

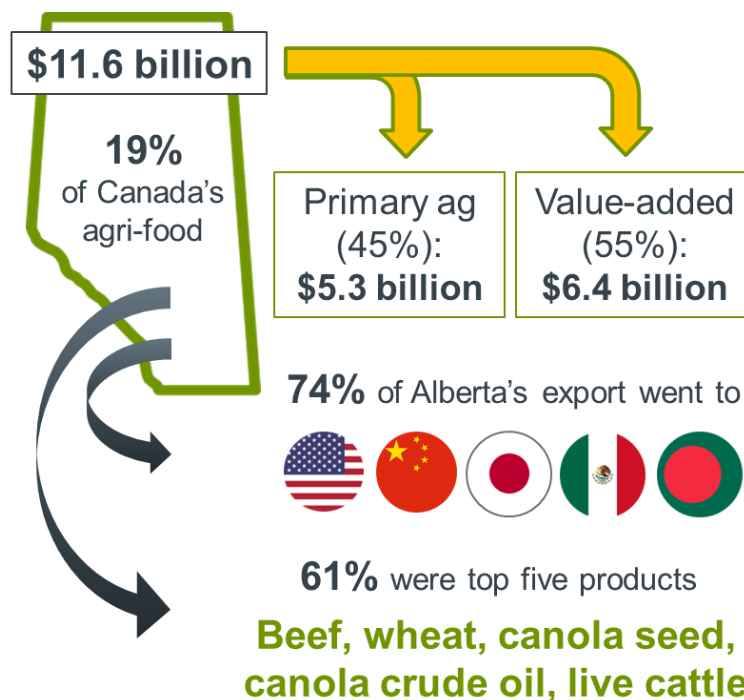
Explained in Brief

Agri-Food Exports

State of the Industry 2020

Alberta's agri-food exports

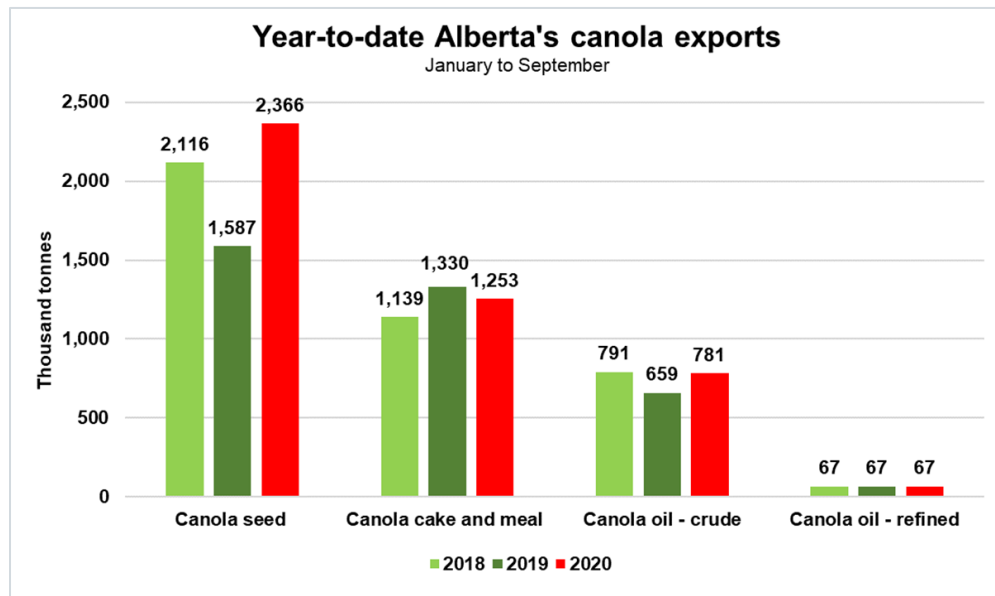
- In 2019, Alberta exported **\$11.6 billion** in agri-food products.
- Alberta is the third largest exporting province in Canada after Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Approximately **45 per cent** of exports were primary agricultural products and **55 per cent** were value-added products, which is the largest share of value-added products from total agri-food exports so far.
- Of total agri-food exports, **74 per cent** went to the US, China, Japan, Mexico and Bangladesh combined.
- In the first three quarters of 2020, total agri-food exports increased by **4.3 per cent** compared to the first three quarters in 2019.
- In the past 10 years, primary agricultural exports grew by **6.7 per cent** and value-added exports grew by **seven per cent** annually on average.
- Despite COVID-19, these average rates of growth may still be achievable, but any trade disruptions could adversely affect export growth.



Source: Statistics and Data Development Section, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; Statistics Canada at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories

Canola trade

- A challenge for the Alberta and Canada canola industry is an ongoing trade disruption of canola seed exports to China.
- Canola oil and meal are not subject to this restriction.
- Since March 2019, the export licenses for Richardson and Viterra to sell canola seed to China remain suspended.
- Other exporters are still able to sell and ship canola seed to China, and, overall in 2020, canola seed exports have rebounded (see chart below).
- Other countries, such as the US and South Korea, have also increased Canadian canola imports offsetting decrease in imports by to China.
- The trade situation with China shows that dependence on one major exporting market makes the canola industry vulnerable. Improving market access internationally and diversifying domestic markets in Canada would shield Alberta from possible future trade disruptions.
- Ideally, the chart below should look more balanced, with higher exports of value-added products like refined and crude canola oil. This is where the opportunity to diversify exports lies right now.



Source: Statistics and Data Development Section, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry; Statistics Canada.



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