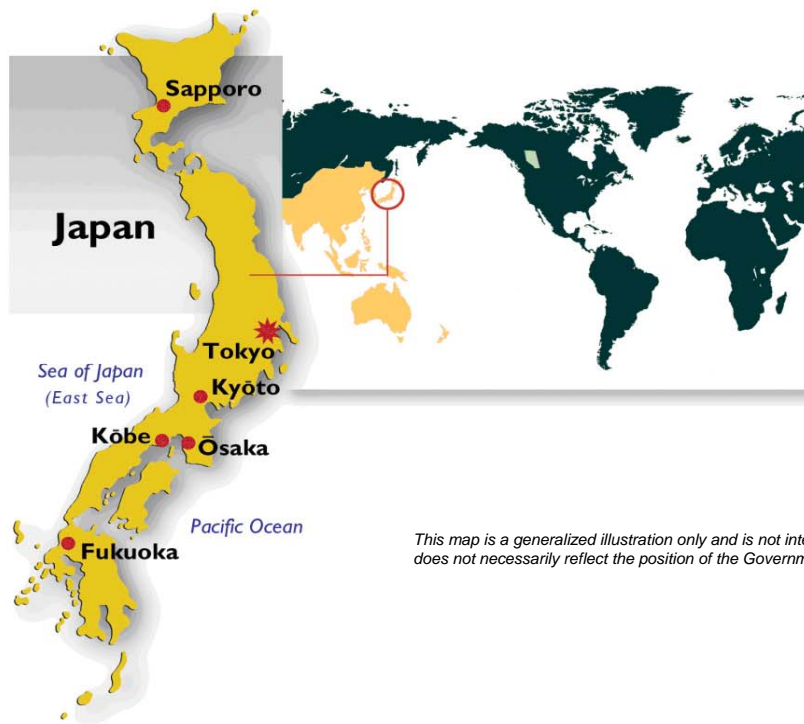


Japan - Alberta Relations



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: Tokyo

Population: 127 million (2016)

Language: Japanese

Government: Representative Democracy

Head of State: His Imperial Highness Emperor Akihito

Head of Government: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (since December 2012)

Currency: CAD \$1 = 85.62 Yen (2017 average)

GDP: US \$5.233 trillion (2016)

GDP (PPP): US \$4.658 trillion (2015)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): US \$41,200 (2016)

GDP Growth Rate: 1 per cent (2016)

Inflation: - 0.1 per cent (2016)

Key Industry Sectors: Japanese companies are world leaders in the manufacturing of autos, electronics, machine tools, steel, nonferrous metals, ships, chemicals, textiles and processed foods.

Sources:
Bank of Canada, CIA World Factbook, Economy Watch, Global Affairs Canada

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

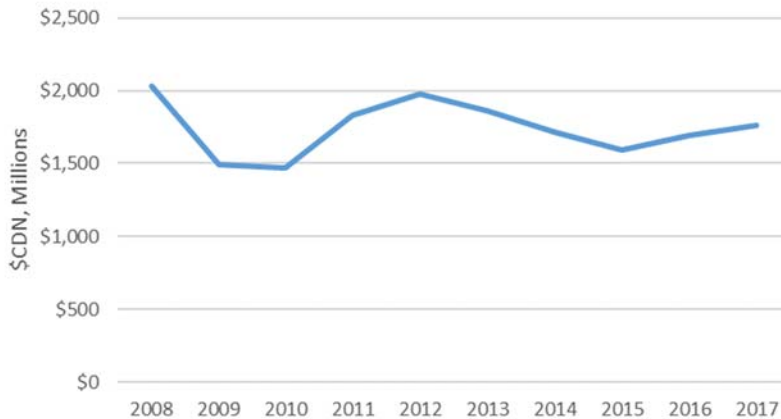
- The Government of Alberta contributed \$5 million to the Canadian Red Cross to support earthquake and tsunami relief efforts following the March 11, 2011 disaster in Japan. This complemented the generous contributions made by Albertans.
- Japan is a key overseas economic partner for Alberta, accounting for 15 per cent of non-U.S. exports. Alberta also enjoys a multi-faceted relationship with Japan that includes strong business ties, cultural and sports exchanges, educational initiatives, municipal twinnings and people-to-people activities.
- Alberta exchanges with the Prefecture of Hokkaido began in 1973, with a formal sister province relationship agreement signed in 1980. The 35th Anniversary of the Alberta-Hokkaido sister province relationship was celebrated in 2015.
- Several Alberta municipalities are twinned with Japanese counterparts, including members of the Alberta/Japan Twinned Municipalities Association and Lethbridge Twinning Society.
- Japan and Canada are signatories to the Trans Pacific Partnership agreement, and are currently negotiating a TPP 11 with the other signatories after the withdrawal of the U.S.

- Between 2013 and 2017, 571 citizens of Japan became Permanent Residents of Canada, with Alberta as their intended destination. Approximately 52% were economic immigrants, including principal applicants, spouses, and dependents.

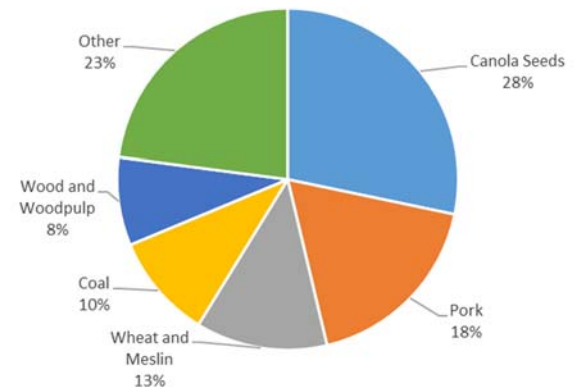
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2013-2017, total domestic exports from Alberta to Japan averaged \$1.72 billion per year and involved primarily canola seed, coal, pork, wheat and chemical woodpulp. Japan ranks third for Alberta exports.
- From 2013-2017, direct imports to Alberta from Japan averaged \$247.2 million per year and consisted primarily of vehicles, machinery and electronic machinery. This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that arrived via other provinces.
- Japan is a significant investor in Canada. Between 2011 and 2015, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Japan in Canada averaged 18 billion, which was 24 per cent of the total FDI from the Asia Pacific region in Canada. Japanese investment in Alberta is concentrated in forest products, oil sands, energy, petrochemicals, food processing, tourism and hospitality sectors.

Alberta's Exports to Japan 2008-2017



Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Japan (2013-2018) (Total Average \$1,725 Million CDN)



FORESTRY

- Japan is the second largest destination for Alberta lumber and Alberta's longest standing Asian market in this sector. In 2016, forest product exports from Alberta to Japan totaled C\$183.5 million.
- Japan maintains a significant presence in Alberta's forest product industry through Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. and Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
- Forestry Division and Alberta's Forest Sector were partners in the Canada-Tohoku Reconstruction Projects, providing essential social and economic infrastructure in the regions most affected following the devastating Great Eastern Japan earthquake and tsunami of 2011.
- Alberta's building products have excellent growth potential over the long-term in Japan.

ENERGY

- Japan has virtually no domestic oil or natural gas reserves and remains the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer, consuming 35 per cent of global LNG in 2015.
- Japan's electricity sector was greatly impacted by an earthquake in March 2011 and the subsequent Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear disaster which caused a shutdown of close to 10 gigawatts of nuclear electric generation capacity. LNG and oil-fired generation have been increased to offset lost nuclear capacity. Japan's LNG imports reached 118 billion cubic meters in 2015, up from 93.5 billion cubic meters in 2010.
- Natural gas accounted for 23% of Japan's primary energy consumption in 2015.
- The Government of Japan has directed attention to reducing the cost of Japan's LNG imports, primarily by establishing new supply

contracts for North American gas. Japan's Basic Energy Plan released in April 2014 refers to Canada as a prospective new energy supplier.

- In 2015 Japan remained the world's third largest consumer of oil, after the U.S. and China, with demand of 4.15 million barrels per day (bpd).
- Refined petroleum product exports totaled US\$12.7 billion in 2014 and accounted for 1.8 per cent of exports.
- Japan is also the world's second largest coal importer and coal accounted for 27% of Japan's primary energy consumption in 2015. Japan has world efficiency leading coal-fired technology and has plans to add an additional 20 gigawatts of electricity generation in the next decade.
- A number of Japanese companies actively participate in Alberta's energy sector, including Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd., INPEX Corp., Idemitsu Kosan Co. Ltd, Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Nippon Oil Exploration and Toyota Tshusho.
- Minister of Energy Margaret McCuaig-Boyd visited Japan in September 2017 to meet with energy leaders and investors.
- In May 2012, a Japanese delegation of officials from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Japan Gas Corporation; and state-owned company Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation visited Calgary to launch an energy policy dialogue with Canada. The meeting aimed to identify how Japan's investments could be accelerated in unconventional oil and gas developments in Alberta and British Columbia.

TOURISM

- In February 2012, direct air service between Calgary and Tokyo Narita was expanded to year-round service.
- Travel Alberta maintains an in-market representative in Tokyo.
- In 2015, expenditures and person-visits from Japan to Alberta yielded \$67 million based on 60,000 person visits.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- The Government of Alberta continues to promote investment and partnership opportunities between businesses in Alberta and Japan in areas such as information and communications technology and life sciences.
- In July 2009, the National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT), located in Edmonton, became home to a new research and product development centre using state-of-the-art Hitachi microscopes (the first outside of Japan), stemming from collaboration with Hitachi High Technologies Canada. NINT is a joint partnership of the Government of Alberta, the University of Alberta, and the National Research Council.
- Alberta organizations have worked on several joint research projects with Japan's New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization. Alberta-based microsystem and nanotechnology companies are also developing strategic relationships with Japanese companies and have sales representatives in Japan.

AGRICULTURE

- In 2016, Japan was Alberta's third largest market for agri-food products at \$1.2 billion, behind the U.S. and China. Alberta comprised approximately one third of Canada's total agri-food exports to Japan, which were valued at \$3.9 billion in 2016.

- Top ranked Alberta export products included: canola seed (\$403 million), pork (\$213 million), wheat (\$189.3 million), beef (\$118.5 million), malt (\$82.3 million) and hay and fodder (\$45.1 million). Other top exports included processed meats, horse meat, processed potatoes and tallow.
- Approximately one-third of Alberta's agri-food exports to Japan consist of value-added products.
- November 2015: Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry joined Alberta industry and business representatives to meet with key Japanese industry and government stakeholders to further Alberta's trade and investment interests in the agriculture and forestry sectors. The Minister also met with Hokkaido government officials and participated in events to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Alberta-Hokkaido sister province relationship.
- In September 2014, Canada signed a new organic equivalency arrangement with Japan which came into effect on January 1, 2015. The Japan-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (JCOEA) recognizes the organic production and certification systems in each country, making it easier to sell organic products in either country. The Canadian organic products that are covered under JCOEA are plants including fungi, as well as processed foods of plant origin.
- Japan maintains import restrictions on Canadian beef and a ban on live cattle due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) concerns. As of February 1, 2013, market access for Canadian beef has been expanded to allow access to beef from animals under ten months of age (UTM).
- term cultural exchanges with the Yamate Gakuin high school in Yokohama, Japan. The program also sees about 200 Japanese students come to Alberta schools annually for short-term visits during the spring.
- Forty-five Japanese students visited Alberta in January 2014 as part of the student exchange program, "The Kakehashi Project: A Bridge for Tomorrow". In May 2013, these students had hosted students from Alberta at their homes and schools in Japan.
- Japan continues to be in the top five source countries for the international student population in Alberta's K-12 school system.
- In the 2015-2016 school year, independent of exchange programs, approximately 118 fee paying students from Japan came to study in Alberta schools, representing about 5 per cent of Alberta's international student population in the K-12 education sector.
- Alberta Education has supported Study in Alberta missions to Japan in 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2015 with the goal of telling Alberta's story and to raise the province's profile in key international education markets. Since then, there has been a 33 per cent growth in international students from Japan, with from 89 students in 2009 to 118 in 2015.
- Seventeen Alberta schools have a twinning relationship with schools in Japan.
- Advanced Education provides funding to Alberta post-secondary institutions through the Campus Alberta Grant for International Learning which allows institutions to develop short-term study abroad programs in other countries including Japan.
- From 2015 to 2017, 834 foreign students from Japan were issued a permit to study in Alberta.
- Hiroshima University on environmentally-sustainable agriculture and a dual graduate degree program is under development with Hokkaido University. The UAlberta women's volleyball team (the Pandas) has travelled to Japan many times and professors from Physical Education and Recreation have taught courses there.
- The first international student to graduate from the U of A was Yuichi Kurimoto (1926). Mr. Kurimoto maintained his relationship with the university after returning to Japan and founding the Nagoya University of Commerce and Business Administration. A donation from his family resulted in the building of the Kurimoto Japanese Gardens in the U of A's Devonian Botanic Garden which opened in 1992. His son, Dr. Hiroshi Kurimoto, continues to support the university through generous support to the School of Business and received an honorary degree from the U of A in June 1993.
- In recent years, the University of Calgary (UCalgary) has undertaken a variety of engagement initiatives with Japan including: hosting the 20th Alberta District Japanese Language Speech Contest, completing the Japanese Studies digital collection and hosting the Calgary-Japan Exchange Print Exhibition curated by Professors of Kyoto City University.
- On July 6, 2016 UCalgary's X. Jie Yang, East Asian languages professor, receives the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun Award from the Government of Japan.
- UCalgary maintains student exchanges with 10 universities in Japan, and has offered English Language Programs for a number of post-secondary institutions. UCalgary's Werklund School of Education and Hokkaido University of Education renewed an agreement that will provide international exchanges for students enrolled in the pre-service teacher education program. In addition to these agreements, the Japanese Language and Culture Group Study Program offers students opportunities to further their study of Japanese language and culture in an immersive setting at Senshu University near Tokyo.

EDUCATION

- Alberta has developed curriculum for nine-year (Grades 4-12), six-year (Grades 7-12), and three-year (Grades 10-12) Japanese language and culture learning programs. In 2012/2013, 1720 students were enrolled in Japanese language and culture courses offered in seventeen school authorities in the province.
- Alberta Education has had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Japan Foundation since 2001, which was renewed in 2014. The MOU supports the posting of a Special Advisor of Japanese Language and Culture to Alberta Education.
- For over a decade, Alberta and Hokkaido have partnered in a high school exchange program in which students from Alberta and Japan develop their international language skills by spending eight weeks in each other's homes and schools.
- Over the last 30 years, about 100 Alberta students have participated annually in short-term cultural exchanges with the Yamate Gakuin high school in Yokohama, Japan. The program also sees about 200 Japanese students come to Alberta schools annually for short-term visits during the spring.
- The University of Alberta (UAlberta) has 10 student exchange partners in Japan plus numerous other agreements and activities with Japanese institutions related to teaching and research. The university receives many visiting students from Japan for English and academic courses.
- UAlberta is home to the Prince Takamado Centre for Teaching and Research which facilitates teaching of Japanese language and culture and co-ordinates a Prince Takamado Japan-Canada Memorial Fund that supports student mobility and cultural exchanges. The Faculty of Arts also offers a study abroad program in Kyoto each year.
- Many other UAlberta Faculties have ties with Japan. Through collaboration with the Hokkaido Board of Education, UAlberta's Faculty of Education has for many years provided training to Hokkaido school instructors on teaching in English. There is a reciprocal short-term study program with
- For the past 13 years, Lethbridge College has partnered with the Nippon Institute of Technology (NIT) in Tokyo to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) training and two year diplomas to NIT students.
- MacEwan University has student exchange agreements with Nagoya Gakuin University (2009) and Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies (2016). Students from Alberta are able to travel to Japan to study language and various aspects of Japanese culture and history.
- MacEwan University signed agreements with Fuji Women's University and Kwassui Women's University to participate in

- MacEwan's ESL Partnership Program. Through this visiting student program Japanese students study ESL for one or two terms.
- MacEwan University has placed approximately 200 practicum students in Japan since 1998 from the Asia-Pacific Management diploma.
- Mount Royal University (MRU) is partnered with Gifu University (2002), Mukogawa Women's University (2006), and Hiroasaki University (2004). Students are exchanged in both directions on an annual basis.
- SAIT Polytechnic and Kagawa Prefectural University of Health Sciences (KPUHS) in Takamatsu signed a one-year Exchange Program Agreement in June 2015. Four students and one instructor from the SAIT Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program visited KPUHS in 2016. Students were immersed in various laboratory activities and tours of medical facilities in Takamatsu as well as participated in cultural activities and tours of Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo.
- Each year the English Language Program at the Faculty of Extension at the U of A hosts a number of groups of Japanese high school and/or university students to provide short-term English language training and Canadian social and cultural experiences.
- Concordia University of Edmonton has partnerships with Toyo University, Tokyo and recently signed an agreement with Tohoku Fukushi University, Sendai, for cooperation in Public Health.
- Medicine Hat College has student exchange partnerships with Aichi Shukutoku University, Kobe City University of Foreign Languages, Momoyama Gakuin University, Nagoya University of Foreign Studies and Osaka Gakuin University.
- November 2016: The Minister of Economic Development and Trade led a mission to Japan that focused on food exports and innovation in the forestry sector.
- October 2015: The Vice-Governor of Hokkaido Prefecture, Mr. Yoshihiro Yamaya, led delegation to Alberta to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Alberta-Hokkaido sister province relationship. The delegation included members of the Hokkaido Legislative Assembly, senior government officials, select individuals from universities based in Hokkaido and municipal government officials whose jurisdictions are twinned with Alberta cities
- November 2015: Alberta's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry joined Alberta industry and business representatives to meet with key Japanese industry and government stakeholders to further Alberta's trade and investment interests in the agriculture and forestry sectors. The Minister also met with Hokkaido government officials and participated in events to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Alberta-Hokkaido sister province relationship.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Japan's Ambassador in Ottawa is His Excellency Kimihiro Ishikane.
- A Japanese Consulate was established in Edmonton in 1967, becoming a Consulate General in 1972. The office is now located in Calgary and has jurisdiction for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- The Japanese Consul General in Calgary is Mr. Shigenobu Kobayashi. There is also an honorary Consul General in Edmonton, Ms. Olenka Blash.
- Canada's Ambassador to Japan is Mr. Ian Burney. The Embassy is located in Tokyo. There is a Canadian Consulate in Nagoya, as well as Canadian trade offices in Kitakyushu, Osaka and Sapporo.
- Alberta has maintained an office in Tokyo since 1970. The Managing Director of this office is Mr. David Anderson.

COMMUNITY

- Approximately 13,465 Albertans are of Japanese descent.
- Calgary and Edmonton are home to active Japanese community associations. These associations help to promote Japanese culture and provide support to Japanese business owners.

RECENT VISITS

- April 2017: The Premier of Alberta led a mission to Japan where she signed an agreement with the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) which will enhance the enterprise's existing investment in the oil sands and will lead to deepened technology cooperation between the two jurisdictions. She also spoke at a number of events including an Energy/Clean Tech seminar in Tokyo.