

Census Made Simple Release 4



2016 Census of Agriculture

Notes on Geography

The 2016 Census of Agriculture uses what it defines as “census agricultural regions” as its statistic boundaries when collecting data. Census agricultural regions are composed of groups of adjacent census divisions. This is unlike the 2016 Census which uses the traditional boundaries of “census metropolitan area,” “census division,” and “census sub-division.” For this release, Division No. 1 of Newfoundland and Labrador was used as it is the lowest tiered agricultural region (with the least suppressed data) that geographically includes Conception Bay South.

Data from the 2016 Census of Agriculture has been analyzed for the Division No. 1 census agricultural region and Newfoundland and Labrador and are presented below.

FIGURE 1: DIVISION NO. 1



Declining Farms and Farmers (Total Number of Farms and Farm Operators)

The total number of farms and farm operators within the agricultural region of Division No. 1 (the Division) declined from 2011. In 2016, there was a total of 215 farms with 270 farm operators in the Division. Since 2011, farms in the Division have declined by 19.5% (down from 267), while farm operators have declined by 22.9% (down from 350). The decline in farms and farm operators in the Division is slightly less severe than the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole (20.2% decline in farms; 24.8% decline in farm operators).

Farmers are Older and Retiring Just as Fast as NL (Farm Operators by Age)

Farmers are slightly older in the Division in 2016, where the average age of farm operators has increased from 55.7 in 2011 to 56.7 in 2016. This increase in average age is slightly greater than the average age increase of farm operators within all of Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2016, 63% of all farm operators within the Division were aged 55 years and over. While 33% were aged between 35 to 54 years old, and the other 6% were less than 35 years old. When compared to Newfoundland and Labrador, the Division has a higher percentage of its farm operators who are aged 55 years and older (63% vs. 56%) and a lower percentage of its farm

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operators who are between 35 and 54 years old (33% vs. 37%). Based on this data, farmers in the Division are older and retiring just as fast as those in Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole. This census release highlights the growing concern that on average more than half of the farm operators in Newfoundland and Labrador are expected to retire within the next ten years.

Concerns Over Farm Succession (Farms and Succession Planning)

As farmers continue to age, it has become even more important for farms to have succession plans to ensure the future viability of operations. However, based on a new data indicator collected for the 2016 Census of Agriculture, farm succession planning has not been happening. In 2016, a total of 15 farms (7% of total farms) in the Division reported that they have a current succession plan. All 15 of these farms in the Division indicated that the identified successor is a family member. Although only 7% of farms in the Division have a succession plan, this is slightly higher than the province as a whole where 5.7% of farms in Newfoundland and Labrador have a succession plan. Overall, with very few farms having succession plans while at the same time the average age of farm operators continues to rise, these concerns will need to be addressed to ensure the continued viability of farming operations in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Farms Increasing in Size, But Still Characterized by Smaller Farms (Farms by Total Farm Area)

Similar to national trends, the 2016 Census of Agriculture shows that the overall agriculture industry continues to consolidate in the Division and Newfoundland and Labrador. Between 2011 and 2016, (with the exception of farms between 130 and 179 acres) all farms 1,119 acres and under saw a decline in the Division. While all farms with 1,120 or more acres remained unchanged or saw an increase in the number of those farms operating in the Division (with the exception of farms between 2,240 and 2,879). This again reiterates the trend of the declining number of farms, while at the same time the size of farms has been increasing. With that being said, farms with less than 10 acres in the Division have decreased by 24% since 2011, while they have also decreased by 23.1% in Newfoundland and Labrador since 2011. Overall in 2016, 79% of the farms in the Division were less than 130 acres, 18% of farms were between 130 and 1,119 acres, and the remaining 3% of farms had more than 1,120 acres.

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More Hog and Crop Farming (Farms by NAICS Code)

Although the number of farms has declined in the Division, there are some farming operations that have seen increases. Between 2011 and 2016, two farm types saw an increase in the number of farming operations in the Division: Hog and pig farming (100%) and Other crop farming (8.8%). The increases experienced in these two farm types in the Division outperformed the increases experienced in the same farm types for Newfoundland and

Labrador as a whole. The farm types that saw the greatest declines in the Division were: Fruit and tree nut farming (-68.8%), Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production (-32.1%), Poultry and egg production (-21.1%), and Other animal production (-20.7%). In each case, these decreases were greater or similar in the Division than they were in Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole.

Overall in 2016, 21% of farms were involved in Vegetable and melon farming, 18% were involved in Cattle ranching and farming, 17% were involved in Other crop farming and another 17% were involved in Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production.

Farms Continue to Consolidate (Farms by Total Farm Capital and Total Gross Farm Receipts)

Another indication of farm consolidation in the Division is the growth of farms with total farm capital of \$1 million or more. In 2016, there was a total of 45 farms in the Division that had a total farm capital of \$1 million or more. This was an increase of 40.6%, up from 32 farms in 2011. Newfoundland and Labrador saw a lower increase between 2011 and 2016 at 28.3%.

Overall total gross farm receipts in the Division totalled \$92.7 million in 2016, up 18.3% from \$78.3 million in 2011. This increase was slightly above the total farm receipt growth in Newfoundland and Labrador, which grew by 13.3% to \$155.8 million in 2016. There were only two farm categories by total gross farm receipts that saw an increase between 2011 and 2016. Farms with total farm receipts of \$25,000 to \$49,999 grew by 15.8%, while farms with total farm receipts of \$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999 grew by 20%. In both cases this is greater than the increases in the same categories for the Province (15.2% and 18.2% respectively).

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Almost Half of Farms Are Now Using Computers (Farms and Adoption of Technologies)

Almost half of the farms in the Division (45.6%) have used computers and/or laptops for farm management, while 32.6% have used smartphones and/or tablets for farm management. In both cases, this is higher than in Newfoundland and Labrador (42.5% and 32.4% respectively). As well, 7.4% of farms in the Division have used GPS technology while another 7.4% have used automated animal feeding and 6% have used automated environmental controls for animal housing. Overall, farms in the Division have adopted the use of technology in farm management at a slightly greater pace than Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole.

Renewable Energy Adoption Lagging (Farms and Renewable Energy Systems)

Unlike technologies, farms in the Division have been slow in the adoption of renewable energy systems when compared to Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2016, 0.9% or 2 farms reported using renewable energy systems compared to 1.7% or 7 farms in Newfoundland and Labrador. Of those farms that reported using renewable energy systems, 50% (1 farm) reported using solar panels and the other 50% (1 farm) reported using other renewable energy producing systems. This data suggest that farms in the Division and Newfoundland and Labrador are lagging in introducing and using renewable energy systems for their operations.

Local Food Consumption Similar to NL (Products Sold Directly to Consumers)

In 2016, 32.6% of farms in the Division reported selling their farm product directly to consumers. This is slightly behind Newfoundland and Labrador, where 34.2% of farms reported selling directly to consumers. 32.6% of farms in the Division sold unprocessed agricultural products to consumers. This is compared to Newfoundland and Labrador, where 33.9% of farms sold unprocessed agricultural products to consumers. Overall, for each method of selling product directly to consumers (with the exception of reporting using Community Supported Agriculture), the Division performed slightly worse than Newfoundland and Labrador. This provides the indication there is a similar concentration of local food consumption within the Division, compared to Newfoundland and Labrador as a whole.

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The State of Bees (Number of Bees)

The number of farms in the Division reporting that they have colonies of honeybees has increased by 300% from 1 to 4 in 2016. This is less than the increase in Newfoundland and Labrador, which saw an 33.3% increase in farms reporting colonies of honeybees (from 6 in 2011 to 8 in 2016). Data on the number of honeybee colonies is not available for the Division, as the data has been suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act. While the number of honeybee colonies in Newfoundland and Labrador has increased by 181.7%, from 126 in 2011 to 355 in 2016. This data suggests that there has been positive growth in the number of farms with honeybee colonies and the number of honeybee colonies within the Province.

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Data Tables

Total Number of Farms and Farm Operators

	Division No. 1			Newfoundland and Labrador		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Farms	267	215	-19.5%	510	407	-20.2%
Operators	350	270	-22.9%	665	500	-24.8%

Farm Operators by Age

	Division No. 1			Newfoundland and Labrador		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
All ages	350	270	-22.9%	665	500	-24.8%
under 35 years	20	15	-25.0%	30	25	-16.7%
35 to 54 years	125	90	-28.0%	270	185	-31.5%
55 years and over	210	170	-19.0%	375	290	-22.7%
Average age of farm operators	55.7	56.7	1.8%	55	55.8	1.5%

Farms and Succession Planning

	Division No. 1		Newfoundland and Labrador	
	2016	% of Total Farms	2016	% of Total Farms
All farms reporting a succession plan	15	7.0%	23	5.7%
Successor(s) - family member(s)	15	7.0%	23	5.7%
Successor(s) - non-family member(s)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

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Farms by Total Farm Area

	Division No. 1			Newfoundland and Labrador		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Total number of farms	267	215	-19.5%	510	407	-20.2%
Farms under 10 acres	75	57	-24.0%	121	93	-23.1%
Farms 10 to 69 acres	117	90	-23.1%	203	144	-29.1%
Farms 70 to 129 acres	27	23	-14.8%	72	62	-13.9%
Farms 130 to 179 acres	9	13	44.4%	23	24	4.3%
Farms 180 to 239 acres	7	7	0.0%	17	21	23.5%
Farms 240 to 399 acres	11	11	0.0%	26	24	-7.7%
Farms 400 to 559 acres	9	4	-55.6%	20	12	-40.0%
Farms 560 to 759 acres	2	1	-50.0%	6	5	-16.7%
Farms 760 to 1,119 acres	3	2	-33.3%	11	10	-9.1%
Farms 1,120 to 1,599 acres	1	2	100.0%	2	2	0.0%
Farms 1,600 to 2,239 acres	2	3	50.0%	3	6	100.0%
Farms 2,240 to 2,879 acres	3	1	-66.7%	4	2	-50.0%
Farms 2,880 to 3,519 acres	0	0	0.0%	1	1	0.0%
Farms 3,520 acres and over	1	1	0.0%	1	1	0.0%

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Farms by NAICS Code

	Division No. 1			Newfoundland and Labrador		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Cattle ranching and farming	43	38	-11.6%	75	69	-8.0%
Hog and pig farming	0	1	100.0%	2	2	0.0%
Poultry and egg production	19	15	-21.1%	24	21	-12.5%
Sheep and goat farming	17	14	-17.6%	25	18	-28.0%
Other animal production	29	23	-20.7%	61	45	-26.2%
Oilseed and grain farming	1	1	0.0%	1	1	0.0%
Vegetable and melon farming	55	45	-18.2%	112	78	-30.4%
Fruit and tree nut farming	16	5	-68.8%	44	26	-40.9%
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	53	36	-32.1%	102	79	-22.5%
Other crop farming	34	37	8.8%	64	68	6.3%

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Farms by Total Farm Capital

	Division No. 1			Newfoundland and Labrador		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Farms, under \$100,000	43	31	-27.9%	95	59	-37.9%
Farms, \$100,000 to \$199,999	39	33	-15.4%	72	63	-12.5%
Farms, \$200,000 to \$349,999	66	31	-53.0%	129	65	-49.6%
Farms, \$350,000 to \$499,999	30	33	10.0%	62	53	-14.5%
Farms, \$500,000 to \$999,999	57	42	-26.3%	92	90	-2.2%
Farms, \$1,000,000 to \$1,499,999	13	19	46.2%	21	29	38.1%
Farms, \$1,500,000 to \$1,999,999	5	9	80.0%	10	14	40.0%
Farms, \$2,000,000 to \$3,499,999	8	10	25.0%	16	19	18.8%
Farms, \$3,500,000 and over	6	7	16.7%	13	15	15.4%

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Farms by Total Gross Farm Receipts

	Division No. 1			Newfoundland and Labrador		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011- 2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011- 2016
Farms, under \$10,000	106	78	-26.4%	180	121	-32.8%
Farms, \$10,000 to \$24,999	44	43	-2.3%	93	79	-15.1%
Farms, \$25,000 to \$49,999	19	22	15.8%	46	53	15.2%
Farms, \$50,000 to \$99,999	33	18	-45.5%	57	42	-26.3%
Farms, \$100,000 to \$249,999	20	18	-10.0%	54	38	-29.6%
Farms, \$250,000 to \$499,999	20	14	-30.0%	32	27	-15.6%
Farms, \$500,000 to \$999,999	10	7	-30.0%	17	15	-11.8%
Farms, \$1,000,000 to \$1,999,999	5	6	20.0%	11	13	18.2%
Farms, \$2,000,000 and over	10	9	-10.0%	20	19	-5.0%
Total gross farm receipts (excluding forest products sold) (dollars)	\$78,390,836	\$92,724,650	18.3%	\$137,578,256	\$155,869,623	13.3%

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Farms and Adoption of Technologies

	Division No. 1		Newfoundland and Labrador	
	2016	% of Total Farms	2016	% of Total Farms
Computers/laptops for farm management	98	45.6%	173	42.5%
Smartphones/tablets for farm management	70	32.6%	132	32.4%
Automated steering (auto-steer)	3	1.4%	8	2.0%
GPS technology	16	7.4%	39	9.6%
GIS mapping (e.g., soil mapping)	11	5.1%	31	7.6%
Greenhouse automation	9	4.2%	18	4.4%
Robotic milking	1	0.5%	3	0.7%
Automated environmental controls for animal housing	13	6.0%	18	4.4%
Automated animal feeding	16	7.4%	24	5.9%
Other technologies	2	0.9%	3	0.7%

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Farms and Renewable Energy Systems

	Division No. 1		Newfoundland and Labrador	
	2016	% of Total Farms	2016	% of Total Farms
All farms reporting	2	0.9%	7	1.7%
Solar panels	1	0.5%	4	1.0%
Wind turbines	0	0.0%	2	0.5%
Anaerobic biodigester (biogas or methane)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Biodiesel production systems	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Geothermal electric power generator	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hydro electric power generator	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other renewable energy producing systems	1	0.5%	3	0.7%

Products Sold Directly to Consumers

	Division No. 1		Newfoundland and Labrador	
	2016	% of Total Farms	2016	% of Total Farms
All farms reporting	70	32.6%	139	34.2%
Farms reporting unprocessed agricultural products sold	70	32.6%	138	33.9%
Farms reporting value-added products sold	6	2.8%	15	3.7%
Farms reporting using farm gate sales, stands, kiosks, U-pick	58	27.0%	112	27.5%
Farms reporting using farmers' markets	20	9.3%	43	10.6%
Farms reporting using Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)	5	2.3%	7	1.7%
Farms reporting using other methods	3	1.4%	6	1.5%

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Number of Bees

	Division No. 1			Newfoundland and Labrador		
	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016	2011	2016	% Change 2011-2016
Colonies of honeybees						
Number of farms reporting	1	4	300.0%	6	8	33.3%
Number	x	x	N/A	126	355	181.7%
Gallons of other pollinating bees						
Number of farms reporting	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Number	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%

x Suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the Statistics Act