

Service bulletin

Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products

2008



Highlights

Honey

Canada produced 62 million pounds of honey in 2008, which was one-tenth less than the 69 million pounds produced in 2007. The average yield per colony in 2008 was 106 pounds, over 10 pounds less per colony than in 2007. Alberta, which generates over one-third of Canadian honey production, saw a one-quarter reduction in honey production from 2007 to 2008. The decreasing production across provinces was reported to be due to poor weather conditions, an increasing amount of winter kill and continuing losses due to varroa mites.

The number of colonies, however, remained at 585 thousand managed hives, which was less than a 1% decrease from 2007. This was due to colony splitting or replacement of colonies as beekeepers tried to rebuild their honey bee population. Over the last seasons, beekeepers were facing increasing operating expenses as the cost of fuel and labour were rising. Additional costs included bee medication and the cost of operating extra hives in anticipation of winter losses.

Maple

In 2008, Canada produced almost 4.9 million gallons of maple syrup, 4.8% less than the 5.1 million gallons in 2007. Quebec, which accounts for over 90% of Canadian production, reported a drop of 219 thousand gallons of maple syrup collected, compared with the 2007 season. In Quebec, above-average snow falls kept day temperatures relatively cold in the early season followed quickly by a warm spring for the rest of the season. Ideal weather conditions for sap collection requires cold nights followed by sunny days.

Prices increased by more than \$10 per gallon in some provinces due to continuing demand for maple syrup in the domestic and export markets. Prices ranged from \$42 per gallon in Quebec to \$60 per gallon in Ontario. The total value of all maple products sold in 2008 was almost \$212 million or \$44.4 million more than in 2007.



Statistical tables

Table 1
Production and value of honey

	Beekeepers ¹	Colonies ¹	Honey		
			Production ² of honey, total	Production ² of honey, total	Value ⁴ of honey, total
	number	thousands of pounds	metric tonnes	thousands of dollars	
Canada³					
Average 2003 to 2007	7,843	598,883	81,477	36,968	107,284
2007	7,313 r	589,254 r	69,402 r	31,489 r	84,916
2008 p	7,059	585,441	61,958	28,112	..
Prince Edward Island					
Average 2003 to 2007	25	2,090	110	50	227
2007	13	3,641 r	236 r	107 r	519
2008 p	15	4,267	277	126	..
Nova Scotia					
Average 2003 to 2007	333	18,856	715	325	1,301
2007	215 r	18,500 r	600 r	272 r	900
2008 p	225	19,000	600	272	..
New Brunswick					
Average 2003 to 2007	226	5,520	221	100	325
2007	223	3,440 r	123 r	56 r	124
2008 p	225	1,800	107	49	..
Quebec					
Average 2003 to 2007	235	30,181	2,606	1,182	5,534
2007	248 r	31,824 r	2,260 r	1,025 r	6,133
2008 p	250	33,800	2,603	1,181	..
Ontario					
Average 2003 to 2007	2,520	74,480	7,884	3,577	13,409
2007	2,300	76,700	5,968 r	2,708 r	9,354
2008 p	2,200	80,000	5,353	2,429	..
Manitoba					
Average 2003 to 2007	599	81,600	14,016	6,359	17,013
2007	632	77,500	12,400	5,626	12,100
2008 p	533	75,000	12,000	5,445	..
Saskatchewan					
Average 2003 to 2007	1,104	99,000	18,825	8,541	24,054
2007	1,049 r	95,000	16,625	7,543	19,950
2008 p	1,045	95,000	17,480	7,931	..
Alberta					
Average 2003 to 2007	727	242,200	33,770	15,322	42,946
2007	726 r	237,000 r	28,914 r	13,119 r	29,627
2008 p	700	240,000	21,600	9,800	..
British Columbia					
Average 2003 to 2007	2,073	44,956	3,330	1,511	8,439
2007	1,907 r	45,649 r	2,276 r	1,033 r	6,209
2008 p	1,866	36,574	1,938	879	..

1. Beekeeper and colony numbers include pollinators that may not extract honey.

2. Production excludes inventory.

3. Does not include Newfoundland and Labrador.

4. Value excludes inventory sales except for in Québec.

Note(s): Figures are compiled by Statistics Canada from provincial data, except for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island where data are collected through a Statistics Canada mail survey.

Table 2
Production and farm value of maple products

	2007			2008 ^p		
	Maple products expressed as syrup, total	Maple products expressed as syrup, total	Gross value of maple products	Maple products expressed as syrup, total	Maple products expressed as syrup, total	Gross value of maple products
	thousands of gallons	kilolitres	thousands of dollars	thousands of gallons	kilolitres	thousands of dollars
Canada	5,135	23,344	167,457 ^r	4,890	22,230	211,899
Nova Scotia ¹	27	123	1,067	21	95	913
New Brunswick ²	226	1,027	10,702	169	768	8,817
Quebec ³	4,657	21,171	143,600 ^r	4,439	20,180	186,700
Ontario ²	224	1,018	12,088	262	1,191	15,469

1. Estimates produced by Nova Scotia horticulture industry experts.
 2. Beginning in 1986, survey data for New Brunswick and Ontario are weighted using the number of taps made on maple trees in the spring of the year of the most recently completed census of agriculture.
 3. Estimates produced jointly by "La Table filière acéricole", "Cintech Agroalimentaire", "Le Groupe AGÉCO", "L'Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ)" and the regional specialists of "Le ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)".
- Note(s):** Commercial production and value figures exclude inventory. Conversion factors: 1 gallon of syrup equals 10 pounds of maple sugar. One gallon of syrup weighs 13.4375 pounds. One gallon of syrup equals 10.4 pounds of taffy. Maple taffy is reported by Quebec and Nova Scotia only and commences reporting in 1965 and 1983 respectively. The conversion of maple taffy to syrup varies with the density of syrup that year.

Annual honey survey

Data sources

Prior to the 1999 crop year, Statistics Canada compiled data on Honey and other Apiary Product Farms through a combination of survey taking and administrative sources of data. Estimates published for the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Saskatchewan were based on a probability sample survey of beekeeping operations in those provinces. Provincial departments of agriculture in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia carried out their own surveys to independently estimate all honey variables published in this annual bulletin.

Beginning with the 1999 crop year, the provinces of Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan were added to the list of provinces for which data was compiled solely from provincially administered survey vehicles. While these surveys cover the same subject matter as the Statistics Canada survey, each province customizes its own questionnaire to request supplementary data on topics relevant to its apiculture industry. It is worth noting that no data has ever been collected or compiled for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador with respect to this industry.

In September of 2000, Statistics Canada conducted a census of beekeepers in the provinces of Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The survey frame in these provinces was drawn from a list compiled after the conclusion of the 2001 Census of Agriculture and augmented from a registration list provided by the respective agricultural authorities in each of those two provinces. The Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick Honey Survey is now conducted as a mail out/ mail back survey. Honey surveys prior to September of 1999 were conducted through a computer assisted telephone interview process.

The goal of the Statistics Canada Honey survey is to provide an estimate of the quantity and value of the domestic commercial production of honey.

Revisions

The estimates are preliminary when first published and subject to revision in the next year. There are relatively few revisions made to the estimates due to the availability of administrative data at the time estimates are initially published.

Maple products

The data for New Brunswick and Ontario in this release, were prepared by Statistics Canada. Survey data for New Brunswick and Ontario are weighted using the number of taps made on maple trees in the spring of 2006, as reported on the 2006 Census of Agriculture.

Estimates for the province of Quebec were prepared by "l'Institut de la statistique du Québec".

Data quality description

Sources

Maple product estimates are collected and compiled by Statistics Canada on an annual basis. Data collection for Ontario and New Brunswick takes the form of a mail-in survey sent by Statistics Canada to all known producers in these provinces. Quebec, which is the world leader in maple production, as well as Nova Scotia provides the estimates using administrative data.

Data for New Brunswick and Ontario are collected and compiled by Statistics Canada, Agriculture Division. The data from all provinces are assembled and published by Statistics Canada.

Methodology

Nova Scotia

A specialist provides all administrative data on maple production in the province of Nova Scotia.

New Brunswick and Ontario

Questionnaires for these provinces received by Statistics Canada are manually scanned for inconsistencies upon receipt. They are then data captured using a system of electronic edits designed to detect data inconsistencies and to reject most anomalies. These anomalies are investigated and manually corrected to assure accuracy of reporting. The resultant tabulations are compared to previous years and the most recent Census. Significant variations are identified and investigated. Finally the data are weighted using the number of taps made on maple trees as reported on the most recent Census.

Quebec

The production data are established by the "Table filière acéricole". It is composed of all the Industry representatives. This committee takes into account various data sources in its analysis which are predominantly: "Cintech Agroalimentaire", "Groupe AGÉCO", "ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)", "Fédération des producteurs acéricoles du Québec (FPAQ)" and the processing industry.

The production value data are established by MAPAQ and l'Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) from the numbers provided by FPAQ and MAPAQ regional specialists.

Data quality

The Maple Products Survey is a non-probability survey, the data for which are collected at year-end. Statistics Canada revises their portion of the data only when significant outliers are received subsequent to the compilation of the data. The published data from Quebec represents a consensus of representatives from the industry. The major elements that permit the industry representatives to provide official statistics are a probability survey of maple producers, a weekly follow up of a regional target group, data on syrup classification and international trade.

Conversion factors (revised in 1995)

Note: Conversion factors were revised beginning in 1995 due to improved measurement standards in the Province of Quebec.

1 gallon of syrup = 9.2 pounds of maple sugar

1 gallon of syrup = 10.4 pounds of maple taffy

1 gallon of syrup = 13.248 pounds of syrup

1 pound = 0.454 kilograms

1 gallon = 4.546 litres

1 litre = 0.220 gallons

Acknowledgement

The following members have contributed to this publication:

Marco Morin, Chief, Crops Section

Lorie Shinder, Unit Head, Horticulture Unit

Sheba Mirza and **Leah St.Michael**

Release date: November 2008

Symbols

The following standard symbols are used in Statistics Canada publications:

.	not available for any reference period
..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0 ^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
P	preliminary
r	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the <i>Statistics Act</i>
E	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published

To access this product

This product, Catalogue no. 23-221-X, is available free in electronic format. To obtain a single issue, visit our website at www.statcan.ca and select "Publications" > "Free Internet publications."

Frequency: Annual / ISSN 1481-6229

For information on the wide range of data available from Statistics Canada, please call our national inquiries line at 1-800-263-1136.

La version française de cette publication est disponible sur demande (n° 23-221-X au catalogue).

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2008. All rights reserved. The content of this electronic publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, and by any means, without further permission from Statistics Canada, subject to the following conditions: that it be done solely for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary, and/or for non-commercial purposes; and that Statistics Canada be fully acknowledged as follows: Source (or "Adapted from", if appropriate): Statistics Canada, year of publication, name of product, catalogue number, volume and issue numbers, reference period and page(s). Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form, by any means—electronic, mechanical or photocopy—or for any purposes without prior written permission of Licensing Services, Client Services Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0T6.

Standards of service to the public

Statistics Canada is committed to serving its clients in a prompt, reliable and courteous manner. To this end, Statistics Canada has developed *standards of service* that its employees observe.

To obtain a copy of these service standards, please contact Statistics Canada toll-free at 1-800-263-1136. The service standards are also published on www.statcan.ca under "About us" > "Providing services to Canadians."

Note of appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long standing partnership between Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.