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Statistical Overview of the Canadian Greenhouse Vegetable Industry **2018**

Prepared by:
Crops and Horticulture Division
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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 became important greenhouse producers as well.

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 2018, there were a total of 866 commercial greenhouse vegetable operations with 17.5 million square metres of production area which produced over 660,535 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 growth trend. Ontario continued to lead the greenhouse vegetable sector in 2018, representing 68% of the total production in Canada, followed by British Columbia and Quebec with 18% and 6%, respectively.

Total sales of greenhouse fruit and vegetables rose 5% to reach \$1.5 billion in 2018 - continuing the annual increases that began in 2013. Greenhouse cucumbers continued to show strong sales and production numbers for 2018. National cucumber sales rose 13% to \$449 million. The export market offered some opportunities, with exports of greenhouse cucumbers and gherkins up 16% in 2018. Tomatoes accounted for 38% of the total greenhouse vegetable sales, followed by cucumbers and peppers, which accounted for 30% and 28%, 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 2018, 12,425 people were employed in the greenhouse vegetable sector: 7,096 permanent employees and 5,329 seasonal employees. Ontario accounted for 65% of the total number of greenhouse operation employees in Canada.

The value of greenhouse vegetable exports rose 4% from 2017 to reach over \$1.0 billion in 2018, exceeding the \$1-billion milestone for the first time. The value of greenhouse vegetable exports is the highest of all fresh produce (fruits, greenhouse vegetables, field vegetables and potatoes) in Canada, accounting for 42% of all fresh produce exports. Greenhouse tomatoes accounted for 37% of the total value of exports, followed by greenhouse peppers with 35%. The United States has been Canada's main export destination for greenhouse vegetables for the past five years. In 2018, the value of exports to the United States accounted for 99% of all Canadian greenhouse vegetable exports.

In 2018, Canada imported \$333 million worth of greenhouse vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and lettuce). The top two greenhouse vegetable import sources were Mexico, accounting for 86% and the United States, accounting for 10%. In terms of value, tomatoes (45%) are the largest imported commodity, followed by peppers (42%) and cucumbers (13%).



1. Production

1.1. Number of greenhouse vegetable operations¹ by province

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Atlantic provinces ²	52	54	52	52	51
Quebec	240	242	247	250	238
Ontario	310	315	323	330	325
Prairie provinces ²	95	100	107	101	102
British Columbia	140	150	160	154	150
Canada	837	861	894	889	866

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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Newfoundland and Labrador	3,235	5,132	647	5,900	6,502
Prince Edward Island	1,398	x	x	13,531	14,564
Nova Scotia	67,577	77,992	x	83,556	83,535
New Brunswick	x	5,042	121	4,086	5,677
Quebec	890,937	951,534	915,475	1,145,549	1,228,400
Ontario	9,648,346	10,061,143	10,972,697	11,670,213	12,195,071
Manitoba	835	5,245	496	6,955	9,180
Saskatchewan	12,978	14,139	2,003	15,954	17,765
Alberta	530,301	544,222	547,626	670,984	744,667
British Columbia	3,014,962	2,881,096	3,088,435	3,222,661	3,118,687
Canada¹	14,216,767	14,592,933	15,928,094	16,878,194	17,438,325

Notes:

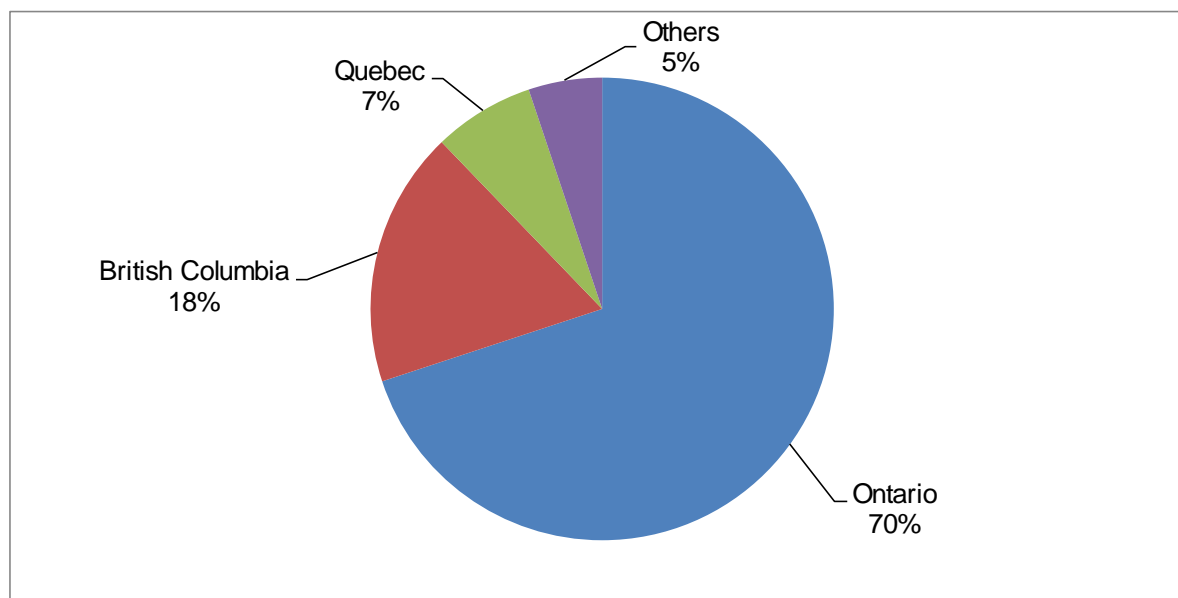
1. Totals may not add up as some data was suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

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, 2018



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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tomatoes	5,540,993	5,513,837	5,990,278	6,356,198	6,598,074
Peppers	4,951,041	4,940,683	5,385,939	5,625,383	5,608,594
Cucumbers	3,544,039	3,739,159	4,005,746	4,321,832	4,592,058
Lettuce	180,694	187,343	174,696	209,183	199,652
Other fruits or vegetables	..	211,911	194,393	85,214	131,831
Eggplants	..	..	90,123	109,631	110,482
Fine herbs	..	..	26,922	90,429	71,076
Microgreens and shoots	..	..	..	16,773	69,479
Chinese vegetables			55,471	48,740	43,396
Beans (green and wax)	..	..	4,526	6,630	6,998
Sprouts	..	..	..	8,181	6,685
Total	14,216,767	14,592,933	15,928,094	16,878,194	17,438,325

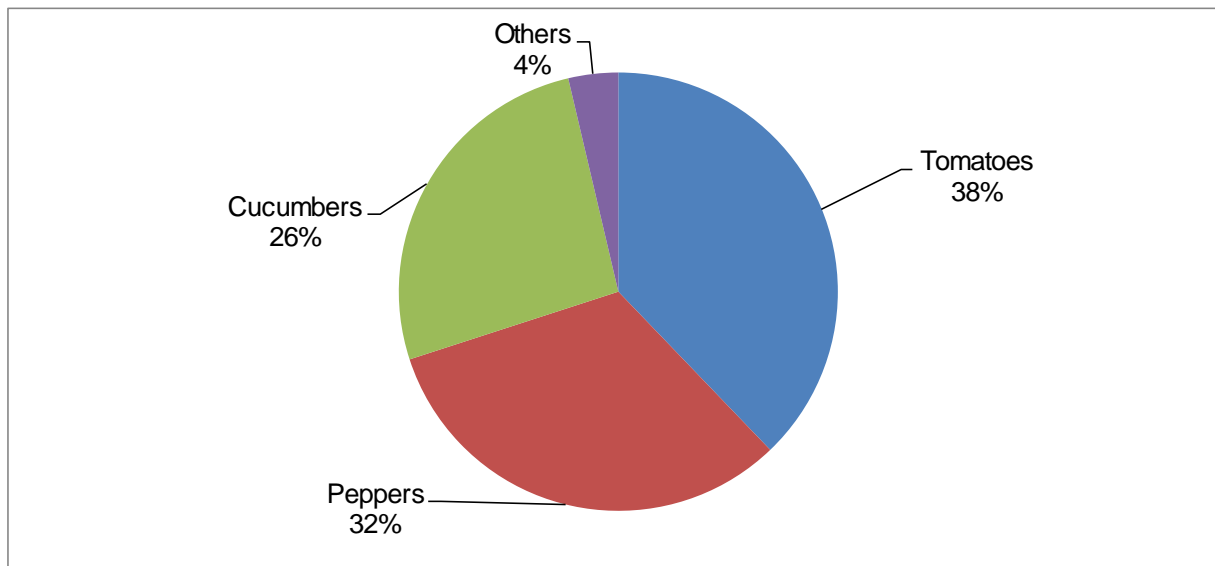
Note:

.. : Not available for a specific reference period.

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, 2018



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

1.6. Greenhouse vegetable production by province (metric tonnes)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Newfoundland and Labrador	25	10	3	8	14
Prince Edward Island	48	-	-	2	448
Nova Scotia	2,670	3,090	1,248	2,914	2,902
New Brunswick	24	29	1	-	51
Quebec	24,030	6,110	27,938	38,772	40,741
Ontario	420,341	420,081	424,451	438,680	452,009
Manitoba	24	152	3	186	207
Saskatchewan	164	189	22	224	209
Alberta	22,433	22,195	23,150	33,170	40,790
British Columbia	124,256	114,652	90,881	120,864	121,686
Canada²	596,251	587,825	604,990	636,723	660,535

Notes:

1. Does not include lettuce between 2012 and 2015.

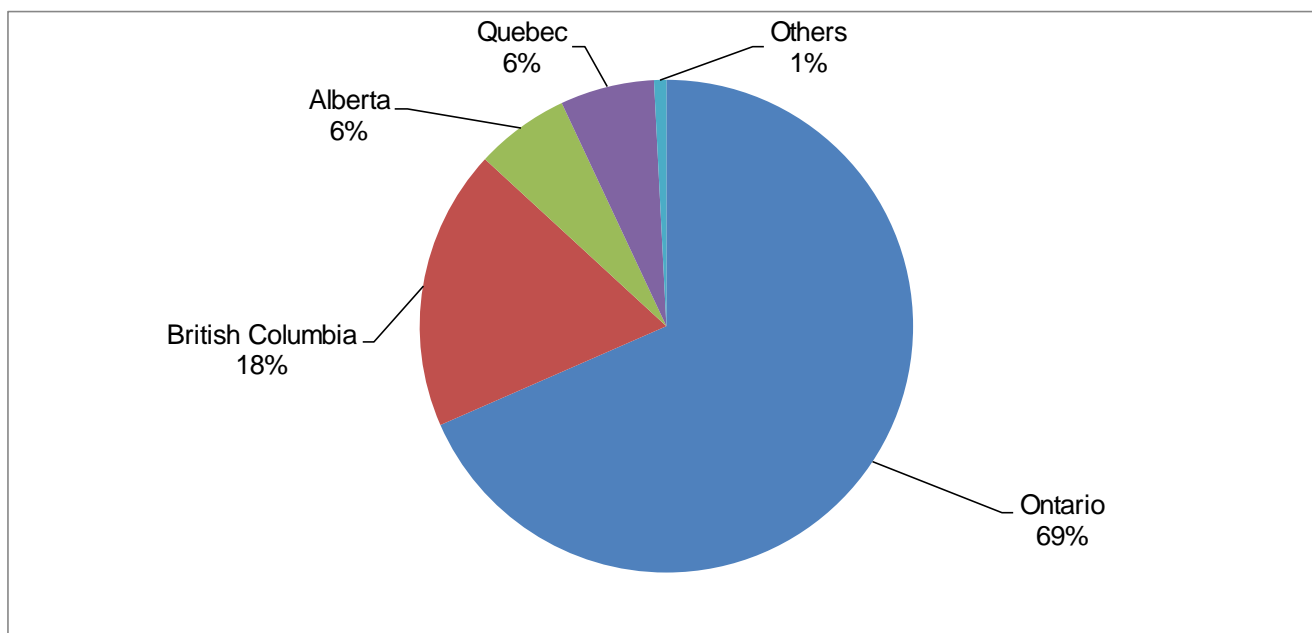
2. Totals may not add up as some data was suppressed to meet confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act.

- : 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, 2018



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

1.8. Greenhouse vegetable production by commodity (metric tonnes)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tomatoes	280,332	261,677	271,006	279,494	279,494
Cucumbers	180,342	186,306	189,704	206,227	230,369
Peppers	130,294	134,644	135,657	139,060	139,155
Lettuce	5,283	5,198	4,876	6,256	5,650
Eggplants	..	..	2,904	3,456	3,476
Microgreens and shoots	..	..	..	164	919
Fine herbs	..	..	219	755	579
Chinese vegetables	..	..	587	495	442
Sprouts	..	..	..	776	405
Beans (green and wax)	..	..	36	40	45
Total	596,251	587,825	604,990	636,723	660,535

Note:

.. : 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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Newfoundland and Labrador	83	145	42	141	143
Prince Edward Island	155	-	-	8	1,897
Nova Scotia	7,503	8,433	8,012	7,516	4,793
New Brunswick	90	244	29	115	295
Quebec	82,678	36,568	98,861	128,839	142,296
Ontario	796,226	831,591	859,787	917,857	955,487
Manitoba	87	609	82	975	1,217
Saskatchewan	873	1,386	715	708	1,480
Alberta	52,114	53,584	54,689	69,386	88,783
British Columbia	290,743	296,577	294,435	289,930	291,961
Canada¹	1,238,667	1,295,856	1,331,163	1,437,089	1,511,251

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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tomatoes	507,098	514,251	537,032	555,196	565,005
Cucumbers	314,069	316,495	336,050	395,760	449,028
Peppers	389,700	420,539	409,980	421,873	428,257
Lettuce	27,800	28,769	27,366	32,036	31,597
Eggplants	..	..	7,757	11,531	11,727
Microgreens and shoots	..	..	..	3,585	8,384
Other fruits or vegetables	..	15,802	7,839	6,047	7,639
Fine herbs	..	..	3,559	8,576	7,155
Chinese vegetables	..	..	1,226	1,180	1,076
Sprouts	..	..	..	993	1,014
Beans (green and wax)	..	..	353	313	367
Total	1,238,667	1,295,856	1,331,163	1,437,089	1,511,251

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

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Atlantic provinces	Seasonal employees ¹	96	63	47	81	90
	Permanent employees ²	52	58	56	83	89
	Total employees	148	121	103	164	179
Quebec	Seasonal employees ¹	496	467	549	463	404
	Permanent employees ²	698	800	758	800	824
	Total employees	1,194	1,267	1,307	1,263	1,228
Ontario	Seasonal employees ¹	3,708	3,380	3,231	3,550	3,694
	Permanent employees ²	2,977	3,400	4,183	4,438	4,352
	Total employees	6,685	6,780	7,414	7,988	8,046
Prairie provinces	Seasonal employees ¹	96	120	129	183	161
	Permanent employees ²	399	385	373	669	680
	Total employees	495	505	502	852	841
British Columbia	Seasonal employees ¹	1,058	940	846	1,033	980
	Permanent employees ²	1,387	1,265	1,311	1,268	1,151
	Total employees	2,445	2,205	2,157	2,301	2,131
Canada	Seasonal employees ¹	5,454	4,970	4,805	5,310	5,329
	Permanent employees ²	5,513	5,908	6,701	7,254	7,096
	Total employees	10,967	10,878	11,506	12,564	12,425

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)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Exports	730,134	827,500	862,769	964,123	1,001,911
Import	310,047	369,810	460,392	383,737	332,631
Trade Balance (Exports - Imports)	420,087	457,689	402,377	580,387	669,280

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)

3.2. Exports

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tomatoes	297,957	311,310	341,598	391,123	368,492
Peppers	269,726	329,947	317,935	331,568	352,869
Cucumbers and gherkins	162,451	186,242	203,236	241,433	280,549
Total	730,134	827,500	862,769	964,123	1,001,911

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tomatoes	133,955	125,327	140,083	152,617	138,161
Cucumbers and gherkins	77,485	93,631	96,310	104,038	114,215
Peppers	76,685	82,317	83,114	83,582	83,338
Total	288,125	301,275	319,507	340,237	335,714

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)



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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Prince Edward Island	3	0	7	0	0
Nova Scotia	9	3	1	0	2
New Brunswick	2	3	8	2	3
Québec	3,238	5,766	6,970	11,616	17,775
Ontario	579,985	654,262	684,573	788,197	819,996
Alberta	278	378	620	4,687	9,484
British Columbia	146,618	167,087	170,591	159,622	154,646
Total	730,134	827,500	862,769	964,123	1,001,905

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Prince Edward Island	1	0	2	0	0
Nova Scotia	3	1	0	0	1
New Brunswick	1	1	2	1	1
Québec	2,422	4,370	4,394	4,906	5,185
Ontario	232,563	247,821	264,352	283,369	283,112
Alberta	227	206	354	2,263	4,376
British Columbia	52,909	48,876	50,402	49,699	43,034
Total	288,125	301,275	319,507	340,237	335,708

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)



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

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
United States	Tomatoes	297,110	309,363	337,592	385,920	362,467
	Peppers	269,679	329,693	317,559	330,817	352,053
	Cucumbers and gherkins	162,330	186,202	203,208	241,421	280,520
	Total	729,119	825,258	858,359	958,158	995,040
Japan	Tomatoes	632	1,539	3,442	4,381	5,267
	Peppers	0	0	15	337	574
	Cucumbers and gherkins	2	17	0	0	0
	Total	635	1,556	3,456	4,718	5,841
Taiwan	Tomatoes	161	261	503	630	626
	Peppers	0	0	10	43	16
	Cucumbers and gherkins	4	0	0	0	0
	Total	165	261	513	673	641
Hong Kong	Peppers	6	174	316	277	213
	Tomatoes	47	136	51	175	132
	Cucumbers and gherkins	6	6	7	11	28
	Total	58	316	373	464	373
France	Peppers	15	11	14	8	10
	Cucumbers and gherkins	1	0	0	0	0
	Tomatoes	1	0	0	0	0
	Total	17	11	15	9	11
Other countries	Peppers	27	69	21	85	3
	Cucumbers and gherkins	108	17	21	1	1
	Tomatoes	6	11	11	16	1
	Total	141	97	53	102	4
Total	Tomatoes	297,957	311,310	341,598	391,123	368,492
	Peppers	269,726	329,947	317,935	331,568	352,869
	Cucumbers and gherkins	162,451	186,242	203,236	241,433	280,549
	Total	730,134	827,500	862,769	964,123	1,001,911

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)



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

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
United States	Tomatoes	133,702	124,689	138,767	150,961	136,306
	Cucumbers and gherkins	77,440	93,615	96,301	104,034	114,205
	Peppers	76,668	82,243	82,990	83,377	83,130
	Total	287,810	300,547	318,059	338,372	333,641
Japan	Tomatoes	183	505	1,135	1,397	1,613
	Peppers	0	0	4	86	140
	Cucumbers and gherkins	1	6	0	0	0
	Total	184	511	1,139	1,483	1,753
Taiwan	Tomatoes	53	84	161	196	199
	Peppers	0	0	3	13	4
	Cucumbers and gherkins	1	0	0	0	0
	Total	54	84	164	208	203
Hong Kong	Peppers	2	52	93	79	61
	Tomatoes	14	45	16	58	43
	Cucumbers and gherkins	2	2	2	4	10
	Total	18	99	112	142	113
France	Peppers	4	2	4	2	2
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	0	0	0
	Tomatoes	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	4	3	4	2	3
Other countries	Peppers	11	20	20	25	1
	Cucumbers and gherkins	40	7	7	0	0
	Tomatoes	2	4	3	5	0
	Total	53	31	30	30	1
Total	Tomatoes	133,955	125,327	140,083	152,617	138,161
	Cucumbers and gherkins	77,485	93,631	96,310	104,038	114,215
	Peppers	76,685	82,317	83,114	83,582	83,338
	Total	288,125	301,275	319,507	340,237	335,714
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)						



3.3. Imports

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tomatoes	159,233	194,890	239,829	197,475	149,830
Peppers	108,055	129,741	172,910	140,311	138,543
Cucumbers and gherkins	41,971	44,348	46,885	45,088	43,705
Lettuce	674	794	721	863	553
Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	113	38	47	0	0
Total	310,047	369,810	460,392	383,737	332,631

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)

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

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Tomatoes	64,192	70,712	83,720	75,506	68,721
Peppers	37,998	38,086	45,415	43,567	49,453
Cucumbers and gherkins	27,157	25,063	25,305	23,473	23,775
Lettuce	247	284	317	374	181
Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	72	27	36	0	0
Total	129,666	134,171	154,792	142,919	142,131

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)



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

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mexico	Tomatoes	143,632	174,814	211,696	175,045	126,643
	Peppers	95,804	105,933	144,679	124,743	121,986
	Cucumbers and gherkins	33,676	33,748	37,941	38,892	37,639
	Lettuce	11	5	9	2	46
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	2	1	0	0	0
	Total	273,113	314,495	394,317	338,680	286,268
United States	Tomatoes	14,932	19,577	27,593	22,017	22,895
	Peppers	2,423	4,776	7,224	6,209	6,390
	Cucumbers and gherkins	6,423	8,134	6,186	5,102	5,025
	Lettuce	630	762	689	840	468
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	106	36	46	0	0
	Total	24,515	33,285	41,738	34,167	34,778
Spain	Peppers	5,674	14,807	16,059	5,093	7,478
	Cucumbers and gherkins	903	2,114	2,135	720	646
	Lettuce	0	0	0	12	14
	Tomatoes	0	23	110	0	0
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	6,578	16,943	18,305	5,825	8,139
Netherlands	Peppers	8	156	1,529	1,238	1,151
	Cucumbers and gherkins	514	21	419	227	283
	Lettuce	0	2	0	0	0
	Tomatoes	0	0	0	3	0
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	521	178	1,948	1,468	1,434
Guatemala	Peppers	267	667	677	2,490	758
	Tomatoes	445	146	98	74	117
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	1	0	0	0	0
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	0	0	0
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	714	813	774	2,565	874
Other countries	Peppers	3,878	3,402	2,741	537	780
	Tomatoes	224	331	331	336	175
	Cucumbers and gherkins	467	336	213	149	156
	Lettuce	33	25	22	9	25
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	4	2	1	0	0
	Total	4,606	4,096	3,310	1,032	1,137
Total	Tomatoes	159,233	194,890	239,829	197,475	149,830
	Peppers	108,055	129,741	172,910	140,311	138,543
	Cucumbers and gherkins	41,971	44,348	46,885	45,088	43,705
	Lettuce	674	794	721	863	553
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	113	38	47	0	0
	Total	310,047	369,810	460,392	383,737	332,631

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)



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

		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Mexico	Tomatoes	57,867	63,058	73,401	67,488	59,124
	Peppers	33,811	31,908	38,071	39,397	44,377
	Cucumbers and gherkins	23,332	20,585	21,690	21,010	21,356
	Lettuce	4	1	4	1	19
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	1	0	0	0	0
	Total	115,009	115,551	133,162	127,895	124,857
United States	Tomatoes	6,062	7,400	10,138	7,882	9,500
	Peppers	921	1,317	1,994	2,035	2,577
	Cucumbers and gherkins	2,897	3,151	2,362	1,913	1,951
	Lettuce	237	278	309	366	158
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	68	26	36	0	0
	Total	10,186	12,172	14,839	12,196	14,187
Spain	Peppers	1,565	3,722	4,047	1,290	1,618
	Cucumbers and gherkins	434	1,149	951	352	308
	Lettuce	0	0	0	4	2
	Tomatoes	0	14	33	0	0
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	2,000	4,885	5,031	1,646	1,928
Guatemala	Peppers	1	26	381	338	365
	Cucumbers and gherkins	289	13	216	140	109
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Tomatoes	0	0	0	1	0
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	290	39	597	480	474
Netherlands	Peppers	59	107	96	367	326
	Tomatoes	180	59	36	22	37
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Cucumbers and gherkins	0	0	0	0	0
	Lettuce	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	240	166	132	389	363
Other countries	Peppers	1,639	1,006	826	140	190
	Tomatoes	82	182	112	113	59
	Cucumbers and gherkins	211	166	89	58	70
	Lettuce	6	4	3	3	2
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	2	0	1	0	0
	Total	1,940	1,358	1,031	314	321
Total	Tomatoes	64,192	70,712	83,720	75,506	68,721
	Peppers	37,998	38,086	45,415	43,567	49,453
	Cucumbers and gherkins	27,157	25,063	25,305	23,473	23,775
	Lettuce	247	284	317	374	181
	Cabbage lettuce, head lettuce	72	27	36	0	0
	Total	129,666	134,171	154,792	142,919	142,131

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, November 2019)



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