Food Self-Sufficiency

2019

- Buying local, quality grown products benefits our producers, rural communities and creates a secure food supply for consumers and contributes to growing our economy.

- Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture has completed an integrated food self-sufficiency analysis model[1] for the province. This analysis utilizes national per capita food data[2] as a proxy for Nova Scotia consumption, then combines that with annual, provincial agriculture production data[3] to evaluate the province's ability to meet its consumption and livestock feed needs[4].

- A self-sufficiency ratio of 100% would indicate there is enough locally produced product to meet Nova Scotia consumption.

- The results of the model show that, based on data from 2019, Nova Scotia's production of seafood, maple syrup, milk and milk products, and eggs exceeds consumption needs.

- The production of vegetables, fruits, grains and oilseeds, meat, and honey does not fully meet consumption needs.

- For commodities with a self-sufficiency ratio of greater than 100%, the data suggests opportunities for export market or value-added product development.

- Commodities that Nova Scotia has a 100% or more self-sufficiency ratio:

Commodity	Self-Sufficiency Ratio (%)
Apples	171
Blueberries	797
Carrots	348
Chicken	116
Eggs	116
Maple syrup	109
Milk and milk products	123
Onions	135
Seafood	1161

- For commodities with a self-sufficiency ratio of less than 100%, the data suggests Nova Scotia could increase production for local consumption, offsetting imports.

- Ratios close to 0% indicate that Nova Scotia may not have ideal growing conditions for this commodity, or the cost of production is not competitive.

- Commodities that Nova Scotia has less than a 100% self-sufficiency ratio:

Commodity	Self-Sufficiency Ratio (%)
Barley	7
Beans	8
Beef	22
Broccoli	42
Cabbage	43
Canola	0
Cauliflower	31
Corn for grain	50
Cranberries	40
Cucumbers	45
Grapes	6
Honey	21
Lamb	41
Oats	12
Pork	3
Potato	1
Pumpkin and squash	95
Rutabagas and turnips	92
Soybean	22
Strawberries	51
Sweet corn	10
Tomatoes	8
Turkey	91
Wheat	6

Footnotes:

1. The Nova Scotia Food Self-Sufficiency Model was adapted from a model used by New Brunswick (first developed in 2010).
2. Cansim Table 32-10-0054-01, Food available in Canada, is used along with Nova Scotia population estimates to estimate consumption.
3. Livestock feed requirements are from Statistics Canada reports/tables, with advice from Perennia and commodity associations.
4. Model was adjusted in May 2021 to use actual beef slaughter statistics from the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change and Atlantic Beef Products, include greenhouse cucumbers and a revised feed model for grains.