

Agri-Food Statistics Update



2013 Alberta Agri-Food Exports

Issue No: EXP14-1

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 2013, Alberta agri-food exports, at \$8.7 billion, were 5.0 per cent lower than the record \$9.2 billion in 2012, but still second highest on record.
- Alberta continues to be the third largest exporter of agri-food products in Canada, after Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Exports of primary commodities, at \$5.1 billion, declined 7.7 per cent from 2012, mainly due to weaker crop prices and lower quantities. These exports accounted for 58 per cent of Alberta total in 2013.
- Wheat remained Alberta's number one export product, followed by canola seed. Exports of wheat grew in both value and quantity, while exports of canola seed declined from the 2012 record.
- Exports of live cattle fell from the 2012 high, while beef increased. Pork exports were lower for the second consecutive year.
- Value added exports fell marginally by one per cent in 2013 and represented 42.0 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.

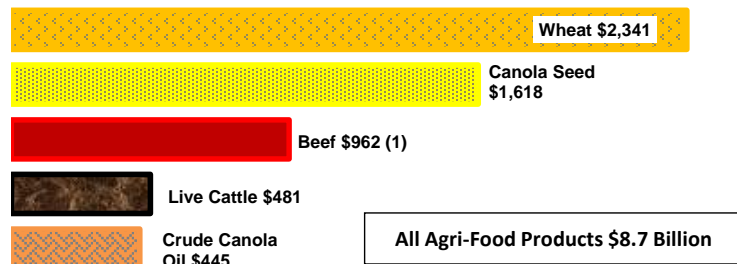
June 9, 2014

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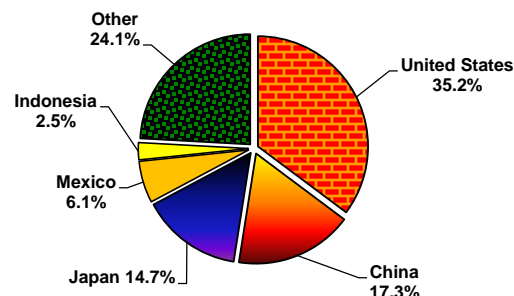
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Top Five Alberta Export Products in 2013, \$ Millions



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

Top Five Alberta Export Markets in 2013



Alberta Agri-Food Exports, 2011 to 2013

	2011r	2012r	2013p	2013/12
	- \$ Millions -			% Change
Total Agri-Food Exports	8,061	9,210	8,747	-5.0
Top Five Products in 2013	5,563	6,220	5,847	-6.0
1. Wheat	1,915	2,276	2,341	2.8
2. Canola Seed	1,652	1,873	1,618	-13.6
3. Beef (1)	969	852	962	12.9
4. Live Cattle (Excl. Purebred)	464	588	481	-18.2
5. Crude Canola Oil	563	630	445	-29.4
Top Five Markets in 2013	5,439	6,761	6,637	-1.8
1. United States	2,551	2,967	3,080	3.8
2. China	937	1,646	1,511	-8.2
3. Japan	1,172	1,346	1,289	-4.2
4. Mexico	640	632	536	-15.2
5. Indonesia	140	169	220	30.3
- Primary Commodities	4,520	5,529	5,103	-7.7
- Value Added Products	3,541	3,681	3,645	-1.0

Export Markets

The United States (US) continues to be Alberta's largest trading partner accounting for 35.2 per cent of Alberta total agri-food exports in 2013. Exports to this market, worth \$3.1 billion, rose 3.8 per cent over 2012. As always, the US was 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 (quantity). In 2013, Alberta's exports of live cattle (excluding purebred) declined, while beef exports rose 6.6 per cent. Hog exports were up in value while quantity declined. Exports of pork rose sharply in value (up 46.9 per cent) and quantity (up 52.4 per cent). Other increases in exports were reported for wheat, canola seed and dry peas.

-- **Exports to China**, Alberta's second largest market in 2013, fell 8.2 per cent to \$1.5 billion, from the 2012 record. The decline was mainly due to much lower exports of crude canola oil, the second highest export product to China, after canola seed. Exports of canola seed (\$644 million) fell just over one per cent in value, while quantity remained unchanged from 2012. These two products combined, made up 72.5 per cent of Alberta's total exports to China. Declines in exports of french fries, pork and dry peas were offset by increased exports of beef, wheat, lentil, flaxseed and barley.

-- **Exports to Japan**, Alberta's third largest market, fell 4.2 per cent to \$1.3 billion in 2013. Lower exports of wheat and pork, contributed to the decline. Canola seed (\$544 million), the largest export to Japan, rose 1.4 per cent in value, while quantity declined 1.3 per cent. Pork exports, traditionally the second largest export product fell for the third consecutive year. Also, declines occurred in exports of french fries, peat moss, canola oil, barley and hay. Moderating these declines were higher exports of oilseed cake, milled cereals, animal feeds, flaxseed and dry peas.

-- **Exports to Mexico**, Alberta's fourth largest market, fell 15.2 per cent to \$536 million in 2013. Lower exports of canola seed, wheat and beef, the top three products, contributed mainly to the decline. These three products combined made up 91.3 per cent of Alberta's total exports to this market. However, higher exports were reported for pork, whiskey and flaxseed.

Highlights on Alberta Agri-Food Exports in 2013

In 2013, Alberta exports of primary and processed agricultural and food products (agri-food) were \$8.7 billion, down 5.0 per cent from a record \$9.2 billion in 2012, but still the second highest on record. The decline was a result of weaker crop prices and lower export quantities. Other factors included railway delivery challenges due to bumper crops in 2013, mandatory country of origin labelling (mCOOL) and the declining Canadian dollar. Nationally, Alberta accounted for 19.0 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 \$5.1 billion, declined 7.7 per cent from 2012. Despite the decline, these exports accounted for 58.0 per cent of Alberta total exports in 2013. **Value added exports** (\$3.6 billion) were just one per cent lower than in 2012, and represented 42.0 per cent of the total. Meats accounted for the majority of these exports, followed by canola oil, oilseed cake, prepared animal feeds, french fries and malt.

-- **In the crop sector**, wheat exports showed a moderate increase of 2.8 per cent in value and 3.6 per cent gain in quantity. Major markets for wheat were the United States, Japan, Indonesia and Mexico. Exports of canola seed declined from the 2012 record, down 13.6 per cent in value and 12.8 per cent in quantity. For the second consecutive year, China was the largest market for canola seed, followed by Japan, Mexico and the United States. Other declines occurred in exports of oats, dry peas and beans, hay and fodder and barley.

-- **In the livestock sector**, exports of live cattle (excluding purebred) fell from the 2012 high, while beef exports increased. Owing to improved livestock prices, the value of exported cattle declined less (down 18.2 per cent) than the number of cattle (down 23.5 per cent). Also, beef exports rose 12.9 per cent in value and about 5.0 per cent in quantity. Exports of pork fell for the second consecutive year, in both value and quantity. Live hog exports rose in value, while the number of hogs declined. Notable increases were reported in exports of processed meat and animal feeds.