



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. B.C.'s varied terrain, long coastline and temperate climate produce high-quality agriculture, seafood, food and beverage processing products that are in demand globally. Industry leaders leverage B.C.'s natural advantages with a focus on sustainability, safety, quality and innovation. Additionally, Canada's numerous international trade agreements provide preferential market access, making it easier and more efficient for B.C.-based businesses to do business abroad. With its business-friendly environment and abundant trade opportunities, B.C. attracts investment from all over the world.

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 fruit, vegetables and herbal preparations to top-grade meats and beverages. The province is also home to a globally recognized wine industry.

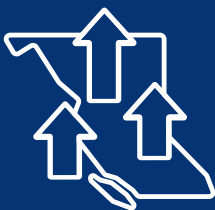
Quality and Food Safety

British Columbia's reputation for producing high-quality, great-tasting foods is supported by internationally renowned food safety, traceability 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 markets with a vast array of safe and high-quality seafood products.



British Columbia agriculture, seafood and food processing sector by the numbers:

- B.C. exported agriculture, seafood, beverage and food processing products to **144 international markets** in 2024.
- In 2024, B.C. had more than **3,700** food and beverage manufacturing operations.

Industry Profile

British Columbia has thousands of agriculture, seafood and food 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 2024, B.C. exported \$5.9 billion of agrifood products to markets around the world. Ninety-one percent of the export value was generated by the top five markets: the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Australia. B.C. also exported \$1.2 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 in 2023.

Livestock

British Columbia's farms and ranches produce beef, dairy, chicken, turkey, eggs, pork, mutton, lamb and other animals and animal products.

Fruits and Nuts

As Canada's third largest fruit-producing province, B.C.'s diverse climate enables the production of a wide variety of berries, grapes and tree fruits on approximately 26,271 hectares of farmland. Ninety-five percent of all Canadian cherries are proudly grown in B.C. Similarly, British Columbia is the largest producer of highbush blueberries in Canada, with 96 percent of production concentrated in the province. B.C.'s tree fruits include apples, cherries, peaches, pears, plums, nectarines and apricots.

Farm Gate Value of Fruit in 2024

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| Fresh blueberries | \$152,732,000 |
| Fresh apples | \$52,139,000 |
| Fresh cranberries | \$42,540,000 |
| Fresh sweet cherries | \$34,370,000 |

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 2024, the top five vegetable exports were mushrooms, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers and potatoes. B.C.'s greenhouse vegetable sector, which supplies fresh vegetables for 10 months of the year, exported \$176M in 2024.

Floriculture, Sod and Nursery Products

British Columbia produces many ornamental flowers and shrubs. The total value of B.C.'s floriculture in 2024 was over \$865 million, with a production of over 280 million floriculture including bedding plants, cut flowers, cuttings and potted plants. British Columbia's nursery industry produces different species of perennials, vines, ground covers, shrubs and trees either grown in the field or in containers.

Grains and Oilseeds

British Columbia farmers produced approximately 1.8 million metric tonnes of grains and oilseeds and other field crops in 2024, including wheat, canola, oats and barley. There are approximately 419 farms producing B.C. grain and oilseed and 1.1M acres of land in annual field crop production.



Seafood

British Columbia's prime fishing grounds, world-famous salmon-rearing rivers and pristine ocean 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. B.C. also produces a variety of marine plants.

On the water, conservation initiatives lead the way, with fishers, seafood farmers and processors working together to protect marine ecosystems while delivering safe, high-quality seafood to markets around the globe. In fact, B.C. has three species (halibut, albacore tuna and hake) certified under Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), which is the international leader in sustainable fisheries certification. There are several B.C. seafood companies that are MSC Chain of Custody certified. B.C.'s diverse seafood industry has responsible management practices that protect the environment and maintain healthy fish stocks.

British Columbia's top five markets for seafood are: the United States, China, Japan, Hong Kong and Ukraine. British Columbia's top seafood exports include Atlantic salmon, wild salmon, halibut, chinook salmon, sea fish, tuna, oysters, crabs, and shrimps and prawns.

Beverage Processing

Over 100 different grape varieties are produced in B.C., with the top 10 being Merlot, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Sauvignon Blanc and Gamay Noir. B.C. also produces premade cocktails, 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, kombucha and a variety of fruit and vegetable juices. Top B.C. beverage exports in 2024 included \$76M of coffee, \$59M of water, and \$29M of cranberry juice.

Food Processing

British Columbia's diverse agricultural production supports a varied food processing industry. In fact, food processing is the second largest of B.C.'s manufacturing industries, generating more than \$13.2 billion in sales in 2023 and employing around 36,000 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.

2024 Top B.C. Agriculture, Seafood and Food Processing Export Markets

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|---------------|--------|
| United States | \$4.5B |
| China | \$411M |
| Japan | \$264M |
| South Korea | \$120M |
| Australia | \$72M |



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

Industry-led associations work with the government to encourage investment, promote collaboration and grow the agriculture and agrifood economy.

Associations and collaboratives representing the sector include:

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| BC Blueberry Council | Works collaboratively with growers, packers and processors to expand market opportunities for B.C. blueberries in Canada and abroad. |
| BC Fruit Growers | Promotes awareness of the tree fruit sector, representing growers' interests to government, coordinating industry initiatives, and providing services and products to growers. |
| BC Meats Association | Works closely with government inspectors to provide safe, high quality meats to B.C. markets. |
| BC Seafood Alliance | Provides small and medium-sized businesses in B.C. with effective leadership, advocacy and communication in pursuit of a profitable and sustainable seafood industry. |
| BC Shellfish Growers Association | Promotes the sustainable growth and prosperity of the B.C. shellfish industry through communication and advocacy. |
| BC Craft Brewers Guild | Represents the interests of British Columbia Craft Breweries through marketing, communication and advocacy. |
| BC Farm Cider Association | Promotes cooperation in the production, marketing and development of farm-crafted cider in B.C. |
| Craft Distiller's Guild of BC | Represents the micro-distilleries in British Columbia that are recognized by the Provincial Government as being "Craft". |
| Sustainable Winegrowing BC | Manages sustainability certification, as well as providing educational resources and training to help vineyards and wineries establish sustainable practices. |
| Wines of British Columbia | Represents the interests of British Columbia wineries through marketing, communication and advocacy. |
| BC Agriculture Council | Advocates 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 | The largest, not-for-profit industry association representing food and beverage manufacturers in British Columbia. |
| Investment Agriculture Foundation | Delivers a variety of programs and assists in access to government funding opportunities supporting B.C.'s agriculture and food sector. |
| Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALR) | Preserves agricultural land for the future and acts as 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 | Serves as a national trade association of processors, growers and suppliers of food and agricultural products; helping members grow their businesses and expand local economies. |



Research and education centres representing the sector include:

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| <p>BC Agricultural Climate Action Research Network</p> | <p>Fosters collaboration among researchers, government and producers to catalyze effective, research-backed climate solutions for B.C. food producers.</p> |
| <p>BC Farmers Institute</p> | <p>Provides locally relevant information, workshops and agricultural education events.</p> |
| <p>Faculty of Land and Food Systems (UBC)</p> | <p>Explores ways to build resilient food systems, further sustainable agriculture, improve food security, promote healthier communities and ensure the health and welfare of animals.</p> |
| <p>Food and Agriculture Institute (UFV)</p> | <p>Functions as an interdisciplinary research centre that focuses on issues, challenges and sustainability solutions related to food and farm systems.</p> |
| <p>Food and Beverage Innovation Centre (UBC)</p> | <p>Helps food and beverage businesses grow, innovate and become export oriented.</p> |
| <p>Seafood Business Accelerator (SBA)</p> | <p>Supports 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.</p> |



British Columbia'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.

Supportive Government

British Columbia'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 sustainability and productivity through marketing, research, innovation and technology.

- **B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program** provides funding support for primary agricultural producers and agriculture, food and beverage processors to support informed decision making and ensure business development.
- **B.C. Agriculture and Food Export Program** provides cost-shared funding to undertake market development activities outside of B.C., enabling sector businesses and associations to maintain, expand and/or diversify export markets.
- **B.C. Land Matching Program** provides land matching and business support services to new farmers looking for land to farm as well as landowners interested in finding someone to farm their land.
- **Buy BC Partnership Program** and the Buy BC brand helps British Columbians choose foods and beverage products made in B.C. The program provides access to a free Buy BC logo and up to \$2 million in cost shared funding to help B.C. farmers and food processors promote their products and increase food and beverage products sales in British Columbia.
- **Food Safety Program** seeks to increase adoption of new or improving existing food safety practices and systems by BC on-farm and BC post-farm businesses to enable the BC agrifood sector to meet existing and new national and international food safety regulatory requirements.
- **Traceability Adoption Program** seeks to increase the implementation of traceability systems in production and processing to enable the B.C. agrifood and seafood sector to meet new and existing regulatory requirements for the traceability of food, animals, and seafood products.

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 agrifood products**
- **First-class fishing grounds**



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

- CANFISCO Group
- Earths Own
- Innofoods
- Jealous Fruits
- Mac's Oysters
- Mark Anthony Group
- Nature's Path Foods
- Purdy's Chocolates
- Walcan Seafood
- Windset Farms

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