

2018 Agri-Food Exports

Alberta Highlights

Agri-Food Statistics Update: Issue EXP 19 - 1

What are Agri-Food Exports?

Agri-food exports refers to exports of primary agricultural commodities (animals and crops) and processed agricultural and food products (value-added exports). The latter includes: food, beverages, animal feed, as well as inedible crude animal and plant products.



Key Highlights

- In 2018, Alberta agri-food exports continued to be strong at \$11.6 billion, exceeding the 2017 record by 3.2 per cent. Gains were reported mainly in exports of value-added products while primary commodity exports declined.
- Alberta continues to be the third largest exporter of agri-food products in Canada, after Ontario and Saskatchewan.
- Value-added exports continues to grow, up 8.8 per cent to \$6.1 billion, representing over one-half of Alberta's total agri-food exports. Higher exports of oilseed cake and meal; crude canola oil; milled and prepared cereals; dairy products; beef; and processed potatoes, all contributed to the increase.
- Exports of primary commodities declined 2.4 per cent from 2017 to \$5.5 billion, accounting for 47.6 per cent of the Alberta total. The decline was a result of lower exports of canola seed, live cattle, hogs and potatoes.
- Wheat remained the number one export product in 2018. Beef increased to the second

largest export, followed by canola seed and crude canola oil.

- The United States remained Alberta's largest export market, followed by China, Japan, Mexico and Indonesia.

Definitions:

These highlights present the latest annual international trade statistics released by Statistics Canada. The information is preliminary and subject to revision.

International trade statistics are compiled by Statistics Canada according to the "General" system of trade defined by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Under this system, domestic exports include all goods grown, extracted or manufactured in Canada, including goods of foreign origin, which have been materially transformed in Canada.

Trade statistics are classified and published according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System or HS). The HS is a product classification system used by almost all countries in reporting export and import statistics.

Export statistics used in this document are Customs based statistics and exclude re-exports.

Alberta Agri-Food Exports, 2014 to 2018						
Top Products and Markets (1)	2014	2015	2016r	2017r	2018p	2018/2017
	- \$ Millions -					% Change
Total Agri-Food Exports	9,754	10,181	9,993	11,237	11,595	3.2
Top Five Products in 2018	5,999	6,293	6,101	7,149	7,639	6.8
1 Wheat	2,339	2,423	1,820	2,135	2,305	8.0
2 Beef (Fresh, Frozen, Chilled, incl. Offal)	1,429	1,696	1,670	1,736	2,040	17.5
3 Canola Seed	1,767	1,677	1,841	2,022	1,717	-15.1
4 Crude Canola/Mustard Oil	185	243	533	853	1,003	17.7
5 Oilseed Cake and Meal	279	253	235	404	575	42.2
Top Five Markets in 2018	7,199	7,472	7,341	8,318	9,033	8.6
1 United States	3,945	3,998	4,048	4,268	4,343	1.8
2 China	1,329	1,588	1,375	1,980	2,622	32.4
3 Japan	1,197	1,101	1,226	1,260	1,272	0.9
4 Mexico	537	572	540	602	552	-8.4
5 Indonesia	190	214	153	207	244	17.9
Primary Commodities	5,476	5,379	4,957	5,653	5,519	-2.4
Value-Added Products	4,278	4,802	5,036	5,584	6,077	8.8

(1) Top products and markets are ranked by the 2018 value.

Highlights on Alberta Agri-Food Exports in 2018

- In 2018, Alberta's agri-food exports set another record at \$11.6 billion and were 3.2 per cent higher than in 2017. Overall, larger exports of value added products contributed to the increase.
- Nationally, Alberta accounted for 19.4 per cent of the Canadian total and remained the third largest exporter of agri-food products after Ontario and Saskatchewan.
- In the crop sector, exports of canola seed declined in 2018, while exports of major grains, dried peas and hay and fodder increased in both value and quantity. Wheat exports grew 8 per cent in value and quantity was up 7 per cent. Larger exports of wheat to the United States, Indonesia, China, Japan and Colombia contributed to the growth. The largest increase in wheat exports was reported for China. Exports of canola seed fell 15 per cent, both in value and quantity, mainly due to lower exports to Japan, Mexico and Pakistan. Exports to China, Alberta's largest market for canola seed, increased marginally (0.5 per cent).
- In the livestock sector, exports of live animals were lower than in 2017. Exports of live cattle (excluding purebred) declined for the second consecutive year. The value was down 18 per cent and the number of cattle fell 20.3 per cent.

Also, live hog exports fell 28 per cent, with quantity down 27 per cent.

- In meat exports, beef increased for the third consecutive year and ranked as the second largest export product in 2018. The value was up 17.5 per cent to \$2 billion and quantity rose 8.1 per cent to 294,137 tonnes. In contrast, pork exports declined in both value and quantity. Among the other meats, exports of bison meat rose sharply from \$5.6 million in 2017 to \$13.7 million in 2018.

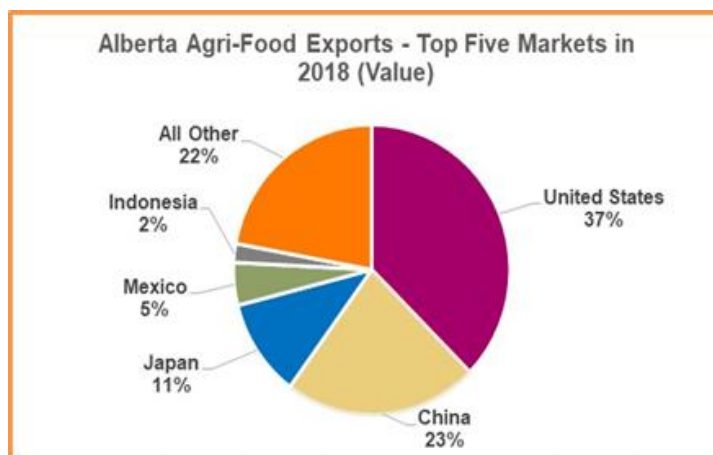
Top Export Markets in 2018

In 2018, the top five markets included the United States, China, Japan, Mexico and Indonesia, and represented 78 per cent of Alberta total agri-food exports.

The United States (US) continues to be Alberta's largest trading partner, accounting for 37.5 per cent of total agri-food exports. In 2018, exports to this market rose 1.8 per cent to \$4.3 billion. Increases were reported in exports of value-added products such as beef; processed meat; oilseed cake and meal; honey; prepared cereals; and processed potatoes. On the other hand, commodity exports declined about 10 per cent, mainly due to lower exports of live cattle, hogs, barley, dry peas and other dry beans. Despite the decline, the US remains Alberta's sole export market for non-purebred live cattle

and hogs. It also accounts for 70 per cent of the province's total beef exports.

- Exports to China, Alberta's second largest market in 2018, posted the largest increase among the top five countries. Exports to this market rose sharply by 32.4 per cent to almost \$2.6 billion. The increase was a result of substantially larger exports of wheat; barley; dry peas; crude canola oil; oilseed cake and meal; prepared animal feed; and beef. As in previous years, crude canola oil was the second largest export to China, after canola seed. In 2018, exports of canola seed was up slightly (0.5 per cent), while crude canola oil rose sharply by 54 per cent. Canola seed, oil and cake and meal combined, made up over 66 per cent of Alberta's total exports to this market.
- Exports to Japan, Alberta's third largest market, grew less than one per cent to \$1.3 billion in 2018. Exports of canola seed, the largest export to Japan, fell 9.4 per cent to \$382 million, from \$422 million in 2017. Also, exports of wheat and dried peas declined. Offsetting these declines were larger exports of beef; dairy products; oilseed cake and meal; processed potatoes; and refined canola oil. Exports of beef grew substantially by 42 per cent to \$174 million, while pork, traditionally the second largest export, declined 4.5 per cent to \$204 million.
- Exports to Mexico, Alberta's fourth largest market, declined 8.4 per cent in 2018 to \$552 million. The decline was due to lower exports of canola seed, malt and beef. Canola seed exports decreased 28.6 per cent to \$208 million, while wheat and pork increased. When combined, canola seed, beef and wheat made up 77 per cent of Alberta's total agri-food exports to Mexico.
- Exports to Indonesia, Alberta's fifth largest market in 2018, rose 18 per cent to \$244 million. The increase was a result of larger exports of wheat, up 17 per cent to \$234 million. Wheat accounted for 96 per cent of Alberta's total agri-food exports to this market.



Total Agri-Food Exports in 2018: \$11.6 billion

For more information:

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r – Revised

p – Preliminary

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