

Export Profile

> Alberta Agri-Food Products and Services

Agriculture is a part of the foundation of the Alberta economy. There are 40,638 farms and over 50 million acres (20 million hectares) of total farmland area dedicated to crop and livestock production. Many of the crop and livestock products are processed within the province for Canadian and international consumers.





The vast majority of Canada's beef is processed in Alberta

By embracing the opportunities of a global marketplace, Alberta has built an international reputation as a reliable source of agriculture and food products, technology and expertise.

Exports from Alberta's agri-food industries were valued at C\$10 billion in 2016.

Alberta's **crops sector** contributed C\$6.7 billion in farm cash receipts in 2016. The province has excess supply of grain products and accounts for a significant proportion of total Canadian grain exports. In 2016, Alberta produced:

- **9.9 million tonnes of wheat**
- **5.8 million tonnes of canola seed**
- **4.4 million tonnes of barley**

Alberta pulse production consists mostly of dry peas, including yellow and green peas, lentils and chickpeas.

Alberta's **livestock sector** contributed C\$6.1 billion in farm cash receipts in 2016. The largest sector is the cattle industry, followed by dairy products, hogs, and poultry and eggs.

Alberta's cattle and calves sector is the largest in Canada, with 4.9 million head of cattle and calves on farms as of January 1, 2017. Alberta swine industry had 1.5 million hogs on farms as of January 1, 2017. Other livestock production includes bison, poultry, horses, sheep, elk, horses, and others. Alberta employs a livestock traceability system to follow the movement of an animal through specified stages of production.

Meat production is at the heart of Alberta's food processing sector, consisting mostly of beef, pork and poultry meat. Meat product manufacturing accounted for over half of Alberta's food manufacturing of C\$13.6 billion in 2016. Meat sales totaled C\$7.3 billion in 2016.

In 2016, three-quarters of Canadian beef processing occurred in western Canada, with the vast majority concentrated in Alberta. Alberta beef is known for its superior flavour, texture and quality. Our clean environment, excellent water quality, favourable climate and relatively young animals used for meat production equate to high-quality, tender, juicy and great tasting beef that is a trademark of Alberta.



Alberta is home to the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence, a food development and education venue with a consumer demonstration and test kitchen, commercial kitchen demonstration theatre and beef fabrication room. Since 2015, people from Latin America, Mexico, Japan, China, Taiwan, southeastern Asia, Korea, the Middle East and Russia have visited the centre to learn more about the Canadian beef advantage.

Alberta pork is famous for its tenderness and firm white fat. Alberta also produces significant quantities of poultry meat, primarily for domestic consumption. Other products include meat from bison, sheep, horse and elk.

Alberta suppliers are able to produce meat products based on customer specifications, such as organic, halal and hormone-free. Alberta is also an experienced exporter of genetics from a variety of livestock species. These genetics include semen, embryos and breeding stock.

Grain and oilseed milling is the second largest component of Alberta's **food manufacturing** sales, valued at C\$1.8 billion in 2016.

Four of the world's largest oil processors have invested significant capital in Alberta to crush canola and provide value-added packaged canola oil, shortening and margarine. In addition, Alberta has four cold

press plants – two, smaller local suppliers, one large consumer packager, and a fourth supplying the food processing industry.

Canola oil is the healthiest commodity oil available to consumers, the food service industry, and food processors. It is low in saturated fat, high in LDL cholesterol lowering monounsaturated fat, rich in vitamin E and the best source of plant based Omega-3 fats of all popular oils. Alberta exports both crude and refined canola oil as well as canola meal, which is a high protein feed that is readily digested by all livestock species.

Alberta produced C\$982.5 million of beverages in 2016. In the beverage sector, whisky is the largest export product. Alberta is known for producing excellent rye whisky.

Food Processing
Development
Centre





Food processors have access to a bountiful supply of ingredients and benefit from an advanced food processing infrastructure and technology.

Food processing and technology services are available through the Alberta government. For example, the Food Processing Development Centre in Leduc is a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide research, product development and commercialization services. It includes a culinary lab, product development laboratories, and a fully equipped commercial pilot plant.

Alberta also produces **agricultural equipment** for crop production as well as for livestock and dairy production. Software is available related to production, business management, and mapping. As well, the **bioindustry** is growing in Alberta supported by world-class academic and research institutions.

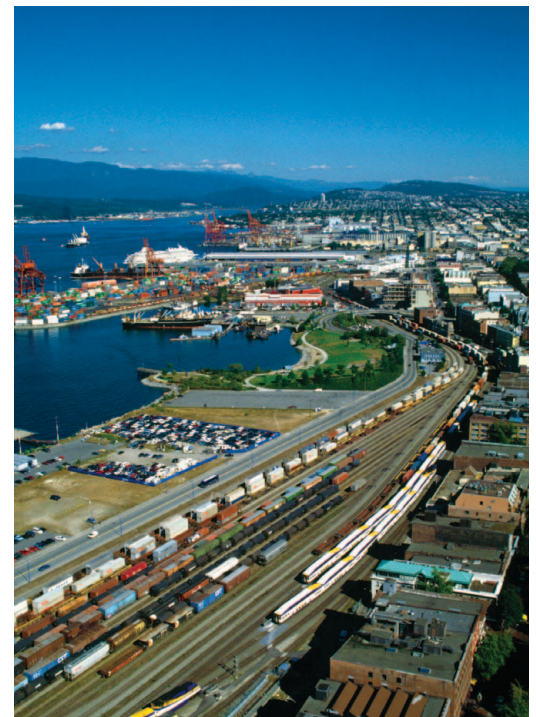
Alberta has an open business environment and natural advantages that contribute to our strength as a major exporter of primary commodities and manufactured products. Alberta's export industry is served by a comprehensive network of highways, waterways, airways and railways that allow for timely and efficient shipments of products to countries around the world.

We invite you to visit our beautiful province to conduct business, as well as enjoy the scenery, culture and cuisine.

International Relations and Marketing Branch
Alberta Agriculture and Forestry
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www.agrifoodalberta.ca

Data updates for production and farm cash receipts for 2016 are current as of June 2016 and subject to revision. 2016 export statistics are preliminary and subject to revision.



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