

Highlights from the Québec Survey on Potatoes

January 2020

Distribution of the 2018 harvest

The survey on the distribution of the 2018 harvest was conducted by the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) among Québec potato producers with at least 0.2 hectares (ha) in production. The data from this survey are available on the ISQ's website and provide a picture of the Québec potato industry.

Stable seeding

In 2018, the potato-seeded area in Québec was estimated at 17.0 thousand hectares (K ha), which is comparable to the 2017 seeding (17.1K ha) and the average annual seeding from 2013 to 2017 (17.1K ha). The largest regional areas were observed in the administrative regions of Capitale-Nationale and Chaudière-Appalaches (3.7K ha in 2018) and of Montréal, Laval and Lanaudière (3.2K ha).

Drop in production and yield

Approximately 16.3K ha were harvested in 2018, compared to 16.9K ha in 2017. Production was almost 509.0 thousand metric tonnes (K t), down 58.2K t from 2017. The volume harvested in 2018 was lower than the average of the 2013-2017 period (543.6K t per year).

In 2018, the yield was 31.3 kilograms per hectare (kg/ha), 2.3 kg/ha less than in 2017. It was lower (-1.1 kg/ha) than the average annual yield obtained between 2013 and 2017 (32.4 kg/ha).

Sales volume drops and receipts remain stable

In 2018, nearly 443.9K t of potatoes were sold outside the sector. This is a drop of 69.8K t compared to 2017. Compared to the average annual volume sold outside the sector between 2013 and 2017 (476.1K t), this is a decline of 32.2K t.

Market receipts stood at \$157.6 million, divided between outside-sector sales for table consumption (\$100.4 million), prepeeling and canning (\$27.5 million), chipping (\$25.0 million) and seed (\$4.6 million). In 2017, receipts totalled \$166.9 million. This compares to an average of \$142.7M per year over the 2013-2017 period.

Preliminary results from the survey on the 2019 harvest

According to preliminary survey data on the 2019 harvest, the seeded area should total 17.6K ha, while the harvested area should stand at 17.5K ha, production at 573.7K t, and yield per hectare at 32.8 kg/ha.

Final data on the 2019 harvest will be collected in the summer of 2020 and are scheduled to be released on the ISQ's website in the fall.

For complete data from the *Québec Survey on Potatoes – Distribution of the 2018 Harvest*: www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/agriculture/pommes-terre/index_an.html

Area, production and sales outside the potato sector, by administrative region group, Québec, 2018

Combined administrative regions	Area seeded	Area harvested	Total production	Sales outside the sector ¹	
				Quantity	Value ²
	K ha	K ha	K t	K t	\$K
Total	17.0	16.3	509.0	443.9	157,569
Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	1.3	1.2	32.0	24.5	10,804
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte-Nord	2.7	2.3	73.7	47.5	17,754
Capitale-Nationale and Chaudière-Appalaches	3.7	3.7	120.6	107.9	33,245
Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec	2.7	2.7	86.3	83.1	28,537
Estrie and Montérégie	2.3	2.2	66.7	64.1	23,675
Montréal, Laval and Lanaudière	3.2	3.2	107.1	100.3	36,319
Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Nord-du-Québec and Laurentides	1.0*	0.9*	22.6*	16.5*	7,235*

Area, production and sales outside the potato sector, Québec, 2013-2019^p

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ^p
Area seeded	K ha	17.4	17.1	16.9	16.9	17.1	17.0	17.6 ^p
Area harvested	K ha	17.1	16.6	16.6	16.8	16.9	16.3	17.5 ^p
Total production	K t	520.6	514.8	560.6	554.9	567.2	509.0	573.7 ^p
Sales outside the sector ¹	K t	453.5	455.5	479.6	478.0	513.7	443.9	..
Cash receipts ²	\$K	135,896	122,976	134,545	152,979	166,902	157,569	..
Table consumption	\$K	92,808	76,545	78,788	94,862	102,482	100,436	..
Chips	\$K	17,682	22,450*	25,692	29,191	26,665	25,034	..
Prepeeling and canning	\$K	20,282	18,584	24,741	25,886	31,094	27,465	..
Seed	\$K	5,124	5,397*	5,324	3,040	6,661	4,634	..

.. These data are not currently available. They will be collected in the summer of 2020.

... Not applicable

K ha In thousands of hectares

K t In thousands of metric tonnes

\$K In thousands of dollars

p Preliminary data

Unless specifically indicated, coefficient of variation lower than 15%; estimate good to excellent.

* Coefficient of variation between 15% and 25%; estimate must be interpreted with caution.

** Coefficient of variation greater than 25%; imprecise estimate provided for information purposes only.

1. Includes sales of potatoes for table consumption, chipping, prepeeling and canning, and seed outside the sector.

2. Corresponds to market cash receipts.

Notes: Data pertaining to Québec potato producers with at least 0.2 hectares in production.

Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec.

Suggested citation:

INSTITUT DE LA STATISTIQUE DU QUÉBEC (2020). *Highlights from the Québec Survey on Potatoes – Disposition of the 2018 Harvest*, Québec, L'Institut, 2 p. Retrieved from: [www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/agriculture/pommes-terre/FS_pt20_an.pdf].

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Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

First trimester 2020

ISSN 2562-5543 (print)

ISSN 2562-5551 (online)

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Institut de la statistique du Québec, 2019

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de la statistique**
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Revision notice

Highlights from the *Québec Survey on Potatoes, January 2020*

Document revised on April 20, 2020

1. On page 1, under the heading “Drop in production and yield”, replace the text with the following:

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