

Service bulletin

Production and Value of Honey and Maple Products



2009

Highlights

Honey

Canadian honey production in 2009 was 64.8 million pounds, comparable to the 2008 levels of 64.9 million pounds. The national average revealed a small decrease in yield from 116 pounds of honey per colony in 2008 to 115 pounds in 2009. Correspondingly, across the provinces, production and yields remained virtually unchanged from 2008 levels. Over 80% of honey production is generated from the Prairie Provinces, with Alberta continuing to be the leading honey producing province. Some factors affecting honey production are the weather, the amount of nectar available and presence of disease or mites.

There were 200 fewer beekeepers across Canada with 6,728 people engaged in commercial beekeeping activity in 2009. The number of managed hives was 576,000, 5,600 more than in 2008.

The total value of honey is available for previous season. Total value of honey in 2008 was \$105.2 million, an increase of \$20.3 million, or 23.9%, over the 2007 value of \$84.9 million.

Maple

In 2009, Canadian operators produced 9.1 million gallons of maple syrup, a record high for the industry and an 85.7% increase (4.2 million gallons) over 2008, 4.9 million gallons. Favourable weather conditions contributed to that increase which surpassed the previous record of 7.3 million gallons in 2000.

The total value of the 2009 maple syrup crop was \$353.8 million, up \$141.9 million, an increase of two-thirds over the value reported in 2008.

Quebec, which produces over 90% of Canadian maple syrup, accounted for 8.3 million gallons of syrup in 2009, 3.8 million gallons more than 2008. Prices for maple syrup were \$36.92 per gallon in Quebec for 2009, \$5.14 lower than the \$42.06 per gallon in 2008.



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 2004 to 2008 | 7,567 | 600,231 | 79,199 | 35,934 | 97,160 |
| 2008 | 6,931 r | 570,070 r | 64,895 r | 29,444 r | 105,184 |
| 2009 p | 6,728 | 575,676 | 64,788 | 29,396 | .. |
| Prince Edward Island | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 22 | 2,452 | 139 | 63 | 286 |
| 2008 | 24 r | 4,000 r | 260 r | 118 r | 520 |
| 2009 p | 28 | 3,530 | 265 | 120 | 530 |
| Nova Scotia | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 294 | 18,880 | 629 | 285 | 1,128 |
| 2008 | 210 r | 19,200 r | 392 r | 178 r | 784 |
| 2009 p | 200 | 19,500 | 420 | 191 | 840 |
| New Brunswick | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 218 | 5,108 | 203 | 92 | 289 |
| 2008 | 187 r | 3,000 r | 174 r | 79 r | 348 |
| 2009 p | 180 | 2,700 | 189 | 86 | 378 |
| Quebec | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 247 | 32,845 | 2,956 | 1,341 | 6,551 |
| 2008 | 256 r | 36,123 r | 3,186 r | 1,446 r | 8,527 |
| 2009 p | 250 | 35,000 | 2,100 | 953 | .. |
| Ontario | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 2,430 | 76,280 | 7,080 | 3,212 | 11,746 |
| 2008 | 2,200 | 80,000 | 4,586 r | 2,081 r | 9,190 |
| 2009 p | 2,150 | 81,200 | 4,571 | 2,074 | .. |
| Manitoba | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 594 | 80,635 | 13,510 | 6,130 | 14,681 |
| 2008 | 523 r | 75,173 r | 12,028 r | 5,457 r | 17,440 |
| 2009 p | 474 | 70,746 | 12,310 | 5,585 | .. |
| Saskatchewan | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 1,056 | 97,000 | 18,237 | 8,275 | 21,222 |
| 2008 | 1,045 | 90,000 r | 16,560 r | 7,514 r | 24,840 |
| 2009 p | 971 | 85,000 | 17,000 | 7,713 | .. |
| Alberta | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 700 | 243,200 | 33,399 | 15,154 | 39,128 |
| 2008 | 620 r | 226,000 r | 25,990 r | 11,792 r | 37,755 |
| 2009 p | 625 | 240,000 | 25,920 | 11,760 | 44,865 |
| British Columbia | | | | | |
| Average 2004 to 2008 | 2,006 | 43,832 | 3,047 | 1,382 | 8,094 |
| 2008 | 1,866 | 36,574 | 1,719 r | 780 r | 5,779 |
| 2009 p | 1,850 | 38,000 | 2,014 | 914 | 7,544 |

1. Beekeeper and colony numbers 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

| | 2008 | | | 2009 ^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 | 4,889 | 22,225 | 211,901 ^r | 9,080 | 41,278 | 353,812 |
| Nova Scotia ¹ | 21 | 95 | 915 ^r | 19 | 86 | 1,037 |
| New Brunswick ² | 169 | 768 | 8,817 | 386 | 1,755 | 22,230 |
| Quebec ³ | 4,439 | 20,180 | 186,700 | 8,258 | 37,541 | 304,900 |
| Ontario ² | 262 | 1,191 | 15,469 | 417 | 1,896 | 25,644 |

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

Acknowledgement

The following members have contributed to this publication:

Marco Morin, Chief, Crops Section

Lorie Shinder, Unit Head, Horticulture Unit

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Release date: December 2009

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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Frequency: Annual / ISSN 1481-6229

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