

THE CAPI PROCESSED FOOD SECTOR RESEARCH PROGRAM

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Food processing is one of the country's largest manufacturing sectors and an essential channel for Canadian agricultural products. Yet, the rising trade deficit is signaling deteriorating performance. CAPI has launched a research consortium to galvanize a new approach. CAPI is not only focused on the problems but how to move forward to address them. The research program has three phases:

1. **Diagnosis**
2. **Inspiring practices**
3. **Competitive advantage**

In short, we need to understand what is occurring in the processed food sector and how this matter also impacts producers, retailers, consumers and agri-food policy. Then, we're going to look for a way forward for Canada.

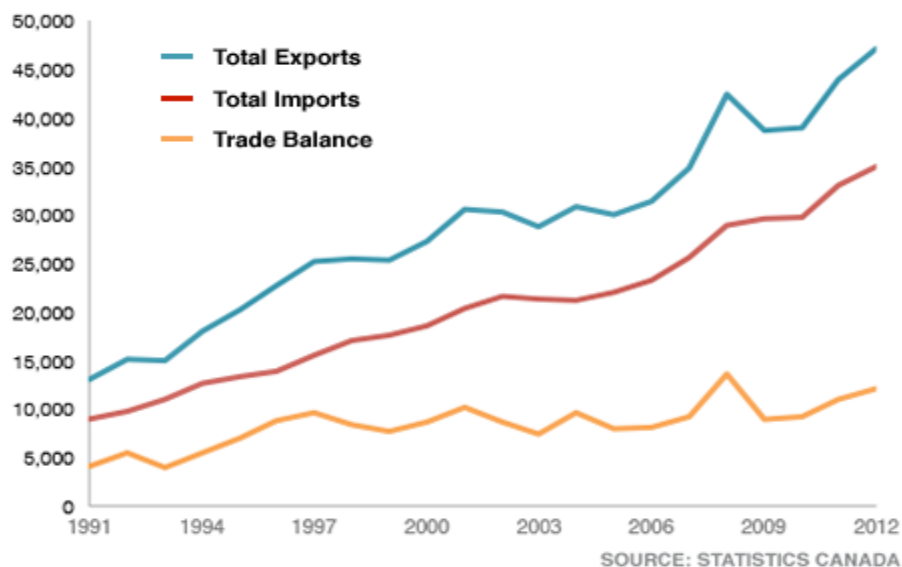
PROJECT 1: DIAGNOSING THE TRADE DEFICIT

Canada's overall agri-food trade balance: A consolidated view

CAPI's work is based on reporting on trade balance performance according to the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) for trade statistics.

AGRI-FOOD TRADE BALANCE

\$ millions



Overall, Canada has a trade surplus in agri-food thanks to its robust trade performance in agricultural commodities and primary processing sector. With a trade surplus of some \$12.2 billion, the situation is a good news story, notably because of the growth in the value of its exports.

However, when disaggregating the trade balance by its four sections, the picture changes.

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READ MORE

- [Program introduction](#)
- Background paper:
[*The State of Canada's Processed Food Sector: Trade Balance*](#) (November 2012)
- For partners and contributors:
[*From Record Deficits to Competitive Resurgence*](#) (May 2013)