



# Canada's Agriculture, Food and Beverage INDUSTRY

## ● Canada's Grains ● and Oilseeds ● Industry

Canada produces a wide variety of grains and oilseeds, which are used in breads, pasta and breakfast cereals, cooking oils and other food products. In addition, innovative Canadian technology has created new products and markets for many grain and oilseed by-products.



Grains include wheat, corn, oats, barley and rye, while oilseeds include canola, soybean, flaxseed, safflower and sunflower seeds. Coarse grains, such as barley and corn, are used both for human consumption and as livestock and poultry feed. Oilseeds are used in the production of cooking oils and other food products, such as margarine. Canadian farmers are also growing more specialty crops than ever before, such as mustard, lentils, peas, beans, chick peas and canary seed.

Canadian scientists have been able to discover many important sugars, organic acids and pharmaceuticals from grains. These include antibacterial compounds, antihistamines, antioxidants, steroids, vitamin E and anti-cancer agents, food and feed ingredients such as surfactants, sugars, sweeteners and emulsifying agents, and cosmetic co-products such as ultra-violet light barriers, cleansing agents and waxes.

The Canadian Grain Commission (CGC) maintains a quality control program that includes varietal control, licensing of elevators, product inspection and weighing, and sanitation and quality monitoring programs. The Commission is the major centre for applied and basic research on the quality of a variety of grains. Its Grain Research Laboratory also conducts studies using its pilot-scale malting plant, flour mill and bakery, noodle processor and small-scale pasta press. For more information on the CGC visit [www.grainscanada.gc.ca](http://www.grainscanada.gc.ca). The Canadian Food Inspection Agency supports the Canadian grain sector through its quarantine, pest and phytosanitary certification programs.





## Additional information

Canada is forecast to produce 50.5 million tonnes of grains and oilseeds in 2002–2003, including 20.6 million tonnes of wheat, 10.8 million tonnes of barley and 4.9 million tonnes of canola.

In 2001, Canada produced 1.5 million tonnes of vegetable oil, mainly canola oil and soybean oil. Flaxseed, mustard seed and sunflower seed oils made up the difference. A significant portion of the canola oil used in the United States is either imported from Canada or produced from Canadian-grown canola seed.

In 2002, Canada exported \$7.6 billion worth of grains, oilseeds and related products representing 30 per cent of total agri-food exports. Canada exported \$3.7 billion in bulk grain, \$3.1 billion of which was in the form of wheat.

There are four major categories of wheat grown in Canada: spring wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat and feed wheat.

In 2002, Canada exported \$1.7 billion worth of grain products such as flour, and malt.

Canada also exported \$1.7 billion worth of bulk oilseed. Canola was Canada's largest oilseed export, at 2.4 million tonnes, valued at \$973 million. Exports of oilseed products such as oil and meal totaled \$667 million.

Between 1990 and 2000, Canada more than doubled both its canola and soybean production.

Corn yields in southwestern Ontario are now comparable with those in the United States Corn Belt.

## 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.