

Service bulletin

Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products

2010



Highlights

Honey

In 2010, production of honey amounted to 74.3 million pounds, roughly 4.0 million pounds, or 5.6%, more than in 2009.

Beekeepers' average yield of honey amounted to 120 pounds per colony, up slightly from 119 pounds in 2009. Beekeepers in Alberta, who produce over one-third of honey in Canada, reported a decline in yield from 116 pounds per colony to 106 pounds.

Yields varied from region to region. Production on the Prairies was less than expected because of an early spring and wet cool weather. In the Eastern and Central provinces, beekeepers reported better than average production, reflecting warm temperatures and sunny days.

Canada had 7,284 beekeepers in 2010, 256 more than in 2009. They managed 617,264 beehives in 2010, an increase of 25,144.

In 2009, the total value of honey produced amounted to \$126.3 million, up by \$21.1 million (+20.0%) from 2008.

Maple Products

In 2010, farmers produced 7.2 million gallons of maple syrup products, 19.9% less than the record high of 9.0 million gallons in 2009 that was the result of favourable weather conditions.

The total value of the 2010 maple syrup products reached \$280.9 million, down 20.6% from 2009.

Quebec farmers, who account for over 90% of Canadian maple syrup products, produced 6.6 million gallons in 2010, down by 1.6 million gallons from what was an exceptional year for them in 2009. In 2010, the average price for maple products in Quebec was \$36.82 per gallon, compared with \$37.45 in 2009. Maple products include maple syrup, maple sugar and maple butter.

Statistical tables

Table 1
Production and value of honey

	Beekeepers ¹	Colonies ¹	Honey		
			Production of honey, total ²	Production of honey, total ²	Value of honey, total ³
	number	thousands of pounds	metric tonnes	thousands of dollars	
Canada⁴					
Average 2005 to 2009	7,388	599,077	78,173	35,469	98,189
2009	7,028 ^r	592,120 ^r	70,362 ^r	31,925 ^r	126,253
2010 ^p	7,284	617,264	74,314	33,718	..
Prince Edward Island					
Average 2005 to 2009	22	2,708	174	79	362
2009	28	3,530	265	120	530
2010 ^p	33	3,890	200	91	600
Nova Scotia					
Average 2005 to 2009	260	18,900	555	252	1,157
2009	205 ^r	19,500	416 ^r	189 ^r	1,248 ^r
2010 ^p	215	18,500	528	240	1,584
New Brunswick					
Average 2005 to 2009	209	4,754	201	91	359
2009	180	2,700	189	86	708 ^r
2010 ^p	204	4,288	257	117	963
Quebec					
Average 2005 to 2009	255	34,723	2,957	1,342	6,998
2009	245 ^r	36,536 ^r	2,039 ^r	925 ^r	7,837
2010 ^p	245	36,500	3,687	1,673	14,171
Ontario					
Average 2005 to 2009	2,400	78,280	6,702	3,041	11,771
2009	2,500 ^r	82,000 ^r	5,730 ^r	2,600 ^r	14,133
2010 ^p	2,600	83,150	8,564	3,886	..
Manitoba					
Average 2005 to 2009	572	78,484	13,749	6,238	15,284
2009	474	70,746	13,017 ^r	5,906 ^r	19,916
2010 ^p	487	78,000	12,870	5,839	19,691
Saskatchewan					
Average 2005 to 2009	1,040	94,000	18,637	8,456	22,122
2009	971	85,000	17,000	7,713	25,500
2010 ^p	965	86,000	18,404	8,350	27,606
Alberta					
Average 2005 to 2009	698	243,800	32,527	14,758	38,804
2009	683 ^r	251,000 ^r	29,116 ^r	13,211 ^r	48,837 ^r
2010 ^p	670	265,000	28,000	12,704	46,247
British Columbia					
Average 2005 to 2009	1,932	43,428	2,672	1,212	7,296
2009	1,742 ^r	41,108 ^r	2,590 ^r	1,175 ^r	7,544
2010 ^p	1,865	41,936	1,803	818	6,202

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

2. Production excludes inventory.

3. Value excludes inventory sales except for in Québec.

4. Does not include Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

	2009			2010 ^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	8,963 ^r	40,746	353,795 ^r	7,182	32,649	280,880
Nova Scotia ¹	19 ^r	86	1,040 ^r	28	127	1,635
New Brunswick ²	386	1,755	22,230	309	1,405	18,620
Quebec ³	8,141 ^r	37,009	304,880 ^r	6,556	29,804	241,400
Ontario ²	417	1,896	25,644	288	1,309	19,225

1. Estimates produced by Nova Scotia horticulture industry specialists.
 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 the "Table filière acéricole", "Cintech Agroalimentaire", "Groupe AGÉCO", "Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ)" and the regional specialists of the "ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)".
- Note(s):** Conversion factors: 1 gallon of syrup equals 10.0 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 commenced 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 (ISQ)".

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 provide 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

Specialists provide 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 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 = 10.0 pounds of maple sugar

1 gallon of syrup = 10.4 pounds of maple taffy

1 gallon of syrup = 13.4375 pounds of syrup

1 pound = 0.454 kilograms

1 gallon = 4.546 litres

1 litre = 0.220 gallons

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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

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