

Economic Fact Sheet



Founded in 1995, Vancouver Farmers Markets (VFM) has grown to become one of Canada's leading farmers market organizations, with **9 weekly markets, 470,000 shoppers per year, and annual vendor sales of \$10 million.**

Vancouver Farmers Markets has seen rapid growth in the last decade, from gross annual sales of \$3.7 million in 2009 to **\$10 million in 2018.**

At Vancouver Farmers Markets, shoppers are not just buying the highest quality, freshest, and tastiest food direct from our producers - they're also making a better choice for the environment, building healthy communities, and contributing more than **\$15 million to the local and regional economy.**



Shopping at Vancouver Farmers Markets directly supports local agriculture. In a region where farmland is under-utilized and disappearing due to development, VFM supports **280 small BC farms and producers** and helps keep **over 3,400 acres of local farmland** in sustainable food production each year.

Vancouver Farmers Markets plays a vital role in local business incubation, providing opportunities for new farmers, food producers, and craft artisans to direct market their goods with the public. Over the last year, **70 new local businesses launched at our markets.**



As a non-profit organization, Vancouver Farmers Markets supports a host of other social enterprises by providing space to vend and promotional support for their initiatives, which include urban and school yard farming, food waste diversion, community food security, and employment opportunities for refugee newcomers and marginalized members of our community. Our current roster of social enterprise vendors include **Sole Food Street Farms, Fresh Roots, Tsawwassen Farm School, Flavours of Hope, Vancouver Street Vendors Collective, Urban Farming Poh-Pohs, Munchies Foodshare, and Tayybeh Syrian Foods.**

Since 2008, we've welcomed many urban farmers to our markets who use a range of resourceful and innovative techniques to grow food in parking lots, schoolyards, backyards, rooftops, and other spaces around the city. We currently have 10 urban farms on our roster, including **The Food Pedalers, Oyster & King Mushrooms, Miss-E-Greens, Sole Food Street Farms, Fresh Roots, Neighbourly Bee, Oh My Greens, Albert's Nursery, and The Front Yard Flower Co.**

