

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN CANADA: BY THE NUMBERS

In 2015, there were **5,053** organic operations* in Canada, including:

4,045 primary producers
+ **294** in-transition



618 livestock
operations

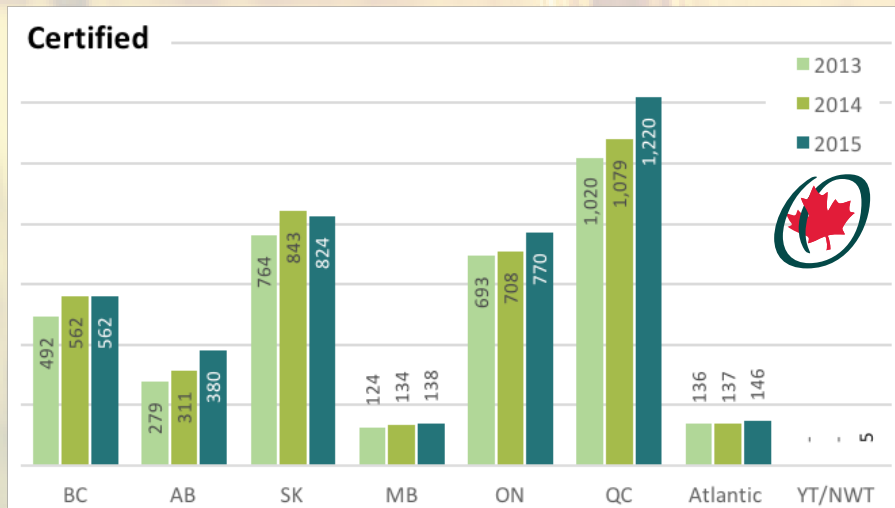


1,542 processors,
manufacturers & retailers

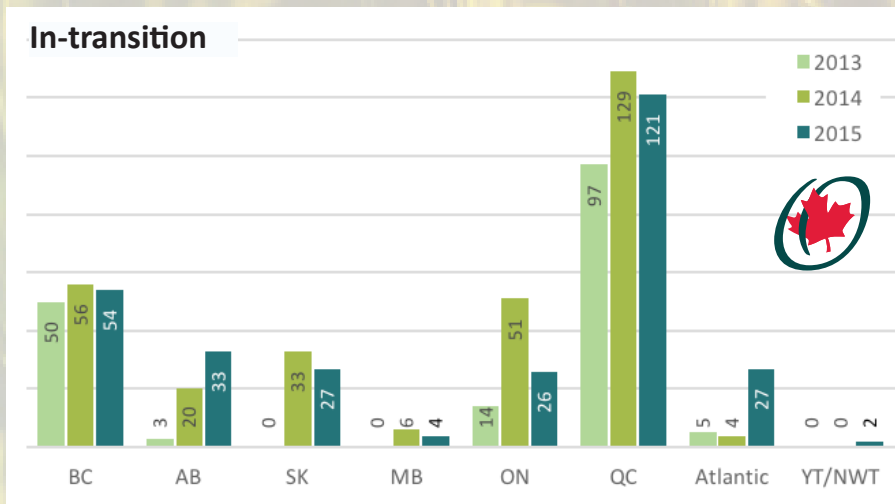


*The number of organic operations is not aggregate of the other categories since many operations fall into multiple categories (e.g., an operation may be primary producer and livestock operation).

Organic Primary Producers



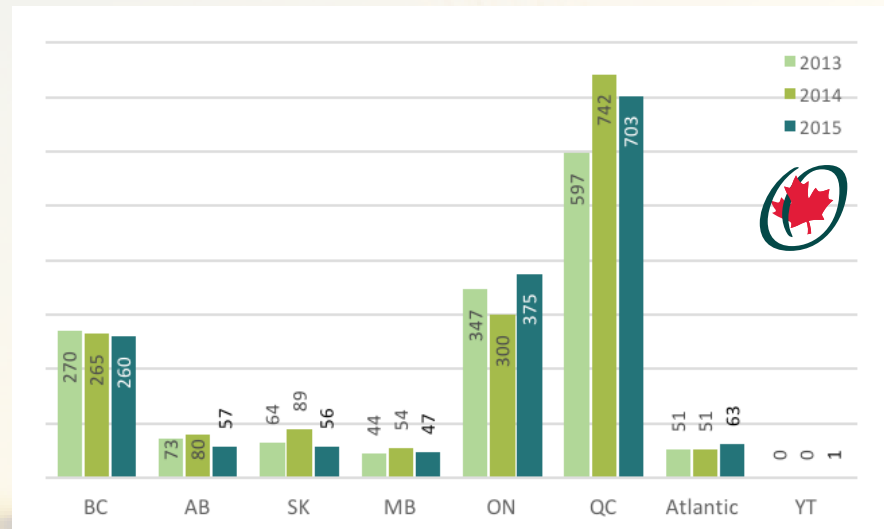
In 2015 there were 4,045 certified producers concentrated in Quebec, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Following a post-recession dip, it has taken 6 years for the number of organic producers to surpass its previous peak in 2009 (3,914).



Revealing strong support and steady demand for organic, Quebec and BC are home to the largest number of in-transition producers. The Atlantic provinces had the greatest increase in transitional producers with 23 added in 2015.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN CANADA: BY THE NUMBERS

Organic Processors, Handlers and Retailers



There has been a general reduction in the number of certified processors, handlers and manufacturers in 2015 estimates. COTA suspects that this drop is attributed to gaps in the data due to changes in the certification body landscape in 2015. This will be a trend to watch for in the analysis of 2016 data.

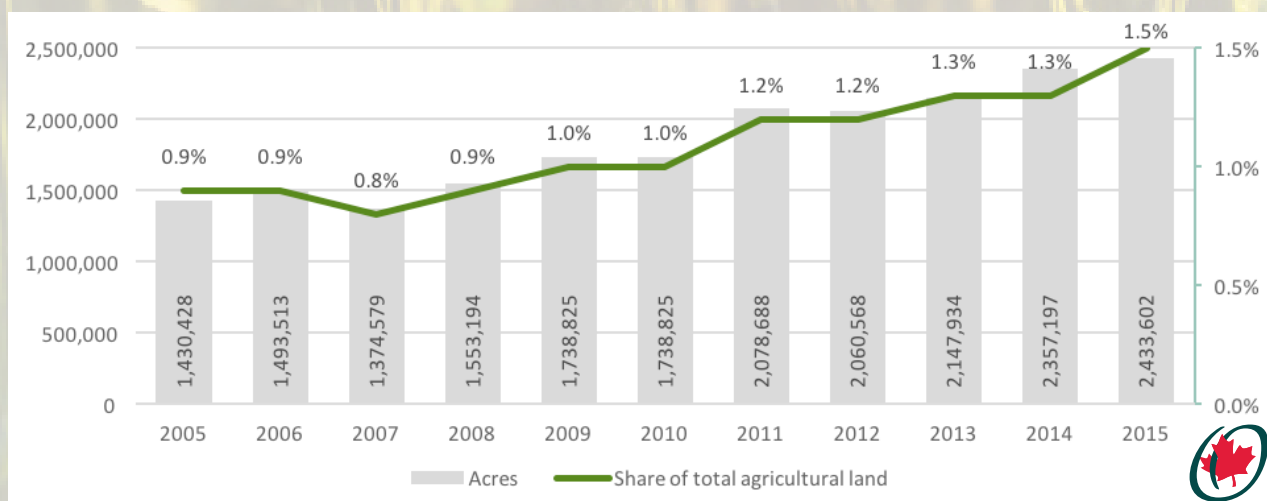
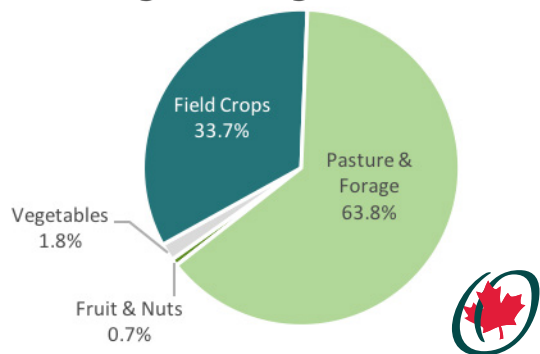
The Yukon reported its first certified processor in 2015.

Organic Acreage

Organic acreage in Canada increased by over 70,000 acres between 2014 and 2015 to 2.43 million acres. Organic areas now account for approximately 1.5% of total agricultural land in Canada.

While pasture still occupies the largest share of all organic acreage, its proportion has decreased from 65% to 63.8% primarily due to significant increases in vegetable & root crop acreage, as well as fruit & nut acreage.

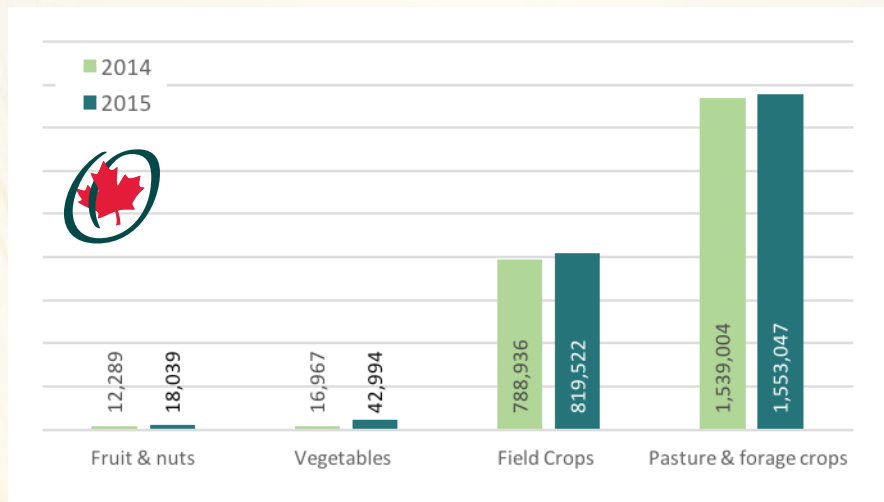
Share of organic acreage:



ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN CANADA: BY THE NUMBERS

Organic Acreage by Crop Types

Field crop and pasture & forage crop acreage increased slightly between 2014 and 2015. Though much smaller areas in total, fruit & nut acreage increased by nearly 50 percent, while fresh vegetable and root crop acreage tripled between 2014 and 2015.



Organic Trade

In 2015, Canada imported \$652 million CAD worth of the 65 tracked organic products, representing a 37% increase from 2012. There are 127 countries that have provided organic products to Canada between 2012 and 2015. The top 5 countries of origin have supplied nearly three-quarters of all tracked imports (by value) since 2012.

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Value (million CAD)	\$476.8	\$505.0	\$576.6	\$652.4
Volume* (millions)	181.1 kg	194.0 kg	194.1 kg	197.9 kg

*Excluding milk

Source: Statistics Canada, CATSNET Analytics, 2016

The Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) would like to sincerely thank all of the organic Certification Bodies & organic associations that provided the data used in this analysis. Their voluntary participation plays a valuable role in understanding and supporting the organic sector in Canada.

A big thank you to:

Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network (ACORN)	Global Organic Alliance (GOA)
Atlantic Certified Organic Co-op (ACO)	International Certification Services, Inc. (ICS)
BC Association for Regenerative Agriculture (BCARA)	LETIS
CARTV	Oregon Tilth
CCOF	Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)
CCPB SRL	Organic Producers Association of Manitoba (OPAM)
Centre for Systems Integration (CSI)	Pacific Agricultural Certification Service (PACS)
Certified Organic Association of BC (COABC)	Pro-Cert Organic
Ecocert	QAI
Fraser Valley Organic Producers Association (FVOPA)	TCO Cert