

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, 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.



The main grain export crops produced in Canada are wheat, barley and oats. Corn and rye are also produced, but mostly for domestic consumption.

Grain and oilseed production is expected to increase in 2005-2006 to 66.7 million tonnes from 63.6 million tonnes in 2004-2005.

Grains

Coarse grains, such as barley and corn, are used both for human consumption and as livestock and poultry feed. Canada is also a leading producer and exporter of malting barley and barley malt.

In 2004-2005 Canada produced 25.9 million tonnes of wheat and 13.2 million tonnes of barley. Wheat exports totalled 14.5 million tonnes valued at \$3.0 billion, while barley exports totalled 1.2 million tonnes valued at \$227 million, and consisted mostly of malting barley. The main export destinations for Canadian wheat and barley are China, U.S. and Japan.

Oilseeds

The main Canadian oilseed export crops are canola, soybean and flaxseed. Canada has a large oilseed processing industry and exports not only the oilseeds but also the vegetable oils and feed meals resulting from their crush. There is also a significant market in Asian countries for Special Quality White Hylum Soybeans from Canada, which comprise special premium varieties for the production of human foods such as tofu, tempe, miso, etc.

In 2004-2005 Canada also produced 7.7 million tonnes of canola, 3 million tonnes of soybeans and 500,000 tonnes of flax. The main export destinations for these commodities are Japan and Mexico for canola, Japan and Iran for soybean, and Belgium and the U.S. for flax.

During the same period, the Canadian oilseed processing industry exported 900,000 tonnes of canola oil worldwide. The U.S. was Canada's largest market, the 500,000 tonnes exported captured a significant share of the total U.S. vegetable oil market.

Canada also exported 1.4 million tonnes of canola meal mostly to the North West United States, where it is mainly used for dairy production.

Additional Information

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 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. In addition, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency supports the Canadian grain sector through its quarantine, pest, and phytosanitary certification programs.

Two other leading Canadian institutions are the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC) and the Canadian International Grain Institute (CIGI). The CMBTC has become a leading centre of excellence for research in the technical processes of malting barley and brewing. The CIGI provides educational programs and technical activities in support of the marketing and utilization of Canadian grains, oilseeds, pulses and special crops.

For More Detailed Information

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Other Links

Cereal Industry Directory

www.ats.agr.gc.ca/supply/4219_e.htm

Oilseed Industry Directory

www.ats.agr.gc.ca/supply/4218_e.htm

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: www.ats.agr.gc.ca

Canada's food and agricultural products reflect our dedication to excellence, and our deep commitment to safety, quality, environmental responsibility, innovation and service.

In every facet of our industry, we seek to earn the trust of our customers by answering their needs and exceeding their expectations. Those values along with our belief in building strong relationships, have given Canadian agriculture and food products an international reputation for excellence. Customers around the world know that they can trust the goodness of Canada.

