

## Nevada Agriculture Exports Hits Record Levels...Again!

In 2012 Nevada food and agricultural export sales breached a historic milestone with exports surpassing the \$100 million mark. Export sales in 2012 were \$117.4 million. 2013 was a stronger year with a \$19.5 million increase to \$136,998 million in exports. This is a year to year increase of 16.6 percent from 2012.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, for every \$181,000 in export sales, one job is created and pays 17 percent better than a job not associated with exporting. That means 756 high end jobs were created in 2013 due to Nevada food and agriculture exports.

“This is great news,” said Jim Barbee, director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture. “We will continue to support the Nevada food and agriculture sector and look forward to further growth and increased job creation throughout the industry.”

Food and agriculture products are Nevada’s ninth largest export category (followed by precious metals and stones; electrical machinery; ores, slag, and ash; toys, games and sporting equipment; industrial machinery; optic, photo, medical or surgical equipment; aircraft, spacecraft, and parts; and vehicles, except railway or tramway). The top four country markets for Nevada food and agriculture exports were Canada, China, Mexico, and Japan in 2013.

The majority of these exports (94.8 percent) fall within the following ten product categories: miscellaneous edible preparations; prepared cereals, flour and starches or milk; beverages and spirits; cocoa and cocoa preparations; oil seeds, misc. grain, seed; fruit, edible vegetables; live trees and plants; coffee, tea, mate and spices; prepared vegetables, fruits and nuts and oil seeds and grains; and sugars and sugar confectionary.

In 2012, total exports for all Nevada industry sectors broke the \$10 billion mark at \$10.26 billion. This growth seems to have slowed down in 2013 with exports totaling \$8.7 billion. This accounts for a \$1.49 billion decrease year over year from 2012. The largest decrease was seen in the precious metals and stones category, which could be explained for due to the decrease in the price of gold.

The food and agriculture sector is a very important industry with huge growth over the last decade. This is a great sector for an economic push in diversifying away from mining and gaming to better prepare the state for any future downturns.