

The Land and Precipitation

	Acres	% of Total
Total Land Area	157,710,720	
Farm Land Area (2016 Census of Agriculture).....	50,250,183	100.0
Cultivated Land Area.....	31,327,764	62.3
Land in Crops.....	25,261,781	50.3
Summerfallow.....	644,021	1.3
Tame or Seeded Pasture.....	5,421,962	10.8
Natural Land for Pasture.....	15,861,059	31.6
All Other Land.....	3,061,360	6.1

Total irrigated area in 2017 = 1.67 million acres or 5.3% of the total cultivated land area in Alberta.

In 2017, the irrigation districts in Alberta accounted for 1.36 million acres. The breakdown of irrigated crop acres was: forages (33%), cereals (29%), canola (11%), canola seed (3%), dry beans (4%), potatoes (3%), sugar beets (2%), alfalfa seed (4%), and all other crops (11%). Types of irrigation systems practiced were: centre pivot sprinkler (84%), side-roll-wheel-move sprinkler (8.1%), gravity or "flood" (7%), and other irrigation systems (0.9%).

Precipitation (millimetres) <i>April 1 to September 30 Cropping Season</i>	1961-2017		
	Average	2016	2017
Medicine Hat.....	245.2	364.0	174.9
Calgary.....	330.0	370.4	212.1
Lacombe.....	343.1	338.0	252.9
Wainwright.....	292.8	270.2	300.8
Oliver (near Edmonton).....	328.1	354.1	306.3
Beaverlodge.....	295.6	428.4	345.5

Population and Farms

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Population on July 1st ⁽¹⁾	4,236,376	4,286,134	1.2
<i>% of Canadian Population</i>	<i>11.7%</i>	<i>11.7%</i>	

	2016	% of Total
Population on May 10, 2016 ⁽²⁾	4,067,175	100.0
Urban Population.....	3,399,372	83.6
Rural Population.....	667,803	16.4
Number of Census Farms on May 10, 2016 ⁽²⁾	40,638	
Average Farm Size	1,237 acres	
Types of Farms ⁽³⁾	2016	% of Total
Cattle (Beef).....	12,282	30.2
Other Animal Production.....	6,450	15.9
Grain and Oilseed (excl. Wheat).....	10,557	26.0
Wheat.....	2,894	7.1
Other Field Crops (excl. Grain and Oilseed).....	6,530	16.1
Other Crop Farming.....	1,925	4.7

(1) Source: Statistics Canada, Table 17-10-0005-01.

(2) Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census of Population and Census of Agriculture.

(3) Farm type classified by North American Industry Classification System.

Employed Labour Force

	2016	2017	% Chg.
Total Employed Labour Force	2,263,800	2,286,900	1.0
Agri-Food Industries	73,200	75,100	2.6
Agriculture.....	50,800	52,100	2.6
Crop Production.....	20,500	18,900	-7.8
Animal Production.....	26,600	27,900	4.9
Mixed Farming.....	1,500	2,900	93.3
Support Activities for Agriculture.....	2,300	2,300	0.0
Food and Beverage Manufacturing.....	22,400	23,000	2.7
Food - Retail Trade and Services	177,600	182,200	2.6
Food and Beverage Retail Stores.....	58,500	57,300	-2.1
Food Services and Drinking Places.....	119,100	124,900	4.9

Real Gross Domestic Product at Basic Prices (\$ Millions)

In 2017, Alberta's real gross domestic product for agri-food industries totalled \$6.5 billion, up 2.5% from 2016.

	In Chained (2007) Dollars		
	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
All Industries	290,613.2	304,708.6	4.9
Agri-Food Industries	6,336.0	6,492.7	2.5
Agriculture.....	3,449.6	3,513.8	1.9
Food Manufacturing.....	2,422.1	2,504.6	3.4
Beverage Manufacturing.....	464.3	474.3	2.2

Consumer Price Index and Financial Rates (Annual Averages)

	2016	2017	% Chg.
Consumer Price Index (CPI) (2002=100)			
Alberta - All Items	135.2	137.2	1.5
Food.....	141.5	141.7	0.1
Fresh or Frozen Meat (excl. Poultry).....	163.8	159.4	-2.7
Fresh or Frozen Poultry Meat.....	145.6	145.0	-0.4
Fresh Fruit.....	134.3	137.5	2.4
Fresh Vegetables.....	122.6	125.4	2.3
Dairy Products.....	140.0	136.9	-2.2
Financial Rates	2015	2016	2017
Canada Bank Rate (%).....	0.88	0.75	0.96
Exchange Rate - US \$ Per Canadian \$.....	0.7820	0.7544	0.7705

Farm Cash Receipts (\$ Millions)

Alberta's total farm cash receipts (FCR) surpassed \$14 billion for the first time, at \$14.1 billion and was 4.5% above 2016. Crop market receipts reached a new high in 2017, while livestock market receipts were up to the second highest on record and program payments to producers also up. FCR is the sum of crop and livestock market receipts plus direct program payments to producers. Alberta accounted for 22.9% of total Canadian FCR in 2017, and led the nation with \$4.8 billion in cattle and calf market receipts.

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Total Farm Cash Receipts	13,501.6	14,113.9	4.5
Crop Market Receipts	6,674.3	6,934.1	3.9
Wheat.....	1,891.8	2,065.2	9.2
Oats.....	29.6	29.8	0.8
Barley.....	269.1	255.6	-5.0
Dry Peas.....	639.3	475.3	-25.7
Canola.....	2,851.0	3,072.2	7.8
Potatoes.....	240.0	203.9	-15.1
Greenhouse and Field Vegetables.....	99.8	103.8	4.0
Lentils.....	214.6	127.2	-40.8
Floriculture, Nursery and Sod.....	131.6	130.1	-1.1
Other Crops.....	307.5	471.1	53.2
Livestock and Products Market Receipts	6,130.9	6,415.6	4.6
Cattle and Calves.....	4,582.9	4,802.3	4.8
Hogs.....	395.6	425.8	7.6
Lambs.....	25.1	25.2	0.6
Dairy Products.....	561.1	587.8	4.8
Poultry, Hatcheries and Eggs.....	367.2	375.2	2.2
Honey.....	71.5	66.0	-7.7
Other Livestock and Products.....	127.5	133.3	4.5
Total Market Receipts	12,805.2	13,349.7	4.3
Direct Program Payments	696.4	764.1	9.7
Crop and Hail Insurance.....	529.0	506.6	-4.2
AgriStability.....	56.2	121.7	116.6
AgriRecovery.....	0.4	7.3	1,851.1
AgriInvest.....	73.1	61.4	-16.0
Other Payments.....	37.7	67.0	77.6

Livestock Industry

Alberta continues to be the largest beef producing province in Canada. As of July 1, 2017, the province led the nation in cattle and calf inventories and accounted for 41% of the national herd. In 2017, over three-quarters of Canadian beef processing occurred in Western Canada (75.7%), with the vast majority concentrated in Alberta.

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Livestock on Farms (Head), July 1st			
Cattle and Calves.....	5,205,000	5,145,000	-1.2
Bulls.....	94,900	92,200	-2.8
Milk Cows and Dairy Heifers.....	119,600	120,600	0.8
Beef Cows and Beef Heifers.....	1,867,200	1,867,200	0.0
Calves.....	1,650,700	1,670,100	1.2
Slaughter Steers and Heifers.....	1,472,600	1,394,900	-5.3
Pigs.....	1,465,000	1,470,000	0.3
Sheep and Lambs.....	195,000	194,000	-0.5
Livestock Slaughtered (Head)	2016	2017p	
Cattle and Calves ⁽¹⁾	2,113,779	2,260,844	7.0
Hogs.....	2,619,485	2,597,475	-0.8
Production Quantity (tonnes)			
Beef (e) ⁽²⁾	815,458	856,800	5.1
Pork (e).....	242,145	240,111	-0.8
Meat Product Manufacturing Sales (\$ Millions)	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Meat Product Manufacturing Industries ⁽³⁾	6,739.3	7,365.2	9.3
Value of International Exports (\$ Millions)			
Beef and Veal (incl. Offal).....	1,670.4	1,735.5	3.9
Pork (incl. Offal).....	472.0	492.6	4.4
Farm Cash Receipts (\$ Millions)			
Livestock and Livestock Products.....	6,130.9	6,415.6	4.6
<i>% of Total Farm Cash Receipts</i>	<i>45.4%</i>	<i>45.5%</i>	
Selected Prices	2016	2017	
Slaughter Steers, Alberta Direct Packer Sales* (\$/100 lbs).....	\$150.57	\$153.89	
Central Alberta Steer Calves, 500-600 lbs* (\$/100 lbs).....	\$217.27	\$222.26	
Alberta Average Slaughter Hogs Index 100 Dressed (\$/kg).....	\$1.48	\$1.61	

* Live Weight Basis

(1) Federally and provincially inspected slaughter in Western Canada, irrespective of origin; Alberta data unavailable.

(2) Beef production in Western Canada; Alberta data unavailable.

(3) Includes poultry processing.

Dairy Production

	2016	2017p	% Chg.
Milk Production ('000 litres).....	732,337	768,059	4.9

Poultry and Egg Production

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Chicken Meat (tonnes*).....	112,746	116,369	3.2
Turkey Meat (tonnes*).....	16,637	15,795	-5.1
Egg Production ('000 Dozen).....	65,191	70,777	8.6

* Eviscerated Weight

Beekeeping Industry

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Honey Production (tonnes).....	18,221	18,057	-0.9
Value of Honey Produced (\$'000).....	62,388	68,454	9.7

Selected Alternative Livestock Inventory (Head)

	2016	2017p	% Chg.
Whitetail Deer and Mule Deer.....	1,026	1,359	32.5
Elk.....	12,164	12,008	-1.3

Crops

	Harvested Area ('000 acres)		Production ('000 tonnes)	
	2016r	2017p	2016r	2017p
Principal Field Crops				
Winter Wheat.....	179.0	105.0	318.4	176.9
Spring Wheat.....	5,125.0	5,775.0	8,204.4	8,720.0
Durum Wheat.....	1,085.0	1,085.0	1,583.9	1,083.2
All Wheat	6,389.0	6,965.0	10,106.7	9,980.1
Oats.....	430.0	425.0	624.6	609.2
Barley.....	2,660.0	2,500.0	4,398.0	3,906.0
Fall Rye.....	52.0	25.0	59.7	33.5
Mixed Grains.....	25.0	25.0	30.6	33.0
Flaxseed.....	72.0	85.0	59.8	62.2
Canola.....	5,985.0	6,890.0	6,157.5	6,826.6
Dry Beans.....	57.0	50.0	61.6	61.5
Dry Peas.....	1,810.0	1,790.0	2,271.2	1,991.5
Mustard Seed.....	132.0	93.0	73.3	27.1
Triticale.....	20.0	15.0	30.2	23.2
Tame Hay.....	4,010.1	4,160.0	7,239.3	7,175.8
Fodder Corn.....	100.0	90.0	1,814.4	1,564.9
Sugar Beets.....	28.0	26.0	811.9	771.1
Summerfallow	590.0	830.0	n/a	n/a

	(acres)		(tonnes)	
	2016r	2017p	2016r	2017p
Commercial Fresh Vegetables and Fruits				
Beans.....	167	x	233	x
Carrots.....	368	404	2,394	3,243
Corn, Sweet.....	2,457	2,065	15,012	15,956
Onions, Dry.....	969	x	17,661	x
Peas, Green.....	3,316	3,277	4,569	4,309
Raspberries.....	150	148	73	70
Strawberries.....	179	170	210	x

	Value of International Exports (\$ Millions)		
	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Total Crops.....	4,225	4,926	16.6
Wheat.....	1,820	2,135	17.3
Canola Seed.....	1,841	2,022	9.8
Barley.....	142	197	38.7
Other Crops.....	421	572	35.7

	Farm Cash Receipts (\$ Millions)		
	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Total Crops.....	6,674.3	6,934.1	3.9
<i>% of Total Farm Cash Receipts</i>	<i>49.4%</i>	<i>49.1%</i>	

Value of Principal Field Crops (\$/tonne)

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
No.1 CW Red Spring Wheat (13% or 13.5%).....	197.80	213.00	232.40	239.00
No.2 CP Spring Wheat (11% or 11.5%).....	176.10	141.70	201.60	172.90
Oats (feedmill bids, Lethbridge).....	179.97	174.71	201.98	183.53
Barley (feedmill bids, Lethbridge).....	187.24	200.76	212.64	171.00
Canola (canola seed crusher average prices).....	435.28	435.01	466.57	479.67

Greenhouse Industry

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Total Greenhouse Area ('000 sq. ft).....	12,203	12,273	0.6
Total Sales (\$'000).....	132,928	134,506	1.2

Food and Beverage Manufacturing Sales (\$ Millions)

In 2017, Alberta food and beverage manufacturing sales reached a new high of \$14.4 billion or 20.3% of the province's total manufactured goods (\$70.9 billion). The leading food sub-sector was meat product manufacturing (including poultry) at \$7.4 billion, which accounted for 55.2% of the provincial food sales.

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
All Manufacturing Industries	63,760.1	70,940.3	11.3
Food and Beverage Manufacturing Industries	13,282.1	14,402.0	8.4
<i>% Share of All Manufacturing</i>	<i>20.8%</i>	<i>20.3%</i>	
Food Manufacturing Industries	12,015.3	13,349.6	11.1
Meat Product Manufacturing (incl. Poultry)	6,739.3	7,365.2	9.3
<i>% Share of Food Manufacturing</i>	<i>56.1%</i>	<i>55.2%</i>	
Grain and Oilseed Milling	1,696.1	1,728.1	1.9
Animal Foods (incl. Livestock Feed)	986.7	988.0	0.1
All Other Food Manufacturing	2,593.2	3,268.3	26.0
Dairy Products	809.2	1,219.8	50.7
Bread and Bakery Products	559.8	x	-
Other Food Manufacturing ⁽¹⁾	775.3	940.6	21.3
Beverage Manufacturing Industries	1,266.8	1,052.4	-16.9

(1) Includes manufacturing of coffee, tea, seasonings, dressings, flavourings, specialty foods, sugar and confectionery products, seafood products, cookies, crackers, pasta and fruit and vegetable preserving.

Food and Beverage Retail Sales (\$ Millions)

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Total Alberta Food and Beverage Stores	14,652.1	14,689.0	0.3
Grocery Stores (Supermarkets and Convenience)	11,337.5	11,248.9	-0.8
Specialty Food Stores	546.7	668.3	22.2
Beer, Wine and Liquor Stores	2,767.9	2,771.8	0.1

Average Household Food Expenditure, 2016 (Per Year)

	Alberta	% of Food	Canada	% of Food
Total Household Expenditure	\$106,514		\$84,489	
Food Expenditure	\$9,766		\$8,784	
<i>% Share of Total Expenditure</i>	<i>9.2%</i>		<i>10.4%</i>	
Food Purchased From Restaurants	\$3,059		\$2,608	
Food Purchased From Stores	\$6,707	100.0%	\$6,176	100.0%
Fruits and Vegetables	\$1,626	24.2%	\$1,499	24.3%
Meat and Processed Meat	\$1,262	18.8%	\$1,163	18.8%
Dairy Products and Eggs	\$916	13.7%	\$888	14.4%
Bakery Products	\$608	9.1%	\$578	9.4%
Cereal Grains and Cereal Products	\$421	6.3%	\$347	5.6%
Fish and Seafood	\$182	2.7%	\$203	3.3%

Per Capita Consumption of Red Meats and Poultry, Canada

	Units	1998	2016r	2017p
Beef	kg ⁽¹⁾	31.94	25.20	25.17
Pork	kg ⁽¹⁾	28.70	20.99	21.35
Mutton and Lamb	kg ⁽¹⁾	0.83	1.06	1.10
Chicken	kg ⁽²⁾	26.30	32.50	33.13
Turkey	kg ⁽²⁾	4.28	4.25	4.20

(1) Carcass weight basis... (2) Eviscerated weight basis.

Note: These data represent food available for consumption and not actual quantities of food consumed since they do not allow for losses such as waste and/or spoilage in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants. Also, aggregate data for fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, poultry, fish, fluid milk and alcoholic beverages shown in previous editions of the Agriculture Statistics Factsheet are no longer available.

Farm Operating Expenses ⁽¹⁾ (\$ Millions)

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Property Taxes	116.2	118.7	2.2
Cash and Share Rent	637.4	652.7	2.4
Cash Wages, Room and Board	739.6	758.1	2.5
Interest	656.3	713.2	8.7
Machinery Fuel	532.4	593.6	11.5
Machinery Repairs	722.5	740.5	2.5
Fertilizer and Lime	1,272.7	1,209.1	-5.0
Pesticides	659.2	656.0	-0.5
Commercial Feed	1,361.6	1,360.3	-0.1
Livestock and Poultry Purchases	999.4	1,219.3	22.0
Electricity and Telephone	245.3	237.2	-3.3
Heating Fuel	64.5	67.2	4.3
Miscellaneous	2,106.6	2,169.7	3.0
Total Operating Expenses After Rebates	10,113.7	10,495.7	3.8
Depreciation on Buildings	287.0	287.0	0.0
Depreciation on Machinery	1,460.7	1,520.2	4.1
Total Expenses After Rebates and Depreciation	11,861.3	12,302.9	3.7

(1) Net of provincial or federal rebates.

Net Farm Income ⁽¹⁾ (\$ Millions)

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
1. Total Farm Cash Receipts	13,501.6	14,113.9	4.5
2. Total Operating Expenses After Rebates	10,113.7	10,495.7	3.8
3. Net Cash Income (1 - 2)	3,388.0	3,618.2	6.8
4. Income in Kind	11.7	11.8	0.8
5. Depreciation Charges	1,747.7	1,807.2	3.4
6. Realized Net Income (3 + 4 - 5)	1,652.0	1,822.8	10.3
7. Value of Inventory Change	564.6	388.1	-31.3
8. Total Net Income (6 + 7)	2,216.6	2,210.8	-0.3

(1) Refers to income directly related to the farm business; excludes non-farming income (such as wages and salaries from off-farm employment, pension and investment income).

Capital Investment Expenditures ⁽¹⁾ (\$ Millions)

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
All Industries	60,827.1	57,165.1	-6.0
Agri-Food Industries	1,613.1	1,659.3	2.9
<i>% Share of All Industries</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>2.9%</i>	
Agriculture Industries	1,400.9	1,458.5	4.1
Crop Production	1,029.0	1,095.9	6.5
Animal Production	371.9	362.6	-2.5
Support Services	x	x	-
Food and Beverage Manufacturing Industries	212.2	200.8	-5.4
Food Industries	167.4	160.0	-4.4
Beverage Industries	44.8	40.8	-8.9

(1) Capital investment expenditures refers to the cost of procuring, constructing and installing new durable plants, machinery and equipment, whether for replacement of worn or obsolete assets, as additions to existing assets or for lease or rent to others.

International Agri-Food Exports (\$ Millions)

In 2017, Alberta exports of primary and processed agricultural and food products (agri-food) reached a record \$11.2 billion, up by 12.3% over 2016. Larger exports of major grains and oilseeds combined with better prices contributed to the growth. Also, gains were reported in exports of value added products, such as crude canola oil, oilseed cake and meal, beef, pork, processed meat and milled cereals, among others. Exports of beef, the largest value added product, were 3.9% higher in value and 3% in quantity. Among primary commodities, wheat returned as the largest exports followed by canola seed. Both crops grew in value and quantity. Other crops showing significant increases included dry peas, lentils, barley and hay and fodder. The United States continues to be Alberta's largest market, accounting for 38% of total agri-food exports. The next largest markets were China (17.6%), Japan (11.2%) and Mexico (5.4%). Exports to China rose sharply by 44% mainly due to larger exports of crude canola oil, canola seed, dry peas, barley, pork and beef.

	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
Canada Agri-Food Exports	56,525	58,243	3.0
Alberta Agri-Food Exports	10,006	11,238	12.3
<i>Alberta as a % of Canada</i>	<i>17.7%</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	
Value Added Processed Products	5,049	5,585	10.6
<i>As a % of Alberta Agri-Food Exports</i>	<i>50.5%</i>	<i>49.7%</i>	
Beef and Veal (incl. Offal)	1,670	1,735	3.9
Crude Canola Oil	537	854	59.1
Pork (incl. Offal)	472	493	4.4
Oilseed Cake and Meal	241	404	67.3
Processed Potatoes	337	328	-2.7
Prepared Animal Feeds	273	250	-8.7
Malt Roasted or Not Roasted	241	240	-0.4
Other Value Added Processed Products	1,278	1,282	0.3
Primary Commodities (Crops and Animals)	4,957	5,653	14.0
<i>As a % of Alberta Agri-Food Exports</i>	<i>49.5%</i>	<i>50.3%</i>	
Wheat	1,820	2,135	17.3
Canola Seed	1,841	2,022	9.8
Live Cattle (excl. Purebred)	623	612	-1.7
Barley	142	197	38.7
Dry Peas	81	187	131.7
Hay and Fodder	89	102	14.6
Other Primary Commodities	361	398	10.3
Alberta's Top Five Export Markets in 2017	2016r	2017p	% Chg.
1. United States (38.0% Share)	4,061	4,269	5.1
2. China (17.6% Share)	1,375	1,980	44.0
3. Japan (11.2% Share)	1,226	1,260	2.8
4. Mexico (5.4% Share)	540	602	11.7
5. South Korea (1.9% Share)	237	214	-9.7

r - revised p - preliminary n/a - not applicable - - not available
x - confidential kg - kilogram e - estimated

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Data Sources: Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; Statistics Canada; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; and CanFax.

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