

Quebec – More than 400 years of agriculture!

In 1617, the Parisian apothecary Louis Hébert, his wife Marie Rollet and their three children accepted the invitation of the father of New France, Samuel de Champlain, and settled in Quebec. In doing so, they became the first European settlers to make their family's livelihood from the land. More than 400 years later, agriculture is still an exceptional economic driver for Quebec. With some 29,000 businesses, 57,000 jobs and revenues of \$11.1 billion (2021), it is the largest activity in the primary sector, even if only 2% of the territory is reserved for it, as well as a major economic player, particularly in rural communities.

Milk production is the main animal production while the cultivation of grain maize ranks first among crop production.

As the world's leading producer of maple syrup, Quebec supplies nearly 71% of the world's production. Among the province's main productions, pork production also occupies a prominent place.



In addition, Quebec is the undisputed leader in organic farming in the country, both in terms of the number of businesses and sown areas. Very attached to their agriculture, Quebecers are passionate about buying local. The *Eat local food, more than ever!* application, an initiative of the Union des Producteurs Agricoles, has accumulated more than 32,000 downloads since its launch in August 2020.

Learn more about Quebec agriculture on the [Statistics Canada website](#).