

All about Canada's red meat industry...

Canada's red meat and meat products industry includes beef, pork and lamb, but also venison and bison. With annual shipments worth \$14.6 billion in 2002, it is the largest sector of the Canadian food manufacturing industry. In 2002, the industry placed fourth among Canada's leading manufacturing industries.

Canada's meat processing companies make a wide variety of meat products ranging from fresh or frozen meat to processed, smoked, canned and cooked meats, as well as sausage and deli meats. About 70% of processed meats in Canada, such as sausages or cold cuts, are made with pork.

The wholesomeness and consistent safety of Canadian red meat and meat products is well established in many countries. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) works with the industry to maintain and enhance this reputation. The CFIA inspects imports and federally registered establishments that produce processed meats and ready-to-eat products to verify compliance with food safety regulations.

Size of the industry:

In 2005, there were:

- 15.1 million cattle and calves on approximately 90,000 farms and ranches with beef cattle. Alberta accounts for approximately 39% of this inventory. Farm cash receipts from the sale of cattle and calves in 2005 totalled \$5.7 billion, 17% of total farm receipts.
- 14.7 million hogs on approximately 13,000 farms. Farm cash receipts from the sale of slaughter hogs in 2005 totalled \$3.9 billion, almost 11 % of total farm receipts.
- 980,800 sheep and lambs on approximately 12,000 farms. Canadian sheep production is mostly located in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec (70%). Farm cash receipts for sheep and lamb in 2005 totalled \$112 million.
- 162,000 head of Canadian farmed raised venison on about 2,000 farms. Elk are primarily farmed in the west and red deer in the eastern provinces. Fallow deer, white-tailed deer and other venison species are found throughout Canada.
- 230,000 bison on about 1,900 farms in Canada. Bison production is primarily concentrated in the west at 85-90%.

Exports:

- Canada's beef exports rose about 1 % over 2004 to 458,377 tonnes in 2005. Sales to the U.S. increased 5 %, while shipments to Mexico declined 38 %. Exports of beef and beef products to all countries are estimated at \$1.85 billion.
- In 2005, 22.1 million pigs went to market in Canadian plants, an decrease of 2.5% over 2004. In addition, 2.77 million head went to processing facilities in the U.S and 5.41 million head of feeder/weaner/isowean hogs went for feeding and finishing on U.S. farms. Live hog exports decreased 3.9 % over 2004.
- Pork exports increased in 2005 to 1,029,004 tonnes, up nearly 11 % from 2004. Sales to the U.S. declined 5 % to 388,493 tonnes, while sales to Japan rose 31 % to 266,425 tonnes. Exports of pork and pork products to all countries are estimated at \$2.84 billion in 2005.
- Processed pork sales totalled an estimated 72,394 tonnes in 2005 with the U.S. being the dominant purchaser, followed by Japan, Romania and Cuba.

In addition to its red meat exports, Canada can provide halal-certified, kosher and a wide range of natural and organic meat and products, as well as game meat such as venison and bison.

...want more information?

For more detailed information, contact:

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