

# Aquastats

## 2004

Ontario Aquacultural Production in 2004

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### INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT 2004

<b>Major Species Produced</b>	- rainbow trout
<b>Minor Species Produced</b>	- tilapia, Arctic charr, brook trout, smallmouth and largemouth bass, cyprinid baitfish
<b>Total Trout Production</b>	- 4,030 tonnes
<b>Farm-gate Value of Trout</b>	- \$15.7 million
<b>Economic Contribution</b>	- \$55 - 60 million
<b>Job Creation</b>	- 190 person-years direct and 200 person-years indirect employment
<b>Projected Production of Trout</b>	- between 4,000 and 4,500 tonnes in 2005

### ANNUAL PRODUCTION

In 2004, we estimate that Ontario fish farms produced 4,030 tonnes (8.88 million pounds) of rainbow trout, primarily for human consumption. This is a 170 tonne decrease (4.0 %) from the 4,200 tonnes produced in 2003. Lake-based cage production of trout in the Georgian Bay area continues to dominate other land-based production systems, accounting for 80 % of the total production (Figure 1).

Arctic charr production is limited and production has remained at nominal levels for several years now, with only a few farms having any noticeable production. Similarly, tilapia production has not increased and much of this sectors value results from the export of fingerling-sized fish. Our records suggest that the combined production is approximately 150 tonnes annually.

The production of brook trout and bass is primarily geared towards pond stocking and recreational purposes. These operations provide an important diversity to the industry although quantifiable information is scarce. Our records suggest that more than 60 facilities culture brook trout and bass, however production of these species is believed to be less than 25 tonnes annually.

### ECONOMIC VALUE

The total farm-gate value of the 4,030 tonnes of rainbow trout produced is estimated to be \$15.7 million, with an average price of \$1.77/lb (\$3.90/kg). The reported farm-gate price of trout less than one pound averaged \$2.34/lb (\$5.16/kg); 1 to 2½ lbs. trout averaged \$1.68/lb (\$3.70/kg); and trout over 2½ lbs. averaged \$1.75/lb (\$3.86./kg). The sale of tilapia, charr, bass and other fish species is estimated to be an additional \$1.0 million in 2004.

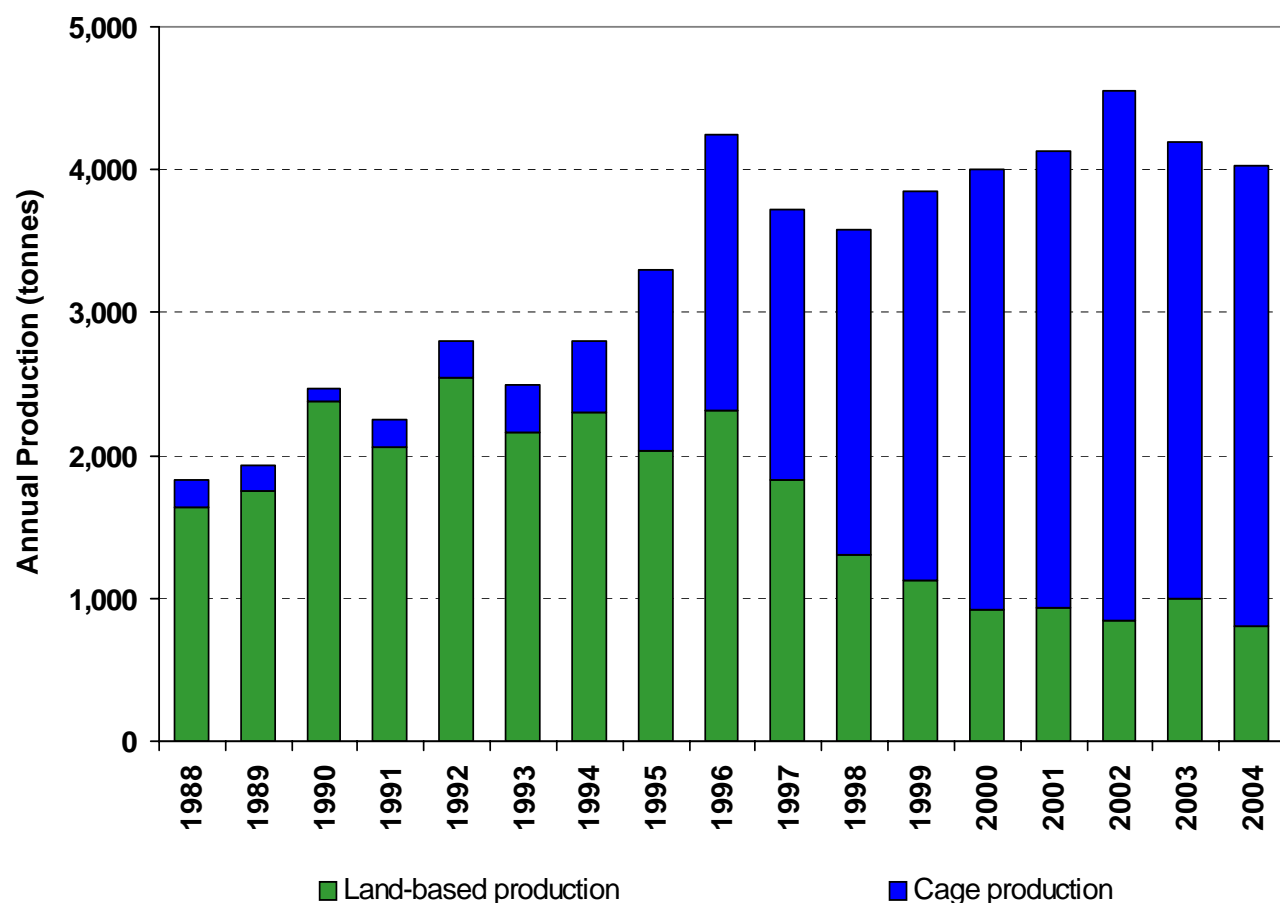
More than 60 facilities are involved with pond stocking, typically rainbow trout, brook trout and bass. The value of this aquaculture sector is conservatively estimated to be \$1.5 million annually.

In 2004, the Ontario aquaculture industry is estimated to have generated a total of 190 person-years of direct, on-farm employment. This consisted of 118 person-years of full-time employment (40 hours per week for 12 months) and 72 person years of part-time employment. Indirect employment is conservatively estimated at 200 person-years.

Total trout production levels have remained and relatively constant during the last five years (2000 – 2004 average is 4,180 tonnes). Nevertheless, there has been a steady increase in production output per person employed. Our initial Aquastats survey in 1988 indicated that farms which had been operating for five or more years produced 15,000 pounds per person per year (Moccia & Bevan 1989). The current average of 46,750 pounds per person per year results primarily from the dominance of cage aquaculture in the production mix.

The total annual contribution that aquaculture makes to the Ontario economy is estimated to be \$55 - 60 million, with additional economic value realised via the recreational and aquaria trade.

**Figure 1. Comparison of Ontario land-based and cage aquaculture production between 1988 and 2004.**



1 Earlier factsheets and methodology are available online at: <http://www.aps.uoguelph.ca/~aquacentre/aec/publications>  
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