due to its geographic location and its Odessa-Brody pipeline, Ukraine has the opportunity to play a major role in bringing increased oil exports from the Caspian Basin to European oil markets. The 674 km pipeline, completed in 2001, has the capacity to pump 14 million tons of crude oil to Europe every year (280,000 barrels a day), and a planned expansion to Plock, Poland could more than double its capacity.
- Alberta companies are active in Ukraine in drilling, exploration and production.
- The Canada-Eurasia-Russia Business Association (CERBA) has been active in promoting Alberta-Ukraine business links in the energy sector.
- Many Ukrainians are employed in Western Siberia's oil and gas industries; many of these expatriated Ukrainians have been trained at the Oil and Gas Institute in Ivano-Frankivsk.

AGRICULTURE

- Since November 2002, Alberta Agriculture has dedicated a full-time staff member to work on Alberta-Ukraine agricultural cooperation and projects.
- During his mission in May 2002, Premier Klein signed an agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC - the private sector lending arm of the World Bank), to deliver technical assistance to Ukraine's agriculture industry. This agreement was renewed in 2003, and will expire in March 2005. To date, activities have included livestock auction markets, cooperative finance legislation, crop insurance, vegetable marketing, and support for a credit union's work in agriculture.
- Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are jointly implementing the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) Facility for Agricultural Reform and Modernization (FARM) program for Ukraine. Launched in 2003, the program is valued at \$8.5 million over 5 years. The focus is on extension services in Volyn, Rivne, Sumy and Dnipropetrovsk.

GOVERNANCE REFORM

- Between 2000 and 2004, Alberta was actively involved in the second phase of the Canada-Ukraine Legislative & Intergovernmental Project (CULIP). This project, funded by the Canada International Development Agency (CIDA), is designed to help Ukraine develop its political, managerial, and technical capabilities.
 - CULIP Study tours to Canada and Alberta by Ukrainian delegations include:**
 - Module 1: the judicial system (September 2000).
 - Module 2: mechanisms of national culture and mass media (November 2000).
 - Module 3: banking and credit mechanisms (May 2001).
 - Module 4: land titles and reform (June 2002).
 - Module 5: health care (November 2002).
 - Module 6: citizen participation in the decision making processes of government (June 2003).

EDUCATION

- Ukrainian has been offered as a language of instruction in Alberta public schools since 1974. Approx. 1,500 students are enrolled in the bilingual program and 300 in the second language program.
- In 2004, Alberta Learning announced its new [Languages Initiative](#), which will require all Alberta students in Grades 4-9 to study a second language among Cree, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, Spanish, and Ukrainian.
- The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies ([CIUS](#)) was established at the University of Alberta (U of A) in 1977. It is one of three such institutes in North America.
- During the 1990's, the University of Alberta administered OSVITA, a CIDA-funded medical program which offered paediatric, maternal, neonatal health care education. Under OSVITA, many Ukrainian specialists studied in Canada for a four-month period.
- In 1997, Grant MacEwan College (GMC) launched a business program in Kyiv. Ukrainian graduates receive a Grant MacEwan College Management Studies diploma.
- In 2004, Grant MacEwan College nursing instructors, working in Ukraine, began preparing local nurses, destined for work in the USA, to write the American Nurse Licensing exams. The college signed a brokering agreement in 2004, with the School of Health Administration, National Academy of Public Administration in Ukraine, to allow their Bachelor of Applied Human Service Administration program to be taught in Ukraine.
- In 1998, the Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal (UKIP) Consortium Association was formed to support Ukrainian language education in Alberta. Members consist of school boards, which offer Ukrainian bilingual education, as well as Alberta Learning, the Ukrainian Language Education Centre, and the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. The Consortium recently developed an online Ukrainian Learning Network called [Oomroom](#).
- The Canada-Ukraine Foundation, with offices in Winnipeg and Lviv, has sent several dozen Ukrainian women to Red Deer on academic exchanges in the last several years. Premier Klein met with the alumni of this exchange program during his Ukraine mission in May 2002.
- The U of A and GMC joined together in the Fall 2003 to form the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT) to undertake joint research projects over five years with researchers and policy staff at the Institute of Special Education (ISE) in Kyiv. Their efforts will focus on education for disabled children.

Scholarship and Award Programs

- Alberta Ukrainian [Centennial Commemorative Scholarships](#) were established in 1991 to acknowledge the significant contributions of Ukrainian settlers in Alberta.
- In 2002, Alberta Learning established the Alberta-Ukraine [Special Recognition Awards](#). These awards are available to both Ukrainian students and Alberta institutions to encourage two-way educational cooperation with Ukraine.
- In March 2003, Alberta Learning, through a \$500,000 endowment, established an [Alberta International Education Awards Program](#). The initial focus is on students from Ukraine taking a practicum or internship in Alberta and Alberta students completing a similar program in Ukraine. The program also considers apprenticeship students.
- As a complement to the *Languages Initiative*, and to encourage teachers to pursue further language study, the Alberta government has designed two new awards: the [Language Teacher Bursary](#), valued at \$5,000 each and given to 10 teachers to attend a post-secondary language course at an institution outside Canada; the [Languages in Teacher Education Scholarship](#), valued at \$2,500 each and awarded to students currently in a teacher preparation program.

CULTURE

- Alberta's Cultural Facilities and Historical Resources Division (Community Development) has established formal relations with cooperating museums and scholarly institutions in Lviv and Chernivtsi in the areas of folklore, ethnography, and genealogy.
- The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta ([UCAMA](#)), created in 1972, holds an extensive library and exhibits historical artefacts, archival documents and photographs on Ukrainians in Alberta. In April 2004, the UCAMA, in collaboration with the Alberta Eparchial Museum of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada (UCWLC) and the [Ukrainian Folklore Centre](#) at the University of Alberta, announced a *Museum Revitalization Project*. The Government of Alberta has provided \$3 million in support through the Community Facility Enhancement Program and the Community Initiatives Program.
- The [Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village](#), east of Edmonton, portrays life in the early pioneer days of Ukrainian settlement in Alberta. It is twinned with a historical village museum in Lviv, facilitating various scholarly exchanges of information with universities.
- In 2002, the [Pysanka Festival](#) in Vegreville, which began in 1973, won the Attractions Canada award for the best cultural event in Alberta. An estimated 10,000 people attended the 2002 festival.
- CKER-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, with daily programming in Ukrainian.

BOARD GOVERNANCE

- The Ministry of Community Development has partnered with the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) in a board governance training project with the Institute for Voluntary Sector Management and Development based at Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. Components of this project included developing and translating board governance materials appropriate for the non-governmental (NGO) context in Ukraine, training workshop leaders and trainers in Lviv and delivering governance-focused training for the Board of the Institute.

WILD ROSE FUNDING

- Alberta's Wild Rose Foundation has matched funds raised by Alberta organizations for assistance programs to Ukraine in the following areas:
 - Purchase of a building in Shtormove, Crimea which will be turned into the *Mercy House Outreach Centre*, to assist orphans and poverty stricken families, benefiting approximately 800 children annually (\$25,000 in 2004)
 - An annual 7-month Canada World Youth community development exchange project between women from Western Ukraine and the Canadian Prairies (\$150,000 between 1999 and 2004).
 - Purchase of a computer to improve service delivery to children and families at the Regional Specialized Children's Hospital in Lviv (\$1,500 in 2003).
 - Emergency disaster relief assistance to the families and victims of the Lviv airshow disaster (\$25,000 in 2003).
 - Playground equipment at orphanages, sanatoriums and schools in western Ukraine through HART, the Humanitarian Aid Response Teams Society (\$15,000 in 2002).

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY IN ALBERTA

- There are over 300,000 (one in ten) Albertans of Ukrainian descent in Alberta, making them the 4th largest ethnic group in the province.
- Immigration from Ukraine to Alberta has averaged 200-300 people per year over the last five years.
- 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 a provincial council in Alberta, the [UCC-APC](#).

RECENT VISITS

- August 2004: visit to Alberta by a 14-member delegation from Ivano-Frankivsk, headed by Mr. Mychailo Vyshyvaniuk, Chairman ("Governor") of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration.
- August 2004: official visit to Alberta by His Excellency Mykola Maimeskul, Ukraine's Ambassador to Canada.
- November 2003: meeting of the Canada-Ukraine Advisory Council in Edmonton.
- October 2003: Alberta officials mission to Kyiv, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk.
- May 2003: Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine, Mr. Andrew Robinson, visited Alberta.
- May 2003: Visit to Alberta by Ukrainian Consul General in Toronto, Mr. Igor Lossovskyi.
- April 2003: Farewell visit of Ambassador Scherbak. Ambassador Scherbak visited Alberta many times since his official visit to Alberta in May 2000.
- May 2002: Premier Klein led the first mission to Ukraine by an Alberta Premier, accompanied by Community Development Minister Gene Zwozdesky and MLA Dave Broda.
- December 2001: World Bank tour of Alberta by 40 Ukrainian Agricultural experts.
- October 2001: Visit to Alberta by Vasyl Rohovyi, Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine
- October 1994: President Kuchma's official visit to Canada and Alberta.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada is His Excellency Mykola Maimeskul.
- Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine, Mr. Andrew Robinson.
- Ukraine Consul General in Toronto, with jurisdiction over Alberta, Mr. Igor Lossovskyi.
- Ukraine's Honorary Consul in Alberta, Mr. Ed Southern.
- Canada's Honorary Consul in Lviv, Ms. Oksana Wynnycky.

NOTE: More detailed information on both Alberta and Ukraine can be found on the following websites:

- Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations
www.iir.gov.ab.ca
- Alberta-Ukraine (In English and Ukrainian)
www.ukraine-alberta.com.ua