



Agriculture, Seafood and Food Processing

Fertile ground for opportunity



British Columbia, *Naturally.*

BritishColumbia.ca

British Columbia is Serving-up World Class Agriculture and Agri-food Products to the Global Marketplace

Located on Canada's West Coast, British Columbia (B.C.) lies at the commercial crossroads of the Asia-Pacific region and North America. British Columbia's high-quality agriculture, seafood, beverage and food processing products are in demand globally, and are sent around the world through an extensive and efficient network of ship, air, rail and road connections. International trade agreements provide preferential market access, making it easier and more efficient for B.C.-based businesses to do business abroad.



Top 5 B.C. Agriculture, Seafood and Food Processing Export Markets

2021 by Market (\$ millions)

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| United States | 3,900 |
| China | 344 |
| Japan | 218 |
| South Korea | 135 |
| Hong Kong | 84 |



B.C.'s diverse and high-quality products are shipped to markets around the world through an extensive and efficient network of ship, air, rail and road connections.

Diversity of Products

Thanks to its temperate climate and varied terrain, B.C. produces a diversity of products from land and sea. B.C.'s farms and food processors supply everything from fruits, vegetables and herbal preparations to top-grade meats and beverages. The province is also home to a globally recognized wine industry.

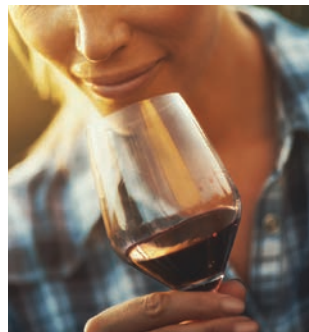
Quality and Food Safety

B.C.'s reputation for producing high-quality, great-tasting foods is supported by internationally renowned food traceability, safety and sustainability standards.

Sustainable Practices

Sustainability principles guide food production in British Columbia. The province is a leader in agri-tech innovation and regenerative farming practices that can increase the productivity, profitability and sustainability of B.C.'s food system.

A co-operative approach between industry and government has put the B.C. seafood industry at the forefront of new conservation initiatives, helping to ensure a sustainable industry for the future. Commercial fishers and seafood processors work together to supply both domestic and international export markets with a vast array of safe and high-quality seafood products.



B.C. AGRICULTURE, SEAFOOD AND FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR BY THE NUMBERS

- B.C. exports agriculture, seafood, beverage and food processing products to 118 international markets.
- B.C. has more than 3,000 food and beverage manufacturing operations.
- B.C. exports 494 agrifood and 168 different seafood products.

Industry Profile

B.C. has thousands of agriculture, seafood and food processing companies, including primary growers and producers on land and sea, food and beverage processors and manufacturers of specialty items such as nutraceuticals, floral products, pet foods and more.

In 2022, British Columbia exported \$6.2 billion of agrifood products to markets around the world. Ninety-one per cent of the export value was generated by the top five markets: the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong. B.C. exported \$1.3 billion in edible fruit and vegetable products (including prepared and preserved products), the province's second largest agriculture and food export product, after fish and seafood.

Livestock and Poultry Products

B.C.'s farms and ranches produce beef, dairy, chicken, turkey, eggs, pork, mutton, lamb and other animals and animal products. B.C.'s top 5 exports in this subsector are tallow, pork products, live bovine, poultry and whey protein.

Fruits and Nuts

As Canada's largest fruit-producing province, B.C.'s diverse climate enables the production of a wide variety of berries, grapes, tree fruits and nuts on approximately 19,000 acres of farmland. Ninety-five percent of all Canadian cherries are proudly grown in British Columbia. Similarly, British Columbia is the largest producer of highbush blueberries in Canada, with 90% of production concentrated in the province. B.C.'s tree fruits include apples, cherries, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, nectarines, apricots, hazelnuts, walnuts, chestnuts and pecans. British Columbia has close to 5,000 hectares in grape production and produced more than 26,000 tons of grapes in 2022.

Vegetables

Thanks to a moderate climate, fertile soil and access to good water, B.C. fields and farms can grow many different types of vegetables, from asparagus to zucchini. In 2020, the top five vegetable exports were mushrooms, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and potatoes. B.C.'s greenhouse vegetable sector, which accounted for 43% of its total vegetable export value in 2020, supplies fresh vegetables for 10-months out of the year.

Grains and Oilseeds

B.C. farmers produced 1.49 million metric tonnes of grains and oilseeds in 2021, including wheat, canola, oats and barley. There are approximately 1,000 B.C. grain and oilseed producers and 380,000 acres of land in annual field crop production.

Floriculture, Sod and Nursery Products

B.C. produces many ornamental flowers and shrubs. B.C.'s floriculture growers generated over \$429 million in 2022, with over 67 million potted plants. British Columbia's nursery industry produces perennials and annuals, deciduous and coniferous shrubs, shade and ornamental trees, vines, fruit trees and nursery tree seedlings.





Seafood

British Columbia's prime fishing grounds, world-famous salmon-rearing rivers and pristine ocean farming areas produce a rich and varied harvest of finfish, groundfish and shellfish. Among the key fish species are salmon, halibut, rockfish, hake, sablefish, herring and tuna. Shellfish include clams, oysters, crab, prawns, geoduck, sea urchins and sea cucumber. Additionally, B.C. produces a variety of marine plants. British Columbia has six species certified under Marine Stewardship Council, which is the international leader in sustainable fisheries certification. The six species certified are Pacific halibut, coho-silver salmon, chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, chum salmon and pink salmon.

The top five markets for seafood are: the United States, China, Japan, Hong Kong and Ukraine. British Columbia's top seafood exports include Atlantic salmon, crab, hake, geoduck clams, shrimps and prawns, halibut, herring, wild chinook salmon, tuna, sablefish, chinook and sea urchins.

Beverages

Over 80 different grape varieties are produced in B.C., with the top 10 being Merlot, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Sauvignon, Gewürztraminer, Cabernet Franc, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc and Syrah. B.C. also produces celebrated craft-brewed ciders, beers and spirits, including whiskey, gin and vodka. B.C. is known as a top-quality producer of fresh glacial spring water and a variety of fruit and vegetable juices.



Processed Foods

British Columbia's diverse agricultural production supports a varied food processing industry. In fact, food processing is the second largest of British Columbia's manufacturing industries, generating more than \$12.6 billion in sales in 2021 and employing over 79,000 people. More than 3,000 small and medium-sized establishments produce and sell products from agriculture and seafood sources.

B.C. food processors supply high-quality products, including all kinds of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, bread and baked goods, cereal and grains, confectionary products, dairy products, eggs and alternatives, fish and seafood, meat, poultry, and plant-based proteins, nuts and seeds, prepared foods, sauces, dressings and seasonings, and fruits and vegetables.

British Columbia's Agriculture, Seafood and Food Processing Associations, Collaboratives and Research Centres

Associations and collaboratives representing the sector include:

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| BC Agriculture Council | Advocate for key sector-wide priorities in British Columbia. Helps build industry consensus and advancing public policy by delivering a unified voice for the sector to government through their member farm associations. |
| BC Food & Beverage | Help shape, support and grow thousands of food and beverage businesses from start-up to multi-national companies. |
| BC Seafood Alliance | Represent B.C.'s seafood industries. Advocates, fosters, and supports fisheries and seafood processors. |
| Wines of British Columbia | Represent the interests of British Columbia wineries through marketing, communication and advocacy. |
| Investment Agriculture Foundation | Deliver programs and services to support a thriving agriculture and agri-food sector in B.C. |
| Provincial Agricultural Land Commission | The Agricultural Land Reserve is B.C.'s provincial zone that preserves agricultural land for the future. The ALC is the administrative tribunal that adjudicates applications in the ALR while prioritizing and protecting the ALR land base and its use for agriculture. |
| Small Scale Food Processor Association | A national trade association of processors, growers, and suppliers of food and agricultural products. The association helps members grow their businesses and expand local economies. |

Research and education centres representing the sector include:

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| BC Agricultural Climate Action Research Network | Foster collaboration among researchers, government and producers to catalyze effective, research-backed climate solutions for B.C. food producers. |
| BC Farmers Institute | Provide locally relevant information, workshops and agricultural education events. |
| Faculty of Land and Food Systems (UBC) | Research and learn about the way food nourishes people and how to better care for food resources. |
| FarmFolk CityFolk | Foster resilient, sustainable, equitable food systems in B.C. by connecting and supporting farmers. |
| Food and Agriculture Institute (UFV) | An interdisciplinary research centre that focuses on issues, challenges and sustainability solutions related to food and farm systems. |
| Seafood Business Accelerator (SBA) | Support innovation, profitability and sustainability for small scale seafood entrepreneurs. The SBA provides food industry training, coaching, business advice and one-on-one support from food industry experts to help participants focus on a specific project and start working on it. |
| Young Agrarians (YA) | A community driven educational resource network for new and young ecological, organic and regenerative farmers in Canada. Provide courses, seminars, workshops and counselling about agriculture, farming, food processing, entrepreneurship, community economic development and environmental sustainability. |

Enjoy strong government and industry support

B.C.'s agriculture, seafood and food and beverage processing sectors are flexible and resilient with the help of industry-led associations and government support including tax incentives and grants. These supports enhance the sector's competitiveness, sustainability and productivity through marketing, research, innovation and technology.

Supportive Government

The Buy BC Partnership Program is a provincewide marketing program that provides up to \$2 million in cost shared funding each year to help B.C. farmers and food processors promote their products and support food security in British Columbia. Buy B.C. helps shoppers select fresh-tasting, high-quality products that are grown, raised and processed locally in communities across the province.

A partial exemption from carbon tax is available to greenhouse growers who use natural gas and propane for an eligible purpose. For example, the fuel is used to heat an eligible greenhouse or to supplement carbon dioxide in an eligible greenhouse to grow or produce plants.

Traceability Value Chain Program provides cost-shared funding up to \$75,000 towards the adoption of information sharing systems that will enhance agrifood and seafood traceability among supply chain partners.

The Venture Capital Tax Credit program helps small businesses raise capital by providing investors with a 30% tax credit on the value of their investment.



British Columbia's Competitive Advantages

- **A leader in sustainable development**
- **Prime location**
- **Supportive federal and provincial programs**
- **Diverse geography and climate**
- **A world-renowned wine industry**
- **High-quality and diverse products**
- **First-class fishing grounds**



Join B.C.'s world-class agriculture, seafood and food processing companies, including:

- Dairyland
- Daiya Foods
- Island Farms
- Mark Anthony Group
- Nature's Path Foods
- Purdy's Chocolates
- SunRype
- Windset Farms

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Published in October 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this publication at the time of writing; however, the programs referred to, and data cited, are subject to change. All figures are in Canadian dollars.



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