

SECTOR PROFILE AT A GLANCE

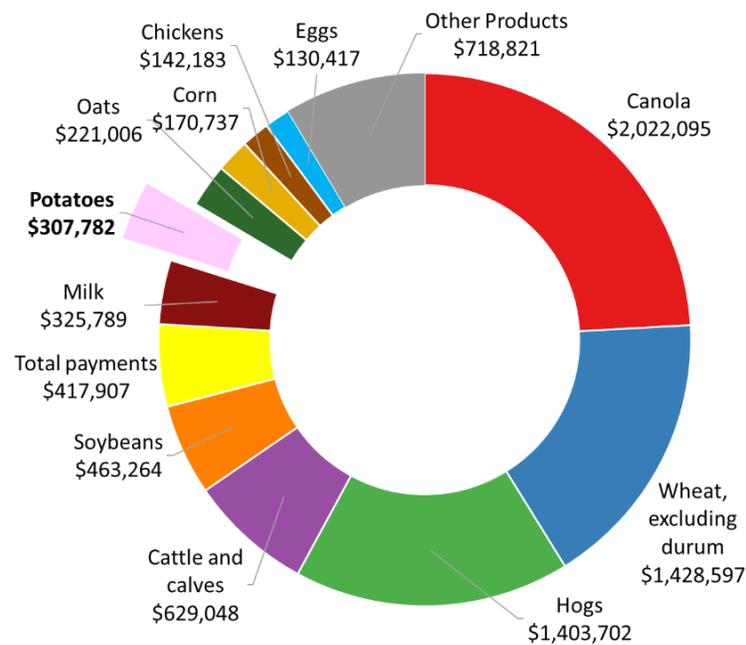
Potatoes



Highlights

- Manitoba planted about 20 per cent of Canada's potato acreage in 2021.
- Canada's top potato producing provinces for 2021 were Prince Edward Island at 22.7 per cent, then Manitoba at 19.9 per cent and Alberta at 19.6 per cent.
- Investments in irrigation and drainage have helped increase Manitoba's potato yields by approximately 50 per cent over the last 20 years.
- Manitoba exported nearly \$660 million worth of potatoes and potato products in 2021.
- Manitoba production increased in 2020 and 2021 to fill newly expanded processing capacity that came online during that time. It is expected 2022 production will increase further.

Farm Cash Receipts (2021, '000 of dollars)



Source: Statistics Canada

Production (hundredweight)



Source: Statistics Canada

Prices (dollars per hundredweight)



Source: Statistics Canada, Table 31-10-0077-01

Processing

- Manitoba has four major potato processors: Simplot and McCain Foods both located in Portage la Prairie, as well as Naleway Foods and Old Dutch Foods both located in Winnipeg.
- Manitoba Starch Products is located in Carberry and produces potato starch for human consumption with a focus on gluten-free and Kosher markets.
- From mid-August to early October, freshly harvested potatoes are delivered directly from field to processors. For the remainder of the year, potatoes are delivered from storage facilities, which have capacity to store up to 80 per cent of the usual harvest.

Marketing and Trade

- Manitoba's commercial potato sector produces fresh potatoes, processing potatoes and seed potatoes.
- For 2021, Manitoba exported \$660 million worth of potato products and potatoes, with frozen potato products accounting for almost 90 per cent of that total.
- The United States is Manitoba's top export market; however, processed potatoes are also shipped across Canada, as well as to Mexico, Japan and Philippines.
- Keystone Potato Producers Association represents Manitoba's processing potato producers and negotiates with processors annually to set the contract price for processing potatoes.
- In early 2020, potato prices initially rose, but then fell when restaurants closed due to the pandemic. The majority of French fries are consumed in restaurants, not in the home. Prices and demand recovered gradually once patterns adjusted to include more home delivery of restaurant-prepared meals.

DID YOU KNOW?

- It takes about two kilograms of potatoes to make one kilogram of French fries, and four kilograms of potatoes to produce one kilogram of potato chips.
- Fresh potatoes are also referred to as 'table potatoes'.
- Russet Burbank is the variety of choice grown under contract for processing into French fries.
- There are more than 24 different varieties of potatoes grown in Manitoba.
- Measured by farm cash receipts, potato production ranks as Manitoba's fourth biggest crop.
- The Seed Potato Growers Association of Manitoba represents seed potato producers and works to enhance production, promotion and sales of Manitoba's high quality seed potatoes.

Updated April 2022

Contact us

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