



HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture makes up more than 25% of Canada's economic activity when the processing, wholesale and retail sectors are taken into account. During 1972-82 more than half the value of farm products sold came from livestock but the proportion from grain sales was generally increasing.

Canada is a net exporter of food products and usually captures about a 20% share of the world wheat trade. The USSR and China are the largest importers of Canadian wheat. Oilseeds are a growing export category.

Farms increased in size but declined in number from 733,000 to 318,000 between the census years 1941 and 1981. Yet the volume of agricultural production was about 175% greater in 1981 than in 1941.

Changes in farming have meant huge increases in capital requirements in buildings, machinery and equipment, and inputs produced off the farm — fuel, electricity, fertilizer, pesticides, seed and veterinary services. Interest expenses became the largest single farm cost in 1982.