



Service bulletin

Canadian Potato Production

July 2007



Highlights

This publication contains the preliminary estimate of the area planted to potatoes in 2007.

- Canadian farmers have planted virtually the same area in potatoes this summer as they did last year, according to preliminary survey data.
- However, the survey showed that potato production is continuing its shift to the west. A substantial increase in area in Manitoba this year has offset declines in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island.
- Nationally, farmers have planted an estimated 401,500 acres in potatoes this year. This level is almost identical to last year's area based on responses to the 2006 Census of Agriculture.
- For the purposes of this release, and the accompanying table, survey data for 2007 are compared to data from the Census of Agriculture. Data on historical areas planted and harvested, as well as production numbers, will not be aligned with the census findings until the next release of Canadian potato production on November 23, 2007. Until then, caution should be used in making historical comparisons.
- Survey data showed Manitoba producers planted an estimated 89,000 acres in 2007, up 10% from the 80,631 acres reported in the census. This big gain was due to renewed processing contracts.
- All eastern provinces reduced their area. Potato area fell by 10% in both Saskatchewan and Quebec, 3% in Ontario and just over 1% in both New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Area remained stable in Alberta, and increased slightly in British Columbia.
- The decline in Quebec was the result of golden cysted nematodes. Last year's affected producers in the Montérégie region planted alternate crops this year. Other Quebec potato producers did not pick up the slack.
- Prince Edward Island still leads all provinces with 24% of the national area. It is followed closely by Manitoba, which now accounts for 22%. New Brunswick and Alberta are a distant third and fourth, with 15% and 14% respectively.

Table 1
Area planted 2006 Census of agriculture and 2007

	2006 Census		2007	
	Area planted		Area planted	
	acres	hectares	acres	hectares
Canada	401,583	162,515	401,500	162,487
Newfoundland and Labrador	805	326	800	324
Prince Edward Island	97,637	39,512	96,500	39,054
Nova Scotia	2,623	1,061	2,500	1,012
New Brunswick	59,870	24,229	59,000	23,877
Quebec	47,466	19,209	42,700	17,281
Ontario	38,155	15,441	37,000	14,974
Manitoba	80,631	32,630	89,000	36,018
Saskatchewan	11,138	4,507	10,000	4,047
Alberta	54,759	22,160	55,000	22,259
British Columbia	8,499	3,439	9,000	3,642

Statistical tables

Table 2

Area, production and farm value of potatoes (imperial measures), Canada and provinces

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Average farm price of potatoes sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Total farm value
	acres		hundredweight per acre	hundredweight		dollars per hundredweight	thousands of dollars
2004							
Canada	433,200	424,400	271.9	115,409,000	108,844,000	7.63	830,448
Newfoundland and Labrador	700	600	190.0	114,000	106,000	16.27	1,725
Prince Edward Island	106,000	105,500	275.0	29,013,000	28,548,000	5.79	165,376
Nova Scotia	5,500	5,300	235.1	1,246,000	1,185,000	9.12	10,804
New Brunswick	58,500	58,000	285.0	16,530,000	14,667,000	5.68	83,241
Quebec	47,700	46,200	265.5	12,266,000	11,230,000	7.87	88,349
Ontario	40,000	39,000	202.0	7,878,000	6,702,000	9.82	65,838
Manitoba	96,000	93,000	245.0	22,785,000	22,068,000	7.61	167,980
Saskatchewan	12,000	11,500	280.0	3,220,000	2,585,000	12.86	33,245
Alberta	58,000	57,000	350.0	19,950,000	19,596,000	8.58	168,103
British Columbia	8,800	8,300	290.0	2,407,000	2,157,000	21.23	45,787
2005							
Canada	403,100	384,000	251.8	96,706,000	94,407,000	9.75	920,341
Newfoundland and Labrador	700	600	166.0	100,000	94,000	19.58	1,841
Prince Edward Island	96,000	95,500	275.0	26,263,000	26,060,000	8.97	233,786
Nova Scotia	4,200	4,000	215.0	860,000	805,000	9.44	7,602
New Brunswick	57,000	55,500	260.0	14,430,000	13,974,000	8.91	124,556
Quebec	48,700	47,400	227.3	10,774,000	10,337,000	11.67	120,592
Ontario	36,300	35,500	162.0	5,751,000	5,578,000	12.87	71,784
Manitoba	86,000	76,000	210.0	15,960,000	15,769,000	8.05	126,873
Saskatchewan	10,000	9,900	265.0	2,624,000	2,266,000	14.26	32,319
Alberta	56,000	51,500	344.0	17,716,000	17,414,000	8.80	153,223
British Columbia	8,200	8,100	275.0	2,228,000	2,110,000	22.64	47,764
2006							
Canada	397,100	387,200	284.4	110,123,000	..	..	..
Newfoundland and Labrador	700	700	230.0	161,000	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	97,000	95,200	300.0	28,560,000	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	3,500	3,400	210.0	714,000	..	..	..
New Brunswick	58,000	57,000	300.0	17,100,000	..	..	..
Quebec	46,900	44,000	259.3	11,411,000	..	..	..
Ontario	37,000	36,000	209.0	7,524,000	..	..	..
Manitoba	81,500	80,500	270.0	21,735,000	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	10,000	9,200	270.0	2,484,000	..	..	..
Alberta	54,500	53,200	342.0	18,194,000	..	..	..
British Columbia	8,000	8,000	280.0	2,240,000	..	..	..
2007							
Canada	401,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
Newfoundland and Labrador	800	..	..	..	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	96,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	2,500	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Brunswick	59,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	42,700	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario	37,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manitoba	89,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	10,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta	55,000	..	..	..	..	..	..
British Columbia	9,000	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. not available for a specific reference period

Note(s): Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 3
Area, production and farm value of potatoes (metric measures), Canada and provinces

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Average farm price of potatoes sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Total farm value
	hectares	tonnes per hectares	tonnes		dollars per tonne	thousands of dollars	
2004							
Canada	175,316	171,755	30.48	5,234,952	4,937,164	168.21	830,448
Newfoundland and Labrador	283	243	21.30	5,171	4,808	358.69	1,725
Prince Edward Island	42,898	42,696	30.82	1,316,030	1,294,937	127.65	165,376
Nova Scotia	2,226	2,145	26.35	56,519	53,752	201.06	10,804
New Brunswick	23,675	23,473	31.94	749,801	665,295	125.22	83,241
Quebec	19,304	18,697	29.76	556,386	509,393	173.50	88,349
Ontario	16,188	15,783	22.64	357,346	304,003	216.49	65,838
Manitoba	38,851	37,637	27.46	1,033,528	1,001,004	167.77	167,980
Saskatchewan	4,856	4,654	31.38	146,059	117,256	283.51	33,245
Alberta	23,473	23,068	39.23	904,932	888,875	189.15	168,103
British Columbia	3,561	3,359	32.50	109,182	97,842	468.03	45,787
2005							
Canada	163,135	155,405	28.22	4,386,584	4,282,302	214.95	920,341
Newfoundland and Labrador	283	243	18.61	4,536	4,264	431.66	1,841
Prince Edward Island	38,851	38,649	30.82	1,191,290	1,182,082	197.75	233,786
Nova Scotia	1,700	1,619	24.10	39,010	36,515	208.11	7,602
New Brunswick	23,068	22,461	29.14	654,545	633,861	196.43	124,556
Quebec	19,709	19,183	25.48	488,709	468,886	257.28	120,592
Ontario	14,691	14,367	18.16	260,865	253,018	283.73	71,784
Manitoba	34,804	30,757	23.54	723,946	715,282	177.47	126,873
Saskatchewan	4,047	4,007	29.70	119,025	102,786	314.37	32,319
Alberta	22,663	20,842	38.56	803,598	789,899	194.00	153,223
British Columbia	3,319	3,278	30.82	101,062	95,710	499.12	47,764
2006							
Canada	160,706	156,700	31.88	4,995,179	..	..	..
Newfoundland and Labrador	283	283	25.78	7,303	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	39,256	38,527	33.62	1,295,482	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	1,416	1,376	23.54	32,387	..	..	..
New Brunswick	23,473	23,068	33.62	775,656	..	..	..
Quebec	18,980	17,807	29.06	517,603	..	..	..
Ontario	14,974	14,569	23.43	341,289	..	..	..
Manitoba	32,983	32,578	30.26	985,900	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	4,047	3,723	30.26	112,674	..	..	..
Alberta	22,056	21,530	38.33	825,280	..	..	..
British Columbia	3,238	3,238	31.38	101,606	..	..	..
2007							
Canada	162,487	..	..	..	..	..	..
Newfoundland and Labrador	324	..	..	..	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	39,054	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	1,012	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Brunswick	23,877	..	..	..	..	..	..
Quebec	17,281	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ontario	14,974	..	..	..	..	..	..
Manitoba	36,018	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	4,047	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alberta	22,258	..	..	..	..	..	..
British Columbia	3,642	..	..	..	..	..	..

.. not available for a specific reference period

Note(s): Figures may not add due to rounding.

Concepts and definitions

Area planted

Planted area refers to potato area planted in the spring of the reference year.

The preliminary potato area estimate for the current year is released in mid-July. It is based upon data from sample surveys or consultation with provincial vegetable or potato specialists.

Quebec, Ontario and Alberta: the preliminary area estimate is provided by consultation with provincial potato specialists and departments of agriculture.

Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick: estimates are produced using the Potato Area and Yield Survey. This survey is a two phase telephone probability survey. Calls are made in June for area and again in October for area harvested and production.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia: estimates are produced using the Spring Fruit and Vegetable Area Survey, the June Crop Survey and the June Atlantic Agriculture Survey, as well as consultation with the provincial potato and vegetable specialists.

Revisions may be made to July's area estimate the following November. The sources for these revised estimates are as follows:

Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick: the previous year's area may be revised as a result of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's disposition data indicating a significantly different production. Area planted estimates for the current year may be revised in relation to the previous year's adjusted area. The Potato area and Yield Survey also asks for confirmation of planted area when calls are made for the yield in the fall.

Quebec, Ontario and Alberta: area planted is collected through each province's own survey program.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia: the Potato Area and Yield Survey supplies information on the area planted.

Area harvested

This series was incorporated in 1985 for all provinces except Quebec and Ontario, where the series became available beginning in 1993. It is calculated by subtracting unharvested area from area planted. Revisions to area planted will automatically result in revisions to area harvested if area lost remains constant. It indicates the area not harvested because of poor harvest conditions, crop failure or disease. For years prior to 1985 and for Quebec and Ontario prior to 1993, unharvested area was accounted for in the total production with production for that area placed at zero.

Area harvested is released in November of the current year. Revisions can be made to the previous year's area harvested at the same time.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia: the Potato Area and Yield Survey determines the area lost.

Quebec, Ontario and Alberta: area lost is collected through each province's own survey program.

Yield

Yield is a measure of production from the harvested area based on the volume produced, including cull potatoes, but excluding product left in the field.

Both current and revised yields are released in the November issue of the Canadian Potato Production Bulletin.

Sources of data for each province are:

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia: estimates are based on responses to the Potato Area and Yield Survey. Calls are made in late October and early November of the current year.

Quebec, Ontario and Alberta: yield is collected through each province's own survey program.

Yields may be revised the following January. Later survey results from the provincial ministries or administrative data might indicate a revision is necessary. Only unusual circumstances would indicate another revision to this production the following July.

Total production

Total production, the product of area harvested by the average yield, is the volume of potatoes harvested out of the field, including culls, but excluding gleanings.

The production estimate is released in November of the current year. Any revisions to production resulting from new information or supply disposition data can be made the following January or one year later in the following November. (See concepts for yield).

Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock

This series was established in 1982. From 1986, the series includes the amount fed to livestock. It measures the volume of potatoes sold, consumed on farm, seed for own use, plus potatoes fed to livestock. If potatoes were destroyed and producers received funds as part of a diversion program, these potatoes would be considered sold and included in the amount utilized. Starting with the 1999 crop, all potatoes that are being shipped to French Fry processors are being included in the volume sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock. No cullage is being deducted from these marketings. These numbers are released each November for the previous crop year.

Newfoundland and Labrador: the amount is set at 90% of the harvested production.

Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick: the Canadian Food Inspection Agencies inspection staff provides a monthly estimate of cullage and marketings.

Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia: the amount is based on consultation with provincial specialists and marketing agencies.

Quebec: the amount is collected through their province's survey program.

Average price

The average price for potatoes is based on the transaction price **received** by the producer. If a portion of the crop is being utilized but the producer is receiving no compensation for that portion of the crop, the price is averaged into the average price at a zero value. The price is net of all deductions made before the producer is paid. The average price is released each November for the previous year's crop.

Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia: annual prices are established in consultation with provincial specialists and as a result of the Fall Survey of Fruit and Vegetables.

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia: Statistics Canada conducts a monthly survey of potato prices received by producers. These prices are then multiplied by the monthly disposition of each of the grades of these potatoes to create an annual weighted price.

Quebec: the average price is collected through the provincial survey program and the Farm Product Prices Survey (Survey 3436).

Farm value

Farm value is the product of the amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock by the average farm price. (See concepts section "**Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock**" and "**Average price**"). The farm value is released each November for the previous year's crop.

Methodology and data quality

Potato area and yield survey (Survey 3446)

Survey frame and sample selection

The target population includes all potato farms in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia except those on Indian Reserves and institutional farms.

The Census of Agriculture provides a list of farms and their potato area. This list is updated annually from various available sources. The list frame is stratified on the basis of Census potato area and provincial geographic boundaries.

A sample of approximately 801 farms (59 Newfoundland and Labrador, 37 Nova Scotia, 250 in Prince Edward Island, 155 in New Brunswick, 167 in Manitoba, 95 in Saskatchewan and 38 in British Columbia) is drawn from the list frame for the Potato Area and Yield Survey.

The yield portion of the survey is conducted in October to confirm area planted and to ask for area harvested and production. Operations that had reported no potatoes in June are not contacted a second time.

Data collection

Data collection for the seeded potato area was done by telephone interview, from June 19 to June 29, 2006 and for the yield portion between October 18 to November 13, 2006.

By the end of the collection period, about 84% of the questionnaires had been completed. The refusal rate to the survey was about 3.0%. Non-contact and non-response can explain the difference between the completion rate and the refusal rate. Initial sample weights are adjusted (a process called raising factor adjustment) in cases of non-response. No imputation is performed.

Estimation

The survey data collected from the Potato Area and Yield Survey are weighted in order to produce level indicators which are representative of the population. These level indicators then undergo a validation process, based on subject matter analysis and consultation with provincial specialists, before an estimate is determined.

Sampling and non-sampling errors

The statistics contained in this publication are based on a random sample of agricultural operations and, as such, are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. The overall quality of the estimates depends on the combined effect of these two types of errors.

Sampling errors arise because estimates are derived from sample data and not the entire population. These errors depend on factors such as sample size, sampling design and the method of estimation.

Non-sampling errors are not related to sampling and may occur throughout the survey operation for various reasons like coverage, differences in interpretation of questions, incorrect information from respondents, mistakes in recording, coding or processing of data.

Data quality

Sampling error can be estimated from the sample itself by using a statistical measure called the coefficient of variation (cv). Over repeated surveys, 95 times out of 100, the difference between a sample estimate and what should have been obtained from an enumeration of all potato farming operations would be less than twice the coefficient of variation. This range of values is referred to as confidence interval. While published estimates may not exactly equal the level indicators (due to the validation and consultation process), these estimates do remain within the confidence interval of the survey level indicators.

For the 2006 area estimates, the cv's from the Potato Area and Yield Survey ranged from 3.6% to 25.7%.

For the 2006 yield estimates, the cv's ranged from 1.1% to 10.2%.

Farm product prices survey (Survey 3436)

Survey frame and sample selection

The target population for Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia consists of all agricultural operations in these provinces which grow potatoes. The Census of Agriculture provides a list of such farms and is updated from various available sources. The list frame is stratified on the basis of the area of potatoes reported on the 2001 Census. A sample of approximately 500 farms is drawn from the list frame and is rotated as required.

Data collection

Data collection is carried out by telephone interview five business days following the 15th of every month with a reference date of the 15th. The refusal rate is usually less than 5%. No imputations are performed. Editing is done following data capture and outliers are verified and removed if necessary from the sample. A simple average is calculated on the remaining data.

Fall Survey of Fruits & Vegetables (Survey 3407)

Survey Frame and Sample Selection

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia - This new national annual survey contacts about 1000 fruit or vegetable growers in Newfoundland and in Nova Scotia.

The target population is all agricultural operations in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. The Census of Agriculture provides a list of farms which is updated from various available sources.

Data Collection

Data collection is carried out using a CATI application in November. No imputations are performed. Editing is done and outliers are removed. A high response is expected.

Revision procedures

Area, yield, production, price or value are all subject to revision when more information becomes available. The policy is to revise the estimates when:

- supply/disposition analysis at the end of the crop year indicates under or over-estimation of production; or
- a new benchmark for area becomes available from the Census of Agriculture; or
- new sources of administrative data would suggest errors to any survey results.

The tables below contain some statistics which indicate the magnitude and direction of past revision from the preliminary to the final (following intercensal revisions) seeded potato area and total production. The magnitude is measured by the average percent change between the preliminary and final estimates. The direction of revisions is indicated by counting the number of years that the preliminary estimate is above or below the final revised estimate.

The data indicates that the preliminary estimates of seeded area have been revised upward 9 years out of the past 10 by an average of 2.02% at the Canadian level. See Table 4.

Table 4
Magnitude and direction of past revisions to Canadian seeded potato area 1996 to 2005

	Number of years seeded area was revised		Average percentage change
	Upwards	Downwards	
	years		percentage
Magnitude and direction of past revisions	9	1	2.02

The data indicates that the preliminary estimates of harvested production at the Canadian level have been revised upward by an average 2.15% over the past years. In 9 of the past 10 years, the revision has been upwards. See Table 5.

Table 5
Magnitude and direction of past revisions to Canadian harvested production 1996 to 2005

	Number of years harvested production was revised		Average percentage change
	Upwards	Downwards	
	years		percentage
Magnitude and direction of past revisions	9	1	2.15

Conversion factors

The following metric conversion factors are used in this publication:

Area: 1 acre = 0.4047 hectare

Production: 1 cwt = 0.04536 tonne

To convert area from imperial to metric, provincial acreages are first converted, then the individual provinces are added for the Canadian total area in hectares. The Canadian acreage may not directly convert to the Canadian area in hectares.

The same method is used for production. Provincial cwts. are converted to provincial tonnes, which are then added for the Canadian production in tonnes.

The Canadian yield in tonnes is the result of the total production in tonnes divided by the Canadian hectares. The yield in cwts/acre may not be directly convertible to the yield in tonnes/hectare.

The average farm price at the Canadian level in \$/tonne is the farm value divided by the marketed production in tonnes. The price in \$/cwt may not convert directly to the price in \$/tonne.

Data confidentiality

Data confidentiality is ensured under the Statistics Act, which prohibits the divulging of individual or aggregated data where individuals or businesses might be identified.

Release date: July 2007

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 ^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

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