

PORTUGAL – ALBERTA RELATIONS

Information Compiled by International Relations, Alberta International and Intergovernmental Relations

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PROFILE

- ◆ **Capital** Lisbon
- ◆ **Population** 10 million
- ◆ **Language** Portuguese
- ◆ **Government** Republic
- ◆ **Head of State**
President Jorge Sampaio
- ◆ **Head of Government**
Prime Minister Antonio Guterres
- ◆ **Currency** Escudo & Euro
1 Cdn \$ = 152.18 ESC
- ◆ **GDP** \$159.5 billion US PPP (1999)
- ◆ **GDP Per Capita** \$15,975 PPP (99)
- ◆ **GDP growth rate** 3% (2000 est.)
- ◆ **Key industry sectors:**
Tourism, Mining, Manufacturing
- ◆ **Inflation:** 2.4% (1999)
- ◆ **Unemployment:** 4.6% (1999)

DID YOU KNOW?

- ◆ Lisbon hosted the 1998 World Expo with the theme, “The Oceans: A Heritage for the Future”. Alberta was represented at the Canadian Pavilion.

□ PORTUGAL OVERVIEW

- In the mid-1970s, Portugal underwent a transformation from authoritarian rule to parliamentary democracy.
- Portugal joined the European Union (EU) in 1986. Membership has brought strong economic growth due to closer trade ties with Europe and an inflow of EU transfer funds.
- In 1999, the centre-left Socialist party was re-elected with a minority government for a second term.
- Prime Minister Guterres has continued the privatization and modernization policies begun by his predecessors. In order to qualify for the Euro currency, Portugal had to cut its fiscal deficit and undertake structural economic reforms.
- In December 1999, Portugal transferred control of Macau to China, ending more than 400 years of Portuguese control of the territory. It also marked the end of European colonial presence in Asia.
- Portugal held the EU presidency for the first half of 2000. Portugal used its term to launch a dialogue between the EU and Africa, among other issues.
- The six-month presidency allowed Portugal to exert more influence in EU affairs. Portugal’s small size and limited economic standing, as compared to some other member states, limit its influence.

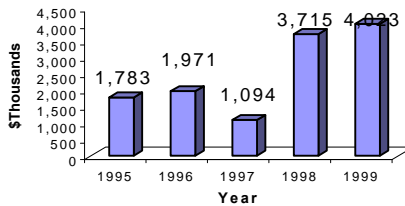
□ TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- Over the past five years, Alberta exports to Portugal have averaged \$2.5 million per annum. In 1999, export totals increased to \$4 million.
- Principal Alberta exports include wheat, prosthetics, animal hides and building materials.
- Portugal sends binder twine, wine and electrical equipment to Alberta.
- Portugal is one of the world’s leading producers of wine, olive oil and cork.

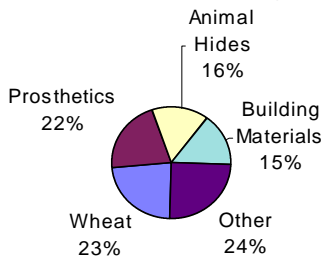
Agriculture

- Portugal’s agricultural trade policy conforms to the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Alberta attaches great importance to reform of the CAP and the need for world agricultural trade liberalization. The CAP subsidies and their impact on world markets and prices are an on-going irritant for Alberta farmers.
- Another concern is the growing tendency of the EU to ban North American beef, canola and other products on non-scientific “health” grounds.

Alberta's Exports to Portugal



Alberta Exports to Portugal 1999



RECENT VISITS

- ◆ 1999: His Excellency José Manuel Lello Ribeiro De Almeida, Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities, visited Alberta.
- ◆ 1998: Intergovernmental Minister McClellan visited Portugal during Expo 98.
- ◆ 1998: His Excellency José M. Duarte de Jesus, Ambassador of Portugal, visited Alberta.

□ ENERGY

- Portugal has extremely limited domestic sources of energy and imports 90% of its energy requirements.
- Portugal is highly reliant on petroleum as a fuel source. Oil is expected to become less prominent as the natural gas sector begins to grow.
- The Iberian Peninsula has an extensive gas network that links Portugal with Spain. The Maghreb-Europe pipeline connects the peninsula to Algerian gas sources.

□ PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY

- There are over 11,000 Albertans of Portuguese descent, making them the 29th largest ethnic group in the province.
- Portuguese cultural and music societies are located in Edmonton and Calgary.

□ DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- His Excellency José M. Duarte de Jesus is Portugal's Ambassador to Canada.
- Mr. Pedro M.B.G. Leite de Sampaio is the Portuguese Consul in Vancouver.
- Mr. Aurelio Marcelino do Carmo Fernandes is Portugal's Honorary Consul in Edmonton.
- The Canadian Ambassador to Portugal is Mr. Robert Vanderloo.

For more information please see www.iir.gov.ab.ca