

concentrated milk by-products, which includes condensed skim milk, evaporated skim milk, skim milk powder, buttermilk powder, whey powder, casein and others, increased by 26.0%.

11.4.5 Horticultural crops

Fruits and vegetables. The fruit and vegetable industry is an important part of the agricultural and food distribution sectors of the economy. Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables account for more than one third of the quantity of all food consumed in Canada. There are over 30 fruit and vegetable crops grown commercially in Canada with an annual farm value of almost \$500 million.

The most important fruit grown in Canada is still the apple. Commercial apple orchards are found in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, southern Quebec, much of Ontario, and the interior of British Columbia, particularly in the Okanagan Valley. Tender tree fruits — pears, peaches, cherries, plums — are also grown in Ontario, with the most important concentrations in the Niagara Peninsula and in Essex County. These fruits, as well as apricots, are also grown on a large scale in the southern part of the Okanagan Valley in British Columbia.

Strawberries and raspberries are cultivated commercially in the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. British Columbia fruit growers also produce loganberries commercially in the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island. Grapes are grown in the Niagara district of Ontario and on a smaller scale in British Columbia. The native blueberry is found wild over large areas in Canada and is harvested in commercial quantities in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec and Ontario. A cultivated crop is grown in British Columbia. Table 11.14 shows the estimated commercial production and farm value of fruit grown in 1973-75.

The production of field-grown vegetables in Canada is seasonal. During the winter when no domestic vegetables are being harvested except in greenhouses, supplies of most fresh vegetables are imported from the United States. During the growing season a large percentage 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 6% is exported. Table 11.15 presents the estimated commercial cultivated area and production of vegetables in 1973-75 with average for 1968-72.

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 peas, corn, beans 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 areas.

Over the past 25 years the weight and value of exported vegetables have varied considerably but there is a slight downward trend. In the same period vegetable and fruit imports increased considerably. However, processing of canned tender tree fruits has declined somewhat in recent years.

In the past few years the supply of fruits available for consumption in Canada has remained relatively unchanged, 1974 showing only a slight decrease from that in 1973. Vegetables, on the other hand, show a slight upward trend. The per capita domestic disappearance of all fruits for 1974 of 258.5 lb. (117.3 kg) fresh equivalent weight, was slightly lower than the 1973 figure of 268.2 lb. (121.7 kg). Of this total, 124.2 lb. (56.3 kg) per capita were fresh, 56.9 lb. (25.8 kg) were canned, 2.6 lb. (1.2 kg) were frozen, 62.8 lb. (28.5 kg) were made into juice and 10.3 lb. (4.7 kg) were dried. Per capita disappearance of vegetables, excluding potatoes, was 124.8 lb. (56.6 kg) for the same period, only slightly higher than the 1973 figure of 119.2 lb. (54.1 kg). Per capita disappearance of vegetables averaged 82.9 lb. (37.6 kg) of fresh vegetables, 28.1 lb. (12.7 kg) of canned vegetables and