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Statistical Overview of the Canadian Greenhouse Vegetable Industry **2017**

Prepared by:
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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
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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 crops grown in Canada.

In 2017, there were a total of 887 commercial greenhouse vegetable operations with 17 million square metres of production area which produced over 634,000 metric tonnes of vegetables. There has been a steady increase in greenhouse vegetable production in Canada and it is anticipated that acreages in greenhouse vegetable production will continue the multi-decade trend of growth. Ontario continued to lead the greenhouse vegetable sector in 2017, representing 69% of the total production and harvested area in Canada, followed by British Columbia and Quebec with 19% and 6%, respectively.

The farm gate value (FGV)¹ of Canada's greenhouse vegetables in 2017 was over \$1.4 billion, which was 7% higher than in 2016 and 17% higher than in 2013. Tomatoes accounted for 39% (\$557 million) of the total greenhouse vegetable FGV, followed by peppers and cucumbers, which accounted for 30% (\$422 million) and 27% (\$383 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 2017, 12,568 people were employed in the greenhouse vegetable sector: 7,258 permanent employees and 5,310 seasonal employees. Ontario itself accounted for 64% 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 42% of all fresh produce exports. The total value of Canada's greenhouse vegetable exports grew for the fifth consecutive year, up 33% from 2013 to a record \$964 million in 2017. Tomatoes accounted for 41% of the total value of exports, followed by peppers with 34%. The United States has been Canada's main export destinations for greenhouse vegetables for the past five years. In 2017, the value of exports to the United States accounted for 99% of all Canadian greenhouse vegetable exports.

In 2017, Canada imported \$384 million worth of greenhouse vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and lettuce). The top two greenhouse vegetable import sources were Mexico, accounting for 88% and the United States, accounting for 9%. Tomatoes (51%) are the largest imported commodity, followed by peppers (37%) and cucumbers (12%).

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Atlantic provinces ²	55	52	54	52	52
Quebec	235	240	242	247	250
Ontario	305	310	315	323	330
Prairie provinces ²	90	95	100	107	101
British Columbia	135	140	150	160	154
Canada	820	837	861	894	887

Notes:

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.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0019-01 Estimates of specialized greenhouse operations, greenhouse area, and months of operation

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

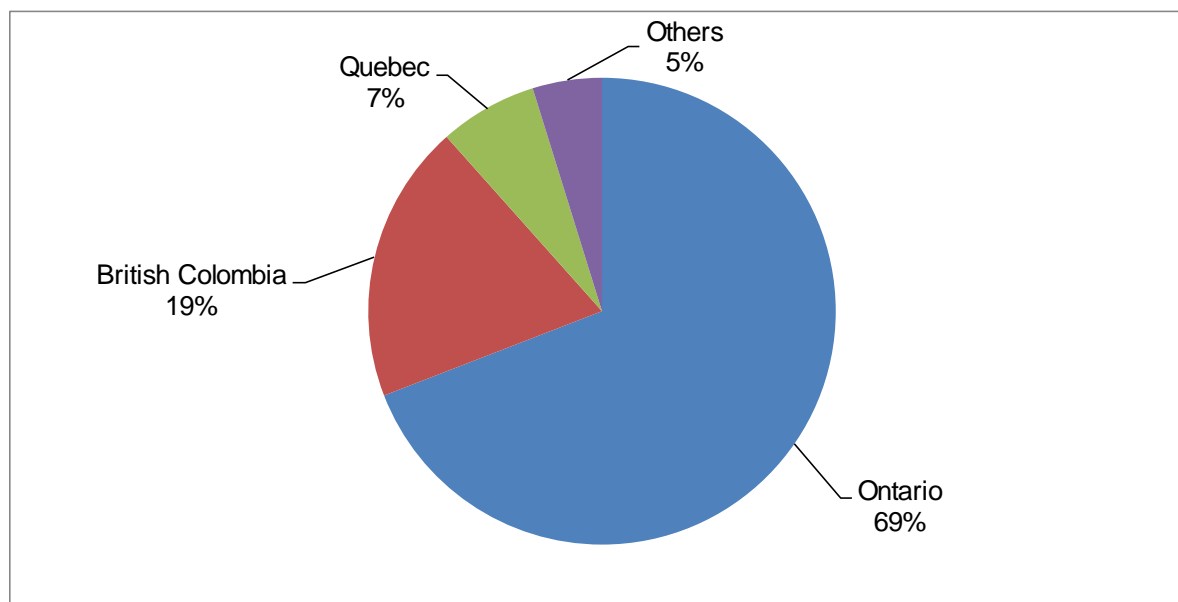
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,390	3,235	5,132	647	5,900
Prince Edward Island	1,236	1,398	x	x	13,531
Nova Scotia	63,959	67,577	77,992	x	83,556
New Brunswick	x	x	5,042	121	4,086
Ontario	974,967	890,937	951,534	915,475	1,145,549
Quebec	9,536,954	9,648,346	10,061,143	10,972,697	11,668,355
Manitoba	6,595	835	5,245	496	6,955
Saskatchewan	15,250	12,978	14,139	2,003	15,954
Alberta	541,095	530,301	544,222	547,626	640,512
British Columbia	2,954,000	3,014,962	2,881,096	3,088,435	3,258,893
Canada	14,159,525	14,216,767	14,592,933	15,928,094	16,882,095

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

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables



1.3. Harvested area of greenhouse vegetables by province – percent share, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tomatoes	5,626,971	5,540,993	5,513,837	5,990,278	6,325,725
Peppers	4,887,045	4,951,041	4,940,683	5,385,939	5,625,383
Cucumbers	3,462,183	3,544,039	3,739,159	4,005,746	4,358,064
Lettuce	183,326	180,694	187,343	174,696	209,183
Eggplants	..	..	..	90,123	109,631
Herbs	..	..	..	26,922	88,571
Other fruits or vegetables	..	..	211,911	194,393	85,214
Chinese vegetables	..	..	..	55,471	48,740
Microgreens and shoots	..	..	..	..	16,773
Sprouts	..	..	..	..	8,181
Beans (green and wax)	..	..	..	4,526	6,630
Total¹	14,159,525	14,216,767	14,592,933	15,928,094	16,882,095

Note:

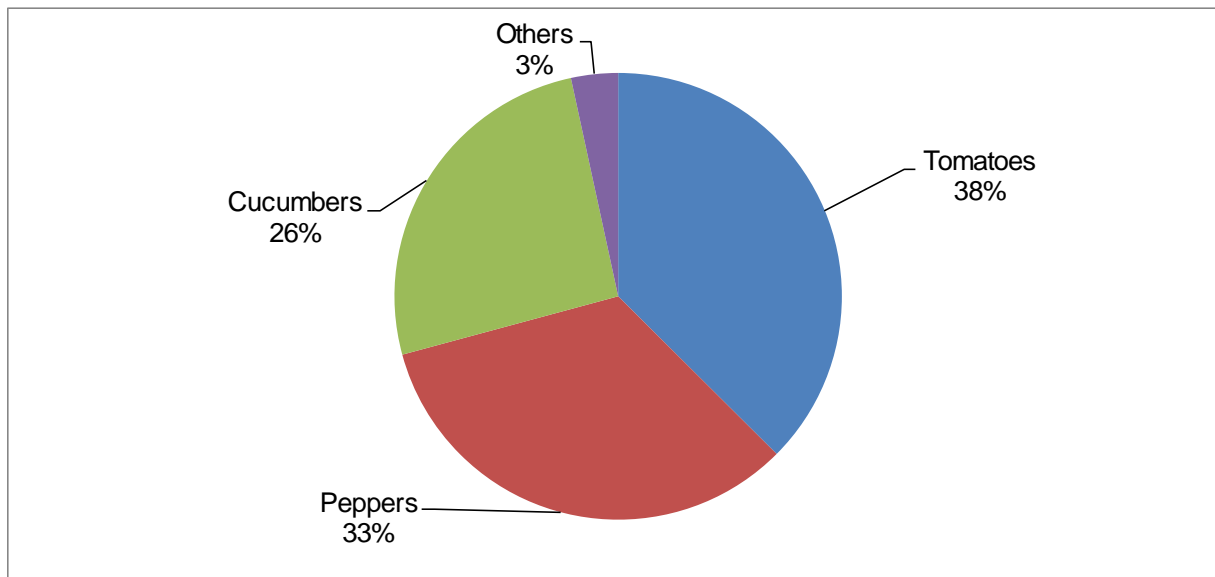
1. Totals may not add up as some data was suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

.. : Not available or too unreliable to be published.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables



1.5. Harvested area of greenhouse vegetables by commodity – percent share, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables

1.6. Greenhouse vegetable production by province (metric tonnes)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Newfoundland and Labrador	31	25	10	3	8
Prince Edward Island	1	48	-	-	2
Nova Scotia	2,764	2,670	3,090	1,248	2,914
New Brunswick	27	24	29	1	-
Quebec	25,007	24,030	6,110	27,938	38,772
Ontario	408,398	420,341	420,081	424,451	438,674
Manitoba	178	24	152	3	187
Saskatchewan	214	164	189	22	224
Alberta	20,829	22,433	22,195	23,150	31,446
British Columbia	130,325	124,256	114,652	90,881	120,384
Canada²	590,576	596,251	587,825	604,990	634,513

Notes:

1. Does not include lettuce between 2012 and 2015.

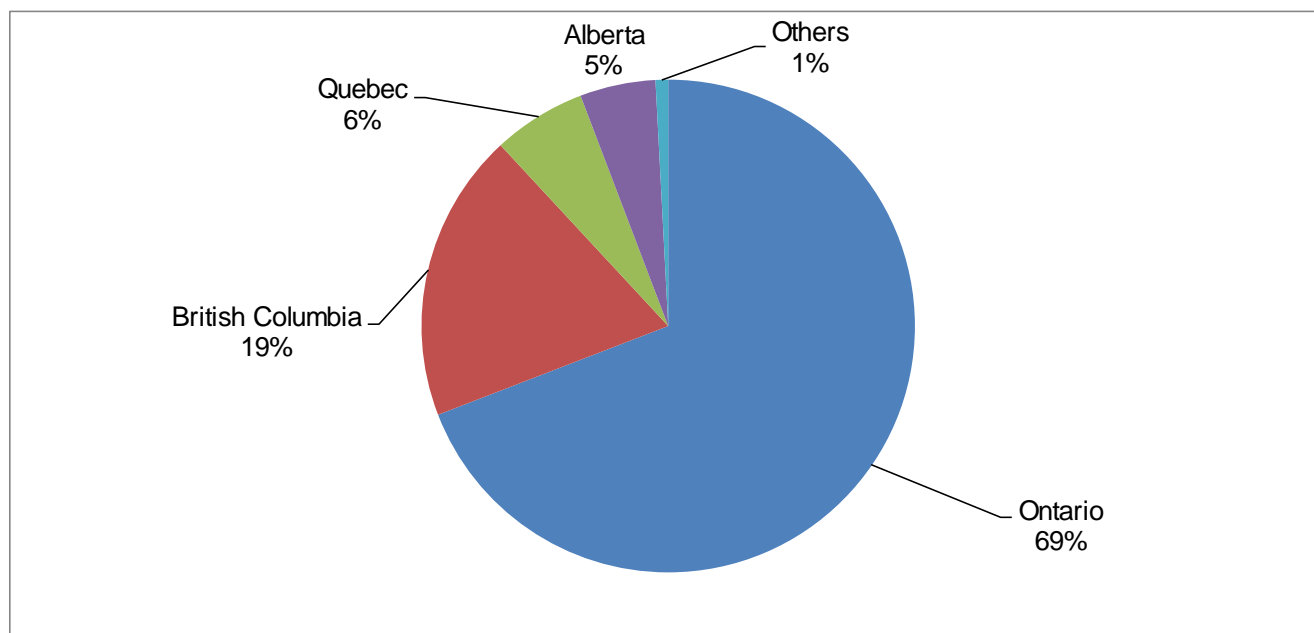
2. Totals may not add up as some data was suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

- : Not available or too unreliable to be published.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables



1.7. Greenhouse vegetable production by province – percent share, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables

1.8. Greenhouse vegetable production by commodity (metric tonnes)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tomatoes	282,809	280,332	261,677	271,006	277,945
Cucumbers	174,534	180,342	186,306	189,704	206,228
Peppers	128,274	130,294	134,644	135,657	139,060
Lettuce	4,959	5,283	5,198	4,876	6,256
Eggplants	..	..	..	2,904	3,281
Sprouts	..	..	..	..	776
Chinese vegetables	..	..	..	587	495
Herbs	..	..	..	219	269
Microgreens and shoots	..	..	..	..	164
Beans (green and wax)	..	..	..	36	40
Total¹	590,576	596,251	587,825	604,990	634,513

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up as some data was suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

.. : Not available for a specific reference period.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables



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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Newfoundland and Labrador	125	83	145	42	134
Prince Edward Island	15	155	-	-	8
Nova Scotia	7,302	7,503	8,433	8,012	7,516
New Brunswick	111	90	244	29	115
Quebec	82,012	82,678	36,568	98,861	125,539
Ontario	767,501	796,226	831,591	859,787	921,097
Manitoba	703	87	609	82	982
Saskatchewan	1,194	873	1,386	715	708
Alberta	52,275	52,114	53,584	54,689	56,478
British Columbia	299,792	290,743	296,577	294,435	290,980
Canada¹	1,218,193	1,238,667	1,295,856	1,331,163	1,425,900

Notes:

1. Totals may not add up as some data was suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

- : Not available or too unreliable to be published.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tomatoes	516,656	507,098	514,251	537,032	556,556
Peppers	377,330	389,700	420,539	409,980	421,873
Cucumbers	299,170	314,069	316,495	336,050	383,465
Lettuce	25,037	27,800	28,769	27,366	32,067
Eggplants	..	..	..	7,757	10,560
Herbs	..	..	..	3,559	9,249
Other fruits or vegetables	..	..	15,802	7,839	6,066
Microgreens and shoots	..	..	..	..	3,585
Chinese vegetables	..	..	..	1,226	1,180
Sprouts	..	..	..	..	993
Beans (green and wax)	..	..	..	353	305
Total	1,218,193	1,238,667	1,295,856	1,331,163	1,425,900

Note:

.. : Not available for a specific reference period.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables



2. Labour

2.1. Total number of employees of specialized greenhouse vegetable operations

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Atlantic provinces	Seasonal employees ¹	140	96	63	47	81
	Permanent employees ²	73	52	58	56	83
	Total employees	213	148	121	103	164
Quebec	Seasonal employees ¹	596	496	467	549	463
	Permanent employees ²	720	698	800	758	800
	Total employees	1,316	1,194	1,267	1,307	1,263
Ontario	Seasonal employees ¹	3,714	3,708	3,380	3,231	3,550
	Permanent employees ²	2,760	2,977	3,400	4,183	4,438
	Total employees	6,474	6,685	6,780	7,414	7,988
Prairie provinces	Seasonal employees ¹	104	96	120	129	183
	Permanent employees ²	438	399	385	373	669
	Total employees	542	495	505	502	852
British Columbia	Seasonal employees ¹	1,156	1,058	940	846	1,033
	Permanent employees ²	1,180	1,387	1,265	1,311	1,268
	Total employees	2,336	2,445	2,205	2,157	2,301
Canada	Seasonal employees ¹	5,710	5,454	4,970	4,805	5,310
	Permanent employees ²	5,171	5,513	5,908	6,701	7,258
	Total employees	10,881	10,967	10,878	11,506	12,568

Notes:

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

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

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0028-01 Total number of employees of specialized greenhouse operations



3. Trade

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Exports	724,057	730,134	827,500	862,785	964,123
Import	259,224	310,047	369,810	460,392	383,721
Trade Balance (Exports - Imports)	464,833	420,087	457,689	402,393	580,402

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)

3.2. Exports

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tomatoes	315,472	297,957	311,310	341,598	391,123
Cucumbers and gherkins	160,346	162,451	186,242	203,252	241,433
Peppers	248,240	269,726	329,947	317,935	331,568
Total	724,057	730,134	827,500	862,785	964,123

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tomatoes	126,869	133,955	125,327	140,083	152,617
Cucumbers and gherkins	77,938	77,485	93,631	96,318	104,038
Peppers	73,858	76,685	82,317	83,114	83,582
Total	278,666	288,125	301,275	319,515	340,237

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)



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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Île-du-Prince-Édouard	0	3	0	7	0
Nouvelle-Écosse	13	9	3	1	0
Nouveau-Brunswick	1	2	3	8	2
Québec	5 267	3 238	5 766	6 970	11 616
Ontario	583 889	579 985	654 262	684 589	788 197
Alberta	187	278	378	620	4 687
Colombie-Britannique	134 699	146 618	167 087	170 591	159 622
Total	724 057	730 134	827 500	862 785	964 123

Source: Statistique Canada (CATSNET, novembre 2018)

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prince Edward Island	0	1	0	2	0
Nova Scotia	4	3	1	0	0
New Brunswick	0	1	1	2	1
Québec	3,786	2,422	4,370	4,394	4,906
Ontario	217,267	232,563	247,821	264,360	283,369
Alberta	115	227	206	354	2,263
British Columbia	57,494	52,909	48,876	50,402	49,699
Total	278,666	288,125	301,275	319,515	340,237

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)



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

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
United States	Tomatoes	314,052	297,110	309,363	337,592	385,920
	Cucumbers and gherkins	160,337	162,330	186,202	203,224	241,421
	Peppers	248,221	269,679	329,693	317,559	330,817
	Total	722,610	729,119	825,258	858,375	958,158
Japan	Tomatoes	1,265	632	1,539	3,442	4,381
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	2	17	0	0
	Peppers	0	0	0	15	337
	Total	1,265	635	1,556	3,456	4,718
Taiwan	Tomatoes	137	161	261	503	630
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	4	0	0	0
	Peppers	0	0	0	10	43
	Total	137	165	261	513	673
Hong Kong	Tomatoes	6	47	136	51	175
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	6	6	7	11
	Peppers	0	6	174	316	277
	Total	6	58	316	373	464
India	Tomatoes	0	0	0	0	0
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	0	0	0
	Peppers	0	0	0	0	72
	Total	0	0	0	0	72
Other countries	Tomatoes	12	7	12	11	16
	Cucumbers and gherkins	8	109	17	21	1
	Peppers	19	42	80	36	22
	Total	40	158	108	68	39
Total	Tomatoes	315,472	297,957	311,310	341,598	391,123
	Cucumbers and gherkins	160,346	162,451	186,242	203,252	241,433
	Peppers	248,240	269,726	329,947	317,935	331,568
	Total	724,057	730,134	827,500	862,785	964,123

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)



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

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
United States	Tomatoes	126,423	133,702	124,689	138,767	150,961
	Cucumbers and gherkins	77,935	77,440	93,615	96,309	104,034
	Peppers	73,853	76,668	82,243	82,990	83,377
	Total	278,210	287,810	300,547	318,066	338,372
Japan	Tomatoes	397	183	505	1,135	1,397
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	1	6	0	0
	Peppers	0	0	0	4	86
	Total	397	184	511	1,139	1,483
Taiwan	Tomatoes	44	53	84	161	196
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	1	0	0	0
	Peppers	0	0	0	3	13
	Total	44	54	84	164	208
Hong Kong	Tomatoes	2	14	45	16	58
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	2	2	2	4
	Peppers	0	2	52	93	79
	Total	2	18	99	112	142
India	Tomatoes	0	0	0	0	0
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	0	0	0
	Peppers	0	0	0	0	21
	Total	0	0	0	0	21
Other countries	Tomatoes	4	2	4	3	5
	Cucumbers and gherkins	3	41	7	7	0
	Peppers	5	15	23	24	6
	Total	12	58	33	34	11
Total	Tomatoes	126,869	133,955	125,327	140,083	152,617
	Cucumbers and gherkins	77,938	77,485	93,631	96,318	104,038
	Peppers	73,858	76,685	82,317	83,114	83,582
	Total	278,666	288,125	301,275	319,515	340,237
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)						



3.3. Imports

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tomatoes	138,271	159,233	194,890	239,829	197,479
Peppers	91,886	108,055	129,741	172,910	140,291
Cucumbers and gherkins	28,076	41,971	44,348	46,885	45,088
Lettuce	841	674	794	721	863
Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	150	113	38	47	0
Total	259,224	310,047	369,810	460,392	383,721

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)

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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tomatoes	64,215	64,192	70,712	83,720	75,506
Peppers	35,074	37,998	38,086	45,415	43,566
Cucumbers and gherkins	18,936	27,157	25,063	25,305	23,473
Lettuce	418	247	284	317	374
Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	102	72	27	36	0
Total	118,744	129,666	134,171	154,792	142,918

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)



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

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mexico	Tomatoes	122,513	143,632	174,814	211,696	175,048
	Peppers	84,192	95,804	105,933	144,718	124,724
	Cucumbers and gherkins	22,702	33,664	33,742	37,932	38,890
	Lettuce	2	11	5	9	2
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	4	2	1	0	0
	Total	229,414	273,113	314,495	394,355	338,664
United States	Tomatoes	13,987	14,932	19,577	27,593	22,017
	Peppers	1,504	2,423	4,776	7,224	6,209
	Cucumbers and gherkins	3,434	6,423	8,134	6,186	5,102
	Lettuce	800	630	762	689	840
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	131	106	36	46	0
	Total	19,855	24,515	33,285	41,738	34,167
Spain	Tomatoes	0	0	23	110	0
	Peppers	3,442	5,674	14,807	16,021	5,093
	Cucumbers and gherkins	1,720	903	2,114	2,135	720
	Lettuce	1	0	0	0	12
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	5,162	6,578	16,943	18,267	5,825
Guatemala	Tomatoes	1,312	445	146	98	74
	Peppers	181	267	667	677	2,490
	Cucumbers and gherkins	3	0	0	0	0
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	2	1	0	0	0
	Total	1,496	714	813	774	2,565
Netherlands	Tomatoes	161	0	0	0	3
	Peppers	7	8	156	1,529	1,238
	Cucumbers and gherkins	15	514	21	419	227
	Lettuce	0	0	2	0	0
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	182	521	178	1,948	1,468
Other countries	Tomatoes	298	224	331	331	336
	Peppers	2,561	3,878	3,402	2,741	537
	Cucumbers and gherkins	203	467	336	213	149
	Lettuce	38	33	25	22	9
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	14	4	2	1	0
	Total	3,115	4,606	4,096	3,310	1,032
Total	Tomatoes	138,271	159,233	194,890	239,829	197,479
	Peppers	91,886	108,055	129,741	172,910	140,291
	Cucumbers and gherkins	28,076	41,971	44,348	46,885	45,088
	Lettuce	841	674	794	721	863
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	150	113	38	47	0
	Total	259,224	310,047	369,810	460,392	383,721

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)



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

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mexico	Tomatoes	56,937	57,867	63,058	73,401	67,488
	Peppers	32,565	33,811	31,908	38,079	39,396
	Cucumbers and gherkins	16,071	23,326	20,583	21,686	21,009
	Lettuce	1	4	1	4	1
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	3	1	0	0	0
	Total	105,577	115,009	115,551	133,170	127,894
United States	Tomatoes	6,415	6,062	7,400	10,138	7,882
	Peppers	559	921	1,317	1,994	2,035
	Cucumbers and gherkins	1,592	2,897	3,151	2,362	1,913
	Lettuce	394	237	278	309	366
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	93	68	26	36	0
	Total	9,054	10,186	12,172	14,839	12,196
Spain	Tomatoes	0	0	14	33	0
	Peppers	1,077	1,565	3,722	4,039	1,290
	Cucumbers and gherkins	1,162	434	1,149	951	352
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	4
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	2,240	2,000	4,885	5,023	1,646
Guatemala	Tomatoes	650	180	59	36	22
	Peppers	40	59	107	96	367
	Cucumbers and gherkins	3	0	0	0	0
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	1	0	0	0	0
	Total	693	240	166	132	389
Netherlands	Tomatoes	62	0	0	0	1
	Peppers	1	1	26	381	338
	Cucumbers and gherkins	10	289	13	216	140
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	73	290	39	597	480
Other countries	Tomatoes	151	82	182	112	113
	Peppers	831	1,639	1,006	826	140
	Cucumbers and gherkins	99	211	166	89	58
	Lettuce	22	6	4	3	3
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	4	2	0	1	0
	Total	1,108	1,940	1,358	1,031	314
Total	Tomatoes	64,215	64,192	70,712	83,720	75,506
	Peppers	35,074	37,998	38,086	45,415	43,566
	Cucumbers and gherkins	18,936	27,157	25,063	25,305	23,473
	Lettuce	418	247	284	317	374
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	102	72	27	36	0
	Total	118,744	129,666	134,171	154,792	142,918

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2018)



4. Key Resources

- Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0456-01 Production and value of greenhouse vegetables
- Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0019-01 Estimates of specialized greenhouse operations, greenhouse area, and months of operation
- Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0028-01 Total number of employees of specialized greenhouse operations
- Statistics Canada. CATSNET