



Canadian Potato Production

December 7, 2022

Source: Statistics Canada Table 32-10-0358-01 (000cwt)

Province	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Reported	% Diff. to 2021
NFLD.	56	54	55	55	52	-5.5%
P.E.I.	22,600	24,302	21,000	27,209	26,600	-2.2%
N.S.	365	416	300	357	240	-32.8%
N.B.	15,670	16,400	11,500	18,200	17,000	-6.6%
Que.	11,221	12,648	12,731	14,100	14,916	5.8%
Ont.	6,919	6,705	7,518	8,953	8,160	-8.9%
Man.	20,300	19,700	24,000	24,927	26,139	4.9%
Sask.	1,454	1,500	1,400	1,519	1,450	-4.5%
Alta.	21,762	21,718	23,407	24,614	26,813	8.9%
B.C.	2,100	2,145	2,155	2,080	1,600	-23.1%
Canada	102,447	105,589	104,066	122,014	122,970	0.8%

Potato Production in Canada for the year 2022, is reported at 122,970,000 hundred weight. This is slightly up by 956,000 hundred weight or 0.8% over 2021 due to increases in planted acres and yields in certain parts of the country. We should note that for comparison purposes, there were two significant changes to the originally reported numbers for 2021, PEI was revised from 28,510 down to 27,209 and Quebec was revised from 16,216 down to 14,100, bringing the overall Canadian reported production to 122,014,000 hundred weight for 2021, compared to 125,431,000 originally reported one year ago.

The largest increases in potato production for 2022 were reported in Alberta (+8.9% to 26.8 million hundredweight) and Manitoba (+4.9% to 26.1 million hundredweight) in the west, as seeded areas rose to meet growth in processing demand. Quebec also showed a healthy increase of 5.9% due to increased planted acreage and a very good harvest for 2022.

The regions producing the largest share of potatoes in Canada were very close with Alberta at 21.8%, followed by Prince Edward Island at 21.6% and Manitoba at 21.3%, these shifts resulting from large demand for processing potatoes in the west and a decline in planted acreage, mostly in seed, in PEI.

In 2022, overall planted acreage was 386,591 acres nationally, a small increase of 3,355 acres (+0.9%) over last year, largely from increased demand for processing potatoes in North America. The increase was not even across the regions, with some (Alberta, Quebec and Manitoba) on the rise and others (PEI, British Columbia and Ontario) decreasing compared to 2021.

Weather conditions were very favorable during the harvest season across Canada, which permitted most growers to harvest the vast majority (98.7%) of the total seeded area. If we compare this year to 2021, we can see that the overall harvested acreage was up 0.5% to 381,451 acres from 379,429 acres last year.

During initial digs and right through harvest, there was a great deal of variability in yields being reported across Canada and even difference from field to field for an individual grower in certain cases. Regional differences were also reported within provinces, example between southwestern Ontario and the Alliston area or between the western and eastern sections of Prince Edward Island. The two highest average yields were increases over last year and continue to come from the west with Alberta at 375.9 cwt per acre followed by Manitoba at 329.8 hundredweight per acre. Although New Brunswick reported a decline in average yield compared to 2021 they are still very close to Manitoba at 329.5 hundredweight per acre, and Prince Edward Island showed a nice increase of 0.9% this year reporting a 324.8 hundredweight per acre, far and above their 6 year average.

In comparing the overall average yield for the country, there was a slight increase reported of 0.2% over 2021, moving from 321.6 to 322.4 hundredweight per acre in 2022.



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Statistics Canada has estimated Canadian Potato Production in 2022 to be 122,970,000 hundred weight, up 0.8% over 2021. Despite a very cold and wet spring delaying planting and very hot, dry weather in many parts of Canada throughout August and into the harvest, Canada still brought in another record crop compared to the 5-year average, a good supply to match the continually increasing demand for processing potatoes both here in Canada and in the United States. Overall Canadian yields increased slightly from 321.6 cwt./acre in 2021 to 322.4 cwt./acre in 2022. There was a great deal of variability across Canada and even between areas within provinces for the 2022 crop as reported in our November update, reprinted below.

Prince Edward Island:

Despite Fiona causing delays starting storage harvest, excellent weather after the storm enabled growers to make up time and harvest was completed on time (some even earlier than normal). Although most growers saw a better than average crop last year, when all is said and done with this year's harvest PEI reported a yield even slightly higher at 324.8 compared to 322 in 2021. Although moisture level differences between the western and eastern parts of the island did cause some variability in the crops, the conditions for harvest were very good overall, and even with planted acreage for PEI down just over 5,000 acres for this year's crop, reported potato production for the province came in only slightly lower than last year by about -2.2%, which is less than the -5% originally estimated.

New Brunswick:

New Brunswick has reported yields down from last year but overall a decent crop. Harvest conditions were generally good and without very cold temperatures. There does not seem to be an over supply of potatoes this year and there has been some low gravity issues reported, forecasting processors to increase the quantity required, so we are not sure we will see movement of potatoes west as we did last year. Similar to PEI, production was reported lower than last year at -6.6%, better than our estimate in November of -7.7%, and still very good crop compared the 5 year average production in the province.

Quebec:

The fresh potato harvest in Quebec was completed with some delays due to very cold temperatures in the evenings and mornings shortening the actual time in the field. Overall growers seem happy with the crop, especially after such a cold and wet spring for planting, and are reporting good quality, however growers are seeing only average yields and a bit smaller size profile with this year's yield reported at 308.7 compared to 308 cwt in 2021. With an increase of 5.8% in potato production this year due to increased planted acreage and a very good harvest, Quebec supply continues to be well above the 5-year average for the second year in a row.

Ontario:

All potatoes in Ontario are now under storage and the crop is looking good overall. There were differences reported regionally in yields, with some disappointed and others with average to even above average results, which perhaps may be attributed to a very dry growing season for the province and not all farms with irrigation. High temperatures through August and into September did finally break for harvesting and growers were able to bring in 99.7% of the crop based on the reported harvested acreage. Although Ontario did show a decrease in potato production for 2022 of 8.9% as we estimated in November, due to decreased planted acreage and variable reports on yields, the province is still well above the 5-year average.

Manitoba:

For the most part reports were very positive for the harvest in Manitoba as conditions were excellent in the fall, especially compared to the serious planting delays of up to 3 weeks in certain areas of the province due to flooding and very cold temperatures. Quality of this crop is good as with most provinces, and the overall yield of 329.8 reported for 2022 is a welcome result after last year. Potato production for the province is up this year 4.9%, in line with the increase in planted acres from increases in demand in processing and seed.

Saskatchewan:

Production was reported down 4.5% this year as expected, with a total production of 1,450,000 hundred weight. Saskatchewan acres dropped from 6,300 acres to 6,000 acres this spring. For the most part the weather cooperated very well for the growers for the harvest in Saskatchewan. Quality has been reported as excellent with the province experiencing good growing conditions all season. The overall yield reported for 2022 for the province was actually an increase over 2021 at 250 cwt/acre, a yield not seen since 2019.

Alberta:

Harvest in Alberta saw favourable weather conditions overall while getting the crop out of the ground. A hailstorm back in July as well as high temperatures through August resulted in early reports of disappointing yields in the province, however the final report overall was positive at 375.9 cwt/acre compared to 363 reported in 2021. Quality is very good but size profile is variable, many reporting smaller than average. The resulting supply is one that may be short of what the processors need and would like to see for the upcoming months. Despite the mixed reports early on, with the increase in planted acreage this season, and the quantity of potatoes harvested, Alberta did manage the largest increase in potato production in Canada at +8.9% over last year. This larger crop will be welcome with an overall tight supply of processing potatoes in North America this season.

British Columbia:

The province had almost no rain for the last 3 months of the growing season, which when combined with the high temperatures throughout August and into early September was worrisome for many growers. However, after mid-September the temperatures dropped nicely and conditions for harvest were very good despite some hard ground in certain areas. Due to several factors, including an extremely late planting, high temperatures and little to no precipitation through August, yields are reported as lighter this year, at 320 cwt/acre compared to 325 in 2021, with a smaller size profile overall. The province was able to get a large percentage of the crop out of the ground so the quantity of potatoes going into storage should be better than originally expected early in the season, however with the surprising decrease of 1,300 planted acres in the spring of 2022 the corresponding decrease of 23.1% in potato production for the province was not completely unexpected.

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