

The Land and Precipitation

	Acres	% of Total
Total Land Area	157,710,720	
Farm Land Area (2001 Census of Agriculture)	52,058,898	100.0
Cultivated Land Area	32,604,729	62.6
Land in Crops	24,038,861	46.2
Summerfallow	3,053,214	5.9
Tame or Seeded Pasture	5,512,654	10.6
Natural Land for Pasture	16,503,920	31.7
All Other Land	2,950,249	5.7

Irrigated Area in 2004 = 1.63 million acres or 5% of cultivated land area.

Precipitation (millimetres)	30-Year		
<i>April 1 to October 31 Crop Season</i>	2003	2004	Normal
Medicine Hat	252	293	257
Calgary	375	340	347
Red Deer	338	435	402
Lloydminster	387	372	339
Edmonton Intrnl. Airport	288	380	399
Peace River	261	391	311

Population and Farms

	2003 ^a	2004 ^b	% Chg.
Population on July 1st ⁽¹⁾	3,158,641	3,201,895	1.4
<i>% of Canadian Population</i>	<i>10.0%</i>	<i>10.0%</i>	

	2001	% of Total
Population on May 15, 2001 ⁽²⁾	2,974,807	100.0
Urban Population	2,405,160	80.9
Rural Population	569,647	19.1
Number of Census Farms on May 15, 2001 ⁽³⁾	53,652	
Average Farm Size	970 acres	
Types of Farms	% of Total	
Farms With Sales of \$2,500 or More	50,580	100.0
Cattle (Beef)	22,939	45.4
Grain and Oilseed (Excluding Wheat)	9,327	18.4
Wheat	3,718	7.4
Miscellaneous Specialty	5,495	10.9
Field Crop (Excluding Grain and Oilseed)	4,725	9.3
Other Types	4,376	8.6

(1) Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0010

(2) Source: 2001 Census of Population

(3) According to the 2001 Census of Agriculture, a census farm refers to a farm, ranch or other agricultural holding which produces at least one of the following products intended for sale: crops, livestock, poultry, animal products, greenhouse/nursery products, Christmas trees, mushrooms, honey, sod or maple syrup products.

(4) The commodity which accounts for 51% or more of receipts determines the farm type.

Employed Labour Force

	2003	2004	% Chg.
Total Employed Labour Force	1,717,900	1,757,900	2.3
Agri-Food Industries	90,600	91,800	1.3
Agriculture	65,700	65,800	0.2
Crop Production	20,700	17,200	-16.9
Animal Production	37,600	41,500	10.4
Mixed Farming	5,300	5,600	5.7
Support Activities for Agriculture	2,200	1,500	-31.8
Food and Beverage Manufacturing	24,900	26,000	4.4
Food – Retail Trade and Services	146,600	154,300	5.3
Food and Beverage Retail Stores	49,400	54,300	9.9
Food Services and Drinking Places	97,200	100,000	2.9

Real Gross Domestic Product at Basic Prices (\$ Millions)

Alberta agri-food industries contributed \$4.3 billion or 3.5% to the province's gross domestic product in 2003.

<i>In Chained (1997) Dollars</i>	2002 ^a	2003 ^b	% Chg.
All Industries	120,486	124,275	3.1
Agri-Food Industries	4,066	4,352	7.0
<i>% Share of All Industries</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	
Agriculture	2,064	2,420	17.2
Food and Beverage Manufacturing	2,002	1,932	-3.5

Selected Indices and Financial Rates (Annual Averages)

	2002	2003	2004
Consumer Price Index (CPI) (1992=100)			
Alberta – All Items	124.2	129.7	131.5
– Food	120.4	122.1	123.9
Farm Product Price Index (FPPI) (1997=100)			
Alberta – Total	109.2	103.8	96.8
– Crops	112.0	109.6	97.5
– Livestock and Animal Products	108.1	100.6	96.5
Financial Rates			
Canada Bank Rate (%)	2.71	3.19	2.50
Canada Prime Business Loan Rate (%)	4.21	4.69	4.00
Exchange Rate – US \$ Per Canadian \$	0.6368	0.7138	0.7685

Farm Cash Receipts (\$ Millions)

In 2004, Alberta farm cash receipts (FCR), made up of revenue from product sales and direct program payments, totalled \$8.0 billion. This total was up 13.8% from 2003, and was the third highest on record. The gain was driven by a sharp increase in crop market receipts (up 31.2%), coupled with higher livestock market receipts (up 7.6%) and direct program payments which rose 5.2% to a new record of \$1.4 billion. Alberta accounted for 22.0% of total Canadian FCR in 2004, up from 20.5% in 2003. In percentage terms, Alberta led the nation in year-over-year gains in total FCR and crop market receipts.

	2003 ^a	2004 ^b	% Chg.
Total Farm Cash Receipts	7,068.9	8,043.4	13.8
Crop Receipts	1,994.0	2,616.8	31.2
Wheat	655.2	959.4	46.4
Oats	21.4	32.8	53.3
Barley	163.8	194.8	18.9
Net Deferments	6.2	16.3	162.9
Flaxseed	4.0	7.7	92.5
Canola	624.4	771.4	23.5
Sugar Beets	22.7	30.9	36.1
Potatoes	134.1	184.7	37.7
Vegetables	68.3	74.3	8.8
Floriculture and Nursery	114.9	123.5	7.5
Other Crops	179.0	221.0	23.5
Livestock and Products Receipts	3,712.9	3,993.3	7.6
Cattle and Calves	2,476.7	2,574.1	3.9
Hogs	456.2	613.0	34.4
Sheep and Lambs	15.8	14.9	-5.7
Dairy Products	384.7	383.0	-0.4
Poultry, Hatcheries and Eggs	192.4	212.6	10.5
Honey	57.5	52.8	-8.2
Other Livestock and Products	129.6	142.9	10.3
Total Market Receipts ⁽¹⁾	5,706.9	6,610.1	15.8
Direct Program Payments	1,362.0	1,433.3	5.2
Crop Insurance	537.4	268.5	-50.0
Net Income Stabilization Account	147.6	220.3	49.3
Canadian Ag. Industry Stabilization	n/a	305.3	n/a
Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	278.2	194.9	-29.9
Other Payments	398.8	444.3	11.4

(1) Market Receipts include total crop receipts plus total livestock and products receipts.

Livestock Industry

Alberta continues to report the largest cattle population in Canada, accounting for 38% of the national total in 2004. About 67% of Canadian cattle slaughtering activity takes place in Alberta.

	2003 ^a	2004	% Chg.
Livestock on Farms (Head), July 1st			
Cattle and Calves	6,100,000	6,400,000	4.9
Bulls	109,000	113,000	3.7
Milk Cows and Dairy Heifers	123,000	127,000	3.3
Beef Cows and Beef Heifers	2,340,000	2,470,000	5.6
Calves	2,050,000	2,145,000	4.6
Slaughter Steers and Heifers	1,478,000	1,545,000	4.5
Pigs	2,030,000	2,030,000	0.0
Sheep and Lambs	255,000	248,000	-2.7

Livestock Slaughtered (Head) ⁽¹⁾	2003	2004 ^b	% Chg.
Cattle and Calves	2,071,455	2,648,341	27.8
Hogs	2,818,608	3,008,995	6.8

Production Quantity (tonnes)	2003	2004	% Chg.
Beef	747,604	948,078	26.8
Pork	239,500	258,012	7.7

Value of Meat Product Manufacturing Shipments (\$ Millions)	2003	2004	% Chg.
Meat Product Manufacturing	4,930.9	5,033.0	2.1
Animal Slaughtering (Excl. Poultry)	3,904.6	3,870.0	-0.9
Other Meat Processing (Incl. Poultry)	1,026.3	1,163.0	13.3

Value of International Exports (\$ Millions)	2003	2004	% Chg.
Beef and Veal	1,088	1,525	40.1
Pork	253	358	41.8

Farm Cash Receipts (\$ Millions)	2003	2004	% Chg.
Livestock and Livestock Products	3,712.9	3,993.3	7.6
<i>% of Total Farm Cash Receipts</i>	<i>52.5%</i>	<i>49.6%</i>	

Selected Prices (*Live Weight Basis)	2003	2004	% Chg.
Slaughter Steers, Alberta Direct Packer Sales*, \$/100 lbs ...	\$84.28	\$78.40	-6.9
Central Alberta Steer Calves, 500-600 lbs*, \$/100 lbs	\$125.17	\$99.99	-20.0
Alberta Average Slaughter Hogs Index 100 Dressed	\$1.30/kg	\$1.63/kg	25.4

(1) Federally and provincially inspected slaughter in Alberta, irrespective of origin.

Dairy Production

<i>Dairy Year From August 1 to July 31</i>	2002-03	2003-04	% Chg.
Milk Production ('000 litres)	616,996	635,065	2.9
Cream Production (kilograms)	3,304	2,744	-16.9

Poultry and Egg Production

	2003 ^a	2004 ^b	% Chg.
Chicken Meat (tonnes*)	82,097	89,257	8.7
Turkey Meat (tonnes*)	13,141	12,399	-5.6
Egg Production ('000 Dozen)	43,178	43,883	1.6

* Eviscerated Weight

Beekeeping Industry

	2003 ^a	2004 ^b	% Chg.
Honey Production (tonnes)	12,630	14,390	13.9
Value of Honey Produced (\$'000)	56,845	n/a	n/a

Selected Alternative Livestock Inventory (Head)

	2003 ^a	2004 ^b	% Chg.
Whitetail Deer and Mule Deer	10,276	9,213	-10.3
Elk	45,800	41,789	-8.8

Crops

	Harvested Acres ('000)		Production ('000 tonnes)	
	2003	2004 ^a	2003	2004 ^a

Major Crops				
All Wheat	6,198	6,300	6,456.8	7,796.7
Barley	4,500	4,100	5,530.2	5,835.0
Canola	3,300	3,800	2,222.6	2,925.7
Oats	870	750	876.0	886.8
Flaxseed	50	45	25.4	29.2
All Rye	90	100	82.8	102.9

Other Crops				
Lentils	15	18	6.9	11.3
Dry Peas	605	655	507.9	698.1
Dry Beans	52	47	60.3	43.1
Chickpeas	25	15	13.2	8.6
Mustard Seed	135	128	38.8	52.4
Sunflower Seed	3	5	2.0	1.8
Corn for Grain	5	5	7.6	8.3
Sugar Beets	27	35	628.1	740.5
Mixed Grains	30	40	40.8	44.9
Tame Hay	6,200	5,900	6,395.7	7,393.6
Summerfallow	2,200	2,150	n/a	n/a

	Acres	tonnes		
Commercial Fresh Vegetables and Fruits				
Beans	225	230	329	363
Cabbage	x	315	x	4,990
Carrots	1,110	x	2,155	x
Corn, Sweet	5,550	4,300	17,282	16,329
Peas, Green	4,365	4,675	5,790	6,690
Raspberries	175	175	64	64
Strawberries	270	270	274	254

Value of International Exports (\$ Millions)	2003 ^a	2004 ^b	% Chg.
Total Crops	1,318	1,637	24.2
Wheat	737	934	26.7
Canola Seed	329	357	8.6
Barley	64	121	89.0
Other Crops	188	224	19.5

Farm Cash Receipts (\$ Millions)	2003	2004	% Chg.
Total Crops	1,994.0	2,616.8	31.2%
<i>% of Total Farm Cash Receipts</i>	<i>28.2%</i>	<i>32.5%</i>	

Value of Principal Field Crops (\$/tonne)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
No.1 CW Red Spring Wheat (13.5%)*	163.25	175.19	206.75	167.26
No.1 CW Amber Durum Wheat (13%)* ..	220.70	223.56	234.31	183.89
Oats**	85.63	173.42	212.78	106.19
Barley**	105.60	138.49	166.99	115.14
Canola***	258.86	332.73	379.49	363.88

* Canadian Wheat Board (realized total payments - Edmonton/Calgary)

** Alberta Grain Commission (feedmill bids - Edmonton)

*** Statistics and Data Development, AAFRD

Food and Beverage Processing Industries

Alberta's food and beverage industries comprise the largest manufacturing sector in the province in terms of value of shipments and employment. The leading subsector is meat product manufacturing which accounts for over one-half of total provincial processing shipments.

Value of Manufacturing Shipments (\$ Millions)

	2003	2004 ^p	% Chg.
All Manufacturing Industries			
Canada	550,938.8	592,170.9	7.5
Alberta	47,029.5	53,172.8	13.1
% Share of Canada	8.5%	9.0%	
Food and Beverage Manufacturing Industries			
Canada	73,712.3	77,406.1	5.0
Alberta	9,517.7	9,966.6	4.7
% Share of Canada	12.9%	12.9%	
Alberta Food Manufacturing Industries	8,630.9	9,089.5	5.3
Animal Food Mfg. (Includes Livestock Feed)	654.7	568.2	-13.2
Grain and Oilseed Milling	914.5	874.2	-4.4
Confectionery Mfg., Fruit and Vegetable Preserving and Specialty Foods	x	562.5	--
Dairy Product Mfg.	1,007.2	1,251.3	24.2
Meat Product Mfg.	4,930.9	5,033.1	2.1
Animal Slaughtering (Excl. Poultry)	3,904.6	3,870.1	-0.9
Other Meat Processing (Incl. Poultry)	1,026.3	1,163.0	13.3
Bakeries and Tortilla Mfg.	x	327.0	--
Bread and Bakery Product Mfg.	221.8	237.0	6.9
Cookie, Cracker and Pasta Mfg.	x	89.8	--
Other Food Mfg.	490.4	473.2	-3.5
Alberta Beverage Mfg. Industries	886.7	877.1	-1.1
Soft Drink and Ice Mfg.	398.5	314.8	-21.0
Breweries, Wineries and Distilleries	488.2	562.3	15.2

Alberta Food Sales (\$ Millions)

	2003	2004 ^p	% Chg.
Supermarket and Grocery Store Sales	7,868.1	8,398.9	6.7
Restaurant, Caterer and Tavern Receipts	3,903.8	4,147.7	6.2

Alberta Average Household Food Expenditure (Per Year)

	2002	2003	% Share of Hshld. Budget '03
Food	\$6,791	\$6,751	10.2%
Food Purchased From Stores	\$5,195	\$5,190	7.8%
Food Purchased From Restaurants	\$1,573	\$1,548	2.3%

Per Capita Food Consumption in Canada (Per Year)

	Units	1994	2000	2003
Alcoholic Beverages (Total Population)	litres	81.79	84.16	85.83
Fluid Milk (Retail Weight)	litres	90.68	88.21	85.31
Cereal Products (Retail Weight)	kg.	76.95	88.54	87.03
Red Meat (Carcass Weight Equivalent)	kg.	63.69	64.01	60.90
Beef (Carcass Weight Equivalent)	kg.	31.66	32.01	31.98
Pork (Carcass Weight Equivalent)	kg.	28.38	28.69	25.17
Poultry (Eviscerated Weight)	kg.	30.83	35.27	36.39
Fish (Edible Weight)	kg.	8.33	9.51	9.53

Note: These data represent food available for consumption and not actual quantities of food consumed since they do not allow for losses such as waste and/or spoilage in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants.

Farm Operating Expenses ⁽¹⁾ (\$ Millions)

	2003 ^r	2004 ^p	% Chg.
Property Taxes	102.7	107.9	5.1
Cash and Share Rent	346.7	348.7	0.6
Cash Wages, Room and Board	527.6	523.4	-0.8
Interest Payments	509.5	485.6	-4.7
Machinery Fuel	358.8	401.5	11.9
Machinery Repairs	483.3	498.3	3.1
Fertilizer and Lime	590.6	602.4	2.0
Pesticides	330.5	324.8	-1.7
Commercial Feed	1,106.0	1,046.3	-5.4
Livestock and Poultry Purchases	630.0	634.7	0.7
Electricity and Telephone	215.5	212.7	-1.3
Heating Fuel	76.1	79.2	4.1
Miscellaneous	1,042.7	1,049.3	0.6
Total Operating Expenses After Rebates	6,320.0	6,314.8	-0.1
Depreciation on Buildings	209.7	216.7	3.3
Depreciation on Machinery	921.4	893.0	-3.1
Total Expenses After Rebates and Depreciation	7,451.1	7,424.5	-0.4

(1) Net of provincial or federal rebates.

Net Farm Income ⁽¹⁾ (\$ Millions)

	2003 ^r	2004 ^p	% Chg.
1. Total Farm Cash Receipts	7,068.9	8,043.4	13.8
2. Total Operating Expenses After Rebates	6,320.0	6,314.8	-0.1
3. Net Cash Income (1-2)	748.9	1,728.6	130.8
4. Income-in-Kind	14.6	16.4	12.3
5. Depreciation Charges	1,131.1	1,109.7	-1.9
6. Realized Net Income (3+4-5)	-367.6	635.2	s
7. Value of Inventory Change	920.4	510.6	-44.5
8. Total Net Income (6+7)	552.8	1,145.8	107.3

(1) Refers to income directly related to the farm business; excludes non-farming income (such as wages and salaries from off-farm employment, pension and investment income).

Capital Investment Expenditures ⁽¹⁾ (\$ Millions)

	2003	2004 ^p	% Chg.
All Industries	44,743.9	48,531.0	8.5
Agri-Food Industries	1,001.9	1,042.4	4.0
% Share of All Industries	2.2%	2.1%	
Agriculture Industries			
Total	835.1	814.4	-2.5
Crop Production	417.8	417.9	0.0
Animal Production	404.2	387.5	-4.1
Support Services	13.1	9.0	-31.3
Food and Beverage Manufacturing Industries			
Total	166.8	228.0	36.7
Food Industries	138.4	192.4	39.0
Beverage Industries	28.4	35.6	25.4

(1) Capital investment expenditures refers to the cost of procuring, constructing and installing new durable plants, machinery and equipment, whether for replacement of worn or obsolete assets, as additions to existing assets or for lease or rent to others.

International Agri-Food Exports (\$ Millions)

Alberta exports of primary and processed agricultural and food products rebounded in 2004. The total value of Alberta exports, at \$4.9 billion, was 20.8% higher than in 2003 (\$4.0 billion) but still lower than the prior to BSE level of \$5.2 billion in 2002. Exports of value added products rose sharply by 28.6% to \$3.1 billion, representing 64.4% of Alberta's total agri-food exports in 2004. This increase resulted from higher exports of all meats, processed potatoes, animal feeds, canola oil and tallow. Exports of primary commodities increased 8.9% to \$1.7 billion, mainly due to higher exports of major grains, hay and live hogs. The increase was partially attributed to a recovery from two consecutive years of drought in the province. The United States remains Alberta's largest trading partner, accounting for 46.8 of total agri-food exports. The next largest markets were Japan and Mexico.

	2003 ^r	2004 ^p	% Chg.
Canada Agri-Food Exports	24,704	26,721	8.2
Alberta Agri-Food Exports	4,026	4,864	20.8
Alberta as a % of Canada	16.3%	18.2%	
Value Added Processed Products	2,438	3,134	28.6
As a % of Total Agri-Food Exports	60.6%	64.4%	
Beef and Veal (inc. Offal)	1,088	1,525	40.1
Pork (inc. Offal)	253	358	41.3
Processed Potatoes	147	231	56.7
Oilseed Cake and Meal	126	152	20.1
Malt Roasted or Not Roasted	108	106	-1.5
Other Value Added Processed Products	714	763	6.8
Primary Commodities (Crops and Animals)	1,588	1,730	8.9
As a % of Total Agri-Food Exports	39.4%	35.6%	
Wheat	737	934	26.7
Canola Seed	329	357	8.6
Barley	64	121	89.0
Hay and Fodder	74	97	32.0
Live Hogs	54	73	33.9
Other Primary Commodities	330	148	-55.2
Alberta's Top Five Export Markets in 2004	2003^r	2004^p	% Chg.
1. United States (47% Share)	2,019	2,278	12.8
2. Japan (15% Share)	653	713	9.1
3. Mexico (10% Share)	247	484	96.5
4. China (7% Share)	83	320	285.6
5. Italy (1% Share)	78	70	-10.5

r - revised p - preliminary -- not available n/a - not applicable
x - confidential kg - kilogram s - % change suppressed

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Data Sources: Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; Statistics Canada; and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

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