



# Foods Exported from the Canadian Arctic

## Northern Canada's Commercial FOOD FACTS

### Exported Foods from the Canadian Arctic

- Fisheries
- Seal and Seal Products
- Meat Production
- Agricultural Production
- Dairy and Egg Products
- Other Farm Products
- Community Gardens and Greenhouses
- Prepared Foods



- Foods produced in Northern Canada are exported to over **133** international markets.
- The United States is the highest importer of northern Canadian food products (1,219,984 tons), followed by China (567,749 tons), and Japan (372,339 tons).
  - The total weight and value of all products exported from the Arctic between 1988 and 2017 was 3,906,781 tons, which generated \$20.7 billion in revenue.
  - Marine products (e.g., char, turbot, shrimp) accounted for 89% (3,470,745 tons) of the total food export.
  - Northern Canada exports more than \$66.6 million worth of seal products (pelts, meat, oils) to 48 countries.
  - From 1988 to 2017, 3,641 tons of roots, tubers, cucumbers, beans, chickpeas and mushrooms were harvested in the Canadian North and exported (mostly frozen) to countries around the world.
  - From 1988 to 2017, the total weight of oil seeds, oleaginous fruits, plants, straw, and fodder exported from Northern Canada reached 1,202 tons (\$1,689,154) and contributed 13% to the total weight of farm exports
  - Dairy and egg exports to the United States earned \$7.8 million and comprised 88% of all dairy and egg exports. Other dairy and egg exports went to France (3.3%), Japan (2.3%), and Saudi Arabia (2.1%).
  - From 1988 to 2017, the total weight of prepared foods, beverages, spirits, and other prepared products exported from Northern Canada was 333,882 tons, and generated \$2.5 billion in revenue.

Food insecurity in Northern Canada represents a public health crisis. Yet across Northern Canada there are considerable opportunities for commercial food products to better meet the food needs of Northern residents. Food industries are producing large volumes of food commodities that are nutritious, potentially more affordable, and culturally compatible with Indigenous \local food preferences. While redirecting commercial food production in Northern Canada from an export driven to a regionally driven value chain will not be without economic and logistical challenges, it does offer an opportunity to bring greater balance to Northern Canada's food system.



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Design: CommPassion Creative | Photos: Lee Narraway mountains in masthead, Arctic rose and Arctic fox owned by Sustainable Development Working Group, David C. Natcher fishing vessel, Sarah Cox hand with berries, Rosalind Crump young girl in greenhouse, John Crump Iceberg, Stock Arctic Char.