

Agri-Food Statistics Update



2012 Alberta Agri-Food Exports

Issue No: EXP13-1

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Branch 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.

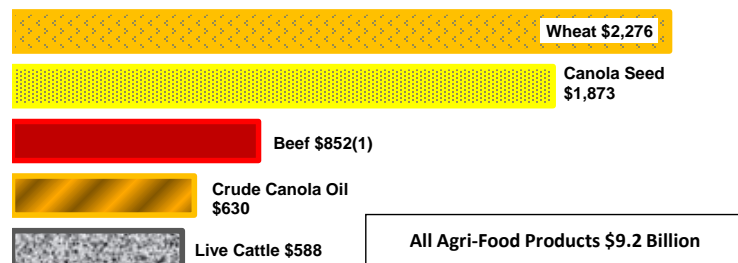
Key Messages

- In 2012, Alberta agri-food exports rose 14.3 per cent to a record \$9.2 billion, from \$8.1 billion in 2011.
- Alberta continues to be the third largest exporter of agri-food products in Canada, after Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Exports of primary commodities continued to play a significant role in Alberta's strong export performance. Substantial increases in exports were reported for all major grains, oilseeds and pulses. Larger export quantities combined with high commodity prices contributed to the increase.
- Wheat remained Alberta's number one export product, followed by canola seed. Exports of wheat, worth \$2.3 billion, grew in both value and quantity. As well, exports of canola seed rose to a record \$1.9 billion in 2012.
- Exports of live cattle recovered from the 2011 low, while beef declined. Also, exports of live hogs and pork were lower than in 2011.
- Value added exports grew four per cent in 2012 and represented 40.0 per cent of Alberta total agri-food exports.
- The United States continues to be the number one export market, followed by China, Japan and Mexico.

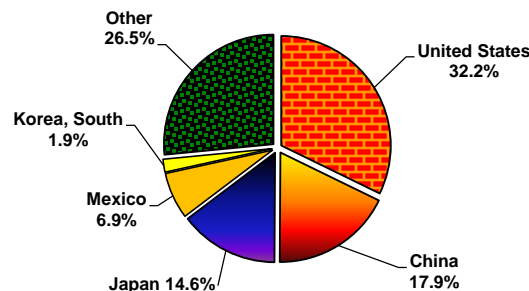
June 5, 2013

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Top Five Alberta Export Products in 2012, \$ Millions



Top Five Alberta Export Markets in 2012



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

Alberta Agri-Food Exports, 2010 to 2012				
	2010r	2011r	2012p	2012/11
	- \$ Millions -			% Change
Total Agri-Food Exports	6,775	8,061	9,210	14.3
Top Five Products in 2012	4,626	5,563	6,219	11.8
1. Wheat	1,410	1,915	2,276	18.8
2. Canola Seed	996	1,652	1,873	13.4
3. Beef (1)	1,052	969	852	-12.1
4. Crude Canola Oil	644	563	630	11.9
5. Live Cattle (Excl. Purebred)	525	464	588	26.9
Top Five Markets in 2012	4,934	5,596	6,766	20.9
1. United States	2,431	2,551	2,967	16.3
2. China	1,069	937	1,646	75.7
3. Japan	828	1,172	1,346	14.9
4. Mexico	460	640	633	-1.2
5. Korea, South	146	297	174	-41.3
- Primary Commodities	3,262	4,520	5,529	22.3
- Value Added Products	3,513	3,541	3,681	4.0

Export Markets

The United States (US) continues to be Alberta's largest trading partner accounting for 32.2 per cent of Alberta total agri-food exports in 2012. Exports to this market worth almost \$3.0 billion rose 16.3 per cent from 2011. The US remains Alberta's sole export market for non-purebred live cattle and hogs, and accounts for three-quarters of Alberta's total beef exports. In 2012, Alberta's exports of live cattle (excluding purebred) rose 28.0 per cent to \$588 million, while beef declined 11.3 per cent to \$851 million. Hog exports fell in value and quantity, while pork was slightly higher. As in 2011, significant increases in exports were reported for barley, oats, dry peas, linseed, hay and fodder and wheat.

-- **Exports to China** reached \$1.6 billion placing China as Alberta's second largest export market in 2012. Exports to this market rose sharply by 75.7 per cent, mainly due to much higher exports of canola seed and crude canola oil. These two products combined made up 75.2 per cent of Alberta's total agri-food exports to China. Also, sharp increases in exports were reported for linseed, bovine semen, wheat, oats, barley, dry peas and pork.

-- **Exports to Japan**, Alberta's third largest market in 2012, rose 14.9 per cent to \$1.3 billion. Significant increases in exports were recorded for ethyl alcohol, milled cereals, processed meat, crude canola oil, linseed, hay and fodder, and many other products. Canola seed, at \$537 million, remained the largest export, followed by wheat (\$220 million). Pork, traditionally the second largest export to Japan, fell 7.3 per cent and ranked the third largest in 2012.

-- **Exports to Mexico**, Alberta's fourth largest market, fell 1.2 per cent to \$633 million in 2012. Major exports to this market were canola seed, wheat and beef. These three products combined represented 90.5 per cent of Alberta's total agri-food exports to this market. While canola seed and wheat exports increased, beef exports declined.

-- **Exports to South Korea**, Alberta's fifth largest export market, fell 41.3 per cent to \$174 million in 2012. This decline resulted mainly from lower exports of wheat and pork. On a positive note, beef exports grew from \$45,000 in 2011 to \$7.4 million in 2012.

Highlights on Alberta Agri-Food Exports in 2012

Alberta exports of primary and processed agricultural and food products (agri-food) continued to grow in 2012, reaching a record \$9.2 billion. These exports were 14.3 per cent higher than in 2011. Nationally, Alberta accounted for 21.0 per cent of the Canadian total, and ranked the third largest exporter of agri-food products after Saskatchewan and Ontario.

-- **Exports of primary commodities** (animals and crops) worth \$5.5 billion played a significant role in Alberta's strong export performance. As in 2011, these exports were driven largely by high commodity prices. As a result, commodity exports rose 22.3 per cent, while **value added exports** were up 4.0 per cent. The majority of value added exports was meat, followed by canola oil, oilseed cake and meal, french fries and malt.

-- **In the crop sector**, substantial increases in exports were reported for all major grains, pulses and oilseeds, with the exception of mustard seeds. Increases were reported in export values, as well as, in quantities. Wheat exports rose 18.8 per cent in value to \$2.3 billion in 2012, and quantity was up 21.1 per cent to 6.7 million tonnes. Major markets for wheat (ranked by quantity) were United States, Japan, Indonesia, Iraq and Mexico. Barley exports rose sharply by 56.7 per cent in value and 47.0 per cent in quantity. Exports of canola seed reached a record \$1.9 billion, up 13.4 per cent from 2011. The quantity of canola seed grew at a lower rate of 5.7 per cent to 3.0 million tonnes. China was the largest customer of canola seed, followed by Japan, traditionally the number one export market. Other markets were Mexico and United Arab Emirates.

-- **In the livestock sector**, exports of live cattle (excluding purebred) recovered from the 2011 low, while beef exports declined. Owing to good prices, the value of exported cattle rose 26.9 per cent to \$588 million, and the number of cattle (383,821 head) was 14.2 per cent higher than in 2011. Beef exports were down 21.5 per cent in quantity and 12.1 per cent in value (195,626 tonnes worth \$852 million). As well, exports of pork and live hogs were lower than in 2011.