



Agriculture Division

Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products



2006

Highlights

Honey

Things were sweet for honey producers in 2006 as they reported having the second best year in history. Preliminary data show that Canadian apiaries produced an estimated 95 million pounds of honey missing the all time record by about 7 million pounds. Honey production has experienced ups and downs since the early 90s but the overall trend has been more production over the past 15 years. Alberta continued to be the largest honey producing province with approximately 250,000 colonies and 40% of the nation's honey production.

Maple

Canadian maple syrup production slid 8% from last year. Sugar bush farmers in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario reported slight increases. Quebec farmers, who represent about 90% of the Canadian maple syrup production, reported a 10% decrease in the volume of maple syrup. This decrease was due to the drop in the number of taps that declined by 3.5 million compared to 2005.

Prices were about the same as last year so the drop in value can be attributed to the drop in volume. To date, Canadian maple producers sold \$178 million worth of maple in 2006 compared to \$192 million in 2005.

Statistical tables

Table 1
Production and value of honey 1

	Beekeepers ²	Colonies ²	Honey		
			Production ³ of honey, total	Production ³ of honey, total	Value ³ of honey, total
	number	thousands of pounds	metric tonnes	thousands of dollars	
Canada 4					
Average 2001 to 2005 ⁵	..	..	..	..	..
2005	7,971 ^r	615,541 ^r	79,607 ^r	36,119 ^r	63,338
2006 ^p	5,963	582,087	94,872	43,045	..
Prince Edward Island					
Average 2001 to 2005	33	1,755	84	38	..
2005	25	1,180 ^r	52 ^r	24 ^r	115
2006 ^p	20	1,150	48	22	..
Nova Scotia					
Average 2001 to 2005	372	19,456	727	330	..
2005	335 ^r	18,800 ^r	730 ^r	331 ^r	1,900
2006 ^p	325	19,500	539	245	..
New Brunswick					
Average 2001 to 2005	228	5,913	266	121	..
2005	230 ^r	6,330 ^r	223 ^r	101 ^r	317
2006 ^p	223	8,306	326	148	..
Quebec					
Average 2001 to 2005	252	31,335	3,063	1,390	..
2005	258 ^r	33,586 ^r	3,850 ^r	1,747 ^r	6,257
2006 ^p	378	41,431	4,284	1,944	..
Ontario					
Average 2001 to 2005	2,700	74,140	8,855	4,018	..
2005	2,600	76,000	8,938 ^r	4,055 ^r	14,309
2006 ^p	2,600	76,700	8,475	3,845	..
Manitoba					
Average 2001 to 2005 ⁵	..	..	..	..	..
2005	610	84,000	12,600	5,717	0
2006 ^p	623	85,000	18,700	8,485	..
Saskatchewan					
Average 2001 to 2005 ⁵	..	..	..	..	..
2005	1,085	100,000	18,000	8,167	0
2006 ^p	1,069	100,000	25,000	11,343	..
Alberta					
Average 2001 to 2005	721	239,400	32,087	14,559	..
2005	728 ^r	251,000 ^r	31,877 ^r	14,463 ^r	31,428
2006 ^p	725	250,000	37,500	17,015	..
British Columbia					
Average 2001 to 2005 ⁵	..	..	..	..	..
2005	2,100	44,645	3,337	1,514	9,012
2006 ^p	0	0	0	0	..

^p Preliminary

^r Revised

.. Not available for a specific reference period.

1. 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.

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

3. Production and value figures exclude inventory.

4. Does not include Newfoundland and Labrador.

5. Data received from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia were incomplete for 2005 and 2006. As a result, the five-year averages for these provinces and for Canada cannot be calculated.

Table 2
Production and farm value of maple products ¹

	2005			2006 ^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	6,121	27,826	192,076 ^r	5,614	25,521	177,944
Nova Scotia ²	21	95	1,054	26	118	1,171
New Brunswick	206	936	8,934	254	1,155	10,878
Quebec ³	5,675	25,799	171,100 ^r	5,116	23,257	154,700
Ontario	218	991	10,988	218	991	11,195

^p Preliminary

^r Revised

1. Commercial production and value figures exclude inventory.

2. Estimates produced by Nova Scotia horticulture industry experts.

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)".

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 2001, as reported on the 2001 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.

Québec

The production data are established by la 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: Cintechn Agroalimentaire, le Groupe AGÉCO, le Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ), la 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

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