

SECTOR PROFILE AT A GLANCE

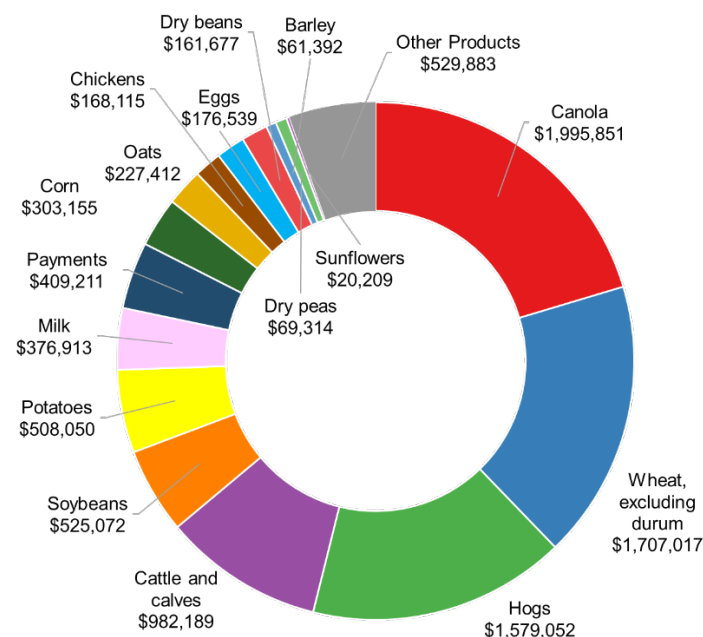
Wheat



Highlights

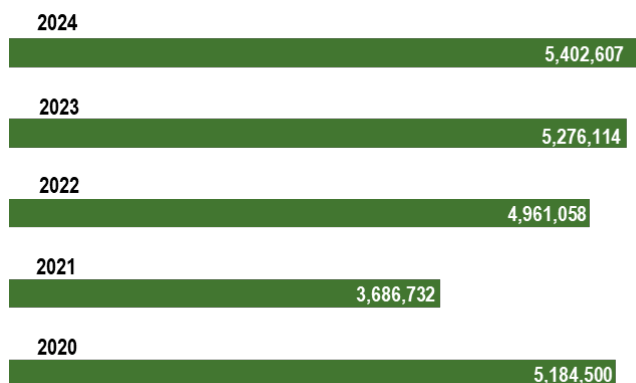
- Wheat is Manitoba's largest crop by seeded area and ranks second to canola in farm cash receipts.
- It was one of the first crops produced in Manitoba and has proven to be a hardy, reliable crop, performing well under a wide range of challenging growing conditions for over a century.
- In 2024, wheat generated \$1.71 billion in farm cash receipts, second only to the record set in 2023.
- In 2024, Manitoba harvested 5.40 million metric tonnes of spring wheat, marking the largest harvest since 1990, when 5.50 million tonnes were harvested.
- In 2024, Manitoba accounted for 20.7 per cent of Canada's total wheat production, making it the third largest wheat-producing province after Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Farm Cash Receipts (2024, '000 of dollars)



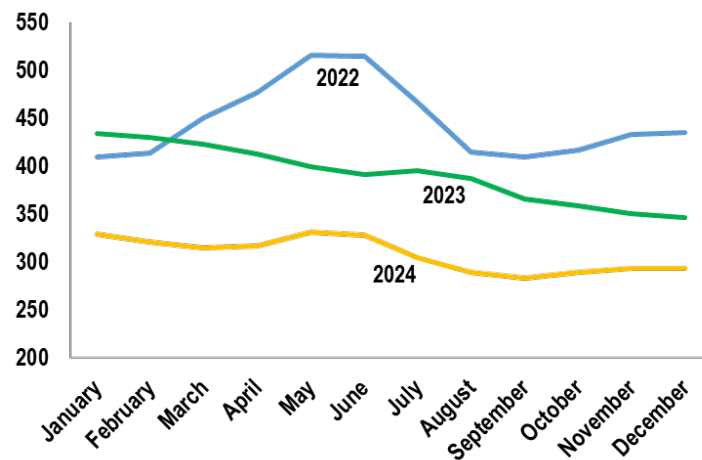
Source: Statistics Canada

Production (metric tonnes)



Source: Statistics Canada

Prices (dollars per metric tonne)



Source: Statistics Canada

Processing

- Manitoba's wheat is milled into flour, which is then used to produce bread, bakery products, and cereals.
- About 11 per cent of Manitoba's average wheat production is processed within the province.
- Manitoba is home to three commercial wheat mills: ADM Milling and Brar Natural Flour Mills located in Winnipeg, and Prairie Flour Mills in Elie.
- There are nine different classes of Western Canadian wheat, each with unique characteristics suited to specific end uses. The most produced class is Canada Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat, a high-protein, premium bread wheat.
- Wheat is also valued as livestock feed due to its strong protein and carbohydrate composition. It can be incorporated into the rations of all livestock species.

Marketing and Trade

- Wheat prices in Manitoba peaked in spring of 2022 but declined steadily through 2023 and 2024 as successive crops replenished global and domestic supplies.
- In 2024, Manitoba exported \$1.68 billion worth of wheat and wheat products, representing an 8 per cent decline from 2023.
- Manitoba's wheat is exported via Canada's west coast and eastern ports, as well as by rail to the United States.
- Wheat is widely traded globally due to its excellent storability and ease of transport as a dry bulk commodity.
- In contrast, bread and bakery products have a relatively short shelf life and are typically produced close to where they are consumed.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Commercial milling of wheat flour began in Manitoba in the 1870s, following the invention of the La Croix "purifier" and gradual reduction process, which enabled efficient milling of Red Fife wheat.
- Globally, wheat is the second most produced crop, following corn, with rice ranking third.
- One bushel of wheat contains approximately one million kernels and can yield about 42 pounds of white flour or 60 pounds of whole wheat flour.
- Manitoba's wheat consistently meets or exceeds stringent quality standards set by the Canadian Grain Commission.
- Western Canadian wheat is internationally recognized for its superior quality, and Manitoba regularly produces some of the highest-protein wheat samples in the region.

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