THE TOMATO PROCESSING INDUSTRY IN CHINA

PLANTING	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	**MAY**	**JUN**	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HARVESTING	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	**AUG**	**SEP**	OCT	NOV	DEC

Production	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**
Volume of tomatoes processed (in metric tonnes)	3 850 000	6 300 000	5 600 000
Surface planted (in hectares)	50 000	67 300	71 900
Average field yield (in t/ha)	77.0	96.6	77.9
Average tomato price (for tomato paste in €/t field gate)	59.0	62.4	59.8
Number of growers	n/a	n/a	n/a
Number of processors	> 100 but	70% by first	2 groups
Trade balance			
Tomato paste (HS 200290 in metric tonnes)	963 372	850 453	982 715
Canned tomatoes (HS 200210 in metric tonnes)	1 135	596	-2 133
Tomato sauces (HS 2103 in metric tonnes)	21 760	40 447	19 420

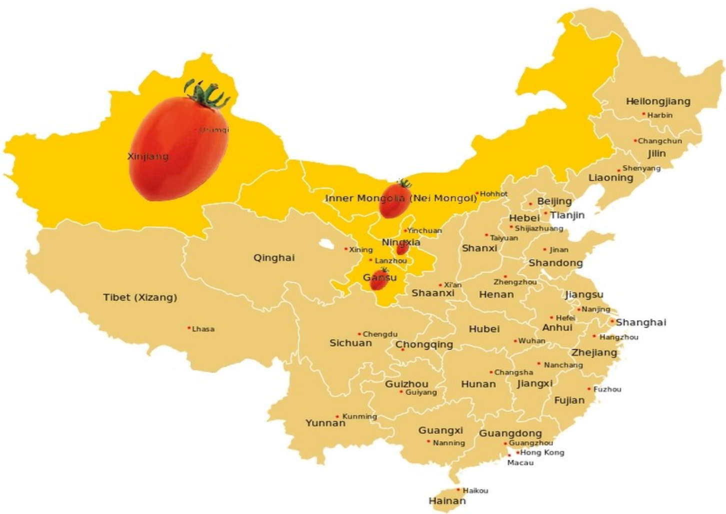
The Chinese tomato processing tomato paste industry grew rapidly from a capacity of 50 000 tonnes in 1995 to more than 12 million tonnes in the late 2010s becoming the third largest producer after the United States and Europe, and the biggest exporter of tomato paste in the world with around 1 million tonnes per year. After a peak production of around 10 million tonnes in 2009, production has contracted in recent years to 6.3 million tonnes in 2014 and 5.6 million tonnes in 2015.

Although there are over 100 tomato processing factories in china, more than 70% of the production is in the hand of the first two groups, Cofco Tunhe and Chalkis. The third and fourth processors are Guan Nong Group and the Ack Foods Group.

In 2015, the total surface planted with tomatoes was 71 900 ha. Although the most commonly used varieties are local, half of which are fixed varieties (Open Pollinated), locally bred and Heinz hybrid are progressing. Sowing is carried out in greenhouses around March 10th with planting out starting after the last frosts around May 15th. Depending on the region, the season gets under way between July 20th and the beginning of August. It lasts about 60 days, until the beginning of October. An increasing proportion of the crop (about 50%) is machine harvested. Depending on the situation, contracts are signed either with official local structures such as village authorities for an average planted area of 1 000 Mu (approximately 67 hectares), or directly with producers who rent the land that belongs to the state. Contracts determine the area to be planted as well as provisional volumes. They also set out a program for planting and harvesting, and include supplies of seeds and plant health inputs. More and more the Chinese tomato industry is breeding the seed, improving the soil and importing advanced irrigation technology to promote the further progress. Besides, with the increasing improvement on food safety, convenience and experience of the demand of the domestic consumers, their planting tomato production structure is adjusting to reform the tomato industry supply structural, improve product quality and safety, and accelerate the development of the industry.

In market terms, the Chinese tomato industry has made a rapid entrance on the international market, with export volumes rising from 100 000 tonnes in 1999 to more than 1.1 million tonnes at its peak in 2011. While Chinese exports were initially shipped to the neighboring regions in the Far East (Japan, Philippines, Korea), the trade-flow then increased with the European Union (Italy, Germany, UK) and Russia. After 2004 and 2005, Chinese processors opened up new markets for their products, especially in North Africa (Algeria) and West Africa (Nigeria, Ghana, Togo). Currently, it is this region which is the main market outlet for Chinese tomato paste.

While China is a huge consumer of fresh table tomatoes with 20 kg per capita per year, the consumption of processed tomato products is only about 1 kg, only accounting for 5% of total consumption. In recent years, the consumption of tomato products is growing at an average rate of 15% per year, through the development of new products and promotional activities. Canned tomato paste (repacked or direct filled) is the largest category consumed, accounting for 60% of consumption. The remaining categories include sauce and ketchup, diced and whole peeled, juice and lycopene, etc. While in 2010, the Chinese people consumed approximately 1.02 million metric tonnes of processed tomatoes (farm weight equivalent), the Chinese industry expects domestic consumption to reach 2 million tonnes (farm weight equivalent) by 2017.



WPTC member: CCFIA
The Chinese tomato processing industry is represented within WPTC by the China Canned Food Industry Association (CCFIA).

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