

	1991	1992 PROVISIONAL
(in 000's metric tonnes)		
Pork Production	1 129	1 200
Pork Imports	15	10
Total Domestic Supply	1 144	1 210
Pork Exports	266	300

Source: U.S.D.A., World Livestock Situation

The slaughter/processing industry has been restructured resulting in fewer, better managed state-of-the-art plants and is competitive through incorporating state-of-the-art equipment; including immobilizing, splitting, electronic probing and in-process precision cutting, deboning and massaging. Processors have specialized niche kill and cut operations. Sixteen plants now slaughter 94% of all hogs. Each of these sixteen plants can process over 10 000 hogs per week at line speeds of 300 to 600 kills per hour. In addition, there are 25 plants with a capacity of under 10 000 hogs per week at line speeds of less than 300 kills per hour.

Slaughter capacity is under-utilized in all provinces ranging from 73% utilization in Manitoba to 87% in Alberta. Canadian firms have the capacity to increase exports without affecting domestic supply.

One of the trends in the processing sector has been to specialize processing around a single product. In Canada, one of the main plant specializations from dedicated plants has been in bacon and ham production. In addition, to the small number of dedicated plants, many of the large processors in Canada are fully integrated from slaughter through further processing.

CONSUMPTION

Pork is Canada's second highest consumed meat. Canadian per capita consumption is approximately 34kg. While Canada's per capita consumption of pork has remained reasonably level over the past five years, significant changes in consumer perceptions and lifestyles have taken place over this time period. Consumers are opting for smaller portions of "better-for-you" foods which translates into a demand for pork in smaller, conveniently packaged portions of leaner meat. Even with these important changes, pork has continued to maintain its level of consumption in Canada.