

Significance of the Food and Beverage Processing Industry in Canada



The food and beverage processing industry is the 2nd largest manufacturing industry in Canada in terms of value of production with shipments worth \$105.5 billion in 2014. It accounts for 17% of total manufacturing shipments and for 2% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It's the largest manufacturing employer and provides employment for 246,000 Canadians.

Canadian processed food and beverage products are exported to some 190 countries with a significant proportion exported to a few countries. In 2014, 89% of the total went to six major markets:

- United States (71%)
- China and Japan (7% and 6% respectively)
- Mexico, Russia and South Korea (2.1%, 1.6% and 1.3% respectively)

The largest food and beverage processing industry is meat product manufacturing which accounted for 25% of all shipments and \$26.3 billion in 2014. Dairy product manufacturing is the second largest industry with sales of \$17.3 billion, followed by grain and oilseed milling with sales.

Exports of processed **food and beverage products** stood at \$27.8 billion in 2014, an increase of 9.8% over 2013; accounting for 26% of production value.

About 6,500 food and beverage processing establishments exist in **Canada**. 90% of establishments have less than 100 employees, 9% have between 100 and 500 employees, while only 1% of establishments have more than 500 employees.

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