

Maple products. 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 as the centre of the maple products industry. Virtually all maple products exported go to the United States with the largest proportion moving as syrup. Much of the syrup sold in Canada is marketed directly to the consumer from the producer; however, a considerable amount of both sugar and syrup is sold each year to processing firms. Production and value of maple sugar, syrup and taffy, by province, are shown in Table 11.18.

Greenhouse operations. The total area operated under glass and plastic in 1975 and 1976 amounted to 3.36 million square metres and 3.54 million m², respectively, while the total value of growers' sales stood at \$129.9 million in 1975 and \$146.2 million in 1976.

Nursery trades industry. In 1976 this industry had a total revenue of \$129 million. Approximately 43% of this represented grower sales of traditional nursery stock and 34% was earned by supplying the demand for contracted services.

Tobacco. Total production decreased from 106.0 million kilograms in 1975 to 81.5 million kg in 1976. The average value per kilogram advanced from \$2.06 in 1975 to \$2.23 in 1976 (Tables 11.19 and 11.20). For information on tobacco products see Table 11.21.

11.4.6 Prices of farm products

The index of farm prices of agricultural products (Table 11.22) was designed to measure changes occurring in the average prices farmers receive at the farm from the sale of farm products. In comparing current index numbers with those prior to August 1975, the following points should be considered. Prices of all western grains used in the construction of the index prior to that date are final prices; all later figures are adjusted initial prices only for wheat, oats and barley. Any subsequent participation payments will be added to prices currently used and the index revised upward accordingly. Average cash prices of major Canadian grains are given in Table 11.23 and yearly average prices of Canadian livestock in Table 11.24.

11.4.7 Food consumption

Food consumption data shown in Table 11.25 represent supplies of food available for consumption by Canadians in 1975 and 1976. All calculations are made at the retail level of distribution except for meat which is compiled at the wholesale level. Amounts of food actually consumed would be lower than that shown because of losses and waste occurring after the products reach the consumer.

All basic foods are classified under 17 main commodity groups. The total for each group is computed using a common denominator, for example: milk solids (dry weight) for the dairy products group; fat content for fats and oils; and fresh equivalent for fruits. Most foods are included in their basic form, such as flour, fat, sugar, rather than in more highly manufactured forms.

In 1976 the trend was to healthier eating patterns. Less butter was available for consumption as consumers switched to less saturated fats such as margarine. More fresh fruits and vegetables were demanded by consumers and, as a result, imports to Canada increased during the winter. Although the use of canned fruit and vegetable products remained relatively stable, consumption of frozen products declined. Egg consumption declined about four eggs per person for the second year in a row. Grain and yogurt consumption increased.

11.5 1976 Census of Agriculture

This section presents a limited amount of information from the 1976 Census of Agriculture; details are contained in volumes 11, 12 and 13 of the 1976 Census of Canada. A list of the census reports released is available on request.

Number of census-farms. For census year 1976 a census-farm was defined as a holding of 0.4 hectares (one acre) or more with sales of agricultural products during 1975 of