

Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries, 2017

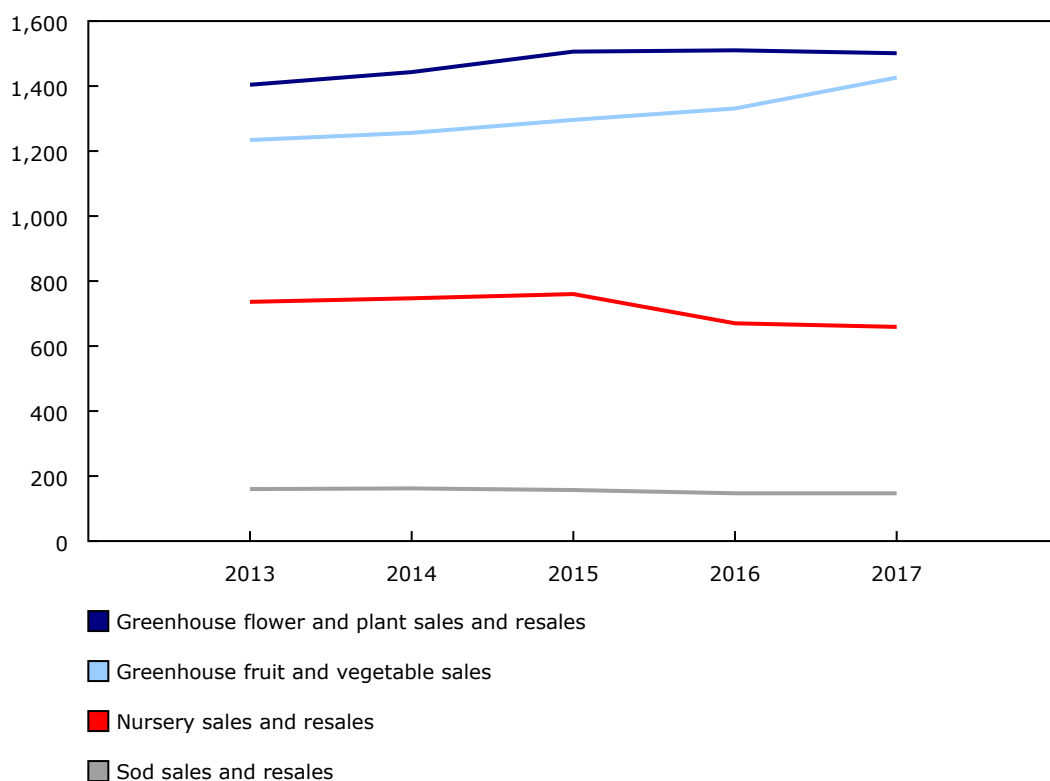
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Total sales of the greenhouse, nursery, field cut flowers and sod industries increased 2.2% to \$3.8 billion in 2017.

Greenhouse products accounted for 78.0% of total sales (\$2.9 billion), up 3.0% compared with 2016. This was the result of a 7.1% increase in greenhouse fruit and vegetable sales to \$1.4 billion. Sales of nursery products fell 1.7% to \$659.3 million, and accounted for 17.6% of total sales.

Chart 1
Sales of greenhouse, nursery and sod products

millions of dollars



Source(s): CANSIM tables 001-0051, 001-0058 and 001-0060.

Greenhouse fruit and vegetable sales

Tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers accounted for 95.5% of greenhouse fruit and vegetable sales in 2017. Sales of greenhouse tomatoes accounted for almost 40% or \$556.6 million of total greenhouse fruit and vegetables sales in 2017, up 3.6% compared with 2016. Pepper sales totalled \$421.9 million, up 2.9% from 2016.

Greenhouse cucumber production has been expanding outside of Ontario and British Columbia, with new producers in Alberta and Quebec in recent years. Cucumber sales rose 14.1% to \$383.5 million due to this additional production. Although lettuce accounted for only 2.2% of total greenhouse fruit and vegetable sales in 2017, its sales grew 17.2% to \$32.1 million, as production increased.



Greenhouse flower and plant sales

Indoor and outdoor potted plants accounted for 60.5% of the flower and plant sales for Canadian greenhouses in 2017, with sales totalling \$786.9 million. Potted plants sales fell 3.0% for the year. The most common varieties reported were geraniums (15.1 million pots), herbs (11.6 million pots) and miniature rose pots (10.4 million pots).

Sales of prefinished products rose 7.6% to \$386.5 million in 2017. Sales of ornamental bedding plants increased 6.2% to \$204.2 million, while vegetable bedding plant sales increased 12.0%, in response to vegetable producers' higher demands for transplants.

Chart 2 Greenhouse, nursery and sod operating expenses

millions of dollars



Source(s): CANSIM tables 001-0052 and 001-0061.

Greenhouse expenses

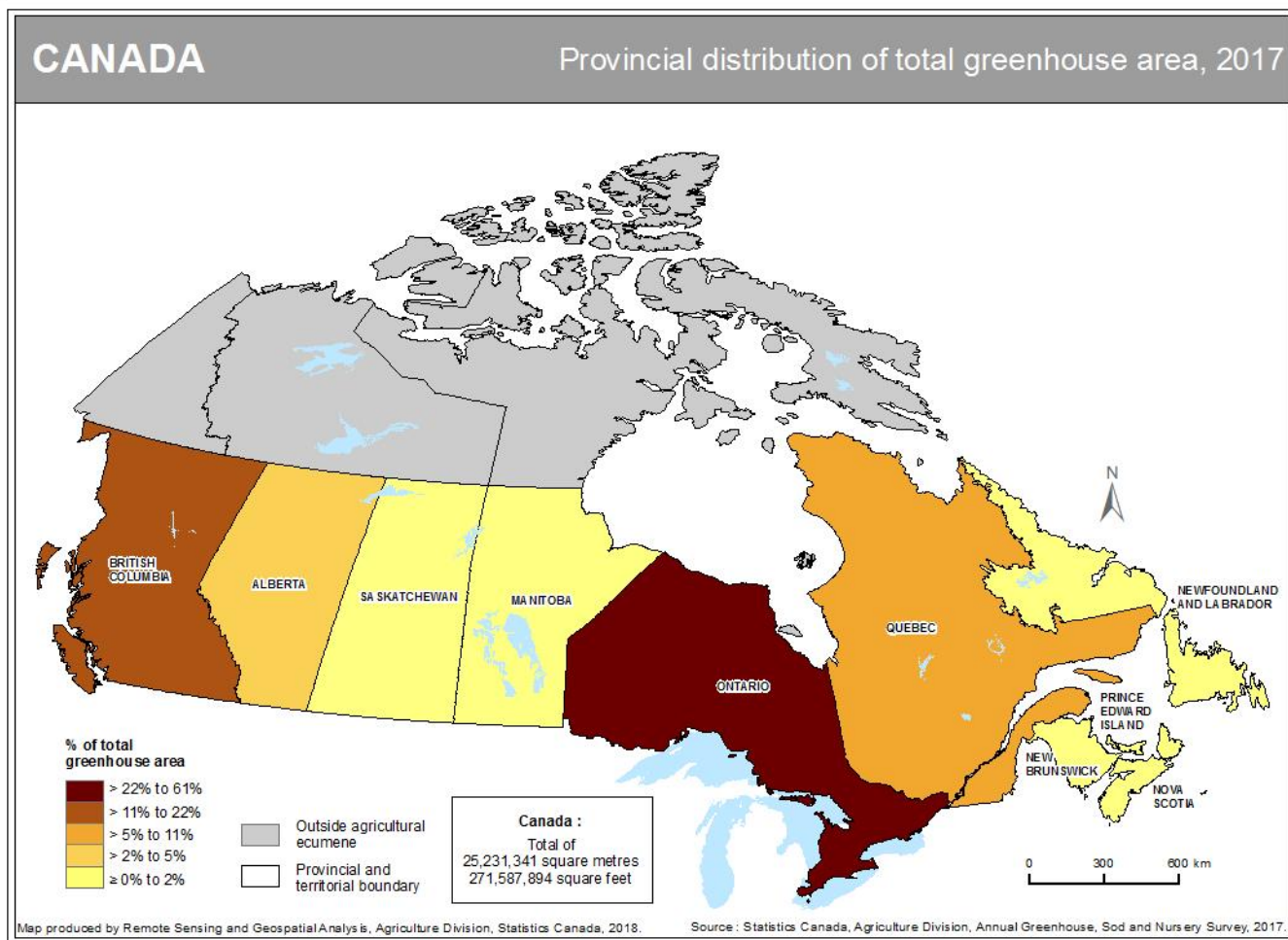
Greenhouse total operating expenses rose 4.1% to \$2.6 billion in 2017. Labour still accounted for the largest share of total expenses (28.8%). The number of employees increased 1.5% to 33,089 employees, while payroll rose 3.1% to \$735.3 million. The largest increase was reported for the other crop expenses category (+21.0%), which includes expenses for growing mediums, fertilizer, pesticides, pollination, irrigation, bioprograms, containers and packaging. There were also increases in purchases of plant material for growing on (+7.8%) and fuel expenses (+6.7%).

Other operating expenses, such as repairs to farm buildings, machinery, equipment and vehicles, land taxes, interest, insurance, and contract work, represented 22.1% of total expenses.

Total greenhouse area

Total greenhouse area increased by 2.0% or 491 975 square metres in 2017 compared with 2016. As shown in Map 1, total greenhouse area is concentrated in Ontario. In 2017, Ontario represented 60.3% of total greenhouse area in Canada, compared with 21.3% in British Columbia, 10.3% in Quebec and 4.5% in Alberta.

Map 1 – Provincial distribution of total greenhouse area, 2017



Statistique Canada / Statistics Canada



Nursery area, sales and expenses

Total nursery area decreased 3.7% in 2017 to 17 691 hectares. This decline was accompanied by a 0.5% decrease in nursery product sales to \$527.9 million, and a 6.0% decrease in resales to \$131.4 million.

Nursery operating expenses fell by 1.7% to \$568.3 million. Labour expenses accounted for 35.1% of total expenses, down 1.2% compared with 2016 due to the change in the total number of employees, which fell 7.5% to 10,600 employees.

Sod area, sales and expenses

In 2017, total sod area decreased 6.4% to 20 522 hectares. Total sales were stable at \$147.3 million, while expenses decreased 3.2% to \$113.7 million. Labour expenses accounted for 34.3% of total costs and this proportion was stable (34.8%) compared with 2016.

Available in CANSIM: tables [001-0006](#), [001-0046 to 001-0061](#) and [001-0076](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [3416](#).

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca).