

23-007

c.1

D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

H. R. No. 2, November 24, 1953.

Price: 10 cents per copy.

HONEY PRODUCTION*
FIRST ESTIMATE - 1953

Preliminary estimates indicate a honey crop in 1953 of 26,174,000 pounds which is less than in 1952 by about 5.0 million pounds and is the smallest crop since 1946 when the figure was 23.2 million pounds. The short crop this year was caused by declines from 1952 in colony numbers which were reduced by six per cent and in yields per colony which were down 11 per cent.

A comparison between conditions in the honey industry in 1953 and 1952 showed considerable variations between provinces. The number of colonies was up in Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia this year and unchanged in Manitoba; elsewhere the figures were smaller. Yields were higher in 1953 than in 1952 in New Brunswick, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia; elsewhere they were lower, being down particularly in Quebec and Ontario. The reduced yields in the central provinces were occasioned largely by winter killing of legumes which cut down the bee pastures resulting in a dearth of nectar during the summer of 1953.

With substantially larger crops this year, Manitoba and Saskatchewan together account for 30 per cent of the total crop, in contrast to about 19 per cent in 1952. Ontario and Quebec produced about 50 per cent of the honey this year and 62 per cent last year. This situation may be expected to result in increased shipments of western honey to the markets of Eastern Canada this year.

*Source: Estimates for the province of Quebec are prepared by the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce, of that province. For all other provinces except Newfoundland, for which data are not available, the estimates are prepared by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in co-operation with the provinces. Three mail questionnaire surveys are conducted, one in July to obtain the number of colonies and another in September to determine yields. A final yield and price survey is conducted in November. Provincial officials provide the mailing lists of beekeepers and aid in the interpretation of survey results.



1010779947

Preliminary Estimate of the Numbers of Beekeepers and Colonies and Production of Honey in Canada 1/, by Provinces, 1952 2/ and 1953 3/

Province and Year		Beekeepers	Colonies	Honey	
				Yield Per Colony	Total Production
		No.	No.	Lb.	Lb.
Prince Edward Island	1952	130	850	107	91
	1953	110	800	84	67
Nova Scotia	1952	310	1,700	74	125
	1953	380	1,800	69	124
New Brunswick	1952	420	2,500	62	156
	1953	290	1,900	73	139
Quebec	1952	3,660	67,700	65	4,398
	1953	n.a.	74,500	45	3,352
Ontario	1952	3,790	200,400	74	14,900
	1953	3,350	178,200	55	9,801
Manitoba	1952	1,260	35,000	96	3,360
	1953	1,030	35,000	138	4,830
Saskatchewan	1952	2,810	29,200	86	2,500
	1953	2,270	24,600	125	3,075
Alberta	1952	2,010	34,600	142	4,900
	1953	1,560	31,100	116	3,608
British Columbia	1952	1,560	13,600	59	800
	1953	1,250	15,500	76	1,178
CANADA	1952	15,950	385,550	81	31,230
	1953		363,400	72	26,174

1/ Does not include Newfoundland.

2/ Revised.

3/ Subject to revision.