

# CEREAL INDUSTRY

KEY INFO IN

**10**

POINTS

# 1

## ▶ CEREAL CROPS COVER NEARLY 20% OF FRANCE

Half of all French farms – over 270,000 – grow cereals. A total of 72 million tonnes (mt) of cereal is produced every year, spread over 10 million hectares, equating to 18% of France's surface area. The French cereal sector employs more than 450,000 people, half of them in the processing industry. (*Passion Céréales*)

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# 2

## ▶ FRANCE: EUROPE'S #1 CEREAL PRODUCER

In 2014, cereal output totaled 72 million tonnes (mt), worth over €11.2 billion, making France the leading producer in the European Union (EU) ahead of Germany (52 mt) and Poland (32 mt) (Eurostat, 2014). France produces a wide range of cereals: soft wheat (37.5 mt), maize (17.8 mt), barley (11.8 mt) and durum wheat (1.5 mt), as well as rye, oats, triticale, sorghum and rice. France is also Europe's leading producer of corn seed.

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# 3

## ▶ FRANCE: THE WORLD'S #2 CEREAL EXPORTER

France is the world's second largest exporter of cereals, after the United States, exporting 45% of its harvest every year. In 2015, France exported 35.8 million tonnes of grain worth €6.7 billion (figures from *Passion Céréales*). The sector is also expanding into new markets, for example exporting feed wheat to Asia.

# 4

## ▶ FRANCE: EUROPEAN LEADER IN SOFT WHEAT

From 2011 to 2015, France produced an average of 37 million tonnes (mt) of soft wheat a year over an area of 5 million hectares, or half the country's total grain-sown area. Total production amounted to a record 41 mt in 2015 (French Ministry of Agriculture figures), and is not only highly predictable, but also remarkably stable from year to year. As Europe's leading producer and exporter of soft wheat (19 mt), France exports over half its output (11 mt) to non-EU countries, particularly in north and central Africa. (*Des chiffres et des céréales*, 2016)

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# 5

## ▶ A WELL ORGANIZED FARMING SECTOR

Seventy percent of French cereals are collected by cooperatives and their subsidiaries, and the other 30% by family traders. The cooperative grain collection and supply sector comprises 165 cooperatives generating annual revenues of €17 billion. Nearly 300,000 cereal farmers deliver to collectors in the cooperative sector. (*Coop de France*)

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# 6

## ▶ FROM WHEAT TO BAGUETTE!

Every year, 5.5 million tonnes of soft wheat is made into flour, for which traditional craft bakery is France's largest outlet. On average, each French person consumes more than half a baguette every day. Agri-food businesses in the bread-making sector posted sales of €916 million in the French mass market retail sector in 2015, and over €51 million in export sales (figures from L'Alliance 7). France is Europe's leading exporter of flour. (*France agroalimentaire*)

# 7

## ▶ A WIDE RANGE OF PROCESSED PRODUCTS

From ready-to-eat cereal to aperitif cakes and biscuits, France offers a comprehensive range of processed products. In 2015, 66% of French households bought ready-to-eat cereal, export sales of which totaled nearly €230 million. (L'Alliance 7)

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# 8

## ▶ ANIMAL FEED

With nearly 300 production facilities in France, the animal nutrition industry produces nigh on 21 million tonnes (mt) of food every year (Coop de France/SNIA figures). The animal feed industry is a major buyer of French cereal, of which it uses 10 mt a year, mostly soft wheat and maize (French Ministry of Agriculture figures). The sector is the number one user of grain cereals.

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# 9

## ▶ INNOVATION IN CEREALS

There are a number of innovation clusters in the cereal sector: Terralia, specializing in durum wheat and rice; IAR, which focuses on industrial innovation in agricultural resources; Céréales Vallée, concentrating on innovation in cereals (sustainable agricultural production, human nutrition, animal feed and agricultural materials). Major industrial members of the *Céréales Vallée* cluster include Limagrain, BASF Agro and Greentech.

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# 10

## ▶ FRANCE: THE WORLD'S #2 MALTING BARLEY EXPORTER

Malting barley accounts for 30% of the annual barley harvest, or nearly 3.6 million tonnes (mt). Of this, 75% is exported. France is also the world's leading exporter of malt. The French malt sector exports 80% of its produce, equating to around 1.2 mt a year.



For further information, please visit:  
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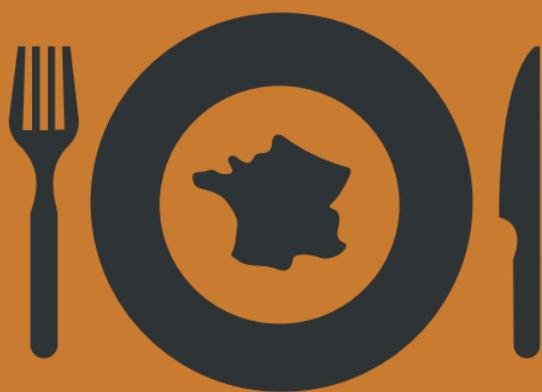
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**FRANCE: THE WORLD'S**  
**#2**  
**CEREAL EXPORTER**



**AGRI-FOOD  
INDUSTRY: FRANCE'S  
#1  
INDUSTRY**



FRANCE:  
EUROPE'S **#1**  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER



**€171 billion**  
**IN SALES, INCLUDING**  
**21% IN EXPORTS**