

of the domestic requirements are met from Canadian crops. Some vegetables are exported from Canada, particularly to a few large centres of population in the United States close to the border. Potatoes are the most important vegetable produced in Canada. Production slightly exceeds consumption and normally about 5% is exported. Table 11.15 presents the estimated commercial acreage and production of vegetables in 1971-73 with average for 1966-70.

The processing industry plays an important part in the marketing of Canadian-grown fruits and vegetables. Over the years factories have been built in most of the important growing regions and considerable proportions of fruit and vegetable crops are canned, frozen or otherwise processed each season, especially asparagus, beans, peas, corn and tomatoes. In recent years the importance of freezing has been increasing. Most vegetables for processing are grown under a system whereby the processor contracts annually with each grower for certain acreages.

The processing of canned tender tree fruits has declined considerably and imports have increased rapidly. Over the past 25 years the tonnage and value of exported vegetables has varied considerably but there is a slight upward trend. However, in the same period vegetable imports have doubled.

In recent years the supply of fruits available for consumption in Canada had remained relatively unchanged, but 1973 experienced a noticeable increase. The vegetables, which showed a decline in 1972, showed a slight upward trend. The per capita domestic disappearance of all fruits for 1973 of 271.2 lb. (fresh equivalent weight) was 8.8% higher than the five-year (1967-71) average of 249.3 lb. Of this total, 123.9 lb. per capita were fresh, 30.4 lb. were canned, 3.0 lb. were frozen, 40.6 lb. were made into juice and 13.7 lb. were dried. Per capita disappearance of vegetables, excluding potatoes, was 115.8 lb. for the same period, almost identical to the five-year (1967-71) average of 115.5 lb. Per capita disappearance of vegetables averaged 75.8 lb. of fresh vegetables, 19.7 lb. of canned vegetables and 6.5 lb. of frozen vegetables in 1973 (fresh equivalent weight). There were 544.5 lb. of fruits and vegetables, including potatoes, available per capita for consumption in Canada in 1973.

Honey. As shown in Table 11.16, honey production in 1974 was below that of 1973. Honey is produced commercially in all provinces except Newfoundland and yields vary to some extent from year to year. Alberta is consistently the largest producer, accounting for almost 40% of the total output. Honey bees are used in some fruit-growing districts for pollination and are also used for pollination of certain seed crops. To facilitate storage, shipment and uniformity of quality, large quantities of Canadian honey are pasteurized. Beekeepers' marketing co-operatives are active in several provinces. In 1973 Canada exported 16.1 million lb. of honey valued at \$6.7 million, 5.3 million lb. more than the quantity exported in 1972. Exports went mainly to the United Kingdom, the United States, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan and the Netherlands.

Sugar beets and beet sugar. Sugar beets are grown commercially in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta and beet sugar factories are located in these provinces. In Quebec, commercial production is centred in the St-Hilaire area of the Eastern Townships; Alberta, where sugar beets are grown under irrigation, produces the largest crop. Acreage, yield and value of sugar beets for the years 1970-74 are shown in Table 11.17, together with quantity and value of shipments of beet sugar.

Maple sugar and maple syrup. Maple syrup is produced commercially in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. The bulk of the crop comes from the Eastern Townships of Quebec, a district famous in both Canada and the United States as the centre of the maple products industry. Virtually all of the maple products exported go to the United States with the larger proportion moving as sugar, although substantial quantities of syrup are also shipped. Much of the syrup sold in Canada is marketed in one-gallon cans direct to the consumer from the producer, but a considerable amount of both sugar and syrup is sold each year to processing firms. Production and value of maple sugar and maple syrup, by province, are shown in Table 11.18.

Greenhouse operations. The total area operated under glass and plastic in 1972 and 1973 amounted to 35.8 million sq ft and 34.3 million sq ft, respectively, while the total value of growers' sales stood at \$76.9 million in 1972 and \$83.3 million in 1973.