

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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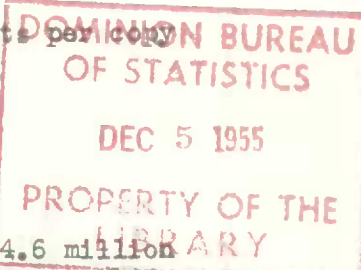


Memorandum

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HONEY PRODUCTION^x
FIRST ESTIMATE - 1955



Preliminary estimates indicate a honey crop in 1955 of 24.6 million pounds. This is about 24 per cent greater than the 1954 crop of 19.8 million pounds but 26 per cent below the ten-year average (1944 - 1953) of 33.3 million pounds. The increase in production over last year was due to higher average yields. In all provinces except British Columbia production per colony was either above or very close to that of last year. Weather conditions were generally favourable in the Prairie Provinces where yields were considerably above those of 1954 and the ten-year average. In Ontario and Quebec, on the other hand, drought during the summer reduced nectar secretion which cut honey yields. However, in Ontario a late flow raised yields above what they otherwise would have been.

The total number of colonies, estimated at 321,500 was down slightly from last year but about the same as in 1953. The number of beekeepers was also slightly lower in 1955. The 1955 decrease in colony numbers was attributed largely to the fact that considerable difficulty was encountered in the spring of 1955 in obtaining package bees from the Southern United States where unseasonably cold weather had hampered shipments.

In 1955, 54 per cent of the total honey crop was produced in the Prairie Provinces and 42 per cent in Ontario and Quebec. The previous season the Prairies accounted for 43 per cent and Ontario and Quebec 50 per cent.

x 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. This report is based on the results of the July and September surveys. 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.

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Preliminary Estimates of the Numbers of Beekeepers and Colonies
of Bees and Production of Honey in Canada 1/, by
Provinces, 1954 and 1955 2/, with 10-year Averages
1944 - 53

Province and Year	Beekeepers	Colonies	HONEY	
			Average Production Per Colony	Total Production
	no.	no.	lb.	'000 lb.
P.E.I. Average 1944-53	140	700	80	56
	1954 120	800	86	69
	1955 120	900	84	76
N.S. Average 1944-53	390	1,900	55	104
	1954 500	2,500	50	125
	1955 400	2,200	65	143
N.B. Average 1944-53	460	2,600	53	138
	1954 310	2,000	46	92
	1955 260	1,500	58	87
Que. Average 1944-53	4,830	30,800	50	4,066
	1954 3,420	58,700	66	3,874
	1955 3,250	52,900	65	3,438
Ont. Average 1944-53	4,990	212,900	57	12,067
	1954 3,760	167,000	36	6,012
	1955 3,240	156,300	44	6,877
Man. Average 1944-53	2,950	54,100	96	5,171
	1954 1,200 <u>3/</u>	36,200 <u>3/</u>	115	4,163 <u>3/</u>
	1955 1,200	38,600	139	5,365
Sask. Average 1944-53	7,130	50,900	96	4,861
	1954 2,680	25,700	71	1,825
	1955 2,210	22,100	150	3,315
Alta. Average 1944-53	6,090	56,000	104	5,802
	1954 1,300	33,800	78	2,636
	1955 1,270	35,200	127	4,470
B.C. Average 1944-53	2,560	16,900	61	1,038
	1954 1,600	12,700	83	1,054
	1955 1,950	11,800	67	791
CANADA Average 1944-53	29,540	476,800	70	33,305
	1954 14,890 <u>3/</u>	339,400 <u>3/</u>	58 <u>3/</u>	19,850 <u>3/</u>
	1955 13,900	321,500	76	24,562

1/ Does not include Newfoundland.

2/ Subject to revision.

3/ Revised.