Sector Snapshot 2018: B.C. Food and Beverage Processing

Sector Defined: B.C.’s food and beverage processing sector comprises the processing of agriculture, seafood, and food & beverage products in B.C.

➢ The food and beverage processing industry is comprised of 2,917 establishments and is the second largest processing sector in the province in sales.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROCESSING KEY FACTS

➢ Sales: $10.21 billion
➢ GDP: $3.2 billion
➢ Share of Provincial Total GDP: 1.3%
➢ Exports: $4.5 billion
➢ Food and Beverage Processing Jobs: 36,500

➢ Food and beverage processing in B.C. generated $10.21 billion in 2018, a 4.2 percent increase over 2017.
➢ Top Sales: $2.0 billion in other food processing products*; $1.9 billion in beverages; $1.6 billion in meat and poultry products; $1.4 billion in dairy products; $0.9 billion in bakery and tortilla products; and $0.8 billion in animal food products.
➢ Combined sales from B.C. breweries, wineries, and distilleries amounted to $1.4 billion in 2018, up 3 percent over 2017.
➢ Food and beverage processing accounted for 62 percent of B.C.’s total agriculture, seafood and food & beverage processing industry GDP in 2018, with contributions of $3.2 billion.
➢ In 2018 B.C. ranked third among provinces in Canada in beverage processing sales and fourth in food processing sales.

* Other food processing products includes: snack foods; coffees and teas; flavouring syrups & concentrates; seasonings and dressings; cut, peeled, polished or sliced vegetables; manufactured pizzas; soup mixes; prepared meals and sandwiches for the wholesale market; and honey; etc.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE INTERNATIONAL EXPORTS

➢ In 2018 B.C. exported $4.5 billion worth of agriculture, seafood and food & beverage products to 149 different international markets.
➢ Top Five Food and Beverage Exports: $541 million in farmed Atlantic salmon; $361 million in food preparations for processing and natural health products; $243 million in blueberries; $230 million in baked goods; and $189 million in mushrooms.