Catalogue no. 22-008-X

Vol. 7, no. 3

Service bulletin

Canadian Potato Production

January 2010

Highlights

This publication contains revisions to the 2009 potato production for both Canada and the United States, as well as revisions to the amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock and value for the 2008 Canadian crop.

- Revisions to the 2009 crop were made to Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Quebec and New Brunswick, which affected their area planted, harvested and production.
- The 2009 area harvested is now estimated to be 361,600 acres (146 340 hectares), down 3% from 2008. The production is 100,997,000 cwts (4 581 224 tonnes), down 2%.
- This publication also contains revisions to British Columbia's 2008 amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock and its value.
- The combined 2009 production for Canada and the United States is up 3% to 494,500,000 cwts (24,430,520 tonnes) from the previous year.

Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

Canada

Statistical tables

Table 1
Area, production and farm value of potatoes (imperial measures), Canada and provinces

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Average farm value	Total farm value
	acres		hundredweight per acre	hundredweight		Canadian dollars per hundredweight	thousands of dollars
2006							
Canada	**401,900**	**391,000**	**287.1**	**112,241,000**	**107,926,000**	**8.58**	**925,999**
Newfoundland and Labrador	800	700	230.0	161,000	149,000	22.15	3,301
Prince Edward Island	97,600	95,800	310.0	29,698,000	29,090,000	6.94	201,812
Nova Scotia	2,600	2,600	210.0	546,000	509,000	10.23	5,209
New Brunswick	59,900	59,000	300.0	17,700,000	17,137,000	5.87	100,538
Quebec	47,900	45,000	259.2	11,662,000	10,249,000	10.10	103,468
Ontario	38,100	36,000	209.0	7,524,000	6,772,000	12.73	86,221
Manitoba	80,600	79,600	270.0	21,492,000	21,273,000	8.79	187,057
Saskatchewan	11,100	10,300	270.0	2,781,000	2,539,000	13.58	34,476
Alberta	54,800	53,500	342.0	18,297,000	17,944,000	8.78	157,609
British Columbia	8,500	8,500	280.0	2,380,000	2,264,000	20.45	46,310
2007							
Canada	**399,200**	**395,200**	**278.3**	**109,982,000**	**106,510,000**	**9.05**	**964,421**
Newfoundland and Labrador	700	700	175.0	123,000	114,000	21.91	2,498
Prince Edward Island	96,000	96,000	285.0	27,360,000	27,116,000	8.19	221,978
Nova Scotia	2,500	2,500	225.0	563,000	526,000	10.37	5,457
New Brunswick	58,500	58,500	290.0	16,965,000	16,036,000	6.87	110,197
Quebec	45,700	44,700	285.2	12,748,000	12,116,000	8.81	106,697
Ontario	37,000	36,000	143.0	5,148,000	4,843,000	13.75	66,573
Manitoba	85,000	84,500	280.0	23,660,000	23,392,000	8.78	205,484
Saskatchewan	9,500	9,500	245.0	2,328,000	2,166,000	16.50	35,736
Alberta	55,800	54,800	341.0	18,687,000	17,910,000	8.77	157,157
British Columbia	8,500	8,000	300.0	2,400,000	2,292,000	22.97	52,645
2008							
Canada	**379,900**	**373,400**	**277.3**	**103,560,000**	**99,950,000**	**11.98**	**1,196,934**
Newfoundland and Labrador	700	700	160.0	112,000	103,000	28.88	2,975
Prince Edward Island	92,500	89,000	280.0	24,920,000	24,469,000	10.18	249,212
Nova Scotia	2,200	2,200	260.0	572,000	527,000	12.56	6,618
New Brunswick	55,500	54,500	260.0	14,170,000	13,772,000	10.52	144,940
Quebec	42,500	41,800	262.0	10,952,000	10,374,000	14.72	152,737
Ontario	36,000	35,200	220.0	7,744,000	6,970,000	16.80	117,112
Manitoba	81,000	81,000	280.0	22,680,000	22,020,000	10.76	236,927
Saskatchewan	9,500	9,500	275.0	2,613,000	2,419,000	20.22	48,919
Alberta	52,500	52,000	336.0	17,472,000	17,152,000	11.14	191,154
British Columbia	7,500	7,500	310.0	2,325,000	2,143,000	21.62	46,340
2009							
Canada	**371,100**	**361,600**	**279.3**	**100,997,000**	**..**	**..**	**..**
Newfoundland and Labrador	600	600	140.0	84,000	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	85,000	82,000	290.0	23,780,000	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	2,300	2,200	265.0	583,000	..	..	..
New Brunswick	55,000	54,500	270.0	14,715,000	..	..	..
Quebec	44,200	43,200	264.5	11,426,000	..	..	..
Ontario	37,000	36,400	215.0	7,826,000	..	..	..
Manitoba	79,000	78,000	285.0	22,230,000	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	8,500	8,000	290.0	2,320,000	..	..	..
Alberta	52,500	49,700	322.0	16,003,000	..	..	..
British Columbia	7,000	7,000	290.0	2,030,000	..	..	..

Note(s): Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 2

Area, production and farm value of potatoes (metric measures), Canada and provinces

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Average farm value	Total farm value
	hectares		tonnes per hectare	tonnes		Canadian dollars per tonne	thousands of dollars
2006							
Canada	**162,649**	**158,238**	**32.18**	**5,091,252**	**4,895,523**	**189.15**	**925,999**
Newfoundland and Labrador	324	283	25.78	7,303	6,759	488.32	3,301
Prince Edward Island	39,499	38,770	34.75	1,347,101	1,319,522	153.00	201,812
Nova Scotia	1,052	1,052	23.54	24,767	23,088	225.53	5,209
New Brunswick	24,242	23,877	33.62	802,872	777,334	129.41	100,538
Quebec	19,385	18,212	29.05	528,988	464,895	222.66	103,468
Ontario	15,419	14,569	23.43	341,289	307,178	280.64	86,221
Manitoba	32,619	32,214	30.26	974,877	964,943	193.78	187,057
Saskatchewan	4,492	4,168	30.26	126,146	115,169	299.38	34,476
Alberta	22,178	21,651	38.33	829,952	813,940	193.56	157,609
British Columbia	3,440	3,440	31.38	107,957	102,695	450.84	46,310
2007							
Canada	**161,556**	**159,937**	**31.19**	**4,988,784**	**4,831,294**	**199.51**	**964,421**
Newfoundland and Labrador	283	283	19.61	5,579	5,171	483.02	2,498
Prince Edward Island	38,851	38,851	31.94	1,241,050	1,229,982	180.56	221,978
Nova Scotia	1,012	1,012	25.22	25,538	23,859	228.62	5,457
New Brunswick	23,675	23,675	32.50	769,532	727,393	151.46	110,197
Quebec	18,495	18,090	31.97	578,249	549,582	194.22	106,697
Ontario	14,974	14,569	16.03	233,513	219,678	303.13	66,573
Manitoba	34,400	34,197	31.38	1,073,218	1,061,061	193.56	205,484
Saskatchewan	3,845	3,845	27.46	105,598	98,250	363.76	35,736
Alberta	22,582	22,178	38.22	847,642	812,398	193.34	157,157
British Columbia	3,440	3,238	33.62	108,864	103,965	506.39	52,645
2008							
Canada	**153,746**	**151,115**	**31.08**	**4,697,482**	**4,533,732**	**264.11**	**1,196,934**
Newfoundland and Labrador	283	283	17.93	5,080	4,672	636.68	2,975
Prince Edward Island	37,435	36,018	31.38	1,130,371	1,109,914	224.43	249,212
Nova Scotia	890	890	29.14	25,946	23,905	276.90	6,618
New Brunswick	22,461	22,056	29.14	642,751	624,698	231.92	144,940
Quebec	17,200	16,916	29.37	496,783	470,565	324.51	152,737
Ontario	14,569	14,245	24.66	351,268	316,159	370.37	117,112
Manitoba	32,781	32,781	31.38	1,028,765	998,827	237.21	236,927
Saskatchewan	3,845	3,845	30.82	118,526	109,726	445.77	48,919
Alberta	21,247	21,044	37.66	792,530	778,015	245.59	191,154
British Columbia	3,035	3,035	34.75	105,462	97,206	476.63	46,340
2009							
Canada	**150,184**	**146,340**	**31.30**	**4,581,224**	**..**	**..**	**..**
Newfoundland and Labrador	243	243	15.69	3,810	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	34,400	33,185	32.50	1,078,661	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	931	890	29.70	26,445	..	..	..
New Brunswick	22,258	22,056	30.26	667,472	..	..	..
Quebec	17,888	17,483	29.65	518,283	..	..	..
Ontario	14,974	14,731	24.10	354,987	..	..	..
Manitoba	31,971	31,567	31.94	1,008,353	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	3,440	3,238	32.50	105,235	..	..	..
Alberta	21,247	20,114	36.09	725,896	..	..	..
British Columbia	2,833	2,833	32.50	92,081	..	..	..

Note(s): Figures may not add due to rounding.

Table 3

Area, production and value of fall harvest potatoes (imperial measures), United States and Canada

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Average farm value [1]	Total farm value [1]
	acres		hundredweight per acre	hundredweight		Canadian dollars per hundredweight	thousands of dollars
2000	1,632,500	1,585,800	358.3	568,222,000	516,933,000	7.02	3,630,063
2001	1,510,000	1,484,300	327.9	486,676,000	454,895,000	10.23	4,654,056
2002	1,571,700	1,527,500	338.7	517,312,000	485,500,000	8.96	4,349,297
2003	1,564,500	1,538,900	342.7	527,431,000	482,548,000	7.21	3,481,375
2004	1,473,900	1,447,700	363.4	526,114,000	479,037,000	6.62	3,171,369
2005	1,375,000	1,337,200	359.9	481,317,000	447,014,000	8.06	3,604,726
2006	1,397,600	1,375,000	371.9	511,417,000	474,218,000	7.79	3,695,305
2007	1,407,000	1,388,400	372.2	516,782,000	481,127,000	7.51	3,614,490
2008	1,311,000	1,295,400	372.2	482,148,000	449,530,000	10.43	4,687,150
2009	1,308,200	1,281,200	386.0	494,500,000	..	..	..

1. American data includes the price and value only for potatoes sold. It does not include a value for potatoes used on farm where grown for seed, livestock feed and home consumption.

Source(s): National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and Statistics Canada, Agricultural Division.

Table 4

Area, production and value of fall harvest potatoes, United States (imperial measures)

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount utilized	Average price [1]	Total value of sales [1]
	acres		hundredweight per acre	hundredweight		Canadian dollars per hundredweight	thousands of dollars
2000	1,223,100	1,192,300	392	467,529,000	425,269,000	6.92	2,908,469
2001	1,091,300	1,072,500	367	393,631,000	363,851,000	10.29	3,693,413
2002	1,134,100	1,105,200	374	413,581,000	384,195,000	8.90	3,371,267
2003	1,107,000	1,091,900	376	410,973,000	372,107,000	6.98	2,598,610
2004	1,040,700	1,023,300	401	410,683,000	370,169,000	6.32	2,339,864
2005	969,700	951,000	403	383,563,000	351,822,000	7.57	2,662,973
2006	995,700	984,000	406	399,176,000	366,292,000	7.56	2,769,306
2007	1,007,800	993,200	410	406,800,000	374,617,000	7.07	2,650,069
2008	931,100	922,000	411	378,588,000	349,580,000	9.98	3,490,216
2009	937,100	919,600	428	393,503,000	..	..	..

1. American data includes the price and value only for potatoes sold. It does not include a value for potatoes used on farm where grown for seed, livestock feed and home consumption.

Source(s): National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Table 5

Area, production and value of potatoes, Canada (imperial measures)

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Average farm value	Total farm value
	acres		hundredweight per acre	hundredweight		Canadian dollars per hundredweight	thousands of dollars
2000	409,400	393,500	255.9	100,693,000	91,664,000	7.87	721,594
2001	418,700	411,800	225.9	93,045,000	91,044,000	10.55	960,643
2002	437,600	422,300	245.6	103,731,000	101,305,000	9.65	978,030
2003	457,500	447,000	260.5	116,458,000	110,441,000	7.99	882,765
2004	433,200	424,400	272.0	115,431,000	108,868,000	7.64	831,505
2005	405,300	386,200	253.1	97,754,000	95,192,000	9.89	941,753
2006	401,900	391,000	287.1	112,241,000	107,926,000	8.58	925,999
2007	399,200	395,200	278.3	109,982,000	106,510,000	9.05	964,421
2008	379,900	373,400	277.3	103,560,000	99,950,000	11.98	1,196,934
2009	371,100	361,600	279.3	100,997,000	..	..	..

Table 6

Area, production and value of potatoes, by harvest season [1], United States (imperial measures)

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount utilized	Average price [2]	Total value of sales [2]
	acres		hundredweight per acre	hundredweight		Canadian dollars per hundredweight	thousands of dollars
2008							
Winter harvest	11,000	11,000	230.0	2,530,000	2,475,000	20.05	49,631
Spring harvest	70,300	68,800	293.0	20,132,000	19,132,000	15.07	288,376
Summer harvest	47,000	44,800	306.0	13,694,000	13,291,000	15.21	202,193
Fall harvest	931,100	922,000	411.0	378,588,000	349,580,000	9.98	3,490,216
Total yearly harvest	1,059,400	1,046,600	395.0	414,944,000	384,478,000	10.48	4,030,416
2009							
Winter harvest	9,000	8,700	245.0	2,132,000	..	..	..
Spring harvest	79,200	73,700	289.0	21,321,000	..	..	..
Summer harvest	44,500	43,000	336.0	14,469,000	..	..	..
Fall harvest	937,100	919,600	428.0	393,503,000	..	..	..
Total yearly harvest	1,069,800	1,045,000	413.0	431,425,000	..	..	..

1. Winter harvest refers to potatoes harvested in January through March, spring harvest to potatoes harvested in April through June, summer harvest to potatoes harvested in July through mid-September and fall harvest to potatoes harvested from September to November.
2. American data includes the price and value only for potatoes sold. It does not include a value for potatoes used on farm where grown for seed, livestock feed and home consumption.

Source(s): National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Table 7

Area, production and value of fall harvest potatoes (metric measures), United States and Canada

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Average farm value [1]	Total farm value [1]
	hectares		tonnes per hectare	tonnes		Canadian dollars per tonne	thousands of dollars
2000	660,673	641,773	40.2	25,774,550	23,448,081	154.84	3,630,063
2001	611,097	600,696	36.8	22,075,623	20,634,037	225.59	4,654,056
2002	636,067	618,179	38.0	23,465,272	22,022,280	197.53	4,349,297
2003	633,153	622,793	38.4	23,924,270	21,888,377	159.08	3,481,375
2004	596,487	585,884	40.7	23,864,531	21,729,118	145.98	3,171,369
2005	556,462	541,165	40.3	21,832,539	20,276,555	177.81	3,604,726
2006	565,609	556,462	41.7	23,197,875	21,510,528	171.82	3,695,305
2007	569,413	561,885	41.7	23,441,232	21,823,921	165.65	3,614,490
2008	530,562	524,248	41.7	21,870,233	20,390,681	229.91	4,687,150
2009	529,429	518,502	43.3	22,430,520	..	..	..

1. American data includes the price and value only for potatoes sold. It does not include a value for potatoes used on farm where grown for seed, livestock feed and home consumption.

Source(s): National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and Statistics Canada, Agricultural Division.

Table 8

Area, production and value of fall harvest potatoes, United States (metric measures)

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount utilized	Average price [1]	Total value of sales [1]
	hectares		tonnes per hectare	tonnes		Canadian dollars per tonne	thousands of dollars
2000	494,989	482,524	44.0	21,207,115	19,290,202	150.77	2,908,469
2001	441,649	434,041	41.1	17,855,102	16,504,281	223.79	3,693,413
2002	458,970	447,274	41.9	18,760,034	17,427,085	193.45	3,371,267
2003	448,003	441,892	42.2	18,641,735	16,878,774	153.96	2,598,610
2004	421,171	414,130	45.0	18,628,581	16,790,866	139.35	2,339,864
2005	392,438	384,870	45.2	17,398,418	15,958,646	166.87	2,662,973
2006	402,960	398,225	45.5	18,106,623	16,615,005	166.68	2,769,306
2007	407,857	401,948	45.9	18,452,448	16,992,627	155.95	2,650,069
2008	376,816	373,133	46.0	17,172,752	15,856,949	220.11	3,490,216
2009	379,244	372,162	48.0	17,849,296	..	..	..

1. American data includes the price and value only for potatoes sold. It does not include a value for potatoes used on farm where grown for seed, livestock feed and home consumption.

Source(s): National Agricultural Statistics Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Table 9
Area, production and value of all potatoes, Canada (metric measures)

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock	Average farm value	Total farm value
	hectares		tonnes per hectare	tonnes		Canadian dollars per tonne	thousands of dollars
2000	165,684	159,249	28.7	4,567,434	4,157,879	173.55	721,594
2001	169,448	166,655	25.3	4,220,521	4,129,756	232.61	960,643
2002	177,097	170,905	27.5	4,705,238	4,595,195	212.84	978,030
2003	185,150	180,901	29.2	5,282,535	5,009,604	176.21	882,765
2004	175,316	171,755	30.5	5,235,950	4,938,252	168.38	831,505
2005	164,025	156,295	28.4	4,434,121	4,317,909	218.10	941,753
2006	162,649	158,238	32.2	5,091,252	4,895,523	189.15	925,999
2007	161,556	159,937	31.2	4,988,784	4,831,294	199.62	964,421
2008	153,746	151,115	31.1	4,697,482	4,533,732	264.01	1,196,934
2009	150,184	146,340	31.3	4,581,224	..	..	..

Concepts and definitions

Area planted

Planted area refers to potato area planted in the spring of the reference year.

The preliminary potato area estimate for the current year is released in mid-July. It is based upon data from sample surveys or consultation with provincial vegetable or potato specialists.

Quebec, Ontario and Alberta—The preliminary area estimate is provided by consultation with provincial potato specialists and departments of agriculture.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia—Estimates are produced using the Potato Area and Yield Survey (Survey 3446). This survey is a two phase telephone probability survey. Calls are made in June for area and again in October for area harvested and production.

Revisions may be made to July's area estimate the following November. The sources for these revised estimates are as follows:

Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick—The previous year's area may be revised as a result of disposition data indicating a significantly different production. Area planted estimates for the current year may be revised in relation to the previous year's adjusted area. The Potato Area and Yield Survey also confirms planted area when calls are made for the yield in the fall.

Quebec, Ontario and Alberta—Area planted is collected through each province's own survey program.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia—The Potato Area and Yield Survey supplies information on the area planted. Seed inspection data supplements these area estimates as well.

Area harvested

This series was incorporated in 1985 for all provinces except Quebec and Ontario, where the series became available beginning in 1993. It is calculated by subtracting unharvested area from area planted. Revisions to area planted will automatically result in revisions to area harvested if area lost remains constant. It indicates the area not harvested

because of poor harvest conditions, crop failure or disease. For years prior to 1985 and for Quebec and Ontario prior to 1993, unharvested area was accounted for in the total production with production for that area placed at zero.

Area harvested is released in November of the current year. Revisions can be made to the previous year's area harvested at the same time.

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia—Crop Insurance data in combination with the Potato Area and Yield Survey determines the area lost.

Quebec, Ontario and Alberta—Area lost is collected through each province's own survey program.

Yield

Yield is a measure of production from the harvested area based on the volume produced, including cull potatoes, but excluding product left in the field.

Both current and revised yields are released in the November issue of the Canadian Potato Production Bulletin.

Sources of data for each province are:

Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia—Estimates are based on responses to the Potato Area and Yield Survey. Calls are made in late October and early November of the current year.

Quebec, Ontario and Alberta—Yield is collected through each province's own survey program.

Yields may be revised the following January. Later survey results from the provincial ministries or administrative data might indicate a revision is necessary. Only unusual circumstances would indicate another revision to this production the following July.

Total production

Total production, the product of area harvested by the average yield, is the volume of potatoes harvested out of the field, including culls, but excluding gleanings.

The production estimate is released in November of the current year. Any revisions to production resulting from new information or supply disposition data can be made the following January or one year later in the following November. (See concepts for yield).

Amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock

This series was established in 1982. From 1986, the series includes the amount fed to livestock. It measures the volume of potatoes sold, consumed on farm, seed for own use, plus potatoes fed to livestock. If potatoes were destroyed and producers received funds as part of a diversion program, these potatoes would be considered sold and included in the amount utilized. Starting with the 1999 crop, all potatoes that are being shipped to French fry processors are being included in the volume sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock. No cullage is being deducted from these marketings. These numbers are released each November for the previous crop year.

Newfoundland and Labrador—The amount is set at 90% of the harvested production.

Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick—The Canadian Food Inspection Agencies inspection staff provides a monthly estimate of cullage and marketings.

Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia—The amount is based on consultation with provincial specialists and marketing agencies.

Quebec—The amount is collected through their province's survey program

Average price

The average price for potatoes is based on the transaction price received by the producer. If a portion of the crop is being utilized but the producer is receiving no compensation for that portion of the crop, the price is averaged into the average price at a zero value. The price is net of all deductions made before the producer is paid. The average price is released each November for the previous year's crop.

Newfoundland and Labrador and Nova Scotia—Annual prices are established in consultation with provincial specialists and as a result of the Fall Survey of Fruit and Vegetables.

Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia—Statistics Canada conducts a monthly survey of potato prices received by producers (Survey 3436). These prices are then multiplied by the monthly disposition of each of the grades of these potatoes to create an annual weighted price.

Quebec—The average price is collected through the provincial survey program and the Farm Product Prices Survey (Survey 3436).

Farm value

Farm value is the product of the amount sold, consumed, seeded or fed to livestock by the average farm price. (See concepts section on amount sold, consumed, seed or fed to livestock and prices). The farm value is released each November for the previous year's crop.

Methodology and data quality

Potato area and yield survey (Survey 3446)

Survey frame and sample selection

The target population includes all potato farms in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia except those on Indian Reserves and institutional farms.

The Census of Agriculture provides a list of farms and their potato area. This list is updated annually from various available sources. The list frame is stratified on the basis of Census potato area and provincial geographic boundaries.

A sample of 444 farms (29 Newfoundland and Labrador, 28 Nova Scotia, 160 in Prince Edward Island, 130 in New Brunswick, 50 in Manitoba, 23 in Saskatchewan, and 24 in British Columbia) was drawn from the list frame for the Potato Area and Yield Survey.

The yield portion of the survey is conducted in October to confirm area planted and to ask for area harvested and production. Operations that had reported no potatoes in June are not contacted a second time.

Data collection

Data collection for the seeded potato area was done by telephone interview, from June 16 to June 25, 2009 and for the yield portion between October 15 and November 14, 2009.

By the end of the collection period, about 65% of the questionnaires had been completed. The refusal rate to the survey was about 5%. Non-contact and non-response can explain the difference between the completion rate

and the refusal rate. Initial sample weights are adjusted (a process called raising factor adjustment) in cases of non-response. No imputation is performed.

Estimation

The survey data collected from the Potato Area and Yield Survey are weighted in order to produce level indicators which are representative of the population. These level indicators then undergo a validation process, based on subject matter analysis and consultation with provincial specialists, before an estimate is determined.

Sampling and non-sampling errors

The statistics contained in this publication are based on a random sample of agricultural operations and, as such, are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. The overall quality of the estimates depends on the combined effect of these two types of errors.

Sampling errors arise because estimates are derived from sample data and not the entire population. These errors depend on factors such as sample size, sampling design and the method of estimation.

Non-sampling errors are not related to sampling and may occur throughout the survey operation for various reasons like coverage, differences in interpretation of questions, incorrect information from respondents, mistakes in recording, coding or processing of data.

Data quality

Sampling error can be estimated from the sample itself by using a statistical measure called the coefficient of variation (cv). Over repeated surveys, 95 times out of 100, the difference between a sample estimate and what should have been obtained from an enumeration of all potato farming operations would be less than twice the coefficient of variation. This range of values is referred to as confidence interval. While published estimates may not exactly equal the level indicators (due to the validation and consultation process), these estimates do remain within the confidence interval of the survey level indicators.

For the 2009 area estimates, the cv's from the Potato Area and Yield Survey ranged from 4.46% to 10.57%.

For the 2009 yield estimates, the cv's ranged from .44% to 5.56%.

Farm product prices survey (Survey 3436)

Survey frame and sample selection

The target population for Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia consists of all agricultural operations in these provinces which grow potatoes. The Census of Agriculture provides a list of such farms and is updated from various available sources. The list frame is stratified on the basis of the area of potatoes reported on the 2006 Census. A sample of approximately 600 farms is drawn from the list frame and is rotated as required.

Data collection

Data collection is carried out by telephone interview on the first five business days of the month following the reference month. The refusal rate is usually less than 5%. No imputations are performed. Editing is done following data capture and outliers are verified and removed if necessary from the sample. A simple average is calculated on the remaining data.

Survey of fruits & vegetables (Survey 3407)

Survey frame and sample selection

Newfoundland & Nova Scotia - This new national annual survey contacts about 1000 fruit or vegetable growers in Newfoundland and in Nova Scotia.

The target population is all agricultural operations in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. The Census of Agriculture provides a list of farms which is updated from various available sources.

Data collection

Data collection is carried out using a CATI application in December. No imputations are performed. Editing is done and outliers are removed. Weighting factors are adjusted to account for non-response.

United States data

American estimates are based on information furnished by crop reporters, processors, and cooperating State or Federal Agencies. The various sources include: Market News Service rail and truck shipments, Federal-State inspections, and miscellaneous data available through marketing programs.

Price estimates represent average returns to growers for all uses and for all methods of sale, including the value paid for a government diversion program. These prices are applied to the quantity sold to compute value of sales. The volume sold, and the value of sales, exclude potatoes used on own farm for seed, feed, home use, and loss.

The United States season average price is obtained by weighting State prices by quantities sold.

Potato production, utilization, and value of sales in each State have been classified by seasonal group according to the period (quarter) when the largest supplies are harvested. The four seasonal groups are as follows:

Season	Usual time of harvest
Winter	January through March
Spring	April through June
Summer	July to Mid-September
Fall	September through November

A crop year is associated with the calendar year in which harvest is accomplished. Seasons are not fixed dates but are approximations because of overlapping of harvest before or after the specified season.

Generally, the marketing season closely follows harvest except for fall potatoes when marketing from storage may extend through August of the following year. Thus, the marketing year for fall potatoes is from the start of harvest through August of the following year.

Revision procedures

Area, yield, production, price or values are all subject to revision when more information becomes available. The policy is to revise the estimates when:

- supply/disposition analysis at the end of the crop year indicates under or over-estimation of production; or
- a new benchmark for area becomes available from the Census of Agriculture; or
- new sources of administrative data would suggest alternatives to survey results.

The tables below contain some statistics which indicate the magnitude and direction of past revision from the preliminary to the final (following census revisions) seeded potato area and total production. The magnitude is

measured by the average percent change between the preliminary and final estimates. The direction of revisions is indicated by counting the number of years that the preliminary estimate is above or below the final revised estimate.

The data indicates that the preliminary estimates of seeded area have been revised upward 7 years out of the past 10 by an average of 2.00% at the Canadian level.

The data indicates that the preliminary estimates of harvested production at the Canadian level have been revised by an average 1.90% over the past years. In 8 of the past 10 years, the revision has been upwards.

Conversion factors

The following metric conversion factors are used in this publication:

Area: 1 acre = 0.4047 hectare

Production: 1 hundredweight = 0.04536 tonne

To convert area from imperial to metric, provincial acreages are first converted, then the individual provinces are added for the Canadian total area in hectares. The Canadian acreage may not directly convert to the Canadian area in hectares.

The same method is used for production. Provincial hundredweights are converted to provincial tonnes, which are then added for the Canadian production in tonnes.

The Canadian yield in tonnes is the result of the total production in tonnes divided by the Canadian hectares. The yield in hundredweights/acre may not be directly convertible to the yield in tonnes/hectare.

The average farm price at the Canadian level in $/tonne is the farm value divided by the marketed production in tonnes. The price in $/cwt may not convert directly to the price in $/tonne.

Data confidentiality

Data confidentiality is ensured under the Statistics Act, which prohibits the divulging of individual or aggregated data where individuals or businesses might be identified.

Release date: January 2010

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0s	value rounded to 0 (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 *Statistics Act*
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

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Frequency: Irregular / ISSN 1705-7035

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