



# Canada's Agriculture, Food and Beverage INDUSTRY



## Canada's Egg Industry

Each year in Canada, more than 25 million hens lay over 6.8 billion eggs. About 5.3 billion of these are sold as table eggs, while the rest are processed into liquid, frozen or dried form.

Over the years, a combination of research, innovation, regulation, equipment and technology have guided the development of the egg processing industry in Canada. Canadian egg products are now recognized internationally for their superior quality.

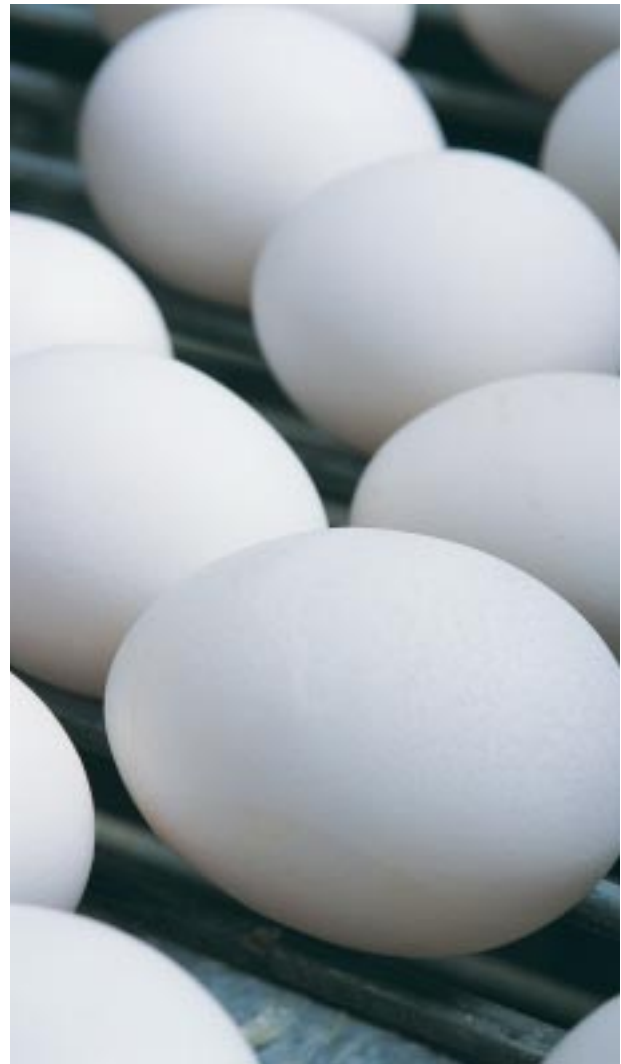
The most popular breed of chicken for egg production in Canada is the White Leghorn. The average Canadian flock size is 17,000 hens, but five farms in Canada have flocks larger than 100,000 hens. The average laying hen produces about 285 eggs per year.

In the last two decades, as demand for easy-to-use ingredients has increased, the processed egg industry has expanded steadily. Exports of processed eggs and the number of countries they are shipped to have more than doubled since 1990. Only a few preserved shell eggs are exported.

Egg processing includes the production of whole egg, albumen and egg yolks in frozen, dried or liquid form. Processed eggs are used in the manufacturing of many foods, including mayonnaise, noodles and baked goods. They are also used to make other items such as shampoo, pet foods and adhesives.

Important biochemicals are also derived from eggs, including avidin and ovomucoid, two highly purified proteins used in various tests for drugs such as cocaine and marijuana in blood and urine. In addition, ovalbumin and conalbumin are used in geriatric feeding formulas.

In 2001, there were 1,146 registered commercial egg producers in Canada. Ontario produced 39 per cent of all eggs in Canada, while Quebec produced 19.2 per cent. The western provinces have a combined egg production of 33.3 per cent and the eastern provinces have a combined production of 8.5 per cent. In 2001, total farm cash receipts of eggs was \$564 million.





Canada's egg industry operates under an orderly marketing policy framework that is designed to encourage production of a sufficient volume of eggs to meet market needs. Getting the eggs and processed eggs from the producer to the grocery store requires coordination and cooperation among producers, egg graders, processors, provincial and federal governments, inspectors, distributors and retailers.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency inspectors across Canada monitor operations and take random food samples from egg grading and egg processing stations for laboratory analysis to verify compliance with food safety regulations and product standards. In addition, the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency has voluntary on-farm safety programs that are monitored by its inspectors.

## For more detailed information

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**Further information on products, suppliers and investment opportunities in the Canadian agri-food industry is available on the Agri-Food Trade Service Web site at: <http://ats.agr.ca>.**

Canada's food and beverage industry is recognized internationally as being among the best in the world, both in terms of ensuring food safety and quality, and in providing a trade friendly environment. Consumers are more aware of food security, safety and quality, and are demanding more information about how their food is produced. More than ever, consumers want to know that their food is safe and that it has been produced in an environmentally responsible manner.

Canada's objective is to be the world leader in food safety, innovation, and environmentally responsible production and to be the best at meeting the needs of consumers at home and abroad.