

HIGHLIGHTS

from the *Québec Survey on Potatoes*

March 2021

Disposition of the 2019 crop

The survey on the disposition of the 2019 crop was conducted by the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) among Québec potato producers with at least 0.2 hectares in production. The data from this survey are available on the ISQ's website and provide a picture of the Québec potato industry.

Increase in seeded area

In 2019, the potato seeded area was estimated at 17.7 thousand hectares (kha), a slight increase over the 2018 seeding (17.0 kha) and the average annual seeding during the 2014-2018 period (17.0 kha). At the regional level, the largest seeded areas in 2019 were observed in the combined administrative regions of Capitale-Nationale and Chaudière-Appalaches (3.7 kha) and of Montréal, Laval and Lanaudière (3.5 kha).

Increase in production and drop in yield

Approximately 17.6 kha were harvested in 2019 compared to 16.3 kha in 2018. Potato production stood at about 544.2 thousand metric tonnes (kt), up 35.2 kt from 2018. The volume harvested in 2019 surpassed that harvested during the period from 2014 to 2018 (541.3 kt per year).

The potato yield was 30.9 tonnes per hectare (t/ha) in 2019, 0.4 t/ha less than in 2018. It was lower (-1.6 t/ha) than the average annual yield obtained between 2014 and 2018 (32.5 t/ha).

Increased sales volume and revenues

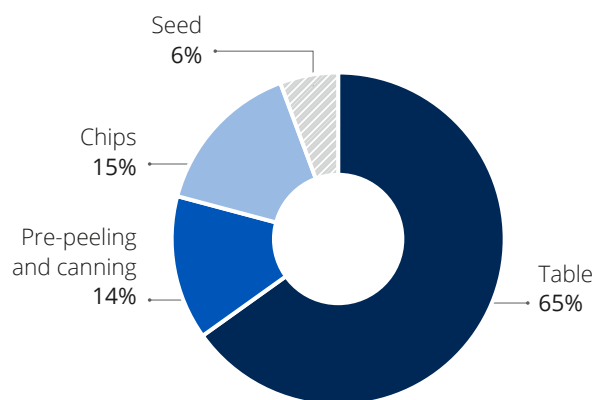
In 2019, nearly 507.4 kt of potatoes were sold outside the sector¹. This was a return to the 2017 level and an increase of 63.5 kt from 2018. Compared with the average annual volume sold outside the sector between 2014 and 2018 (474.1 kt), this was an increase of 33.3 kt.

Market revenues totalled \$184.1 million, up 16.8% from 2018 (\$157.6 million). This compares to an average of \$147.0 million per year over the 2014-2018 period. Revenues in 2019 came from outside-sector sales of potatoes for table consumption (\$119.9 million), pre-peeling and canning (\$25.8 million), potato chips (\$28.0 million), and seed (\$10.4 million).

1. Outside the agricultural sector.

Figure 1

Revenues from outside-sector sales in 2019



Source : Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Québec Survey on Potatoes*.

Preliminary results from the survey on the 2020 crop

Preliminary data from the survey on the 2020 crop show that the seeded area increased to 18.5 kha, while the harvested area declined to 17.8 kha. Potato production and yield per hectare both increased, reaching 585.2 kt and 32.9 t/ha, respectively.

Final data on the 2020 crop will be collected in the summer of 2021. These data are expected to be released on the ISQ's website in the fall of 2021.

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