

SECTOR PROFILE AT A GLANCE

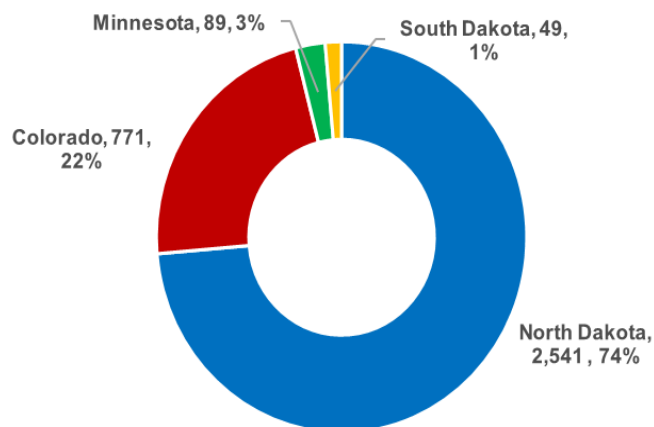
Bison



Highlights

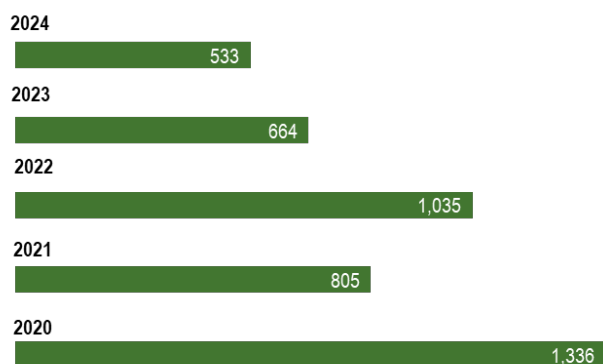
- North America has two subspecies of bison: wood and plains. The plains bison is the prominent type in Manitoba.
- In 2024, 533 bison were harvested in the province.
- Most bison are sold via video auction to reduce stress and enhance biosecurity and animal welfare.
- International exports increased 23 per cent from 2020 to 2022, then declined 12 per cent from 2022 to 2024.
- The value per head of international exports was \$3,286 in 2024, 10 per cent lower than in 2020.
- Bison prices have increased significantly since the 2021 drought, with carcass prices for bulls rising 13 per cent in 2023 and 17 per cent in 2024.

Bison International Exports 2024 (head)



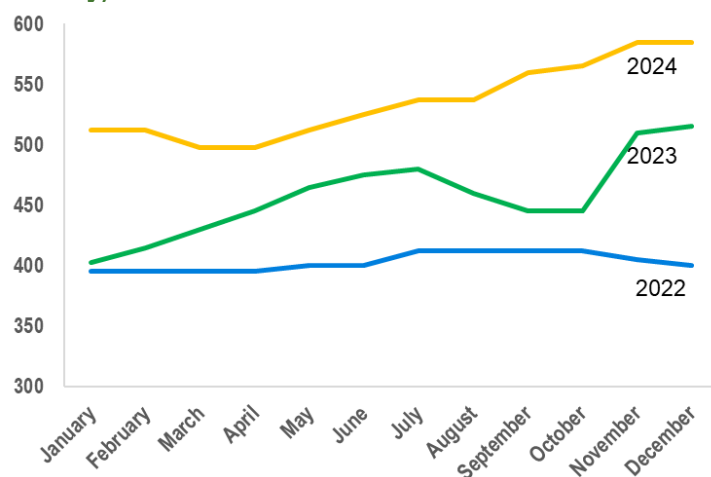
Source: Statistics Canada

Harvesting (head)



Source: Manitoba Agriculture

Prices (grain fed, bulls, carcass weight, \$/cwt, monthly)

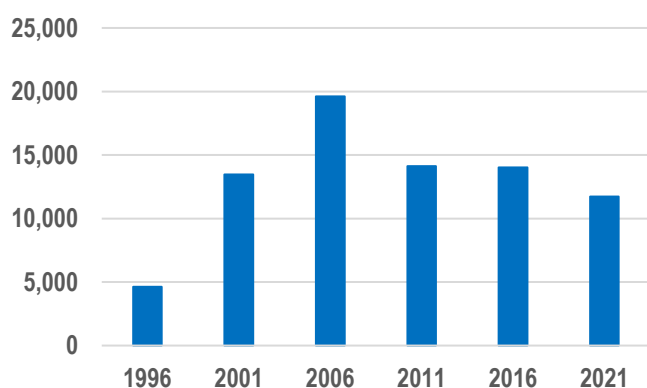


Source: Canadian Bison Association

Inventory

- Manitoba had 82 farms reporting 11,725 bison head in 2021, according to Census of Agriculture. The average herd size was 143 head.
- The number of bison farms in Manitoba has declined from 166 in 2006 to 82 in 2021.
- Alberta is the largest bison producing province, followed by Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba.

Bison on Farms (head)



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Marketing, Processing and Trade

- Manitoba has 10 processing plants that produce bison meat, including All Natural Meats, BJ Packers, Banman Meats, Benito Meats, Cut Rite Meats, Oak River Quick Freeze LTD, Oakridge Meats LTD, Prairie Rose Meats LTD, True North Foods, and Valley Meat Packers.
- Manitoba exported 3,450 live bison to the United States (U.S.), valued at \$11.3 million. Most exports (74 per cent) go to North Dakota.

Updated: May 2025

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ranches are located throughout the province to utilize pastures, woodlands, forage, and water supplies for sustainable and cost-effective bison production.
- The majority of finished animals are sold to the North American Bison Co-operative, a processing plant in New Rockford, North Dakota.
- Bison meat is a nutrient dense food because of the proportion of protein, fat, mineral, and fatty acids to its caloric value. Comparisons to other meat sources have shown that bison meat has a greater concentration of iron, zinc and essential fatty acids.
- Bison meat can be purchased directly from farms, farmers' markets, online stores, grocery stores and at restaurants.
- Bison have been important to First Nation and Métis communities-providing food, shelter and clothing, as well as being part of their spirituality and culture.

Contact us

- Go to manitoba.ca/agriculture and click on [Markets and Statistics](#).
- Email us at industryintelligence@gov.mb.ca.
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