

## Overview

If you drive through some parts of rural Canada, such as the Prairies or southwestern Ontario, you might think every square metre is under cultivation and that everyone lives and works on a farm.

A century ago, most Canadians did live in rural areas and a large portion worked in agriculture. Compared with 50 years ago, agriculture today uses roughly the same amount of land but far less labour to produce more than enough to feed our population, which has more than doubled.

Don't be fooled by the huge fields of crops along our rural highways. Just 5% of Canada's land area is used for agriculture. That's still a large area—about 46 million hectares—but it's just 3% of the world's agricultural land.

As in most industrialized countries, farming here requires relatively few people. About 727,000 Canadians lived on farms in 2001,

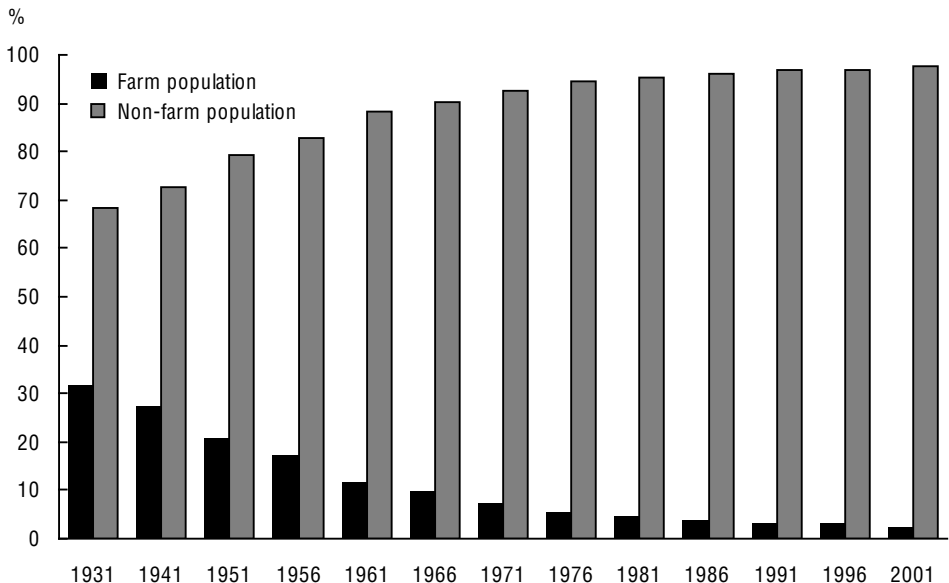
comprising 12% of Canada's rural population and just 2% of the overall population.

## Who's working the farm?

Farming has become a way of life for just a few. Even in the most agriculture intensive areas, only a minority work in farming. Around Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, 45% of the labour force works in agriculture—the highest proportion in any census division; in southwestern Ontario's Huron County, the proportion is just over 15%.

In 2006, over 346,000 Canadians worked in agriculture, or 2% of the labour force. The next stage in the food production process—the food and beverage processing industry—employs another 270,000. Together, agriculture and food and beverage processing account for 3.4% of our economic output, as measured by gross domestic product.

**Chart 2.1**  
**Farm and non-farm populations**



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 95F0303XIE.

Farming is not all fields of green or gold grain swaying in the breeze. It's a tough, perennially difficult business: prices for most commodities have been declining for decades, and recent years have been particularly hard for certain agricultural commodities.

**Pretty landscape, tough business**

One measure of the prices farmers receive is Statistics Canada's Farm Product Price Index, whose base year is 1997. In 2006, the price index of all farm products was 96.1, down 9.6 percentage points from the most recent high in 2002. Prices in 2006 for some commodities, such as grains, oilseeds, hogs and poultry were well below their 1997 price levels. In contrast, prices for potatoes, other vegetables and dairy products in 2006 were well above their 1997 price levels.

For cattle farmers, market conditions have improved since the U.S. border reopened in mid-2005; for hog farmers, times are not so good. Farm cash receipts for cattle were 2% higher than in 2005, and producers shipped double the number of cattle. Although hog producers exported record numbers of hogs,

**Table 2.a**  
**Experienced work force employed in agriculture, selected census divisions, 2001**

	%
Division No. 4 (includes Maple Creek), Saskatchewan	45.2
Division No. 4 (includes Pilot Mound and Somerset), Manitoba	43.1
Division No. 4 (includes Hanna), Alberta	36.6
Les Jardins-de-Napierville, Quebec	16.2
Huron County, Ontario	15.4
Carleton County, New Brunswick	10.6

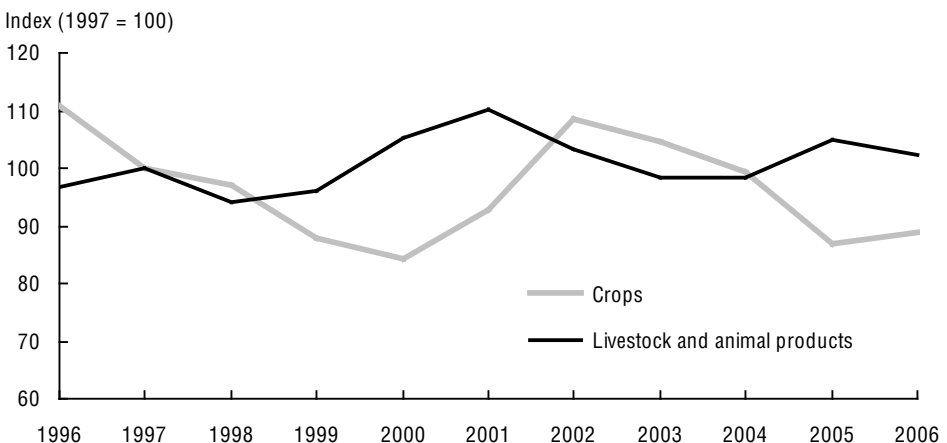
**Source:** Statistics Canada, custom tabulation using 2001 Census of Population data.

they earned 14% less than in 2005 because of lower prices, down 10.8 percentage points.

Grain prices have been in decline for much of the last two decades. From 1984 to 2006, grain prices dropped more than 33%, despite brief surges in the late 1980s, the mid-1990s and early 2000s. However, higher prices and sales pushed up farm cash receipts for wheat by 16% in 2006.

Net farm income is another indication of economic conditions for farmers. Statistics Canada gathers data on 'realized net income' for Canadian farms, a measure of the

**Chart 2.2**  
**Farm Product Price Index, selected commodities**



**Source:** Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 002-0022.

difference between farmers' cash receipts and operating expenses, minus depreciation, and plus income-in-kind.

The 2005 net farm income data show the effects of two years of drought on the Prairies and the closing of the U.S. border to shipments of live Canadian cattle because of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) scare. Canadian farmers' realized net income was down 14% to \$1.9 billion from 2004 and at its lowest point since 2003, before the drought and BSE crisis began. Longer term, net farm income was 16% lower than the average of the years 2000 to 2004.

Agricultural program payments help to moderate the effect of market revenue fluctuations on farmers' incomes. In 2005, payments hit a record high of \$4.9 billion, and represented 13% of total gross revenue.

### Don't blame it all on BSE

It's not quite fair to blame 2005's poor financial showing completely on cattle, since shipments of live animals to the United States resumed at mid-year. Sales of exported

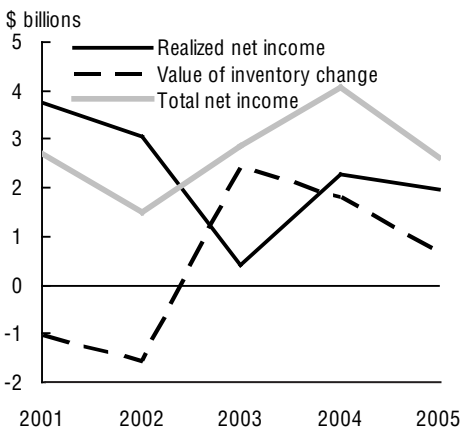
live cattle and calves rebounded from zero in the first half of 2005 to \$624 million, or about 10% of cattle and calf receipts. Cattle producers' overall receipts, including domestic sales, were up 25% from 2004.

Crops and hogs also contributed to the 2005 decline. Crop receipts were down 7% from 2004; hog receipts declined 8%. The reasons for fluctuations in receipts are usually a complex combination of factors, such as price changes, crop yields, and decisions by farmers to rush products to market or to hold them back.

Grain prices are a major factor in crop receipts. World grain supplies were ample in 2005, and so some prices were at near record lows. Cash receipts for wheat, excluding durum wheat, tumbled 21% from 2004, and were 28% below the 2000 to 2004 average. Prices for canola were down 24% from 2004, but increased deliveries by Canadian farmers moderated the dip in receipts to 14%.

Those swaying fields of gold might suggest a good harvest, but a host of factors that cannot be seen from the highway—prices, the size of grain stocks in storage from previous harvests, input costs, currency fluctuations, trade restrictions and shifting demand—all influence whether a good harvest translates into a good financial year for farmers.

**Chart 2.3**  
Realized net income, value of inventory change and total net income



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-010-XIE.

### Selected sources

#### Statistics Canada

- *Canada Food Stats*. Semi-annual. 23F0001XBB
- *Cattle Statistics*. 23-012-XIE. Semi-annual
- *Farm Product Price Index*. Monthly. 21-007-XIE
- *Food Statistics*. Semi-annual. 21-020-XIE
- *Hog Statistics*. 23-010-XIE. Quarterly
- *Net Farm Income—Agriculture Economic Statistics*. Semi-annual. 21-010-XIE
- *VISTA on the Agri-food Industry and the Farm Community*. Occasional. 21-004-XIE

## Big upside for bioproducts

Ethanol and biodiesel are two of many new bioproducts already on the market or set to appear in the near future. Bioproducts are non-food products developed from biological or renewable material that comes from agricultural, food, forestry, marine, industrial or municipal sources.

Ethanol and biodiesel—collectively called biofuels—may present the biggest opportunity, given the huge quantities of gasoline and diesel fuel Canadians consume. Canada produced just 250 million litres of biofuels in 2004, whereas the United States produced 12.9 billion litres, according to the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association.

However, by 2010 Canadian production of biofuels could surpass 3 billion litres, or 5% of total gasoline consumption, just to keep up with government targets. Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan have

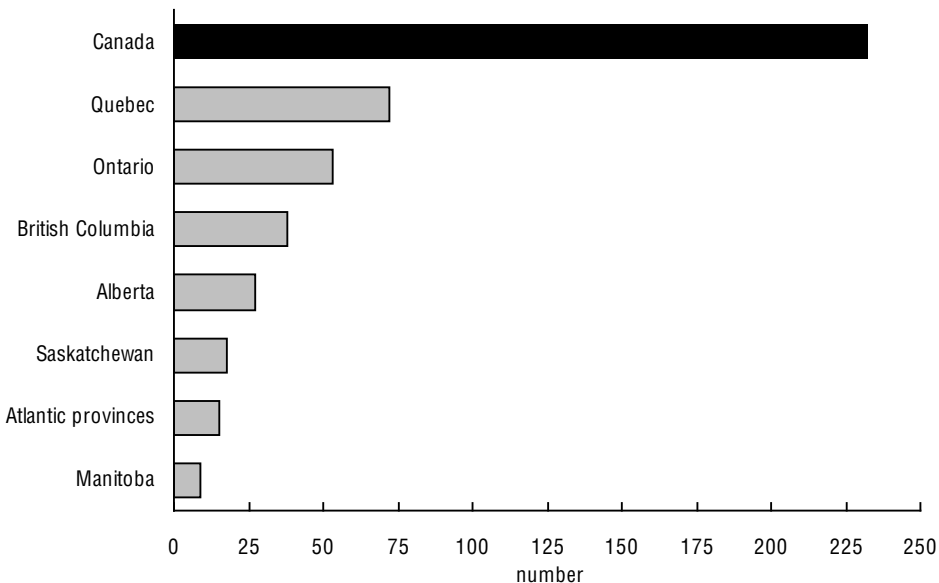
all mandated renewable fuel standards that call for a percentage of ethanol to be mixed with gasoline.

Other bioproducts that Canadian firms are developing include biological control agents for insects and weeds that may be less toxic for the environment than synthetic pesticides, new construction materials made from natural fibres (e.g., straw), and biodegradable plastics.

Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, were home to 70% of the 232 firms surveyed in 2004 for the Bioproducts Development Survey. The firms tend to be small: only 16% have 150 or more employees.

Many of these firms also make other products: bioproducts account for just 25% of their total revenues. Of the \$3 billion that the surveyed firms earned from bioproducts in 2003, about half came from exports.

**Chart 2.4**  
Bioproducts firms in Canada, by region, 2003



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-004-XIE.

## It has to be fresh!

Fresh fruits and vegetables are gaining popularity in the Canadian diet, with one exception: fresh potatoes.

Canadians consumed an average 39.4 kg of fresh fruit in 2005, up from 37.6 kg in 2004 and 36.0 kg in 1995, according to *Canada Food Stats*. Apples account for about one-fifth of fresh fruit consumption, or an average 7.6 kg per person in 2005, up from 6.8 kg in 2004. Bananas, oranges and grapes are perennial favourites, but mangoes, limes, papayas and pineapples are becoming new favourites.

Fresh vegetables—excluding potatoes—are on a similar track. Canadians consumed an average 40.5 kg in 2005, a slight increase from 39.8 kg in 2004.

Processed potatoes, in the form of french fries and potato chips, are still favourites.

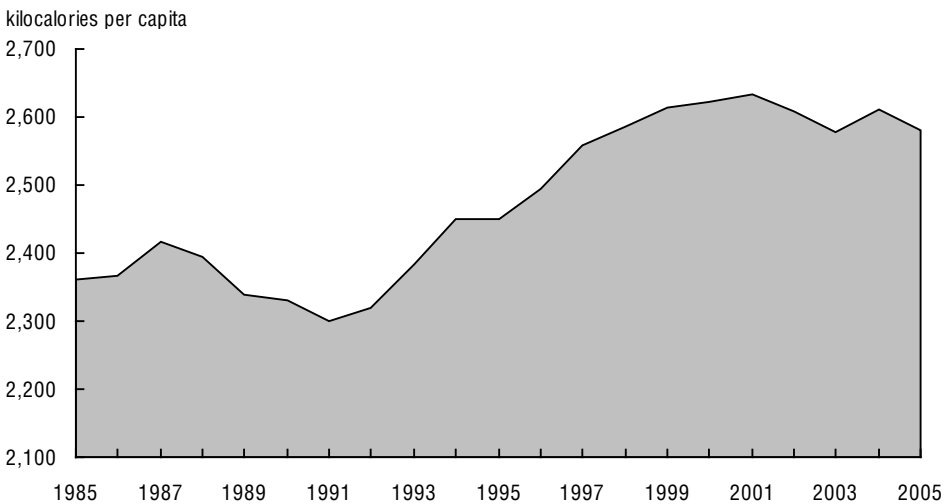
Canadians averaged 2.5 kg of potato chips and 6.4 kg of french fries in 2005. About 44% of the potatoes Canadians consume are processed as chips and fries; the remaining 56% are served baked, boiled, roasted, mashed or scalloped.

Canadians averaged 15.8 kg of potatoes that had been purchased fresh, down from 21.8 kg in 1995.

Some of the trends in these data, which have been gathered for 30 years, may sound healthy, but the longer-term picture is more complex. From 1985 to 2005, average annual food energy consumption per person rose 9.4% to 2,581 kilocalories, but was down from a peak of 2,635 in 2001.

*Canada Food Stats* are estimates of the total amounts of various foods available to be eaten, adjusted for spoilage and waste.

**Chart 2.5**  
Food energy consumed annually from the Canadian food supply



**Notes:** Experimental data, use with caution.

The data have been adjusted for retail, household, cooking and plate loss.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 003-0080.

## Canada's beef industry after BSE

The worst effects of the BSE crisis have passed for Canada's cattle producers. The U.S. border is open again to live Canadian animals (but only those less than 30 months of age that are feeders and fed cattle). Producers are shipping hundreds of thousands stateside and shrinking their herds to more manageable levels. Older animals, however, still cannot be sent to the United States.

The border was reopened in July 2005. In the year following, the national herd declined from a peak of 17.1 million head to 16.2 million head in July. The herd shrank in all parts of the country, but three-quarters of the 2006 decline of 810,000 head occurred in the prairie provinces.

Before the border was closed in May 2003 because of a single case of BSE, more than 1 million head of live cattle, including many older cattle, were exported to the United States annually. After the U.S. and other

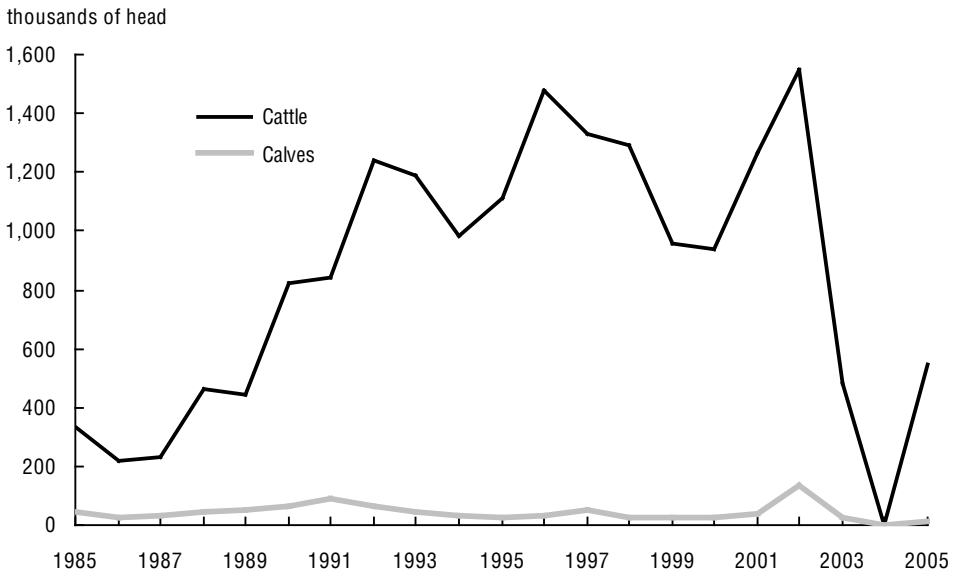
borders were shut, the national herd swelled. Canada lacked the slaughterhouse capacity to process those extra animals.

Cattlemen were stuck with tough choices: sell as many animals as possible in Canada at depressed prices, or hold onto them and pay for feed that added no value to their product.

In 2004 and the first half of 2005, producers sent a record number of cattle for processing. Canada's slaughter capacity was expanded, domestic beef demand held strong and some packaged meat was exported to the United States and other countries.

The age restrictions permit export of younger animals headed straight to slaughter or for a final month or two of feeding before slaughter. However, the ban on older animals, many of which are breeding stock, has hurt producers who used to sell breeder cattle south of the border.

**Chart 2.6**  
Exports of live cattle and calves



Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 003-0026.

## A big trader in food products

As a nation, we import about half of what we eat, and export about half the food we produce. This makes Canada one of the most trade dependent nations for agriculture and fish products. Other countries, especially the United States, are just as hungry for our agricultural exports.

Many of our imports are products we cannot grow. Grapes from Chile and oranges from Morocco are just two imports we now take for granted each winter. Our exports suggest a reputation as the world's bulk food store. Evidently, bulk food is good business for Canada: we posted a trade surplus of \$8.2 billion in food and fish products in 2005.

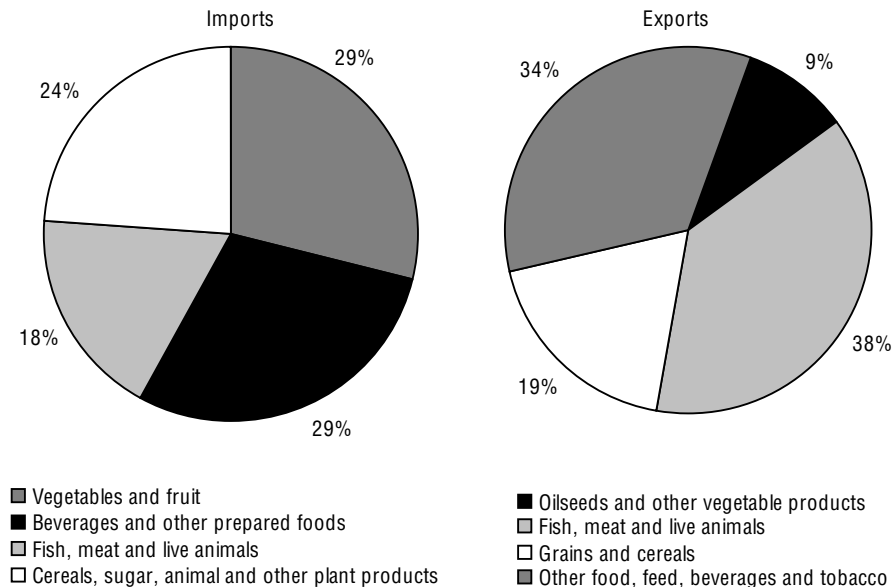
Canada imported \$22.0 billion of agricultural and fish products in 2005. Fruits and vegetables, either in whole form or in preparations, accounted for 29%. Another

29% was beverages and other prepared foods, 18% was fish, meat and live animals, and 24% was mainly cereal products, sugar, and fodder and feed for animals.

In 2005, our exports of agricultural and fish products totalled \$30.2 billion. About 38% was fish, meat and live animals; 19% was grains and cereals; 9% was oilseeds and other vegetable products; and 34% were alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, other foods, animal feeds and tobacco. The United States is the destination for two-thirds of Canada's agricultural exports.

Greenhouse vegetables, as well as live cattle and hogs, became big export businesses in the 1990s, as a result of the 1988 Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. To accommodate the increased export demand, greenhouses, feedlots and hog barns were built or expanded in the last 15 years.

**Chart 2.7**  
Agricultural and fish products trade, 2005



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 21-004-XIE.

Table 2.1 Livestock and poultry, 1992 to 2006

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	thousands														
Cattle	11,869	11,860	12,012	12,709	13,402	13,412	13,360	13,211	13,201	13,608	13,762	13,488	14,653	15,063	14,830
Bulls <sup>1</sup>	216	226	233	249	249	246	236	225	230	239	237	239	271	273	265
Milk cows	1,283	1,223	1,224	1,245	1,237	1,231	1,184	1,157	1,103	1,091	1,084	1,065	1,055	1,066	1,049
Beef cows	3,790	3,912	3,982	4,252	4,381	4,387	4,361	4,386	4,452	4,602	4,636	4,752	5,019	5,297	5,264
Dairy heifers <sup>2</sup>	599	537	532	528	524	531	511	494	487	498	508	512	503	499	498
Beef heifers <sup>2</sup>	1,150	1,226	1,182	1,290	1,418	1,388	1,433	1,309	1,347	1,475	1,518	1,428	1,566	1,616	1,650
For breeding	673	647	699	778	814	724	687	605	645	674	654	648	706	666	650
For market	476	579	484	512	604	664	746	704	703	801	865	780	861	950	1,000
Steers <sup>3</sup>	935	768	806	775	864	981	1,004	1,197	1,267	1,222	1,205	1,179	1,228	1,184	1,173
Calves	3,897	3,969	4,053	4,370	4,728	4,648	4,631	4,443	4,315	4,482	4,574	4,312	5,012	5,127	4,932
Pigs	10,784	10,566	10,888	11,522	11,490	11,740	12,363	12,721	13,377	14,105	14,672	14,608	14,666	14,831	14,436
Breeding stock	1,142	1,138	1,173	1,179	1,192	1,239	1,307	1,326	1,374	1,467	1,549	1,598	1,638	1,647	1,631
Boars, <sup>4</sup> six months and older	65	63	65	63	60	58	56	50	47	45	43	40	36	34	33
Sows <sup>5</sup> and gilts, <sup>6</sup> six months and older	1,077	1,075	1,108	1,115	1,132	1,181	1,251	1,276	1,327	1,423	1,506	1,558	1,602	1,612	1,598
All other pigs	9,641	9,427	9,715	10,344	10,299	10,501	11,056	11,395	12,003	12,638	13,123	13,011	13,029	13,185	12,806
Under 20 kilograms	3,234	3,137	3,233	3,339	3,349	3,433	3,686	3,851	4,026	4,195	4,370	4,465	4,483	4,496	4,368
20 to 60 kilograms	3,357	3,288	3,371	3,531	3,538	3,630	3,781	3,884	4,104	4,337	4,491	4,355	4,370	4,479	4,320
Over 60 kilograms	3,050	3,002	3,110	3,473	3,412	3,437	3,589	3,660	3,873	4,106	4,261	4,190	4,175	4,210	4,117
Sheep	465	469	466	441	456	447	465	490	543	606	644	642	650	642	602
Rams <sup>7</sup>	23	22	24	23	22	23	24	25	28	30	29	29	28	27	26
Ewes <sup>8</sup>	442	447	443	418	434	425	441	465	515	576	615	613	622	615	576
Lambs	183	164	173	176	187	180	197	227	251	342	349	334	347	338	293
Chickens	411,090	408,810	430,258	486,338	486,218	501,289	516,952	541,278	570,468	590,623	624,792	625,692	615,939	613,527	626,251
Turkeys	19,841	19,863	19,448	19,811	21,255	21,475	20,999	20,070	20,087	21,268	20,191	19,672	19,834	19,526	20,492

**Note:** Data reflect the annual average number of animals.

1. Uncastrated male bovines.

2. Female bovines that have never borne young.

3. Castrated male bovines.

4. Uncastrated male pigs.

5. Female pigs that have borne young.

6. Female pigs that have never borne young.

7. Male sheep.

8. Female sheep that have borne young.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, CANSIM tables 003-0004, 003-0018, 003-0031 and 003-0032.



Table 2.2 Principal field crops, seeded areas, 1992 to 2007

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	hectares															
All wheat	14,391,200	12,982,500	10,997,400	11,365,800	12,488,361	11,576,100	10,870,600	10,469,000	11,072,200	10,950,500	10,678,000	10,662,100	10,399,100	10,125,300	10,715,700	9,684,400
Spring wheat	12,532,300	11,240,300	8,298,100	8,822,500	9,983,447	9,016,600	7,533,200	8,288,900	8,001,100	8,325,400	7,752,300	7,511,700	7,527,000	7,245,600	8,204,200	6,911,800
Winter wheat	347,400	279,300	352,100	358,000	441,114	327,600	403,500	395,400	428,500	460,100	436,900	667,600	642,300	538,500	751,100	769,400
Durum wheat	1,511,500	1,462,900	2,347,200	2,185,300	2,063,800	2,231,900	2,933,900	1,784,700	2,642,600	2,165,000	2,488,800	2,482,800	2,229,800	2,341,200	1,760,400	2,003,200
Oats	1,663,400	1,728,800	1,840,400	1,579,400	2,060,342	1,876,300	2,062,600	1,885,700	1,825,700	1,907,400	2,398,500	2,272,000	1,994,900	1,853,300	1,922,600	2,299,500
Barley	4,086,700	4,559,200	4,329,600	4,654,300	5,238,025	5,021,500	4,632,300	4,409,100	5,101,300	4,700,200	5,147,100	5,046,100	4,677,500	4,440,000	3,860,900	4,375,600
All rye	226,900	241,400	239,200	215,300	218,265	208,000	267,300	225,000	188,200	181,400	159,900	246,400	280,400	225,800	200,600	175,500
Fall rye	192,500	217,100	204,800	197,100	202,065	191,800	249,100	208,800	167,900	163,200	143,700	228,200	264,200	225,800	200,600	175,500
Spring rye	34,400	24,300	34,400	18,200	16,200	16,200	18,200	16,200	20,300	18,200	16,200	18,200	16,200	..	..	..
Mixed grains	287,300	311,800	306,800	321,000	291,619	317,800	275,200	278,700	290,200	364,200	284,000	240,700	220,400	208,800	244,900	139,500
Corn for grain	1,081,300	1,035,900	987,900	1,006,500	1,130,775	1,052,500	1,126,500	1,166,200	1,206,000	1,294,200	1,299,300	1,264,600	1,184,800	1,124,200	1,127,200	1,420,800
Buckwheat	24,600	11,800	11,300	17,100	17,775	15,800	14,700	13,900	15,900	15,900	12,100	9,300	6,100	4,000	6,100	..
Dry field peas	273,100	505,800	696,100	819,400	544,300	848,500	1,084,500	851,300	1,240,200	1,343,600	1,296,900	1,303,000	1,388,000	1,365,700	1,410,300	1,442,700
Dry white beans	53,200	49,200	45,000	61,700	42,560	47,900	39,800	79,200	80,600	84,400	115,300	72,900	64,800	76,900	66,700	66,800
Coloured beans	19,800	37,200	38,600	43,200	43,144	43,900	54,100	70,700	84,400	94,900	109,700	88,800	94,200	120,100	116,200	92,600
Flaxseed	297,400	528,100	732,400	876,100	592,900	736,600	878,200	809,400	594,900	671,800	692,000	744,600	728,400	841,800	841,700	578,700
Soybeans	642,600	751,900	821,100	826,100	875,993	1,061,700	980,600	1,004,000	1,068,700	1,081,500	1,030,300	1,050,800	1,229,100	1,176,400	1,237,900	1,186,100
Mustard seed	119,400	190,200	323,600	267,000	239,100	292,200	283,200	279,900	212,300	165,800	289,300	339,800	316,800	212,400	143,600	170,000
Canola (rapeseed)	3,235,500	4,172,300	5,797,100	5,344,000	3,540,311	4,905,900	5,477,400	5,598,700	4,937,000	3,826,800	3,891,000	4,735,700	5,319,400	5,491,300	5,372,600	6,002,100
Sunflower seed	74,400	85,000	83,000	48,600	36,400	50,600	68,800	85,000	74,800	72,800	99,500	118,500	87,000	93,000	74,900	74,900
Sugar beets	22,600	22,200	25,500	24,900	23,800	14,200	18,200	18,200	17,000	12,100	12,100	12,100	14,200	13,800	15,000	..
Tame hay	6,414,200	6,514,700	6,738,800	6,577,600	6,395,660	6,349,500	6,578,600	6,937,100	7,270,700	7,663,400	7,697,500	7,532,600	7,482,700	7,316,300	7,562,700	..
Fodder corn	205,800	179,600	165,800	170,700	190,523	204,600	200,200	188,600	211,500	233,800	226,000	233,900	242,800	219,800	228,700	189,400
Lentils	279,200	372,300	398,600	333,800	303,500	329,000	378,400	506,300	698,900	708,200	600,900	553,900	778,900	883,800	566,500	514,000
Canary seed	94,300	126,300	204,300	147,600	248,800	113,300	210,400	149,800	165,900	170,000	287,300	250,900	356,000	190,200	119,400	165,900
Fababeans	5,600	3,600	2,800	4,000	1,840	2,400	5,600	2,800	6,100	5,200	5,200	4,800	6,000	4,800	10,400	..
Triticale	1,200	15,400	25,900	23,000	25,100	23,000	56,600	74,800	70,800	47,300	87,000	82,100	74,900	53,800	48,600	36,400
Safflower	..	4,000	2,000	2,000	800	..	1,200	4,000	5,200	2,400	2,000	..	..	..	..	..
Caraway seed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,300	8,100	8,100	4,000	..	..	..
Coriander seed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8,100	8,100	12,100	10,100	..	..
Borage seed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	2,000	4,000	..	..	..
Chick peas	..	..	..	..	..	10,500	38,800	141,600	295,400	485,700	220,500	62,700	46,600	78,800	143,600	210,500

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 001-0010.

Table 2.3 Principal field crop production, 1991 to 2006

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	tonnes															
All wheat	31,945,600	29,877,200	27,225,900	22,919,500	24,989,400	29,801,400	24,299,400	24,082,300	26,959,900	26,535,500	20,630,200	16,197,500	23,552,000	25,860,400	26,775,000	27,276,600
Spring wheat	26,603,400	25,360,400	23,100,000	16,944,400	18,847,100	24,146,900	19,032,400	16,564,600	20,900,800	19,027,000	16,010,200	10,767,400	16,440,300	18,451,000	18,788,100	20,052,100
Winter wheat	756,400	1,378,900	767,500	1,340,300	1,493,900	1,027,900	915,300	1,475,800	1,718,200	1,800,000	1,570,500	1,553,200	2,832,100	2,447,400	2,072,300	3,403,400
Durum wheat	4,585,800	3,137,900	3,358,400	4,634,800	4,648,400	4,626,600	4,351,700	6,041,900	4,340,900	5,708,500	3,049,500	3,876,900	4,279,600	4,962,000	5,914,600	3,821,100
Oats	1,793,900	2,828,500	3,556,800	3,640,500	2,872,800	4,361,100	3,489,300	3,957,500	3,641,300	3,403,300	2,690,700	2,910,700	3,691,000	3,683,100	3,432,300	3,602,300
Barley	11,617,300	11,031,500	12,972,100	11,692,000	13,032,500	15,562,000	13,533,900	12,708,700	13,196,000	13,228,600	10,845,600	7,489,400	12,327,600	13,186,400	12,481,200	10,004,500
All rye	338,700	281,100	318,600	399,700	309,600	309,400	320,000	408,200	386,600	260,300	227,800	133,800	327,100	417,900	358,600	301,500
Fall rye	310,800	243,000	280,500	348,900	291,800	291,100	303,400	391,700	366,800	247,000	215,600	129,400	307,800	403,900	358,600	301,500
Spring rye	27,900	38,100	38,100	50,800	17,800	18,300	16,600	16,500	19,800	13,300	12,200	4,400	19,300	14,000	..	..
Mixed grains	618,100	604,100	712,100	630,900	653,300	581,900	626,400	540,000	462,800	434,900	446,500	358,900	384,400	318,000	303,100	290,700
Corn for grain	7,412,500	4,882,600	6,755,200	7,189,900	7,280,900	7,541,700	7,179,800	8,952,400	9,161,300	6,953,700	8,389,200	8,998,800	9,587,300	8,836,800	9,460,800	9,268,200
Buckwheat	23,300	10,750	7,500	12,400	21,200	22,200	16,500	14,800	12,500	13,600	16,300	12,200	9,900	1,500	4,600	6,500
Dry field peas	409,700	504,800	970,200	1,441,000	1,454,700	1,173,000	1,762,300	2,336,800	2,251,900	2,864,300	2,044,800	1,365,500	2,124,400	3,338,200	3,099,800	2,806,300
Dry white beans	0	53,100	77,800	84,800	116,200	61,200	82,600	73,900	149,100	119,300	136,200	209,700	151,000	72,100	117,900	137,600
Coloured beans	0	20,100	53,000	85,900	86,900	71,800	85,400	111,200	135,400	142,100	153,000	197,100	193,300	141,500	201,100	235,100
Flaxseed	635,000	336,600	627,400	967,700	1,104,900	851,000	895,400	1,080,900	1,022,400	693,400	715,000	679,400	754,400	516,900	1,082,000	1,041,100
Soybeans	1,459,900	1,453,300	1,944,900	2,253,700	2,297,500	2,169,500	2,737,700	2,736,600	2,780,900	2,703,000	1,635,200	2,335,700	2,268,300	3,048,000	3,161,300	3,532,800
Mustard seed	121,100	133,300	215,900	319,300	244,300	230,800	243,400	238,600	306,400	202,200	104,800	154,300	226,100	305,500	201,400	116,100
Canola (rapeseed)	4,224,200	3,872,400	5,524,900	7,232,500	6,434,200	5,062,300	6,393,100	7,643,300	8,798,300	7,205,300	5,017,100	4,520,500	6,771,200	7,728,100	9,660,200	9,105,100
Sunflower seed	134,600	64,800	78,500	117,000	66,200	54,900	65,100	111,800	121,900	119,300	103,800	157,400	150,300	54,400	89,300	153,200
Sugar beets	1,085,000	775,700	782,900	1,091,300	1,026,900	1,034,200	635,000	880,000	743,900	821,000	544,300	344,700	680,400	743,900	607,800	870,900
Tame hay	29,192,400	27,694,600	29,703,700	31,141,300	26,851,400	28,025,000	21,137,500	21,825,000	25,032,900	23,921,600	20,373,500	18,140,900	22,360,400	25,614,500	26,629,400	27,617,300
Fodder corn	5,536,600	5,273,800	5,248,800	4,743,800	4,995,700	5,375,400	5,466,600	6,425,600	6,611,500	5,890,300	6,079,000	6,355,800	7,213,000	7,908,700	7,469,000	8,382,400
Lentils	342,800	349,000	348,700	450,400	431,900	402,500	378,800	479,800	723,800	914,100	566,300	353,800	519,900	962,000	1,277,900	692,800
Canary seed	100,300	124,100	127,800	240,400	154,600	284,600	115,000	235,300	166,000	170,800	113,900	185,700	226,400	300,500	227,200	117,300
Fababeans	18,800	11,200	5,200	6,800	5,800	5,520	4,300	13,700	6,500	15,400	10,200	9,100	8,400	15,300	9,800	18,000
Triticale	2,400	2,800	31,100	40,700	39,900	35,200	31,000	85,300	126,200	89,700	31,200	26,000	68,600	80,000	43,200	26,900
Safflower	..	..	500	1,100	2,000	700	..	1,400	3,800	6,700	2,900	1,100	..	..	..	..
Caraway seed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	2,400	3,200	2,500	..	..
Coriander seed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,200	4,800	7,900	8,900	..
Borage seed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	800	500	700	..	..
Chick peas	..	..	..	..	..	..	14,500	50,900	187,200	387,500	455,000	156,500	67,600	51,200	103,900	182,300

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 001-0010.

Table 2.4 Principal field crop production, by province, 2006

	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	tonnes										
All wheat	27,276,600	.	40,600	14,500	3,600	163,500	2,642,700	4,084,600	12,482,300	7,818,100	26,700
Spring wheat	20,052,100	.	32,400	2,700	3,000	153,000	247,700	3,543,600	9,076,800	6,966,200	26,700
Winter wheat	3,403,400	.	8,200	11,800	600	10,500	2,395,000	541,000	275,700	160,600	..
Durum wheat	3,821,100	.	.	.	.	.	.	..	3,129,800	691,300	.
Oats	3,602,300	.	10,900	2,900	16,000	270,000	98,200	979,000	1,526,800	670,900	27,600
Barley	10,004,500	.	91,100	5,400	27,400	310,000	298,300	1,145,900	3,470,500	4,624,500	31,400
Fall rye	301,500	.	..	..	.	4,400	50,000	81,300	134,600	31,200	..
Mixed grains	290,700	.	13,000	..	2,100	52,000	156,000	7,100	13,300	43,900	3,300
Corn for grain	9,268,200	.	.	19,000	.	2,730,000	6,096,300	406,400	.	16,500	.
Buckwheat	6,500	.	..	..	..	..	..	6,500	..	..	.
Dry field peas	2,806,300	.	..	..	..	..	..	91,000	2,126,900	586,100	2,300
Dry white beans	137,600	.	.	.	.	..	85,000	52,600	.	..	.
Coloured beans	235,100	.	.	.	.	14,700	64,600	93,000	.	51,900	.
Flaxseed	1,041,100	.	.	.	.	..	..	193,000	805,200	42,900	..
Soybeans	3,532,800	.	11,800	.	.	540,000	2,721,600	259,400	.	.	.
Mustard seed	116,100	.	.	.	.	.	.	..	90,500	25,600	.
Canola (rapeseed)	9,105,100	.	.	.	.	11,800	11,300	1,826,800	3,962,100	3,265,900	27,200
Sunflower seed	153,200	.	.	.	.	.	.	153,200	..	..	.
Sugar beets	870,900	.	.	.	.	..	..	..	.	870,900	.
Tame hay	27,617,300	28,100	257,600	365,600	344,700	4,005,200	5,796,900	3,147,900	4,413,500	8,019,500	1,238,300
Fodder corn	8,382,400	.	..	69,900	47,200	1,670,100	4,535,900	957,100	..	517,100	585,100
Lentils	692,800	.	.	.	.	.	.	..	692,800	..	.
Canary seed	117,300	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,500	112,800	..	.
Fababeans	18,000	.	.	.	.	.	.	9,500	2,000	4,800	.
Triticale	26,900	.	.	.	.	.	.	..	11,900	15,000	.
Coriander seed	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	..	.	.
Chick peas	182,300	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	159,500	22,800	.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 001-0010.

Table 2.5 Farm cash receipts, 1992 to 2006

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	\$ thousands														
<b>Farm cash receipts</b>	<b>23,730,202</b>	<b>24,188,520</b>	<b>25,881,396</b>	<b>27,123,321</b>	<b>29,075,327</b>	<b>29,838,629</b>	<b>29,686,323</b>	<b>30,357,110</b>	<b>32,960,524</b>	<b>36,320,804</b>	<b>36,075,277</b>	<b>34,419,826</b>	<b>36,458,435</b>	<b>36,798,628</b>	<b>37,014,256</b>
Receipts from crops	8,551,035	9,045,654	11,542,606	13,114,105	14,016,229	14,102,990	13,822,114	13,217,869	13,062,085	13,590,638	14,454,970	13,400,716	14,434,436	13,481,153	14,482,106
Wheat	2,232,747	1,752,339	2,436,389	2,823,648	3,482,441	3,520,740	2,413,393	2,337,436	2,350,429	2,548,885	2,474,708	2,246,500	2,151,495	1,755,772	2,170,959
Oats	98,039	144,879	144,883	224,863	305,427	269,170	193,228	174,621	196,413	273,962	307,737	244,503	232,487	254,931	331,970
Barley	386,260	401,735	517,327	719,800	960,127	727,160	510,285	421,352	477,987	621,288	505,702	379,483	434,556	346,792	329,791
Canada Wheat Board payments <sup>1</sup>	489,336	1,057,920	1,367,430	1,432,766	1,123,878	725,720	948,849	948,353	811,564	1,042,085	981,534	337,267	1,007,545		
Rye	21,173	20,540	24,310	30,776	38,989	34,242	19,743	17,212	15,285	16,210	12,182	12,440	28,857	13,050	16,358
Flaxseed	94,648	107,047	184,905	230,310	220,875	291,632	262,858	138,965	148,743	162,780	239,835	192,160	198,714	170,117	154,294
Canola (rapeseed)	999,392	1,194,351	2,111,164	1,906,362	1,968,956	2,127,750	2,663,207	1,771,010	1,560,025	1,723,047	1,778,264	1,889,576	2,149,436	1,855,278	2,501,609
Soybeans	324,342	438,744	506,678	661,659	626,673	814,222	800,348	618,194	677,947	534,483	587,657	758,345	630,898	761,031	680,063
Corn	514,863	419,255	505,789	704,294	808,128	696,106	642,363	742,902	676,073	630,884	819,169	786,685	794,416	625,675	753,497
Sugar beets	28,559	31,651	40,548	52,043	40,670	34,483	39,838	30,527	32,899	19,333	20,072	22,732	30,921	32,140	38,180
Potatoes	345,771	425,586	533,104	517,641	533,124	512,581	612,166	700,669	679,916	722,879	917,617	846,378	820,292	779,593	899,242
Vegetables	754,730	812,755	863,319	923,155	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Greenhouse vegetables	..	..	..	..	218,473	270,361	376,949	438,491	504,713	589,710	593,763	637,136	716,726	722,312	758,243
Other vegetables	..	..	..	..	749,685	773,255	787,818	779,893	796,238	873,847	844,869	876,876	907,683	889,923	925,278
Tree fruits	193,872	183,157	207,773	252,265	241,440	234,840	231,839	252,633	260,280	258,050	233,864	244,591	222,914	207,056	210,874
Berries and grapes	190,296	186,764	219,213	240,738	254,740	251,236	254,377	320,013	286,441	280,447	294,783	312,930	375,083	344,320	381,583
Floriculture and nursery	866,160	861,662	883,978	941,540	999,335	1,095,216	1,220,579	1,322,114	1,588,698	1,665,576	1,828,717	1,902,346	1,925,250	1,887,211	1,950,488
Tobacco	311,914	277,994	373,946	296,647	345,332	353,267	358,610	356,706	348,427	240,007	274,150	222,256	231,181	194,942	178,521
Other crops	698,933	729,275	621,850	1,155,598	1,097,936	1,371,009	1,485,664	1,846,778	1,650,007	1,387,160	1,735,689	1,523,641	1,648,376		
Receipts from livestock and their products <sup>2</sup>	11,388,328	12,300,208	12,513,891	12,703,800	13,857,294	14,626,880	14,442,665	15,163,207	17,089,735	18,964,226	18,191,366	16,170,994	17,161,734	18,394,053	17,959,991
Cattle and calves	4,452,356	4,924,284	4,812,930	4,607,189	4,730,759	5,285,317	5,704,605	6,185,002	6,874,942	7,891,897	7,654,142	5,119,181	5,071,927	6,359,135	6,495,015
Hogs	1,787,118	2,042,353	2,031,823	2,252,460	2,884,759	2,989,333	2,201,165	2,395,395	3,355,238	3,827,869	3,284,628	3,442,646	4,277,920	3,941,305	3,428,012
Sheep	2,498	3,047	2,908	3,206	3,026	3,494	4,034	4,013	5,214	4,743	3,568	4,395	4,296	6,245	6,770
Lambs	49,834	60,075	60,875	66,403	74,812	71,843	67,727	70,464	81,526	92,273	99,486	96,459	87,193	113,260	121,681
Dairy products	3,089,634	3,134,174	3,354,465	3,463,085	3,514,733	3,709,267	3,846,077	3,920,935	4,029,833	4,142,313	4,135,287	4,480,779	4,598,535	4,841,889	4,830,672
Hens and chickens	922,803	1,006,808	1,060,948	1,050,960	1,248,291	1,298,789	1,356,008	1,320,852	1,368,143	1,522,306	1,452,936	1,528,417	1,579,731	1,615,170	1,545,233
Turkeys	212,902	210,047	221,061	237,891	266,906	258,588	248,836	240,235	263,253	262,534	258,822	262,642	267,824	271,505	278,304
Eggs	522,041	534,455	559,998	590,826	644,956	482,874	466,165	477,591	511,052	547,878	574,980	570,337	567,249	547,223	560,530
Other livestock and products	244,394	263,730	289,745	305,781	364,527	404,631	424,085	418,552	462,421	518,676	564,038	535,460	559,883		
Receipts from direct payments	3,790,839	2,842,658	1,824,899	1,305,416	1,201,804	1,108,759	1,421,544	1,976,034	2,808,704	3,765,940	3,428,941	4,848,116	4,862,265	4,923,422	4,572,159
Crop insurance payments <sup>3</sup>	355,954	723,721	414,825	306,725	256,832	302,721	318,356	239,544	451,382	917,589	1,407,047	1,707,485	755,810	820,072	600,268
Private hail insurance	54,888	47,078	198,180	174,738	81,613	71,068	55,855	68,628	159,254	123,657	86,071	104,507	108,718	116,304	138,832
Provincial stabilization payments	367,800	261,959	300,472	308,128	300,359	170,846	507,947	572,776	411,180	516,476	395,673	711,321	626,336	390,763	542,136
Dairy subsidy	230,979	229,930	222,304	213,553	170,657	146,610	132,113	103,652	72,666	41,885	8,758	..	..	..	..
Other payments	2,427,955	1,417,510	648,499	255,976	277,627	264,192	138,549	209,689	836,148	1,097,940	528,782	1,161,404	1,421,290		
Net Income Stabilization															
Account payments	353,263	162,460	40,619	46,296	114,716	153,322	268,724	444,918	456,221	441,711	615,685	723,065	934,140	442,340	316,950
Income disaster assistance programs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	339,321	421,853	626,682	386,925	440,331	1,014,044	1,777,161	2,760,427

1. Payments made directly to producers.

2. Data do not add to totals because data for horses and their products are suppressed for confidentiality.

3. As of 1992, data no longer include payments under private hail insurance plans.

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM table 002-0001.

Table 2.6 Farm operators, by farm type and by province, 2006

	Canada	Newfoundland and Labrador	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia
	number										
<b>All operators<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>327,055</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>2,335</b>	<b>5,095</b>	<b>3,695</b>	<b>45,470</b>	<b>82,410</b>	<b>26,620</b>	<b>59,185</b>	<b>71,660</b>	<b>29,870</b>
<b>Farm type<sup>3</sup></b>											
Dairy cattle and milk production	25,770	55	360	495	430	12,545	8,540	820	360	1,050	1,115
Beef cattle ranching and farming, including feedlots	86,000	60	475	905	670	6,375	15,000	9,240	16,795	30,115	6,365
Hog and pig farming	9,245	10	90	85	65	2,975	3,395	1,155	315	950	200
Chicken egg production	2,680	20	20	75	45	225	935	180	75	220	880
Broiler and other meat-type chicken production	2,935	5	15	90	15	555	1,260	135	110	295	455
Turkey production	445	0	5	15	5	70	165	35	15	50	85
Poultry hatcheries	70	0	0	5	0	10	20	10	5	10	10
Combination poultry and egg production	240	0	0	10	0	30	70	15	5	25	85
Other poultry production	390	0	0	0	0	100	135	15	10	35	85
Sheep farming	4,260	30	20	80	25	930	1,515	195	260	615	590
Goat farming	1,525	5	0	35	20	235	555	105	80	265	225
Apiculture	2,170	5	10	30	35	215	530	350	350	395	255
Horse and other equine production	22,905	15	115	260	195	1,200	6,560	1,265	1,600	7,095	4,600
Fur-bearing animal and rabbit production	535	25	15	125	20	95	170	25	0	10	45
Livestock combination farming	10,860	20	80	220	150	885	3,665	660	1,285	2,365	1,535
All other miscellaneous animal production	3,770	0	5	25	30	270	445	180	725	1,605	485
Soybean farming	8,390	0	10	0	5	475	7,665	225	5	5	0
Oilseed (except soybean) farming	13,505	0	0	0	0	20	35	1,940	7,130	4,270	115
Dry pea and bean farming	1,590	0	0	0	0	0	195	170	1,085	130	5
Wheat farming	15,480	0	15	5	10	100	1,225	1,645	8,730	3,680	70
Corn farming	4,880	0	0	10	5	2,535	2,270	35	0	10	15
Other grain farming	38,145	5	70	15	35	1,580	6,155	5,050	16,110	8,945	185
Potato farming	2,405	30	495	20	340	435	345	240	130	250	110
Other vegetables (except potato) and melon farming	5,315	95	70	175	100	1,240	2,250	145	60	185	1,000
Fruit and tree-nut farming	12,185	50	205	1,185	485	1,840	2,835	185	230	360	4,815
Mushroom production	235	0	0	5	5	25	105	0	0	10	80
Other food crops grown under cover	1,410	10	5	40	10	395	510	10	35	135	260
Nursery and tree production	6,895	60	25	500	215	910	2,080	215	115	820	1,960
Floriculture production	4,135	75	15	145	110	740	1,525	210	220	415	690
Tobacco farming	910	0	0	0	0	5	900	0	0	0	0
Hay farming	24,090	85	110	345	395	2,360	7,965	1,655	2,470	5,855	2,850
Fruit and vegetable combination farming	865	30	10	35	30	160	255	15	20	60	250
All other miscellaneous crop farming	12,815	20	90	165	245	5,935	3,115	510	845	1,435	460

**Note:** Each census farm is classified according to the commodity or group of commodities that accounts for 50% or more of the total potential receipts.

1. Figures may not add to totals because of rounding. Minor differences can be expected in figures appearing in other tables.
2. Farm operators are defined as those people responsible for the management decisions made in the operation of a census farm or agricultural operation. Up to three farm operators could be reported per farm.
3. The farm type is based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) farm-typing categories. Although NAICS is revised periodically, the classifications for Canadian agriculture have remained the same and the data for the two census years are comparable.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture.

**Table 2.7 Farm operators, by sex and age group, census years 2001 and 2006**

	2001		2006		2001 to 2006
	number	% of total	number	% of total	% change
<b>All operators<sup>1,2</sup></b>	<b>346,195</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>327,055</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-5.5</b>
Under 35	39,920	11.5	29,925	9.1	-25.0
35 to 54	185,575	53.6	164,160	50.2	-11.5
55 and older	120,705	34.9	132,975	40.7	10.2
Median age	49	...	51	...	4.1
<b>Male operators</b>	<b>255,015</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>236,220</b>	<b>72.2</b>	<b>-7.4</b>
Under 35	29,430	8.5	22,170	6.8	-24.7
35 to 54	132,060	38.1	114,695	35.1	-13.1
55 and older	93,530	27.0	99,360	30.4	6.2
Median age	49	...	52	...	6.1
<b>Female operators</b>	<b>91,180</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>90,835</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Under 35	10,490	3.0	7,755	2.4	-26.1
35 to 54	53,510	15.5	49,465	15.1	-7.6
55 and older	27,175	7.8	33,615	10.3	23.7
Median age	48	...	50	...	4.2

1. Figures may not add to totals because of rounding. Minor differences can be expected in figures appearing in other tables.

2. Farm operators are defined as those people responsible for the management decisions made in the operation of a census farm or agricultural operation. Up to three farm operators could be reported per farm.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001 and 2006.

**Table 2.8 Total farm area, land tenure and land in crops, census years from 1986 to 2006**

	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
	number				
<b>Total number of farms</b>	<b>293,089</b>	<b>280,043</b>	<b>276,548</b>	<b>246,923</b>	<b>229,373</b>
<b>Total farm area</b>					
Area in hectares <sup>1</sup>	67,825,757	67,753,700	68,054,956	67,502,446	67,586,739
Farms reporting	293,089	280,043	276,548	246,923	229,373
Average area in hectares per farm reporting	231	242	246	273	295
<b>Total area owned</b>					
Area in hectares <sup>1</sup>	43,218,905	42,961,352	43,060,963	42,265,706	41,377,673
Farms reporting	273,963	264,837	262,152	235,131	220,513
Average area in hectares per farm reporting	158	162	164	180	188
<b>Total area rented or leased from others<sup>2</sup></b>					
Area in hectares <sup>1</sup>	24,606,852	24,792,348	24,993,993	25,236,740	26,209,066
Farms reporting	118,735	111,387	111,718	103,484	97,989
Average area in hectares per farm reporting	207	223	224	244	267
<b>Land in crops (excluding Christmas tree area)</b>					
Area in hectares <sup>1</sup>	33,181,235	33,507,780	34,918,733	36,395,150	35,912,247
Farms reporting	264,141	248,147	237,760	215,581	194,717
Average area in hectares per farm reporting	126	135	147	169	184

1. Conversion factor: 1 hectare equals 2.471 054 13 acres.

2. Total area rented or leased from others includes land; leased from governments, rented or leased from others and crop-shared from others.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1986 to 2006.

# Abbreviations and symbols



## Provinces and territories

Newfoundland and Labrador	N.L.
Prince Edward Island	P.E.I.
Nova Scotia	N.S.
New Brunswick	N.B.
Quebec	Que.
Ontario	Ont.
Manitoba	Man.
Saskatchewan	Sask.
Alberta	Alta.
British Columbia	B.C.
Yukon	Y.T.
Northwest Territories	N.W.T.
Nunavut	Nvt.

## Measurements

centimetre	cm
metre	m
kilometre	km
gram	g
kilogram	kg
litre	L
millilitre	mL
hour	h
watt	W
kilowatt	kW
degrees Celsius	°C

The symbols described in this document apply to all data published by Statistics Canada from all origins, including surveys, censuses and administrative sources, as well as straight tabulations and all estimations.

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 <sup>s</sup>	value rounded to zero where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
X	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

**Note:** In some tables, figures may not add to totals because of rounding.

When the figure is not accompanied by a data quality symbol, it means that the quality of the data was assessed to be 'acceptable or better' according to the policies and standards of Statistics Canada.

The statistics in this edition are the most up-to-date available at the time of its preparation. For more recent data, visit Canadian Statistics at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)