

Washington-Alberta Relations



PROFILE

Capital: Olympia

Population: 7,288,000 (2016 estimate)

Language: English

Government: Bicameral state government

Head of Government:

Governor Jay Inslee (D)
Second Term (term expires January 2021)
No term limit

Currency: U.S. Dollar (USD)
\$1 CAD = \$0.74 USD (June 2017)

Gross State Product (GSP):
U.S. \$469.7 billion (2016)

GSP Per Capita: US\$56,831 (2016)

Unemployment Rate: 4.5%
(May 2017)

Key Industry Sectors: aerospace, agriculture, forestry, fishery, high tech, mining, manufacturing, tourism, energy, shipping and transport

Main Cities: (2015 estimates)

- Seattle: 684,451
- Seattle Metro Area: 3,733,580
- Spokane: 213,272
- Spokane Metro Area: 547,824
- Tacoma: 207,948
- Vancouver: 169,294
- Olympia: 50,302
- Olympia Metro Area: 269,536

DID YOU KNOW?

- Microsoft, Amazon, and Boeing are three major international firms that have key offices and facilities in Washington.
- 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.
- Washington is home to four of the five longest floating bridges in the world: the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge, Lacey V. Murrow Memorial Bridge and Homer M. Hadley Bridge over Lake Washington, and the Hood Canal Bridge connecting the Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta and Washington have a common interest in Pacific Northwest trade and transportation, and in exporting goods and services to Asian markets.
- Alberta and Washington's participation in transboundary cooperative bodies reflects a shared commitment to strengthening relationships at state and regional levels.
- The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers has identified 39 Washington companies that supply equipment, parts, and services being used in the development of Alberta's oil sands.

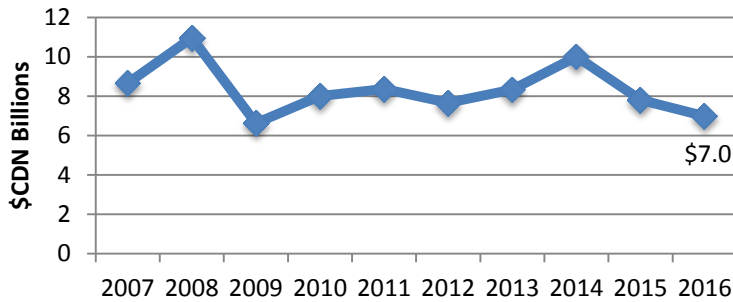
SHARED ORGANIZATIONS

- Council of State Governments (CSG) National
- CSG West
- Legislative Agriculture Chairs (LAC) Summit
- Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)
- National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
- State Agriculture and Rural Leaders (SARL)
- Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA)
- Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO)
- Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB)
- Western Legislative Forestry Task Force (WLFTF)
- Western Governors' Association (WGA)

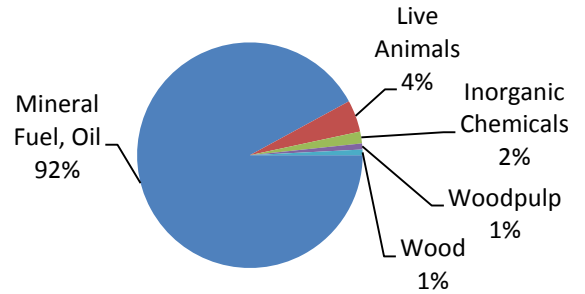
ENERGY/NATURAL GAS

- Washington's refineries are becoming increasingly dependent on crude oil imports from Canada and other countries. The Trans Mountain Pipeline from Alberta supplies more than one-tenth of Washington's crude oil supply.
- British Petroleum's Cherry Point Refinery, only 10 km south of the Canada-U.S. border, processes 225,000 barrels per day of mostly Alaska and western Canadian heavy crude.
- Washington is the leading hydroelectric power generator in the U.S., producing 30% of national net hydroelectricity generation in 2014.

Alberta's Exports to Washington, 2007-2016



Alberta's Average Exports to Washington, 2012-2016



* Note: Natural gas that is later sent to the California market accounts for a percentage of exports to Washington.

- Washington approved a new renewable energy standard in November 2006, requiring utility companies that serve 25,000 people or more to use renewable energy sources to produce 15% of their energy by 2020.
- There are opportunities for Alberta's clean-technology and alternative-energy companies in Washington. Of particular interest are the new technologies, processes, and equipment that use plant waste rather than grain or corn to produce ethanol.

AGRICULTURE

- Alberta's 2016 agri-food exports to Washington totalled \$754.9 million. Top exports included live cattle (\$400.3 million), canola and mustard oil crude (\$149.9 million), oilseed cake and meal (\$49.5 million) and canola seed (\$26 million).
- Alberta imported approximately \$14 million worth of agricultural products from Washington in 2016.
- In 2016, Washington was the fourth largest wheat producing state in the U.S. with 157 million bushels.
- Alberta and Canada are aware of U.S. concerns on wheat grading and will continue to engage with wheat producing states on this matter.
- Washington is one of eight US states where marijuana has been legalized.
- Between June 2014 and February 2017, marijuana tax revenue in the state totalled \$401 million.
- On July 29, 2016, former President Obama signed into law the Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) labeling bill creating a national mandatory system where food makers must disclose GMO data. Laws and regulations under development within this bill will apply to both domestic and foreign-produced goods.

- Alberta and Canada will continue to work with U.S. states, Congress, and the administration to stress the importance of our trade relationship that benefits both Canada and the U.S.

FORESTRY

- There have been no specific Alberta-Washington issues on softwood lumber.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- From 2012-2016, Alberta's exports to Washington have averaged \$8.4 billion annually.
- In 2016, Alberta's exports to Washington totalled \$7.0 billion and included oil, natural gas, petrochemicals, live cattle, and canola.
- In 2016, Alberta's imports from Washington totalled \$833 million and included aircraft and aircraft parts, machinery, electrical machinery, jewelry products, and scientific instruments.

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 and Prince Rupert, B.C. for the export of Alberta products.

RECENT VISITS/MISSIONS

- May 2017: Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib traveled to Calgary to address the Alberta-U.S. Trade Summit.
- May 2017: State Senator Sam Hunt travelled to Calgary and Edmonton as part of a delegation by CSG West.

- January 2015: Cathy Olesen, MLA Sherwood Park, participated in a PNWR state capital visit to Olympia, Washington to meet with state legislators.
- November 2014: Alana DeLong, MLA Calgary-Bow, travelled to Seattle, Washington to participate in the 2014 PNWR Economic Leadership Forum.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- Kelly Knight Craft was nominated on June 14, 2017 by President Donald Trump to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Canada in Ottawa. Her nomination is pending confirmation by the U.S. Senate.
- The Canadian Ambassador to the U.S. in Washington, D.C. is David MacNaughton.
- The Canadian Consulate responsible for Washington State is located in Seattle. James Hill is the Consul General.
- Tom Palaia is the U.S. Consul General in Calgary, Alberta.
- Gitane De Silva is Alberta's Senior Representative to the U.S. in Washington D.C.

