



Canada's Agriculture, Food and Beverage INDUSTRY

● Canada's Fish ● and Seafood ● Industry

Canada is one of the foremost maritime nations in the world. Surrounded by the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and home to the Great Lakes, Canada boasts the world's longest coastline. With more than 755,000 km² of freshwater, Canada has 16 per cent of the world's area of freshwater and 4 of the 14 largest lakes in the world.

Canada has one of the world's most valuable commercial fishing industries, worth more than \$5 billion a year. The safety and high quality of Canadian fish and seafood products – produced by the capture fishery or by aquaculture – are recognized in more than 80 countries. Canada exports over 75 per cent of its fish and seafood production.

In 2002, Canada exported 620,231 tonnes of fish and seafood products valued at \$4.7 billion. Most of this went to the United States, followed by Japan and the European Union. Canada imported \$2.2 billion worth of fish and seafood products in 2002, resulting in a trade surplus of more than \$2 billion. Over 30 per cent of



the volume (and 4 per cent of the value) of imports were products not for human consumption, mostly meal used in the manufacture of livestock and fish feed.

The capture fishing industry and the aquaculture industry are each active in the Atlantic, Pacific and freshwater regions. In 2001, the capture fishing industry had total landings of more than 1 million tonnes valued at more than \$2 billion. By volume, the Atlantic fishery accounted for 82 per cent of total landings, the Pacific fishery for 14 per cent, and the freshwater fishery for 4 per cent.

- In the Atlantic fishery, top catches were herring (harvested for its roe), shrimp, snow crab, scallops, cod and lobster. Value leaders in 2001 were lobster, crab, shrimp and cod. Lobster continues to be Canada's most valuable seafood product, with a landed value of almost \$639 million in 2001.
- In the Pacific fishery, top catches were hake, Pacific herring (harvested for roe), rockfish and salmon. Value leaders were clams, halibut, shrimp, rockfish and salmon.
- Top freshwater catches included pickerel, yellow perch, whitefish, northern pike and lake trout.

Aquaculture production is becoming increasingly important in Canada. In 2001, aquaculture industries produced 127,234 tonnes of fish and shellfish worth \$600.4 million, and accounted for almost 14 per cent of the total Canadian production of fish and shellfish.

- Canada is one of the world's key suppliers of farmed salmon (Atlantic, chinook and coho). Trout, steelhead and Arctic char are also cultured.
- Shellfish farming is gaining prominence. Prince Edward Island's cultured mussels are known around the world, as is the rope-growing technology that developed them. Oysters (Atlantic, Pacific and European), manila clams and scallops are also gaining prominence.

During the 1990s, the industry responded to downturns in the Atlantic groundfish and Pacific salmon fisheries by becoming more competitive. In addition, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has worked to secure the future of Canada's wild fisheries by initiating conservative management practices that focus on sustainable development and responsible fishing.

Additional information

Fisheries and Oceans Canada regulates and manages the Canadian fish and seafood industry, while Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is responsible for marketing and trade development.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) sets the policies, requirements and inspection standards for fish products, federally registered fish and seafood processing establishments, importers, fishing vessels, and equipment used for handling, transporting and storing fish. Safety and quality are assured through the Quality Management Program (QMP), Canada's comprehensive fish-inspection system based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) principles. The CFIA's export certification program provides exporters with official documentation that Canadian fish and seafood products sold on the international market will be acceptable to importing countries.

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.