



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report #CA1167

Canada

Fresh Potatoes

Drought-Like Conditions Lower Potato Output

2001

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Report Highlights: In its first estimate of potato production, Statistics Canada says that total Canadian potato production during 2001 fell to 3,970,600 metric tons, down 12.4% from a year ago. Drought-like conditions affected major growing regions throughout the 2001 growing season and yields suffered as a result. Prince Edward Island was the hardest hit with its yield down 38.9% from last year. The developments are expected to increase Canadian demand for U.S. fresh potatoes throughout MY2001/2002 and result in lower than average exports of Canadian fresh potatoes to U.S. markets.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Ottawa [CA1], CA

Summary: Canadian potato production during 2001 fell to 3,970,600 metric tons, down 12.4% from a year ago. Drought-like conditions affected major growing regions throughout the 2001 growing season and yields suffered as a result. Industry reports indicate rising potato prices as major processors are vying for available supplies. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada reports that on November 1, 2001 Canadian potato storage stocks were 14% below their level on that day a year earlier. The developments are expected to increase Canadian demand for U.S. fresh potatoes throughout MY2001/2002 and result in lower than average exports of Canadian fresh potatoes to U.S. markets.

Statistics Canada reports that Canada's 2001 total potato production is down 12.4% from last year because of the unusual combination of area lost due to drown out early in the growing year and very dry growing conditions throughout the summer and fall. Prince Edward Island was the hardest hit with its yield down 38.9%. Its 2001 yield went to 165.0 cwt/acre (18.5 MT/hectare) from 270.0 cwt/acre (30.27MT/hectare) in 2000. Manitoba's yield dropped 16.0% from 250.0 cwt/acre (28.07 MT/hectare) to 210 cwt/acre (23.58 MT/hectare) in 2001. As well, Manitoba lost 3,000 acres (1,200 hectares) to drown out. Alberta was the only major potato producing province that recorded a production increase. Alberta increased its area by 2,100 acres (850 hectares) and saw a 1.9% increase in yields.

Canada: Potato Harvested Area & Production, By Province					
	Area	Area	Production	Production	% change
	Harvested	Harvested	Production	Production	% change
	(hectares)	(hectares)	(MT)	(MT)	2001/2000
	2000	2001	2000	2001	
Newfoundland	200	200	4,100	4,200	2.4%
P.E.I.	43,700	43,700	1,322,700	808,300	-38.9%
Nova Scotia	2,100	2,100	56,600	38,900	-31.3%
New Brunswick	22,300	22,700	636,200	584,200	-8.2%
Quebec	17,400	18,800	454,100	485,100	6.8%
Ontario	16,100	17,300	343,000	359,200	4.7%
Manitoba	29,900	29,900	839,200	704,900	-16.0%
Saskatchewan	3,700	4,000	110,600	108,900	-1.5%
Alberta	19,300	21,900	670,700	774,000	15.4%
British Columbia	3,400	3,300	97,900	102,900	5.1%
TOTAL	158,100	163,900	4,535,100	3,970,600	-12.4%
Source: Statistics Canada					

Recent Related Reports During 2001

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
CA1007	Record Canadian Potato Production in 2000	01/19/01
CA1015	Potato Diversion Program for P.E.I.	2/02/01
CA1035	The Impact of Potato Wart on Canadian Potato Exports	03/05/01
CA1040	Lamb Weston Delays Expansion of Alberta Plant	03/08/01
CA1044	Financial Assistance for PEI Potato Producers	03/14/01
CA1062	Canada Bans Potato Imports from Texas and New Mexico	04/06/01
CA1066	U.S. and Canadian Officials Agree on Conditions for the Movement of Potatoes from Prince Edward Island	04/27/01
CA1068	P.E.I. Potato Diversion Program Reaches 6.0 Mil. Hundredweight	05/3/01
CA1071	Prospects Point to Lower PEI Production	05/10/01
CA1106	Agreement Reached on P.E.I. 2001 Crop Potatoes	8/02/01
CA1157	Frozen French Fry Annual	11/8/01

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