

Quality
is in our **nature**



Statistical Overview of the Canadian Honey and Bee Industry 2017

Prepared by:
Crops and Horticulture Division
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
September 2018



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada 



© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, (2018).

Electronic version available at
www.agr.gc.ca/horticulture_e
ISSN: 1925-3796
AAFC No. 12863E

Paru également en français sous le titre
Aperçu statistique de l'industrie apicole canadienne, 2017
ISSN: 1925-380X
n° d'AAC: 12863F

For more information, reach us at www.agr.gc.ca or call us toll-free at 1-855-773-0241.



Table of Contents

Overview	1
1. Production	2
1.1. Number of beekeepers by province	2
1.2. Number of beekeepers by province – percent share, 2017	2
1.3. Number of colonies by province	3
1.4. Number of colonies by province – percent share, 2017	3
1.5. Number of beekeepers and number of colonies by province	4
1.6. Total honey production by province – thousands of pounds	5
1.7. Total honey production by province – percent share, 2017	5
1.8. Production value of honey by province – thousands of Canadian dollars	6
1.9. Production value of honey by province – percent share, 2017	6
2. Trade	7
2.1. Trade balance	7
2.1.1. Canada’s honey trade balance – thousands of Canadian dollars	7
2.2. Exports	8
2.2.1. Canada’s honey exports by province – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)	8
2.2.2. Canada’s honey exports by province – percent share, 2017	9
2.2.3. Canada’s honey exports by province - quantity (metric tonnes).....	9
2.2.4. Canada’s top 10 honey export destinations – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)	10
2.2.5. Canada’s top honey export destinations by country – percent share, 2017	10
2.2.6. Canada’s top 10 honey export destinations – quantity (metric tonnes).....	11
2.3. Imports	12
2.3.1. Canada’s honey imports by province – value (Canadian dollars)	12
2.3.2. Canada’s honey imports by province – percent share, 2017	12
2.3.3. Canada’s honey imports by province – quantity (kilograms)	13
2.3.4. Canada’s top 10 sources of honey imports – value (Canadian dollars)	13
2.3.5. Canada’s top sources of honey imports by country – percent share, 2017	14
2.3.6. Canada’s top 10 sources of honey imports – quantity (kilograms).....	14
2.3.8. Canada’s sources of queen bee imports – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)	15
3. Consumption	16
3.1. Honey available for consumption in Canada – kilograms per person.....	16
4. World data	17
4.1. Top 10 exporters of honey worldwide – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)	17
4.2. Top 10 honey-exporting countries, 2017.....	17
4.3. Top 10 importers of honey worldwide – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)	18
4.4. Top 10 honey-importing countries, 2017.....	18
6. Key Resources	19



Overview

Beekeeping is an important agricultural industry in Canada, producing bees for sale, honey and other hive products, and delivering valuable pollination services to other farmers and for the natural environment.

The total number of honey bee colonies in Canada has steadily increased over the past decade, reaching a record high 789,598 in 2017. The number of beekeepers has also been increasing. In 2017, 10,544 beekeepers across Canada kept one or more honey bee colonies, a 19% increase over the average of the previous five years.

The majority of honey bee colonies are in the Prairies, where long summer days and a favourable crop mix are ideal for foraging; Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba collectively accounted for 68% of the country's total bee colonies and for 86% of the total honey production. Alberta contributed the most to Canada's overall honey production with 43%, followed by Saskatchewan (24%) and Manitoba (19%).

Ontario currently has the largest number of beekeepers, with 3,331 beekeepers or 32% of national total. British Columbia and Alberta have the second and third largest number of beekeepers, with 2,640 and 1,360 beekeepers respectively.

Beekeepers produced 92.1 million pounds of honey in 2017, down 3% from 2016. In the previous season, the value of honey produced in Canada fell from \$210 million in 2015 to \$169 million in 2016, a decrease of 20%, due to a decline of 22% in prices. For 2017, prices for honey produced in Canada rebounded, increasing 14% from the previous year, resulting in an 11% increase in the total value of honey (\$188 million) despite a 3% reduction in total production.

Exports of Canadian honey totaled over \$78 million, up 9% from 2016. The United States is the largest export destination for Canadian honey and accounted for 79% of all honey exports in 2016. The second and third largest honey export destinations are Japan (16%) and China (3%), respectively.

Canada imported \$41 million worth of honey in 2017, the highest total value of imports in the previous five years. In recent years, Argentina was the largest source country for imports of honey (by value) to Canada; however, its total value of honey exports to Canada declined significantly, from \$8.7 million in 2013 to just \$245 thousands in 2017, dropping to 15th place among exporting countries. New Zealand became the largest exporter of honey by value to Canada in 2017, with an import value of \$9.5 million. Brazil and Mexico were the second and third largest sources of Canadian imports, valued at \$7.4 million and \$3.62 million, respectively. Most imports from New Zealand are valuable Manuka honey, while Brazil produces large volumes of certified organic honey.



1. Production

1.1. Number of beekeepers¹ by province

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prince Edward Island	47	45	45	40	46
Nova Scotia	287	320	395	451	604
New Brunswick	244	277	291	351	374
Quebec	296	309	333	384	400
Ontario	3,155	3,262	2,562	2,896	3,331
Manitoba	532	546	607	662	745
Saskatchewan	715	719	955	1,150	1,044
Alberta	890	1,015	1,064	1,453	1,360
British Columbia	2,323	2,405	2,363	2,640	2,640
Canada²	8,489	8,898	8,615	10,027	10,544

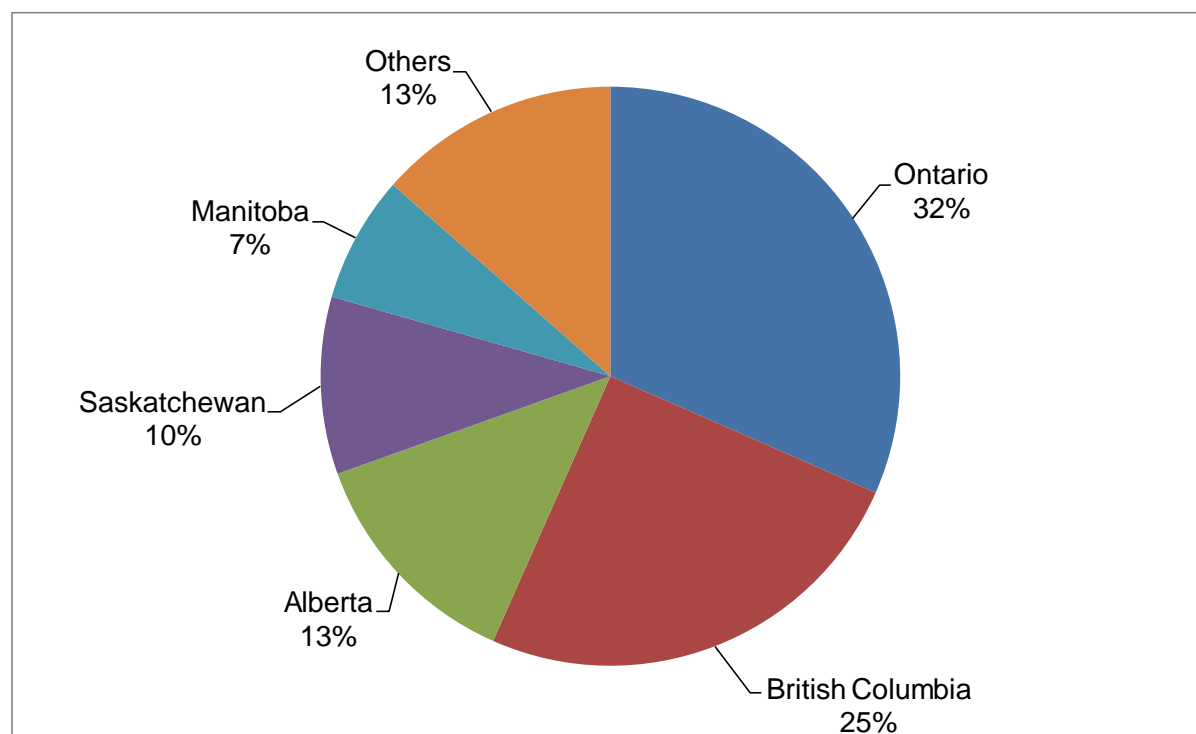
Notes:

1. Beekeeper numbers may include providers of pollination services.

2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has no honey production to report.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey

1.2. Number of beekeepers by province – percent share, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey



1.3. Number of colonies¹ by province

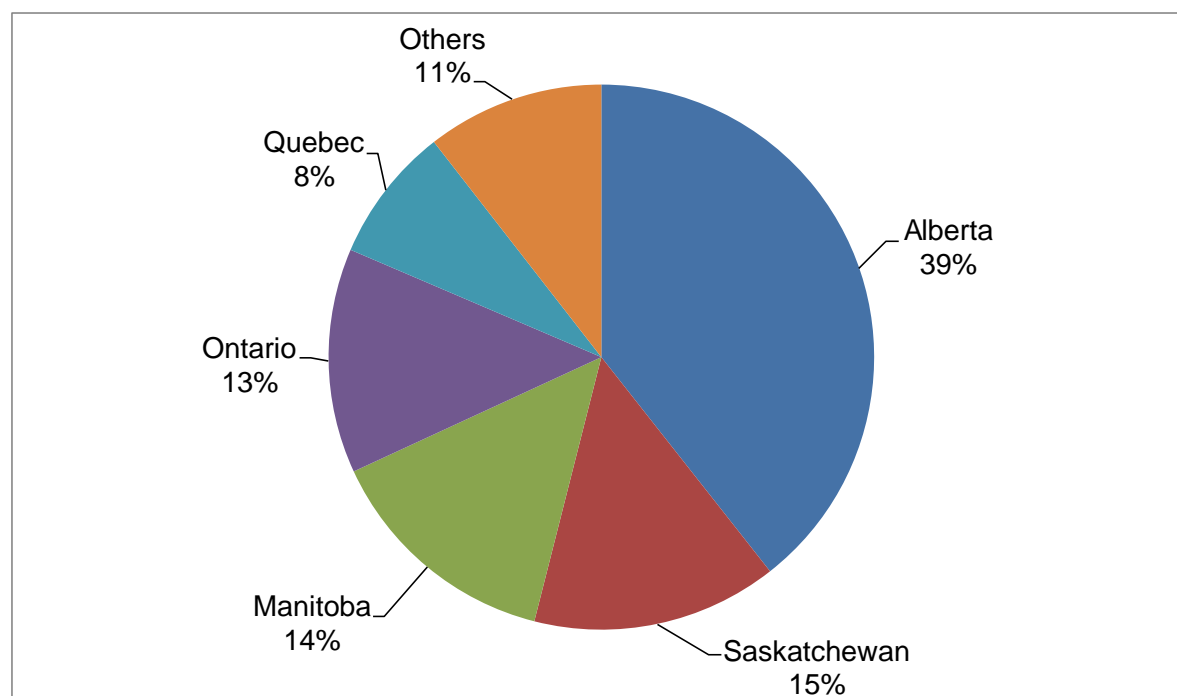
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prince Edward Island	4,432	3,777	4,005	4,920	6,300
Nova Scotia	19,500	23,000	25,504	31,080	28,876
New Brunswick	4,318	5,441	6,710	7,000	7,100
Quebec	47,203	49,635	54,294	64,426	63,500
Ontario	97,500	112,800	101,135	97,342	105,244
Manitoba	73,800	78,700	90,909	102,030	111,802
Saskatchewan	100,000	95,000	101,000	112,000	115,000
Alberta	278,100	282,900	296,880	309,000	311,000
British Columbia	42,544	44,999	45,571	39,885	40,776
Canada²	667,397	696,252	726,008	767,683	789,598

Notes:

1. Colony numbers may include providers of pollination services.
2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has no honey production to report.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey

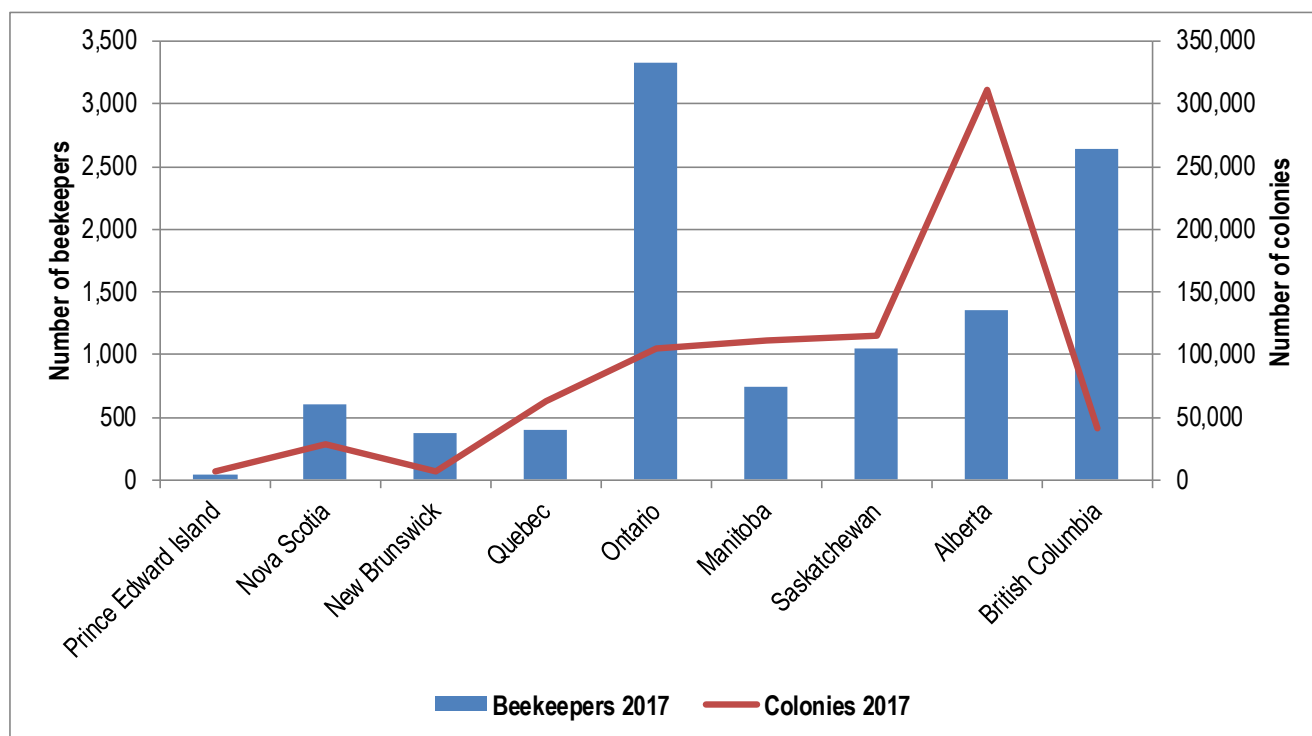
1.4. Number of colonies by province – percent share, 2017



Source: Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey



1.5. Number of beekeepers and number of colonies by province



Source: Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey



1.6. Total honey production¹ by province – thousands of pounds

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prince Edward Island	176	155	168	162	231
Nova Scotia	495	430	411	588	552
New Brunswick	207	236	276	287	201
Quebec	3,286	4,290	4,194	4,507	3,967
Ontario	6,363	10,577	8,972	8,880	4,468
Manitoba	12,472	14,087	16,000	15,202	17,360
Saskatchewan	18,200	16,530	18,837	22,848	21,965
Alberta	33,200	35,500	39,461	40,170	39,808
British Columbia	2,069	3,840	3,692	1,934	3,556
Canada²	76,468	85,644	92,011	94,578	92,108

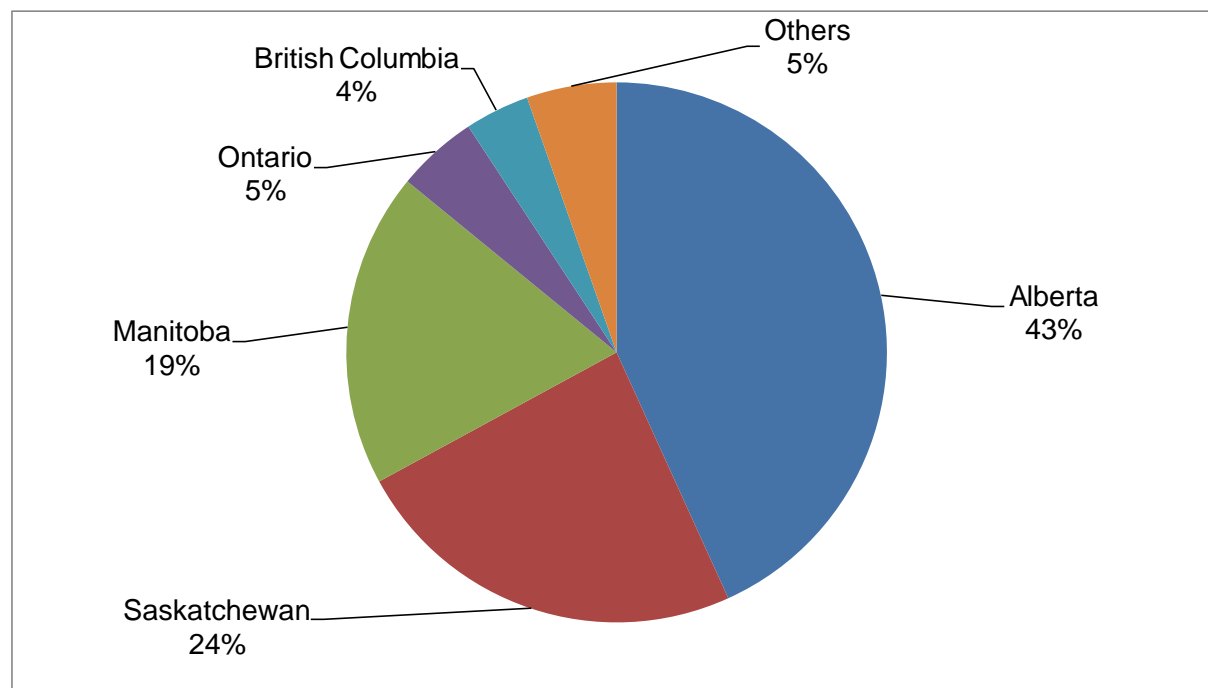
Notes:

1. Production excludes inventory.

2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has limited beekeeping.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey

1.7. Total honey production by province – percent share, 2017



Source: Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey



1.8. Production value¹ of honey by province – thousands of Canadian dollars

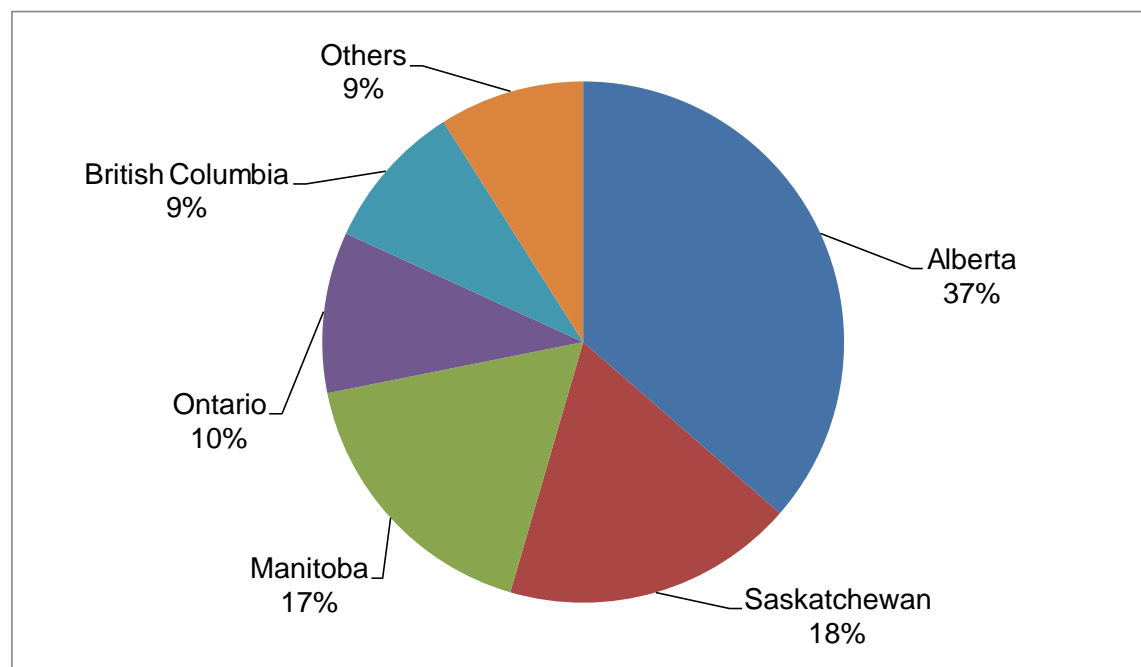
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prince Edward Island	453	415	579	445	666
Nova Scotia	1,559	1,257	1,343	1,686	1,733
New Brunswick	517	630	740	661	511
Quebec	12,279	13,386	13,905	15,074	14,000
Ontario	20,362	36,147	31,119	31,966	18,764
Manitoba	25,318	30,288	32,400	21,000	32,620
Saskatchewan	37,310	34,713	26,372	27,418	34,045
Alberta	72,905	79,788	84,555	62,388	68,454
British Columbia	10,580	12,617	19,471	8,622	17,246
Canada²	181,283	209,241	210,483	169,260	188,039

Notes:

1. Value excludes inventory sales except for in Quebec.
2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has limited beekeeping.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey

1.9. Production value of honey by province – percent share, 2017



Source: Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey



2. Trade

2.1. Trade balance

2.1.1. Canada's honey trade balance – thousands of Canadian dollars

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Export	60,856	50,859	66,603	72,315	78,650
Import	26,015	32,215	41,214	38,062	41,331
Trade Balance (Exports - Imports)	34,840	18,644	25,389	34,253	37,319

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)



2.2. Exports

2.2.1. Canada's honey exports by province¹ – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prince Edward Island	19	0	34	78	0
Nova Scotia	2	3	2	61	126
Quebec	11,650	4,458	6,480	6,158	5,615
Ontario	3,944	4,656	4,329	2,689	5,359
Manitoba	15,571	11,274	17,745	17,060	19,310
Saskatchewan	16,056	13,764	15,640	11,346	19,928
Alberta	12,832	14,929	20,617	33,433	27,150
British Columbia	783	1,774	1,756	1,490	1,160
Canada	60,856	50,859	66,603	72,315	78,649

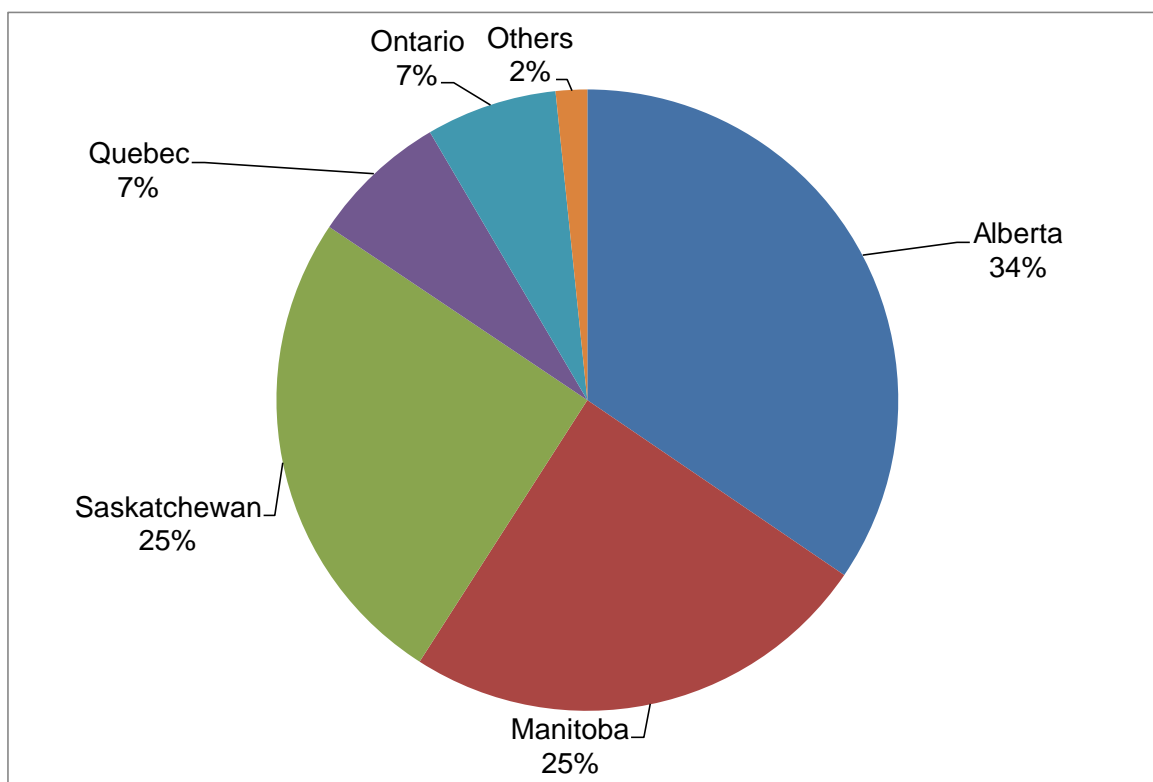
Note:

1. Exports may include honey not produced in that province.

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)



2.2.2. Canada's honey exports by province – percent share, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSnet, May 2018)

2.2.3. Canada's honey exports by province - quantity (metric tonnes)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prince Edward Island	2	-	6	14	-
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	7	22
Québec	2,392	800	1,116	1,021	1,041
Ontario	540	664	616	453	1,058
Manitoba	3,334	2,187	3,316	4,580	5,242
Saskatchewan	3,335	2,645	2,999	3,551	5,564
Alberta	2,507	2,840	3,660	8,113	6,372
British Columbia	155	319	266	215	186
Total	12,266	9,456	11,979	17,954	19,485

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)

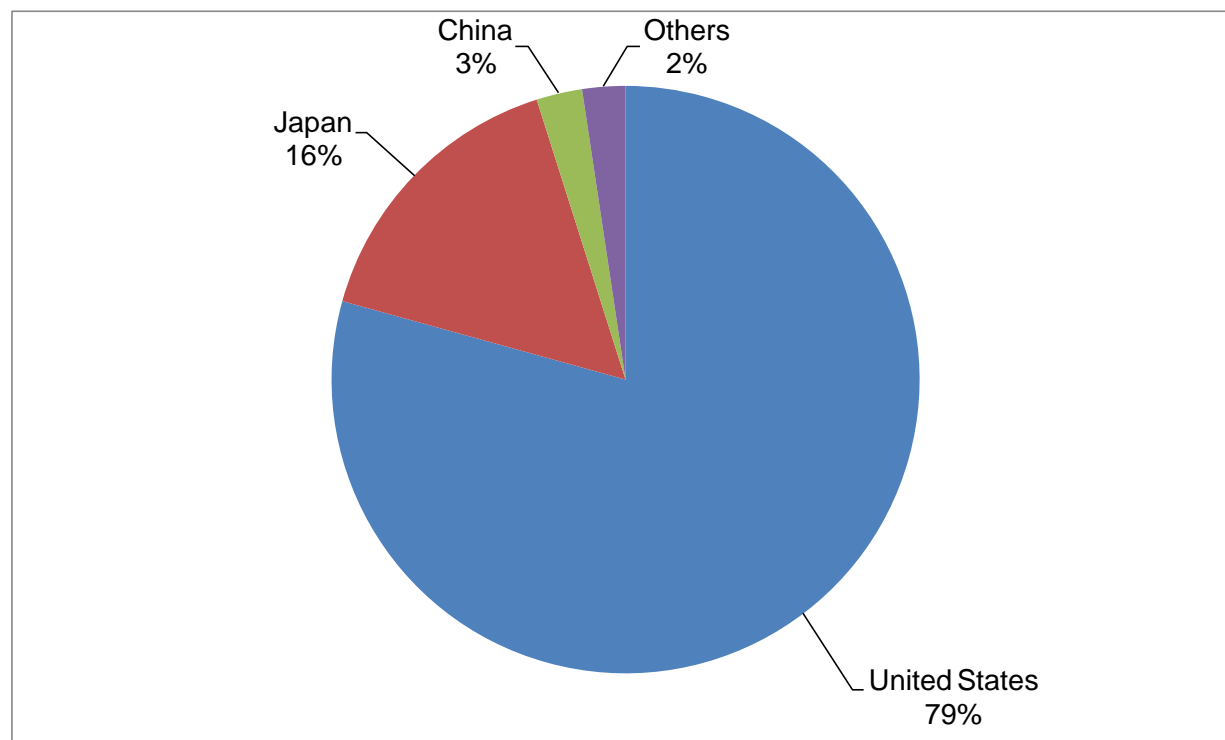


2.2.4. Canada's top 10 honey export destinations – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
United States	46,959	32,034	45,998	51,371	62,373
Japan	11,873	16,308	16,295	17,045	12,432
China	1,174	1,665	2,522	2,396	1,981
South Korea	5	0	751	559	550
Hong Kong	141	504	287	271	460
India	50	0	0	95	366
Brazil	0	0	0	0	169
United Arab Emirates	0	0	10	35	77
Barbados	24	39	55	56	63
Switzerland	0	1	0	74	36
Others	630	308	685	414	143
Total	60,856	50,859	66,603	72,315	78,650

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)

2.2.5. Canada's top honey export destinations by country – percent share, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSnet, May 2018)



2.2.6. Canada's top 10 honey export destinations – quantity (metric tonnes)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
United States	9,535	5,928	8,445	13,629	16,016
Japan	2,363	3,143	2,831	3,719	2,799
China	196	250	402	323	323
South Korea	1	0	116	105	109
India	9	0	0	29	75
Hong Kong	22	85	43	40	72
Brazil	0	0	0	0	35
United Arab Emirates	0	0	2	6	14
Barbados	4	6	9	10	11
Switzerland	0	0	0	21	7
Others	136	45	131	72	25
Total	12,266	9,456	11,979	17,954	19,485

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)



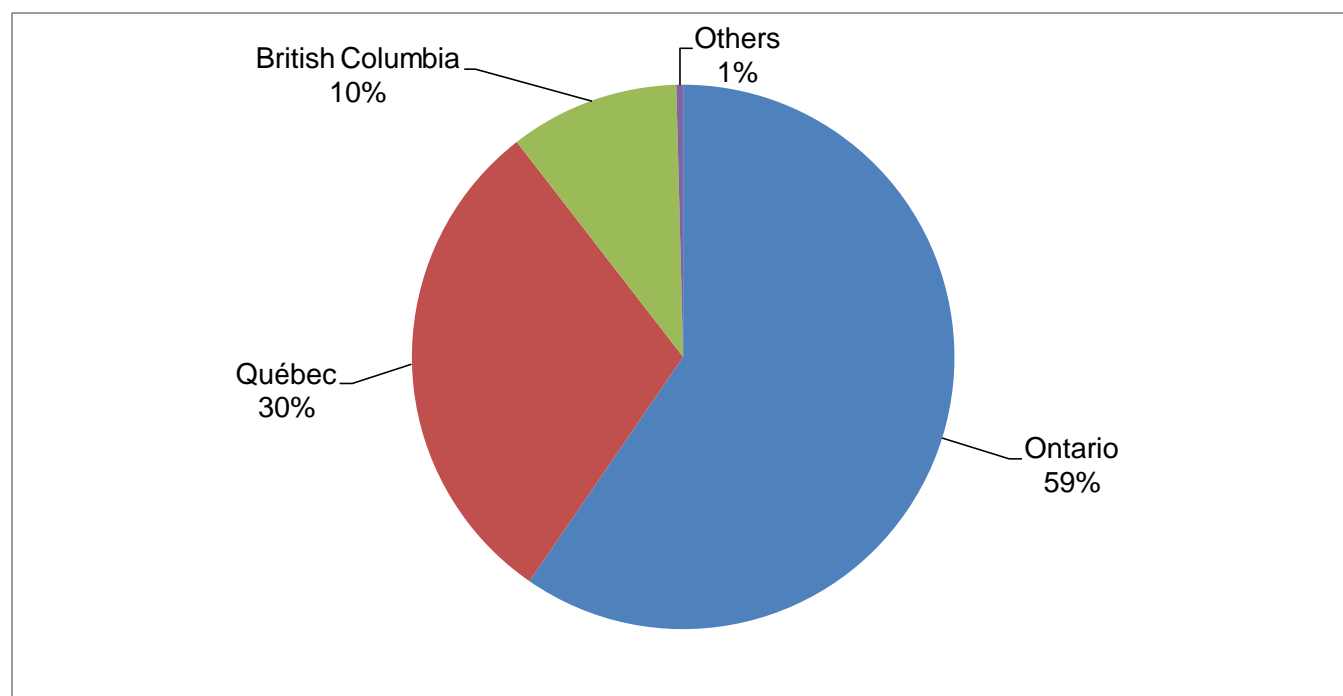
2.3. Imports

2.3.1. Canada's honey imports by province – value (Canadian dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nova Scotia	3,087	2,819	408	2,062	8,467
New Brunswick	0	0	113	216	7,236
Quebec	6,722,969	11,426,777	14,004,883	13,932,715	12,355,678
Ontario	16,897,806	16,835,830	21,683,754	17,958,821	24,630,510
Manitoba	292,122	603,335	453,018	305,147	118,593
Saskatchewan	13,083	48	53,687	13,854	4,800
Alberta	9,986	123,767	813,019	1,165,645	27,557
British Columbia	2,076,442	3,222,272	4,205,137	4,685,144	4,178,387
Total	26,015,495	32,214,848	41,214,019	38,063,604	41,331,228

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)

2.3.2. Canada's honey imports by province – percent share, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSnet, May 2018)



2.3.3. Canada's honey imports by province – quantity (kilograms)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Nova Scotia	649	614	60	317	790
New Brunswick	0	0	9	51	291
Quebec	1,760,803	2,848,540	3,219,694	3,417,813	2,902,238
Ontario	3,400,794	3,105,020	3,552,517	2,476,506	3,589,453
Manitoba	69,323	57,412	53,698	39,740	19,182
Saskatchewan	3,074	4	5,583	936	313
Alberta	927	10,558	99,573	223,966	3,407
British Columbia	258,886	316,357	384,940	400,887	418,378
Canada	5,494,456	6,338,505	7,316,074	6,560,216	6,934,052

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)

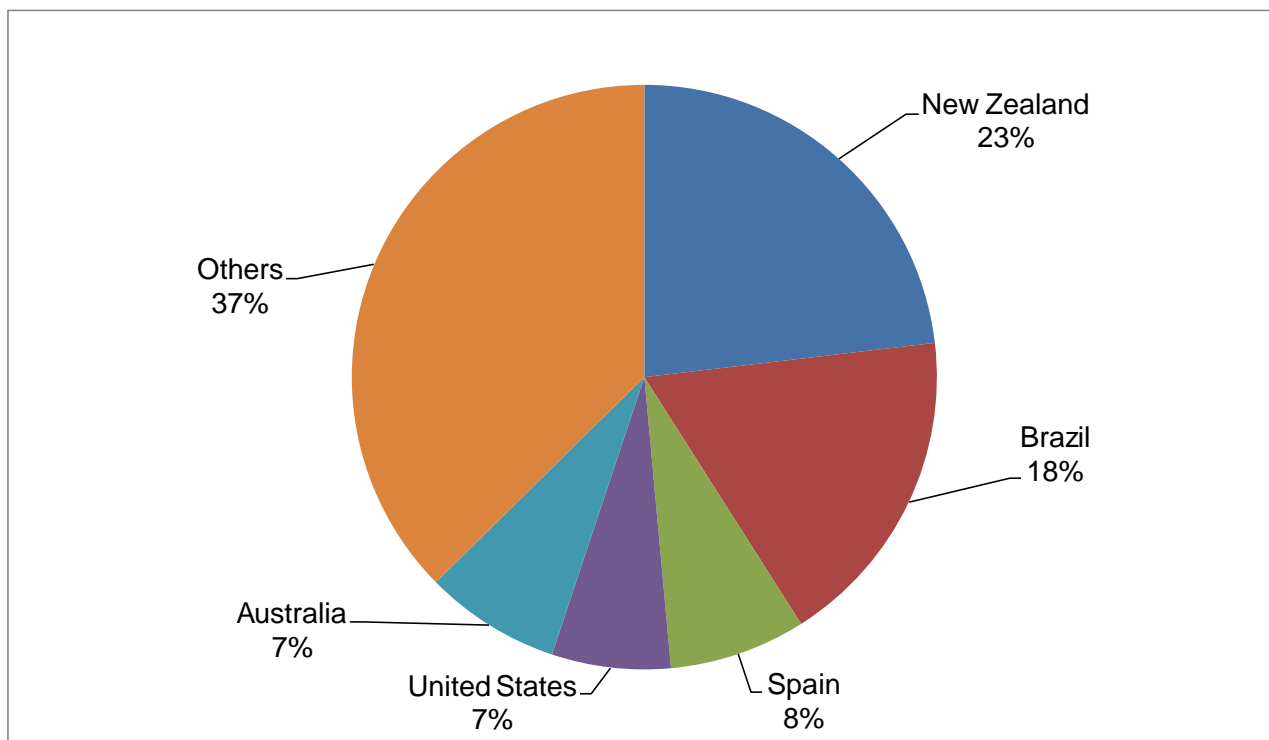
2.3.4. Canada's top 10 sources of honey imports – value (Canadian dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Zealand	3,749,492	4,651,685	7,483,814	7,120,281	9,560,170
Brazil	3,810,667	6,059,420	7,307,083	10,515,234	7,384,459
Mexico	3,244	138,188	29,995	67,397	3,561,790
Spain	42,410	331,913	3,270,807	3,024,203	3,120,697
Australia	2,788,815	2,609,958	4,249,661	3,629,420	3,102,488
United States	3,065,478	3,759,112	6,161,862	4,207,803	2,714,170
India	582,183	1,071,590	1,036,187	1,550,297	2,017,945
Thailand	15	520,833	2,585,800	808,688	1,855,794
Greece	1,387,871	877,670	1,399,416	1,171,384	1,226,620
Ukraine	15	1,441,591	607,767	858,053	1,075,002
Others	10,585,305	10,752,888	7,081,627	5,110,844	5,712,093
Total	26,015,495	32,214,848	41,214,019	38,063,604	41,331,228

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)



2.3.5. Canada's top sources of honey imports by country – percent share, 2017



Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSnet, May 2018)

2.3.6. Canada's top 10 sources of honey imports – quantity (kilograms)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Brazil	1,039,335	1,429,623	1,528,830	2,134,017	1,279,957
Spain	6,707	75,514	766,116	646,681	734,823
Mexico	1,192	25,905	4,945	10,999	699,713
India	126,707	285,975	222,511	429,116	505,506
Myanmar	0	58,200	201,002	402,010	485,405
Thailand	6	166,640	764,835	230,849	483,515
United States	706,722	614,813	938,727	652,407	478,754
Viet Nam	19,209	153,531	17,843	164,054	381,536
Ukraine	5	445,421	155,262	325,126	352,820
New Zealand	197,320	245,302	292,186	298,498	346,451
Others	3,397,253	2,837,581	2,423,817	1,266,459	1,185,572
Total	5,494,456	6,338,505	7,316,074	6,560,216	6,934,052

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)



2.3.7. Canada's sources of honey bee imports – value (Canadian dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
New Zealand	3,397,507	3,794,388	3,601,795	2,752,912	1,510,369
Australia	1,494,051	1,578,619	1,275,366	559,584	331,206
Chile	0	663	0	0	316,067
United States	0	14008	223942	249614	0
Denmark	0	0	0	9428	0
Total	4,891,558	5,387,678	5,101,103	3,571,538	2,157,642

Notes:

Package bees are sold in a variety of sizes typically one pound, two pound and three pound packages. No detail on the individual numbers of different package sizes is available.

Does not include queen bees.

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2017)

2.3.8. Canada's sources of queen bee imports – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
United States	4,264,789	5,364,363	6,416,761	6,316,094	7,138,232
Australia	258,578	109,357	56,248	145,681	265,108
Chile	168,287	149,095	128,051	91,396	217,937
New Zealand	90,793	103,906	108,924	81,787	63,232
Denmark	0	13748	0	0	2767
Total	4,782,447	5,740,469	6,709,984	6,634,958	7,687,276

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, May 2018)



3. Consumption

3.1. Honey available for consumption¹ in Canada – kilograms per person

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Honey	0.84	1.06	1.09	0.93	0.85

Note:

1. Does not adjust for losses, such as waste and/or spoilage in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants or losses during preparation.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0054-01 Food available in Canada



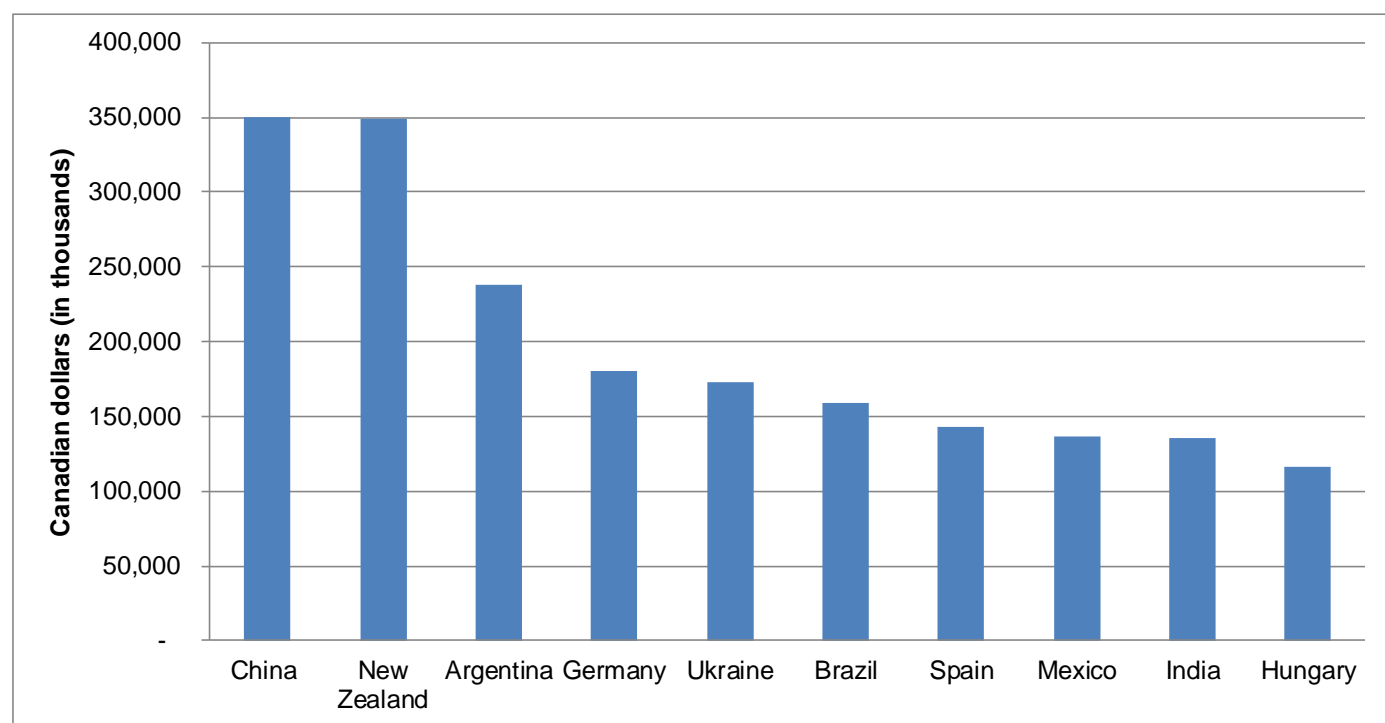
4. World data

4.1. Top 10 exporters of honey worldwide – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
China	254,821	288,046	370,299	367,884	350,287
New Zealand	144,133	185,525	253,729	271,606	348,666
Argentina	217,318	224,349	208,015	223,089	238,189
Germany	134,764	155,648	168,799	181,575	180,390
Ukraine	54,739	103,466	108,802	129,046	172,619
Brazil	55,830	108,566	104,106	121,600	158,802
Spain	94,788	132,191	129,985	144,399	142,967
Mexico	115,906	161,318	196,692	123,115	136,753
India	78,038	85,400	155,276	93,744	135,573
Hungary	88,402	96,977	96,714	91,497	116,502
Others	871,127	1,013,138	1,151,569	1,164,803	987,799
Total	2,109,867	2,554,624	2,943,986	2,912,358	2,968,549

Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2018)

4.2. Top 10 honey-exporting countries, 2017



Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2018)

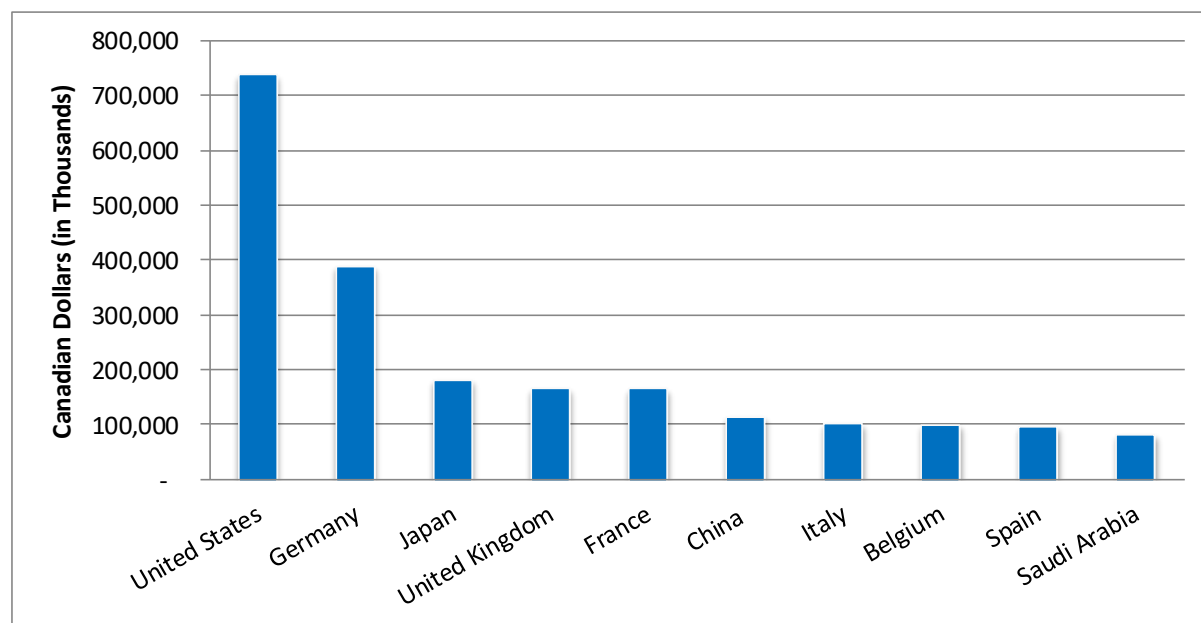


4.3. Top 10 importers of honey worldwide – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
United States	513,947	641,588	770,164	559,564	739,743
Germany	335,528	353,906	425,046	370,790	402,288
Japan	119,602	132,676	150,898	209,152	185,433
United Kingdom	130,550	146,563	168,236	158,725	169,545
France	118,225	171,487	165,263	168,810	169,307
China	44,284	64,754	96,064	96,505	118,605
Italy	77,875	100,075	108,883	96,028	105,536
Belgium	65,375	86,088	115,356	98,383	103,453
Spain	54,944	67,204	93,012	86,542	99,535
Saudi Arabia	69,163	95,367	72,314	55,392	85,689
Others	537,644	672,550	806,552	791,652	826,579
Total	2,067,137	2,532,258	2,971,789	2,691,542	3,005,715

Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2018)

4.4. Top 10 honey-importing countries, 2017



Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2018)



6. Key Resources

- Global Trade Tracker
- Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey
- Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0054-01 Food available in Canada
- Statistics Canada. CATSNET

Import and export data is based on the following Harmonized System Codes (H.S. Codes):

Honey for import: 0409000010 0409000021 0409000022 0409000023 0409000024
0409000025 0409000026 0409000029 0409000090

Honey for export: 04090000

Honey Bees for import: 0106410010 0106410011 0106410012 0106900011 0106900012

Queen Bees for imports: 0106410020