

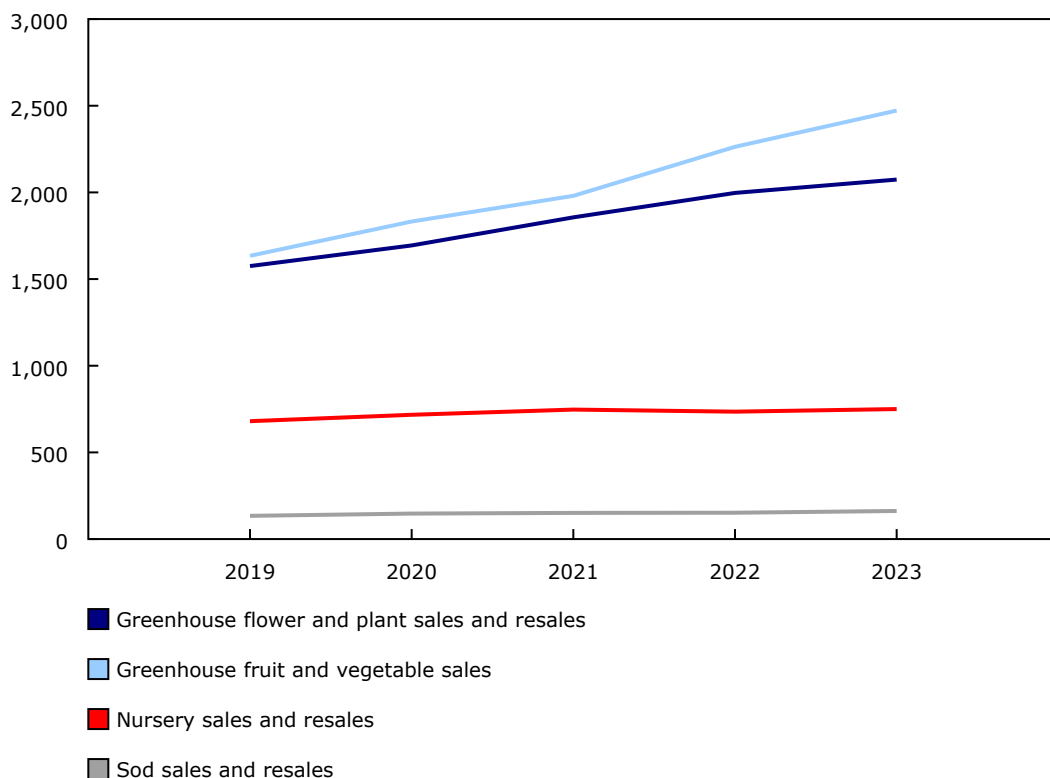
# Greenhouse, sod and nursery industries, 2023

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In 2023, total sales of the greenhouse, nursery, field-grown cut flowers and sod industries rose 6.0% to \$5.5 billion. Greenhouse product sales rose 6.7% to \$4.5 billion, accounting for 82.8% of total sales.

**Chart 1**  
**Sales of greenhouse, nursery and sod products**

millions of dollars



Source(s): Tables [32-10-0023-01](#), [32-10-0032-01](#) and [32-10-0034-01](#).

## Sales of greenhouse fruits and vegetables up for the 11th consecutive year

Total sales of greenhouse fruits and vegetables increased for the 11th consecutive year in 2023, up 9.2% to \$2.5 billion.

The increase in sales in 2023 was attributable to higher production of peppers (9.3%), tomatoes (9.3%) and cucumbers (8.3%), which accounted for the majority (92.1%) of total greenhouse fruit and vegetable sales. Greenhouse strawberry sales rose by almost one-third (+29.0%) to \$64.6 million because of higher prices (+2.7%) and production (+25.7%).

Ontario accounted for just over two-thirds (67.5%) of greenhouse fruit and vegetable sales in 2023, followed by British Columbia (14.9%), Quebec (10.9%) and Alberta (5.9%).



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## Greenhouse flower and plant sales rise

Greenhouse flower and plant sales and resales rose 3.9% compared with the previous year to \$2.1 billion in 2023.

Although greenhouse cutting sales (+1.0% to \$62.5 million) were well above the five-year average of \$56.9 million in 2023, they were relatively stable compared with 2022.

Indoor and outdoor potted plant sales increased 2.4% to \$1.2 billion in 2023. Vegetable bedding plant sales rose 5.7% to \$202.6 million, and ornamental bedding plant sales grew 1.7% to \$216.5 million.

## Nursery sales up despite lower area and production

Despite a decline in production (-4.1%), sales of nursery products increased 2.0% to \$749.6 million in 2023. Total nursery area decreased 1.9% to 15 334 hectares.

Production of field-grown nursery plants decreased 2.6% in 2023. Container-grown nursery plant production (-5.9%) also fell, as a result of fewer container-grown deciduous shrubs (-20.3%) and container-grown ornamental or shade trees (-19.5%).

Nursery resales climbed by 7.0% in 2023, contributing to the overall rise in sales.

## Operating expenses and labour needs continue to rise

Greenhouse operating expenses were up 6.0% to \$3.8 billion in 2023, driven by higher expenditures, including those related to electricity (+10.1%), payroll (+7.6%) and natural gas (+6.8%).

Greenhouse operators employed 37,690 people in 2023, up 1.4% from a year earlier. The number of permanent employees rose 5.3% to 17,982, while seasonal employees decreased 2.0% to 19,708.

The nursery sector employed 8,702 people in 2023, down 1.1% from the previous year, with declines in permanent (-0.5%) and seasonal (-1.4%) employees.

## Sod sales edge up

Total sod area edged up 0.5% to 21 207 hectares in 2023. Total sod sales increased 6.8% to \$162.5 million, while expenses rose 3.6% to \$127.9 million.

## Glass and rigid plastic greenhouse area rises, while polyfilm area falls

Total greenhouse area grew 1.9% to 31.8 million square metres in 2023. Ontario accounted for just under two-thirds (63.1%) of the total greenhouse area in Canada, compared with 18.6% in British Columbia, 10.7% in Quebec and 4.5% in Alberta.

In 2023, total area under glass (+6.2%) and rigid plastic (+7.3%) increased, while area under polyfilm declined 2.5% to 15.0 million square metres.

### Note to readers

*The Annual Greenhouse, Sod and Nursery Survey does not collect data on greenhouse cannabis production.*

*Data users can visualize survey data results with the interactive [Crop production: Visualization tool](#).*

*For the latest information on the Census of Agriculture, visit the [Census of Agriculture portal](#).*

*For more information on agriculture and food, visit the [Agriculture and Food Statistics portal](#).*

**Available tables:** [32-10-0018-01](#), [32-10-0019-01](#), [32-10-0021-01](#) to [32-10-0023-01](#) , [32-10-0025-01](#), [32-10-0026-01](#), [32-10-0028-01](#), [32-10-0029-01](#), [32-10-0031-01](#) to [32-10-0034-01](#) , [32-10-0245-01](#), [32-10-0246-01](#), [32-10-0452-01](#), [32-10-0454-01](#) and [32-10-0456-01](#).

**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; [infostats@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:infostats@statcan.gc.ca)) or Media Relations ([statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca)).