

Total production of concentrated whole milk products, which includes condensed milk, evaporated milk, whole milk powder, partly skimmed evaporated milk and others, decreased 1.6% from 1976 while production of concentrated milk byproducts, which includes condensed skim milk, evaporated skim milk, skim milk powder, buttermilk powder, whey powder, casein and others, increased 31.9%.

Horticultural crops

11.4.5

Fruits and vegetables. Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables account for more than 40% in 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 \$600 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 Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.

Strawberries and raspberries are cultivated commercially in the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. British Columbia fruit growers also produce small quantities of loganberries commercially on 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. Cranberries are found in volume in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Table 11.13 shows estimated commercial production and farm value of fruit grown in 1974-77.

Potatoes are the most important vegetable produced in Canada. The Maritime provinces are recognized as comprising the major growing region of the country. About one-third of the potato crop is processed by Canadian processors each year. In most years trade in potatoes with other countries is significant. In 1976, 131.4 million kilograms of fresh potatoes were exported and an additional 100.1 million kg were exported for seed.

The mushroom has been gaining importance in the Canadian diet. In 1976 the quantity of fresh mushrooms sold reached a record peak of 12.7 million kg while the quantity processed dropped to 7.1 million kg. For several years the amount of mushrooms processed in Canada has been decreasing, primarily because of increased competition from canned imports.

Considerable proportions of fruit and vegetable crops are canned, frozen or otherwise processed each season. Peas, corn, beans and tomatoes are the main vegetables processed. Many of the vegetables for processing are grown by farmers under contract to processors; however, the proportion of vegetables grown under this system is decreasing.

Imports of fruits and vegetables increased 16% between 1975 and 1976, and exports increased by about 13%. The United States was again Canada's major trading partner.

Honey. Honey is produced commercially in all provinces except Newfoundland. Alberta is consistently the largest producer followed by Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In 1977, 27.7 million kilograms of honey was produced, a modest increase from the 1976 crop. In 1976 an average of 0.85 kg of honey was available for each Canadian.

In recent years the amount of honey sold directly to consumers has been increasing. Beekeepers' co-operatives are active in marketing in several provinces. Processors still buy huge quantities of honey and pasteurize it to facilitate storage, shipment, and uniformity of quality.

In 1977 approximately 8.97 million kg of honey was exported. More than half went to the United States but the Federal Republic of Germany was also a major buyer.