

Agri-Food Statistics Update



2015 Alberta Agri-Food Exports

Issue No: EXP16-1

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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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.

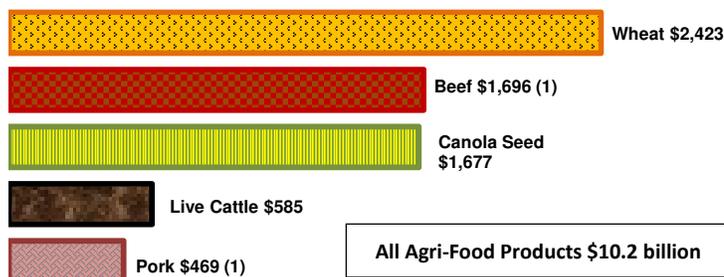
Key Messages

- In 2015, Alberta agri-food exports set another record, at \$10.2 billion, and were 4.5 per cent higher than the 2014 record of \$9.7 billion.
- Alberta continues to be the third largest exporter of agri-food products in Canada, after Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Value added exports increased for the second consecutive year, up 12.5 per cent to \$4.8 billion, and represented 47.2 per cent of Alberta total agri-food exports. Higher exports of meat and other value added products contributed to the increase.
- Exports of primary commodities, at \$5.4 billion, declined about 2.0 per cent from 2014, and accounted for 52.8 per cent of the Alberta total in 2015. The decline was a result of lower exports of oilseeds and live cattle.
- Wheat remained Alberta's number one export product, followed by beef and canola seed. Exports of wheat increased moderately in 2015, while exports of canola seed declined in both, value and quantity.
- Beef exports rose 18.7 per cent to \$1.7 billion, supported by high prices. The quantity also increased but at a slower rate of 2.1 per cent. Exports of live cattle fell from the 2014 high. Also, exports of live hogs declined in value, while pork exports increased.
- The United States continues to be Alberta's largest export market, followed by China, Japan and Mexico.

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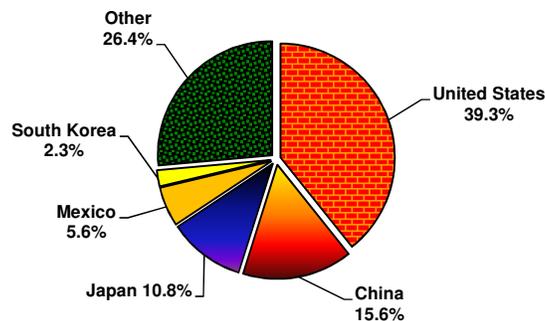
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Top Five Alberta Export Products in 2015, \$ Millions



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

Top Five Alberta Export Markets in 2015



Alberta Agri-Food Exports, 2013 to 2015

	2013r	2014r	2015p	2015/'14
	- \$ Millions -			% Change
Total Agri-Food Exports	8,712	9,745	10,181	4.5
Top Five Products in 2015	5,711	6,717	6,850	2.0
1. Wheat	2,307	2,339	2,423	3.6
2. Beef (1)	962	1,429	1,696	18.7
3. Canola Seed	1,616	1,767	1,677	-5.1
4. Live Cattle (Excl. Purebred)	478	715	585	-18.1
5. Pork	348	467	469	0.4
Top Five Markets in 2015	6,506	7,228	7,491	3.7
1. United States	3,050	3,936	3,998	1.6
2. China	1,517	1,329	1,588	19.5
3. Japan	1,288	1,197	1,101	-8.1
4. Mexico	536	537	572	6.6
5. South Korea	114	228	233	2.1
- Primary Commodities	5,061	5,476	5,379	-1.8
- Value Added Products	3,651	4,269	4,803	12.5

Export Markets

-- **The United States (US)** continues to be Alberta's largest trading partner, accounting for 39.3 per cent of the total agri-food exports. In 2015, exports to this market were almost \$4.0 billion. Substantial increases occurred in exports of value added products such as meats, crude canola oil, prepared animal feed, french fries and processed cereals. These increases moderated declines in primary commodity exports. Commodity exports fell 18.6 per cent from 2014, mainly due to lower export values and quantities of major crops and live animals. The US remained Alberta's sole export market for non-purebred live cattle and hogs and accounted for almost 70.0 per cent of the province's total beef exports (quantity).

-- **Exports to China**, Alberta's second largest market in 2015, grew 19.5 per cent to \$1.6 billion. The growth was a result of significantly larger exports of beef, crude canola oil and wheat. In 2012 and 2013, crude canola oil was the second largest export to China, after canola seed. In 2015, beef became the second largest export, growing from \$39 million in 2014 to \$235 million. Exports of canola seed fell 11.9 per cent to \$690 million. Canola seed, beef and crude canola oil combined, made up over 70.0 per cent of Alberta's total agri-food exports to China.

-- **Exports to Japan**, Alberta's third largest market, fell for the third year in a row, down 8.1 per cent to \$1.1 billion in 2015. Lower exports of canola seed, wheat, barley and beef, contributed to the decline. Canola seed (\$357 million), the largest export to Japan, fell 15.2 per cent in value and 16.4 per cent in quantity. Moderating these declines were higher exports of pork, horse meat, malt, french fries and processed cereals. Pork, the second largest export to this market rose 5.3 per cent to \$199.0 million.

-- **Exports to Mexico**, Alberta's fourth largest market, rose 6.6 per cent to \$572 million in 2015. Higher exports of beef, pork, malt, milled cereals and canola seed, partially offset lower exports of wheat. Beef exports grew 4.6 per cent to \$143 million, and canola was up 1.6 per cent to \$252 million. Canola seed, beef and wheat combined, made up 85.2 per cent of Alberta's total agri-food exports to this market.

Highlights on Alberta Agri-Food Exports in 2015

In 2015, Alberta exports of primary and processed agricultural and food products (agri-food) set a new record at \$10.2 billion, surpassing the 2014 record by 4.5 per cent. Gains were reported mainly in exports of value added products, owing to relatively high meat prices and the low Canadian dollar. Nationally, Alberta accounted for 18.0 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 for the second consecutive year, up 12.5 per cent to \$4.8 billion and represented 47.2 per cent of Alberta's total. Meats were the largest value added export, followed by french fries, canola oil, prepared animal feeds, canola cake and meal, and malt.

-- **Exports of primary commodities** (animals and crops), declined about 2.0 per cent to \$5.4 billion in 2015, and accounted for 52.8 per cent of Alberta's total exports. The decline was a result of lower exports of oilseeds and live cattle.

-- **In the crop sector**, exports of major grains were slightly higher, while exports of oilseeds were lower in both, value and quantity in 2015. Wheat exports rose 3.6 per cent in value and 3.1 per cent in quantity. Top markets for wheat were the United States, Indonesia, Japan, Peru and Bangladesh. Exports of canola seed declined 5.1 per cent in value and 6.4 per cent in quantity. For the third consecutive year, China was the largest market for canola seed, followed by Japan, Mexico and Pakistan. Among the other crops, declines were reported for hay and fodder, dry peas and mustard seed.

-- **In the livestock sector**, as a result of high prices, exports of beef rose 18.7 per cent to \$1.7 billion with quantity up 2.1 per cent. While beef exports rose, exports of live cattle (excluding purebred) fell 18.1 per cent in value and 37.3 per cent in quantity. On the other hand, exports of live hogs increased in quantity but declined in value. Pork exports grew marginally in value, while quantity rose at a higher rate. The United States was Alberta's largest market for live cattle, hogs and beef.