

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: EXP17-1

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Section monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

This update presents 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 are developed from administrative records of Customs. Customs based export statistics may understate and/or incorrectly portray the destination of exports.

**Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:**

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

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## 2016 Alberta Agri-Food Exports

**Agri-food exports** refer 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 and inedible crude animal and plant products.

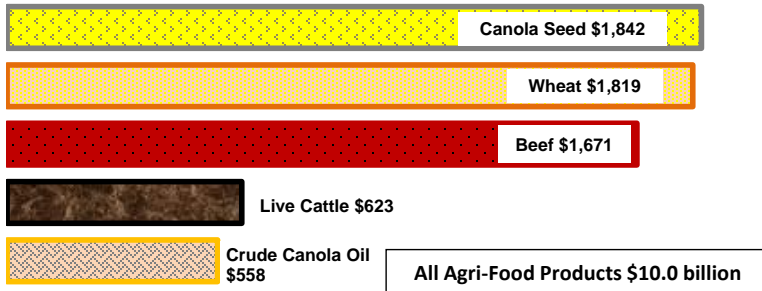
### Key Messages

- In 2016, Alberta agri-food exports, worth \$10.0, were about 2.0 per cent lower than the 2015 record of \$10.2 billion.
- Alberta continues to be the third largest exporter of agri-food products in Canada, after Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Value added exports rose for the third consecutive year, up 4.9 per cent to \$5.04 billion, and represented over one-half of Alberta's total agri-food exports. Higher exports of crude canola oil, dairy, honey, processed potatoes and other value added products contributed to the increase.
- Exports of primary commodities, at \$4.96 billion, fell about 8.0 per cent from 2015, and accounted for 49.6 per cent of the Alberta total. The decline was a result of lower exports of major grains.
- Wheat, traditionally Alberta's number one export product, ranked second in 2016. Canola seed became the largest export, followed by wheat and beef. Exports of wheat declined in both value and quantity, while canola seed increased.
- Beef exports were up in quantity while value was down, owing to weak prices. Exports of live cattle rose over the 2015 low. Also, exports of live hogs increased, while pork exports rose in value and fell in quantity.
- The United States continues to be Alberta's largest export market, followed by China, Japan and Mexico.

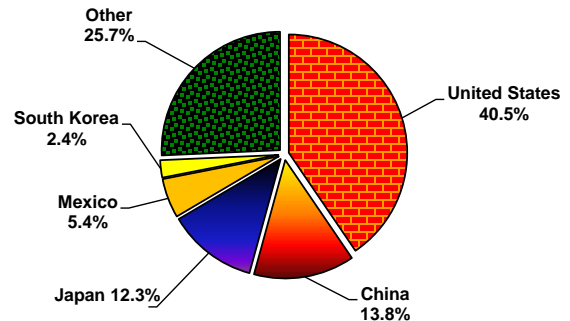
July 26, 2017

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## Top Five Alberta Export Products in 2016, \$ Millions



## Top Five Alberta Export Markets in 2016



(1) Beef refer to fresh, chilled, frozen meat and includes edible offal.

### Alberta Agri-Food Exports, 2014 to 2016

|                                  | 2014r           | 2015r         | 2016p        | 2016/'15    |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
|                                  | - \$ Millions - |               |              | % Change    |
| <b>Total Agri-Food Exports</b>   | <b>9,754</b>    | <b>10,182</b> | <b>9,992</b> | <b>-1.9</b> |
| <b>Top Five Products in 2016</b> | <b>6,435</b>    | <b>6,706</b>  | <b>6,512</b> | <b>-2.9</b> |
| 1. Canola Seed                   | 1,767           | 1,677         | 1,842        | 9.8         |
| 2. Wheat                         | 2,339           | 2,423         | 1,819        | -24.9       |
| 3. Beef (1)                      | 1,429           | 1,696         | 1,671        | -1.5        |
| 4. Live Cattle (Excl. Purebred)  | 715             | 585           | 623          | 6.4         |
| 5. Crude canola oil              | 185             | 324           | 558          | 72.2        |
| <b>Top Five Markets in 2016</b>  | <b>7,237</b>    | <b>7,492</b>  | <b>7,423</b> | <b>-0.9</b> |
| 1. United States                 | 3,945           | 3,998         | 4,046        | 1.2         |
| 2. China                         | 1,329           | 1,588         | 1,375        | -13.4       |
| 3. Japan                         | 1,197           | 1,101         | 1,226        | 11.3        |
| 4. Mexico                        | 537             | 572           | 540          | -5.8        |
| 5. South Korea                   | 228             | 233           | 237          | 1.8         |
| - Primary Commodities            | 5,476           | 5,380         | 4,956        | -7.9        |
| - Value Added Products           | 4,278           | 4,802         | 5,036        | 4.9         |

## Highlights on Alberta Agri-Food Exports in 2016

In 2016, Alberta exports of primary and processed agricultural and food products (agri-food) were \$10.0 billion, slightly lower than the 2015 record of \$10.2 billion. For the third consecutive year, gains were reported mainly in the exports of value added products. Nationally, Alberta accounted for 17.7 per cent of the Canadian total, and remained the third largest exporter of agri-food products after Saskatchewan and Ontario.

-- **Exports of value added products** continued to grow, up 4.9 per cent to \$5.04 billion and represented just over one-half of Alberta's total. Meats were the largest value added exports, followed by refined and crude canola oil, french fries, prepared animal feeds, malt and canola cake and meal.

-- **Exports of primary commodities** (animals and crops), declined about 8.0 per cent to \$4.96 billion in 2016 and accounted for 49.6 per cent of Alberta's total exports. The decline was the result of lower exports of major cereal grains combined with weaker prices.

-- **In the crop sector**, exports of major grains declined in both value and quantity, while exports of oilseeds, with the exception of flaxseed, increased in 2016. Wheat exports fell almost 25.0 per cent in value and 18.5 per cent in quantity. Substantially lower exports of wheat to the United States, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Peru contributed to the decline. Exports of canola seed rose 9.8 per cent in value and 11.0 per cent in quantity. China remained the largest market for canola seed, followed by Japan, Mexico and Pakistan. Among the other crops, increases were reported for dry peas, lentils, potatoes, mustard seed and other oilseeds.

-- **In the livestock sector**, exports of live animals improved in 2016. While exports of live cattle rose in both value and quantity, the increase in numbers was higher than in value. Also, live hog exports showed higher increase in numbers than in value. On the other hand, exports of beef rose 9.8 per cent in quantity, while the value declined slightly. In contrast, pork exports grew marginally in value, while quantity was down. The United States was Alberta's largest export market for livestock.

## Export Markets

-- **The United States (US)** continues to be Alberta's largest trading partner, accounting for 40.5 per cent of total agri-food exports. In 2016, exports to this market were just over \$4.0 billion. Substantial increases occurred in exports of value added products such as crude canola oil, dairy, honey, processed meat and beef. These increases moderated declines in primary commodity exports. Commodity exports fell 5.1 per cent from 2015, mainly due to lower export values and quantities of major grains and oilseeds. The US remained Alberta's sole export market for non-purebred live cattle and hogs, and accounted for over 70.0 per cent of the province's total beef exports (value).

-- **Exports to China**, Alberta's second largest market in 2016, fell 13.4 per cent to \$1.4 billion. The decline was a result of substantially lower exports of wheat, barley, canola seed, beef and pork. Partially offsetting these declines were larger exports of crude canola oil. As in previous years, crude canola oil was the second largest export to China, after canola seed. In 2016, exports of canola seed fell 9.5 per cent, while crude canola oil was up 34.9 per cent. Canola seed and oil combined, made up almost 65.0 per cent of Alberta's total exports to this market.

-- **Exports to Japan**, Alberta's third largest market, rose 11.3 per cent to \$1.2 billion in 2016. Increased exports of canola seed, wheat, beef, pork and processed meat, contributed to the growth. Canola seed (\$403 million), the largest export to Japan, increased 13.0 per cent in value. Exports of beef rose 82.0 per cent to \$118.5 million. Pork, traditionally the second largest exports to this market, rose 7.0 per cent to \$213 million. Other increases included prepared animal feeds, milled cereals and horse meat.

-- **Exports to Mexico**, Alberta's fourth largest market, fell 5.8 per cent to \$540 million in 2016. Lower exports of beef, wheat, milled cereals, canola seed and live cattle contributed to the decline. Beef exports fell 31.5 to \$98 million, and canola was down 1.5 per cent to \$248 million. Canola seed, beef and wheat combined, made up about 80.0 per cent of Alberta's total agri-food exports to this market.