



Statistical Overview of the Canadian Greenhouse Vegetable Industry

2016

Prepared by:

Market Analysis and Information Section Horticulture and Cross Sectoral Division Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada November 2017















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Overview

The Canadian greenhouse vegetable sector is the largest and fastest growing segment of Canadian horticulture. Greenhouse farming produces agricultural products in self-contained 'controlled environments' with systems supplying heat, water and nutrients, and often employing artificial lighting (in addition to sunlight) to nourish the plants. This method of farming requires investment in infrastructure and a strong understanding of the technology. In the early 1990s, Canada emerged as the largest producer of greenhouse products in North America. The United States and Mexico later become important greenhouse producers.

Canada's greenhouse industry produces tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, peppers, green beans, eggplants and various herbs and microgreen vegetables. Of these commodities, tomatoes, cucumber and peppers are the main greenhouse vegetable crop grown in Canada.

The total harvested area of greenhouse vegetables in Canada was over 15 million square metres in 2016, which was up 7% from the previous year. There has been a steady increase in the harvested area of greenhouse vegetables in Canada over the last five years.

Ontario continued to lead the greenhouse vegetable sector in 2016, representing 70% of the total harvested area in Canada, followed by British Columbia and Quebec with 20% and 6%, respectively. Moreover, Ontario also produced 69% of Canada's greenhouse vegetables, with British Columbia (15%) and Quebec (6%) ranked second and third. The total production of greenhouse vegetables in Canada was over 600,000 metric tonnes.

The farm gate value (FGV)¹ of Canada's greenhouse vegetables in 2016 was over \$1.3 billion, which was 4% higher than in 2015 and 27% higher than in 2012. Tomatoes accounted for 41% (\$544 million) of the total greenhouse vegetable FGV, followed by peppers and cucumbers, which accounted for 31% (\$420 million) and 25% (\$334 million), respectively.

Canadian greenhouse vegetable farms use both seasonal and permanent employees. Seasonal employees are employees who work less than eight months during the year, while permanent employees work more than eight months during the year. The total number of employees of specialized greenhouse operations has been relatively stable over the past five years. In 2016, 11,190 people were employed in the greenhouse vegetable sector: 6,520 permanent employees and 4,671 seasonal employees. Ontario itself accounted for 66% of the total number of greenhouse operation employees in Canada.

The value of greenhouse vegetable exports is the highest of all fresh produce (fruits, vegetables and potatoes) in Canada, accounting for 39% of all fresh produce exports. The total value of Canada's greenhouse vegetable exports grew for the fifth consecutive year, up 49% from 2012 to a record \$863 million in 2016. Tomatoes accounted for 40% of the total value of exports, followed by peppers with 37%. The United States has been Canada's main export destinations for greenhouse vegetables for the past five years. In 2016, the value of exports to the United States accounted for 99.5% of all Canadian greenhouse vegetable exports.

In 2016, Canada imported \$460 million of greenhouse vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and lettuce). The top two greenhouse vegetable import sources were Mexico, accounting for \$394 million and the United States, accounting for \$42 million. Tomatoes (52%) are the largest imported commodity, followed by peppers (38%) and cucumbers (10%).

¹ The "farm gate" value is the pricing point of production, excluding charges for transport or delivery.



1. Production

1.1. Number of greenhouse vegetable operations¹ by province

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Atlantic provinces ²	50	50	45	40	38
Quebec	240	235	195	242	247
Ontario	235	230	230	350	355
Prairie provinces ²	85	85	80	106	113
British Columbia	135	135	130	125	125
Canada	745	735	680	863	878

Notes:

Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0047)

1.2. Harvested area of greenhouse vegetables by province (square metres)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,522	3,018	3,235	4,296	647
Prince Edward Island	х	1,236	1,398	х	х
Nova Scotia	51,554	63,959	67,577	77,992	х
New Brunswick	x	х	х	5,042	121
Ontario	8,946,414	9,536,949	9,648,343	10,061,138	10,786,891
Quebec	813,802	974,967	909,517	951,534	914,546
Manitoba	6,778	6,595	835	5,245	496
Saskatchewan	4,575	15,250	12,978	14,139	2,003
Alberta	520,013	541,095	530,301	544,222	547,626
British Columbia	2,890,257	2,953,999	3,014,961	2,881,096	3,042,197
Canada	13,342,785	14,159,519	14,234,970	14,592,089	15,624,257

x: Too unreliable to be published or suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

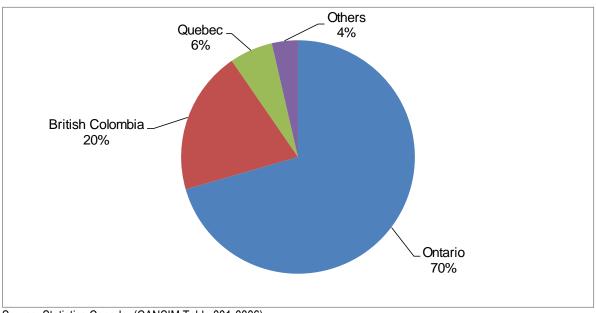
Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0006)

^{1.} Number of operations represents the number of specialized greenhouse vegetable and fruit operations and includes all other types of enclosed protection used for growing plants, such as rigid insulation, mine shafts, barns and shelters. Mixed operations (vegetables, flowers and plants) are excluded.

^{2.} Due to confidentiality reasons, provincial breakdowns for Atlantic and Prairie provinces are not shown.



1.3. Harvested area of greenhouse vegetables by province – percent share, 2016



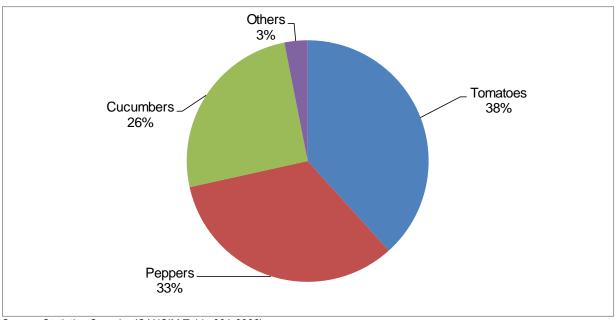
Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0006)

1.4. Harvested area of greenhouse vegetables by commodity (square metres)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
Tomatoes	5,313,632	5,626,969	5,540,991	5,513,834	5,984,704			
Peppers	4,546,257	4,887,414	4,951,039	4,940,681	5,190,564			
Cucumbers	3,273,983	3,462,182	3,544,037	3,739,157	3,964,710			
Lettuce	208,913	182,954	198,903	187,343	174,510			
Other fresh fruits and vegetables	0	0	0	211,074	168,659			
Eggplants			0	0	89,691			
Chinese vegetables			0	0	51,104			
Herbs			0	0	270			
Green beans			0	0	45			
Grand Total	13,342,785	14,159,519	14,234,970	14,592,089	15,624,257			
Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0006)								



1.5. Harvested area of greenhouse vegetables by commodity – percent share, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0006)

1.6. Greenhouse vegetable production by province (metric tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Newfoundland and Labrador	9	16	25	10	7
Prince Edward Island	x	x	66	х	х
Nova Scotia	1,943	2,763	2,668	3,089	1,250
New Brunswick	x	27	24	29	1
Quebec ¹	22,777	21,764	20,495	2,432	35,590
Ontario	385,363	408,398	420,341	415,558	416,352
Manitoba	162	178	24	152	3
Saskatchewan	86	210	162	186	26
Alberta	23,115	20,769	22,357	22,091	23,307
British Columbia	115,073	130,325	124,256	114,652	94,471
Canada	551,714	585,617	590,986	578,136	605,648

Notes:

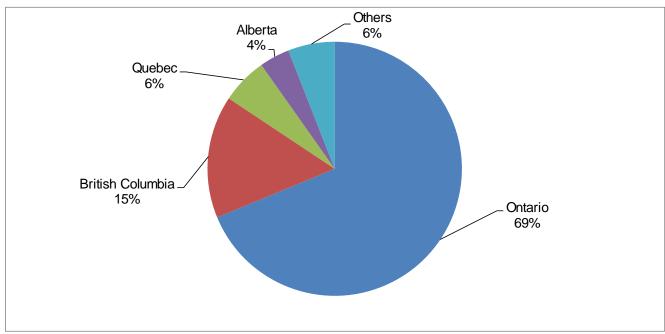
Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0006)

^{1.} Data for greenhouse tomatoes in 2015 are not included because they are too unreliable to be published.

x: Too unreliable to be published or suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.



1.7. Greenhouse vegetable production by province - percent share, 2016



Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0006)

1.8. Greenhouse vegetable production by commodity (metric tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Tomatoes	272,992	282,809	280,332	261,677	276,091
Peppers	111,991	128,274	130,294	134,644	135,957
Cucumbers	166,731	174,534	180,360	181,814	177,872
Lettuce ¹					12,171
Eggplants					2,872
Chinese vegetables					680
Fresh herbs					4
Green beans					0
Total	551,714	585,617	590,986	578,136	605,648

Notes:

Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0006)

^{1.} Prior to 2016, the production of lettuce was reported in heads. These series are now terminated.

^{..} Not available.



1.9. Farm gate value of greenhouse vegetables by province (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Newfoundland and Labrador	22	83	83	105	38
Prince Edward Island	х	15	211	х	X
Nova Scotia	4,699	7,302	7,503	8,433	8,012
New Brunswick	х	111	90	244	24
Quebec ¹	80,913	86,011	86,678	37,468	96,131
Ontario	678,383	767,501	803,226	826,257	859,787
Manitoba	651	703	87	609	82
Saskatchewan	398	1,194	873	1,386	715
Alberta	50,545	52,275	52,114	53,584	54,689
British Columbia	231,049	299,792	290,743	302,208	311,552
Canada	1,055,981	1,222,150	1,249,671	1,297,089	1,343,625

Notes:

1.10. Farm gate value of greenhouse vegetables by commodity (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
Tomatoes	437,649	516,656	507,098	514,251	544,494			
Peppers	313,357	377,329	398,699	426,170	419,737			
Cucumbers	281,791	299,170	312,127	311,264	334,185			
Lettuce	23,184	28,994	31,748	29,642	28,152			
Eggplants	0	0	0	0	7,757			
Other fruits or vegetables	0	0	0	15,762	4,472			
Herbs	0	0	0	0	3,350			
Chinese vegetables	0	0	0	0	1,126			
Green beans	0	0	0	0	353			
Total	1,055,981	1,222,150	1,249,671	1,297,089	1,343,625			
Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0006)								

^{1.} Data for greenhouse tomatoes in 2015 are not included because they are too unreliable to be published.

x: Too unreliable to be published or suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act.* Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0006)



2. Labour

2.1. Total number of employees of specialized greenhouse vegetable operations

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Atlantic provinces	Seasonal employees ¹	125	140	96	53	45
	Permanent employees ²	70	73	52	58	54
	Total employees	195	213	148	111	99
Quebec	Seasonal employees ¹	890	596	496	467	549
	Permanent employees ²	1,055	720	698	800	758
	Total employees	1,945	1,316	1,194	1,267	1,307
Ontario	Seasonal employees ¹	3,856	3,564	3,708	3,380	3,231
	Permanent employees ²	2,765	2,610	2,977	3,400	4,183
	Total employees	6,621	6,174	6,685	6,780	7,414
Prairie provinces	Seasonal employees ¹	190	104	96	120	136
	Permanent employees ²	470	438	399	385	392
	Total employees	660	542	495	505	528
British Columbia	Seasonal employees ¹	1,180	1,156	1,058	940	710
	Permanent employees ²	1,360	1,180	1,387	1,265	1,133
	Total employees	2,540	2,336	2,445	2,205	1,843
Canada	Seasonal employees ¹	6,241	5,560	5,454	4,960	4,671
	Permanent employees ²	5,720	5,021	5,513	5,908	6,520
	Total employees	11,961	10,581	10,967	10,868	11,191

Notes:

Source: Statistics Canada. (CANSIM Table 001-0055)

^{1.} Seasonal employees who worked less than 8 months during the year.

^{2.} Permanent employees who worked more than 8 months during the year.



3. Trade

3.1. Canadian greenhouse vegetable trade balance (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Exports	578,802	724,057	730,134	827,500	863,190	
Import	222,591	259,074	309,934	369,772	460,372	
Trade Balance						
(Exports - Imports)	356,211	464,983	420,200	457,728	402,818	
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, June 2017)						

3.2. Exports

3.2.1. Canada's greenhouse vegetable exports by commodity – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Tomatoes	265,396	315,472	297,957	311,310	341,722	
Cucumbers and gherkins	204,582	248,240	269,726	329,947	318,028	
Cucumbers	108,824	160,346	162,451	186,242	203,440	
Total	578,802	724,057	730,134	827,500	863,190	
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, June 2017)						

3.2.2. Canada's greenhouse vegetable exports by commodity – volume (metric tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
Tomatoes	131,845	126,869	133,955	125,327	140,145	
Cucumbers and gherkins	60,241	77,938	77,485	93,631	96,423	
Peppers	65,377	73,858	76,685	82,317	83,147	
Total	257,463	278,666	288,125	301,275	319,715	
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, June 2017)						



3.2.3. Canada's greenhouse vegetable exports by province – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
Prince Edward Island	4	0	3	0	7			
Nova Scotia	19	13	9	3	1			
New Brunswick	0	1	2	3	8			
Québec	3,446	5,267	3,238	5,766	6,970			
Ontario	448,388	583,889	579,985	654,262	684,994			
Manitoba	1	0	0	0	0			
Alberta	546	187	278	378	620			
British Columbia	126,389	134,699	146,618	167,087	170,591			
Total	578,792	724,057	730,134	827,500	863,190			
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, June 2017)								

3.2.4. Canada's greenhouse vegetable exports by province – volume (metric tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016				
Prince Edward Island	1	0	1	0	2				
Nova Scotia	6	4	3	1	0				
New Brunswick	0	0	1	1	2				
Québec	3,025	3,786	2,422	4,370	4,394				
Ontario	197,008	217,267	232,563	247,821	264,560				
Manitoba	0	0	0	0	0				
Alberta	657	115	227	206	354				
British Columbia	56,764	57,494	52,909	48,876	50,402				
Total	257,460	278,666	288,125	301,275	319,715				
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET,	Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, June 2017)								



3.2.5. Greenhouse vegetable destinations by commodity – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
United States	Tomatoes	264,822	314,052	297,110	309,363	337,716
	Peppers	204,535	248,221	269,679	329,693	317,652
	Cucumbers and gherkins	108,823	160,337	162,330	186,202	203,411
	Total	578,181	722,610	729,119	825,258	858,780
Japan	Tomatoes	561	1,265	632	1,539	3,442
	Peppers	0	0	0	0	15
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	2	17	0
	Total	561	1,265	635	1,556	3,456
Taiwan	Tomatoes	2	137	161	261	503
	Peppers	1	0	0	0	10
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	4	0	0
	Total	2	137	165	261	513
Hong Kong	Peppers	0	0	6	174	316
	Tomatoes	2	6	47	136	51
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	6	6	7
	Total	2	6	58	316	373
United Kingdom	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	7	108	0	20
	Tomatoes	0	0	0	0	0
	Peppers	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	7	108	0	20
Other countries	Peppers	46	19	42	80	36
	Tomatoes	9	12	6	12	11
	Cucumbers and gherkins	1	1	1	17	1
	Total	56	29	49	108	48
Total	Cucumbers and gherkins	265,431	315,480	298,059	311,417	342,032
	Tomatoes	204,547	248,239	269,732	329,841	317,739
	Peppers	108,824	160,338	162,343	186,242	203,419
	Total	578,802	724,057	730,134	827,500	863,190
Source: Statistics Can	ada (CATSNET, June 2017)					



3.2.6. Greenhouse vegetable destinations by commodity – volume (metric tonnes)

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
United States	Tomatoes	131,647	126,423	133,702	124,689	138,829
	Cucumbers and gherkins	60,241	77,935	77,440	93,615	96,414
	Peppers	65,357	73,853	76,668	82,243	83,024
	Total	257,245	278,210	287,810	300,547	318,266
Japan	Tomatoes	194	397	183	505	1,135
	Peppers	0	0	0	0	4
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	1	6	0
	Total	194	397	184	511	1,139
Taiwan	Tomatoes	1	44	53	84	161
	Peppers	0	0	0	0	3
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	1	0	0
	Total	1	44	54	84	164
Hong Kong	Peppers	0	0	2	52	93
	Tomatoes	1	2	14	45	16
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	2	2	2
	Total	1	2	18	99	112
United Kingdom	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	3	40	0	6
	Tomatoes	0	0	0	0	0
	Peppers	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	3	40	0	6
Other countries	Peppers	19	5	15	23	24
	Tomatoes	3	4	2	4	3
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	0	7	0
	Total	22	9	18	33	27
Total	Tomatoes	131,845	126,869	133,955	125,327	140,145
	Cucumbers and gherkins	60,241	77,938	77,485	93,631	96,423
	Peppers	65,377	73,858	76,685	82,317	83,147
	Total	257,463	278,666	288,125	301,275	319,715
Source: Statistics Can	nada (CATSNET, June 2017)		<u> </u>			



3.3. Imports

3.3.1. Canada's greenhouse vegetable imports by commodity – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
Tomatoes	123,064	138,271	159,233	194,890	239,834			
Peppers	77,577	91,886	108,055	129,741	172,924			
Cucumbers and gherkins	21,598	28,076	41,971	44,348	46,892			
Lettuce	353	841	674	794	721			
Total	222,591	259,074	309,934	369,772	460,372			
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, June 2017)								

3.3.2. Canada's greenhouse vegetable imports by commodity -volume (metric tonnes)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
Tomatoes	57,006	64,215	64,192	70,712	83,719		
Peppers	30,764	35,074	37,998	38,086	45,415		
Cucumbers and gherkins	15,696	18,936	27,157	25,063	25,312		
Lettuce	258	418	247	284	317		
Total	103,724	118,643	129,593	134,144	154,763		
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, June 2017)							



3.3.3. Greenhouse vegetable import sources – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Mexico	Tomatoes	104,166	122,513	143,632	174,814	211,702
	Peppers	68,908	84,192	95,804	105,933	144,721
	Cucumbers and gherkins	17,664	22,702	33,664	33,742	37,939
	Lettuce	2	2	11	5	9
	Total	190,740	229,410	273,111	314,495	394,371
United States	Tomatoes	17,177	13,987	14,932	19,577	27,593
	Peppers	980	1,504	2,423	4,776	7,224
	Cucumbers and gherkins	3,047	3,434	6,423	8,134	6,186
	Lettuce	307	800	630	762	689
	Total	21,511	19,724	24,408	33,249	41,692
Spain	Peppers	2,851	3,442	5,674	14,807	16,032
	Cucumbers and gherkins	433	1,720	903	2,114	2,135
	Tomatoes	0	0	0	23	110
	Lettuce	0	1	0	0	0
	Total	3,284	5,162	6,578	16,943	18,278
Israel	Peppers	1,158	699	1,229	1,633	1,752
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	0	0	22
	Tomatoes	98	0	3	13	0
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1,255	699	1,232	1,646	1,774
Guatemala	Peppers	55	181	267	667	677
	Tomatoes	757	1,312	445	146	98
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Cucumbers and gherkins	101	3	0	0	0
	Total	914	1,495	713	813	774
Other countries	Peppers	3,625	1,868	2,657	1,925	2,519
	Cucumbers and gherkins	352	218	981	357	610
	Tomatoes	866	459	221	317	331
	Lettuce	44	38	33	27	22
	Total	4,887	2,584	3,892	2,627	3,482
Total	Tomatoes	123,064	138,271	159,233	194,890	239,834
	Peppers	77,577	91,886	108,055	129,741	172,924
	Cucumbers and gherkins	21,598	28,076	41,971	44,348	46,892
	Lettuce	353	841	674	794	721
	Total	222,591	259,074	309,934	369,772	460,372
Source: Statistics Car	nada (CATSNET, June 2017)		-:			



3.3.4. Greenhouse vegetable import sources – volume (metric tonnes)

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Mexico	Tomatoes	48,551	56,937	57,867	63,058	73,400
	Peppers	27,656	32,565	33,811	31,908	38,079
	Cucumbers and gherkins	13,528	16,071	23,326	20,583	21,693
	Lettuce	2	1	4	1	4
	Total	89,736	105,574	115,008	115,550	133,177
United States	Tomatoes	7,848	6,415	6,062	7,400	10,138
	Cucumbers and gherkins	1,684	1,592	2,897	3,151	2,362
	Peppers	416	559	921	1,317	1,994
	Lettuce	229	394	237	278	309
	Total	10,177	8,960	10,118	12,146	14,804
Spain	Peppers	977	1,077	1,565	3,722	4,039
	Cucumbers and gherkins	261	1,162	434	1,149	951
	Tomatoes	0	0	0	14	33
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1,238	2,240	2,000	4,885	5,023
Israel	Peppers	147	219	985	337	171
	Cucumbers and gherkins	3	16	72	25	58
	Tomatoes	0	33	1	15	38
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	150	269	1,059	377	268
Guatemala	Peppers	430	190	405	421	490
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	0	0	12
	Tomatoes	19	0	0	3	0
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	450	190	406	424	502
Other countries	Peppers	1,138	463	309	380	642
	Cucumbers and gherkins	220	95	427	154	235
	Tomatoes	587	830	261	223	110
	Lettuce	28	22	6	4	3
	Total	1,973	1,410	1,002	762	990
Total	Tomatoes	57,006	64,215	64,192	70,712	83,719
	Peppers	30,764	35,074	37,998	38,086	45,415
	Cucumbers and gherkins	15,696	18,936	27,157	25,063	25,312
	Lettuce	258	418	247	284	317
	Total	103,724	118,643	129,593	134,144	154,763



4. Key Resources

- Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 001-0006
- Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 001-0047
- Statistics Canada. CANSIM Table 001-0055
- Statistics Canada. CATSNET