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Service bulletin

Canadian Potato Production

January 2012

Highlights

This publication contains revisions to the 2011 potato production estimates for Canada and the United States.

- Nationally, the 2011 seeded area and production have been revised downward as a result of revisions to Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia. The Canadian 2011 production is now set at 91,893,000 cwt. (4,168,266 tonnes).

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
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	**369,900**	**359,700**	**280.4**	**100,859,000**	**96,810,000**	**11.27**	**1,090,812**
Newfoundland and Labrador	600	600	140.0	84,000	78,000	28.82	2,248
Prince Edward Island	85,000	82,000	300.0	24,600,000	24,222,000	9.40	227,569
Nova Scotia	2,300	2,200	265.0	583,000	564,000	11.84	6,675
New Brunswick	55,000	54,500	270.0	14,715,000	14,014,000	9.21	129,054
Quebec	43,000	41,800	263.1	10,998,000	10,142,000	11.50	116,681
Ontario	37,000	36,400	215.0	7,826,000	6,889,000	14.48	99,719
Manitoba	79,000	77,500	280.0	21,700,000	21,315,000	11.79	251,318
Saskatchewan	8,500	8,000	290.0	2,320,000	2,123,000	20.98	44,551
Alberta	52,500	49,700	322.0	16,003,000	15,634,000	10.89	170,177
British Columbia	7,000	7,000	290.0	2,030,000	1,829,000	23.41	42,820
2010							
Canada	**356,500**	**343,000**	**282.4**	**96,853,000**	**92,977,000**	**11.58**	**1,076,261**
Newfoundland and Labrador	500	500	175.0	88,000	82,000	24.34	1,996
Prince Edward Island	85,500	85,000	300.0	25,500,000	25,233,000	10.87	274,364
Nova Scotia	2,000	2,000	235.0	470,000	452,000	12.43	5,617
New Brunswick	51,500	51,300	295.0	15,134,000	14,430,000	10.15	146,495
Quebec	44,000	42,700	269.0	11,486,000	10,840,000	14.36	155,623
Ontario	38,500	38,000	215.0	8,170,000	7,189,000	15.25	109,628
Manitoba	70,000	68,000	280.0	19,040,000	18,393,000	9.54	175,390
Saskatchewan	7,500	7,000	255.0	1,785,000	1,648,000	22.72	37,450
Alberta	50,500	45,000	314.0	14,130,000	13,778,000	10.70	147,400
British Columbia	6,500	3,500	300.0	1,050,000	932,000	23.93	22,299
2011							
Canada	**360,900**	**348,200**	**263.9**	**91,893,000**	**..**	**..**	**..**
Newfoundland and Labrador	500	500	180.0	90,000	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	86,000	85,500	280.0	23,940,000	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	1,900	1,900	235.0	447,000	..	..	..
New Brunswick	52,000	48,500	245.0	11,883,000	..	..	..
Quebec	42,500	41,500	274.4	11,388,000	..	..	..
Ontario	37,700	36,500	175.0	6,388,000	..	..	..
Manitoba	73,000	70,000	250.0	17,500,000	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	7,000	7,000	280.0	1,960,000	..	..	..
Alberta	53,800	50,500	328.0	16,564,000	..	..	..
British Columbia	6,500	6,300	275.0	1,733,000	..	..	..

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
2008							
Canada	**153,746**	**151,115**	**31.08**	**4,697,482**	**4,533,732**	**264.01**	**1,196,934**
Newfoundland and Labrador	283	283	17.93	5,080	4,672	636.76	2,975
Prince Edward Island	37,435	36,018	31.38	1,130,371	1,109,914	224.53	249,212
Nova Scotia	890	890	29.14	25,946	23,905	276.85	6,618
New Brunswick	22,461	22,056	29.14	642,751	624,698	232.02	144,940
Quebec	17,200	16,916	29.37	496,783	470,565	324.58	152,737
Ontario	14,569	14,245	24.66	351,268	316,159	370.42	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	445.83	48,919
Alberta	21,247	21,044	37.66	792,530	778,015	245.69	191,154
British Columbia	3,035	3,035	34.75	105,462	97,206	476.72	46,340
2009							
Canada	**149,699**	**145,571**	**31.43**	**4,574,964**	**4,391,302**	**248.40**	**1,090,812**
Newfoundland and Labrador	243	243	15.69	3,810	3,538	635.37	2,248
Prince Edward Island	34,400	33,185	33.62	1,115,856	1,098,710	207.12	227,569
Nova Scotia	931	890	29.70	26,445	25,583	260.92	6,675
New Brunswick	22,258	22,056	30.26	667,472	635,675	203.02	129,054
Quebec	17,402	16,916	29.49	498,869	460,041	253.63	116,681
Ontario	14,974	14,731	24.10	354,987	312,485	319.12	99,719
Manitoba	31,971	31,364	31.38	984,312	966,848	259.94	251,318
Saskatchewan	3,440	3,238	32.50	105,235	96,299	462.63	44,551
Alberta	21,247	20,114	36.09	725,896	709,158	239.97	170,177
British Columbia	2,833	2,833	32.50	92,081	82,963	516.13	42,820
2010							
Canada	**144,276**	**138,812**	**31.65**	**4,393,252**	**4,217,437**	**255.19**	**1,076,261**
Newfoundland and Labrador	202	202	19.61	3,992	3,720	536.63	1,996
Prince Edward Island	34,602	34,400	33.62	1,156,680	1,144,569	239.71	274,364
Nova Scotia	809	809	26.34	21,319	20,503	273.96	5,617
New Brunswick	20,842	20,761	33.06	686,478	654,545	223.81	146,495
Quebec	17,807	17,281	30.15	521,005	491,702	316.50	155,623
Ontario	15,581	15,379	24.10	370,591	326,093	336.19	109,628
Manitoba	28,329	27,520	31.38	863,654	834,306	210.22	175,390
Saskatchewan	3,035	2,833	28.58	80,968	74,753	500.98	37,450
Alberta	20,437	18,212	35.19	640,937	624,970	235.85	147,400
British Columbia	2,631	1,416	33.62	47,628	42,276	527.47	22,299
2011							
Canada	**146,056**	**140,917**	**29.58**	**4,168,266**	**..**	**..**	**..**
Newfoundland and Labrador	202	202	20.17	4,082	..	..	..
Prince Edward Island	34,804	34,602	31.38	1,085,918	..	..	..
Nova Scotia	769	769	26.34	20,276	..	..	..
New Brunswick	21,044	19,628	27.46	539,013	..	..	..
Quebec	17,200	16,795	30.76	516,560	..	..	..
Ontario	15,257	14,772	19.61	289,760	..	..	..
Manitoba	29,543	28,329	28.02	793,800	..	..	..
Saskatchewan	2,833	2,833	31.38	88,906	..	..	..
Alberta	21,773	20,437	36.76	751,343	..	..	..
British Columbia	2,631	2,550	30.82	78,609	..	..	..

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

Table 3

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
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	377,364,000	6.98	2,598,610
2004	1,040,700	1,023,300	401	410,683,000	374,730,000	6.32	2,339,864
2005	969,700	951,000	403	383,563,000	356,378,000	7.57	2,662,973
2006	995,700	984,000	406	399,176,000	370,797,000	7.56	2,769,306
2007	1,007,800	993,200	410	406,800,000	378,518,000	7.07	2,650,069
2008	931,100	922,000	411	378,588,000	353,635,000	9.98	3,490,216
2009	936,700	917,200	429	393,544,000	365,559,000	8.00	2,889,128
2010	894,300	881,800	416	366,505,000	343,116,000	8.77	2,972,583
2011	957,400	939,200	414	388,873,000	..	..	..

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 4

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
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	369,900	359,700	280.4	100,859,000	96,810,000	11.27	1,090,812
2010	356,500	343,000	282.4	96,853,000	92,977,000	11.58	1,076,261
2011	360,900	348,200	263.9	91,893,000	..	..	..

Table 5

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
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	17,117,231	151.81	2,598,610
2004	421,171	414,130	45.0	18,628,581	16,997,753	137.66	2,339,864
2005	392,438	384,870	45.2	17,398,418	16,165,306	164.73	2,662,973
2006	402,960	398,225	45.5	18,106,623	16,819,352	164.65	2,769,306
2007	407,857	401,948	45.9	18,452,448	17,169,576	154.35	2,650,069
2008	376,816	373,133	46.0	17,172,752	16,040,884	217.58	3,490,216
2009	379,082	371,191	48.1	17,851,156	16,581,756	174.24	2,889,128
2010	361,923	356,864	46.6	16,624,667	15,563,742	190.99	2,972,583
2011	387,460	380,094	46.4	17,639,279	..	..	..

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 6

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
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	149,699	145,571	31.4	4,574,964	4,391,302	248.40	1,090,812
2010	144,276	138,812	31.6	4,393,252	4,217,437	255.19	1,076,261
2011	146,056	140,917	29.6	4,168,266	..	..	..

Table 7

Area, production and value of all potatoes, Mexico, (imperial measures)

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Average price	Total value of sales
	acres		hundredweight per acre	hundredweight	Canadian dollars per hundredweight	thousands of dollars
2001	170,168	168,701	212.8	35,900,630	24.75	888,383
2002	157,557	154,261	211.9	32,693,403	32.55	1,064,187
2003	165,440	161,464	226.9	36,635,331	25.83	946,332
2004	167,652	153,572	216.3	33,212,281	22.70	753,953
2005	163,125	155,564	231.7	36,038,410	23.30	839,684
2006	152,954	151,335	221.8	33,567,269	22.56	757,436
2007	162,140	159,896	241.4	38,597,824	19.77	763,173
2008	150,903	148,857	247.4	36,819,847	20.43	752,072
2009	133,783	133,673	247.5	33,079,745	28.95	957,514
2010	137,500	136,791	247.6	33,876,044	27.99	948,030

Source(s): Servicio de Información Agroalimentaria y Pesquera (SIAP), Mexico.

Table 8

Area, production and value of all potatoes, Mexico, (metric measures)

	Seeded area	Harvested area	Average yield	Production	Average price	Total value of sales
	hectares		tonnes per hectare	tonnes	Canadian dollars per tonne	thousands of dollars
2001	68,867	68,273	23.9	1,628,453	545.54	888,383
2002	63,763	62,429	23.8	1,482,973	717.60	1,064,187
2003	66,954	65,344	25.4	1,661,779	569.47	946,332
2004	67,849	62,151	24.2	1,506,509	500.46	753,953
2005	66,017	62,957	26.0	1,634,702	513.66	839,684
2006	61,900	61,245	24.9	1,522,611	497.46	757,436
2007	65,618	64,710	27.1	1,750,797	435.90	763,173
2008	61,070	60,242	27.7	1,670,148	450.30	752,072
2009	54,142	54,097	27.7	1,500,497	638.13	957,514
2010	55,646	55,359	27.8	1,536,617	616.96	948,030

Source(s): Servicio de Información Agroalimentaria y Pesquera (SIAP), Mexico.

Table 9
Area, production and value of potatoes, by harvest season [1,3], 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
2010							
Winter harvest	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spring harvest	89,300	85,800	289.0	24,797,000	23,512,000	13.97	326,647
Summer harvest	42,100	40,400	321.0	12,971,000	12,655,000	12.39	156,490
Fall harvest	894,300	881,800	416.0	366,505,000	343,116,000	8.77	2,972,583
Total yearly harvest	1,025,700	1,008,000	401.0	404,273,000	379,283,000	9.21	3,455,720
2011							
Winter harvest [3]	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Spring harvest	93,300	91,500	279.0	25,573,000	..	..	..
Summer harvest	48,200	46,000	282.0	12,960,000	..	..	..
Fall harvest	957,400	939,200	414.0	388,873,000	..	..	..
Total yearly harvest	1,098,900	1,076,700	397.0	427,406,000	..	..	..

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.
3. Beginning in 2010, estimates for California previously reported in the winter and summer estimates, are now included in the spring estimates. Starting with 2010 the winter estimates are discontinued.

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

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 531 farms (42 Newfoundland and Labrador, 31 Nova Scotia, 185 in Prince Edward Island, 151 in New Brunswick, 67 in Manitoba, 27 in Saskatchewan, and 28 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 6 to June 17, 2011 and for the yield portion between October 14 and October 31, 2011.

By the end of the collection period, about 84% of the questionnaires had been completed. Initial sample weights are adjusted (a process called raising factor adjustment) to account for non-response.

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 information provided by 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 such as 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 a 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 2011 area estimates, the cv's from the Potato Area and Yield Survey ranged from 4.13% to 25.48%.

For the 2011 yield estimates, the cv's ranged from 0.89% to 11.52%.

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 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 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.

Concepts for Mexico

Mexico has two seasons for potatoes. The fall and winter season has plantings occurring from October to March, while the spring and summer season has plantings occurring from April to September. Data for each crop year would represent potatoes planted from October of the previous calendar year to September of that year. Likewise,

the Mexican potato harvest would occur from December of the previous year till March of calendar year following the reported year.

For the area and production reported for 2010, planting would have been carried out between October of 2009, up to and including September of 2010, while the harvest of those potatoes would occur from December 2009 up to and including March of 2011.

The area planted reflects the seeded area. Harvested area can include area that has partial damages, but a harvest still occurred.

Production is the volume obtained from the harvested area. Production that is not suitable for use is not collected in the estimates. The yield is calculated by dividing the production by the harvested area.

The farm price is defined as the average price paid to producers at the time of the first transaction. It does not include the economic benefits of Support Programs from the government to producers, nor expenses of movement and classification when the producer takes it to the sale centre.

The farm value includes the value of all first transactions. It does include a value for potatoes consumed or used on the farm where it was harvested.

Mexican potato estimates come from administrative sources or crop specialists.

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 data indicate that the preliminary estimates of seeded area at the Canadian level have been revised by an average 1.7 % over the past 10 years. In 5 of the past 10 years, the revision has been upwards.

The data indicate that the preliminary estimates of harvested production at the Canadian level have been revised by an average 1.9 % over the past 10 years. In 7 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, and 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 hundredweight per acre may not be directly convertible to the yield in tones per hectare.

The average farm price at the Canadian level in dollars per tonne is the farm value divided by the marketed production in tonnes. The price in dollars per hundredweight may not convert directly to the price in dollars per 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.

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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
*	significantly different from reference category (p < 0.05)

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Note of appreciation

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