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# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

## OTTAWA - CANADA

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### FIRST ESTIMATE OF HONEY PRODUCTION 1958\*

Preliminary estimates indicate a honey crop in 1958 of 26.5 million pounds, 17 per cent below the 1957 crop of 32.1 million pounds and 14 per cent below the 1947-1956 average of 31.0 million pounds. The reduction in honey output in 1958 was due to lower average yields per colony, as the number of colonies operated increased to 333,000 from 325,700 in 1957. However, there were only 13,130 active beekeepers this year while in 1957 there were 15,040.

Practically all the drop in production in 1958 was due to the smaller crops in Ontario and Quebec this year. Weather conditions during the season were not favourable for honey production. The cold, backward spring hindered a proper build-up of colonies and was followed by a summer during which conditions were not favourable to the growth of nectar producing plants.

Beekeepers in the Province of Quebec harvested an average yield of 46 pounds per colony in 1958, substantially below 1957's 75 pounds and the 1947-56 average of 58 pounds. Although an increase in colony numbers from 49,700 in 1957 to 55,000 this year partially offset the drop in average yields, the 1958 crop of 2.5 million pounds was 32 per cent less than that of 1957. In Ontario the average yield per colony in 1958 stood at 41 pounds, much below last year's 82 pounds and the 10-year average of 57 pounds. This year's crop of 5.5 million pounds was only about one-half as large as the 11.1 million pounds produced in 1957.

In western Canada, increased colony numbers in Manitoba and Saskatchewan compensated to a considerable extent for somewhat lower yields, so that crops in these provinces were not far below those of the previous year. In Alberta and British Columbia, both yields and crops were higher this year than last. Although the situation did not seem favourable in the Prairie Provinces early in the year due to drought, rains later in the summer brought about a very considerable improvement in plant growth and provided improved bee pasture.

As a result of the relatively good crops in western Canada and the reduced crops in Ontario and Quebec, approximately 68 per cent of the 1958 honey crop was produced in the four western provinces, while, in 1957, 53 per cent originated in these provinces.

\* 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 later. 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 Province, 1957 and 1958 2/,  
with 10-year Averages, 1947-1956

Province and Year	Beekeepers	Colonies	HONEY	
			Average Yield Per Colony	Total Production
	no.	no.	lb.	'000 lb.
P.E.I.	1947-56	120	86	69
	1957	100	69	55
	1958	100	71	71
N.S.	1947-56	390	60	125
	1957	400	68	170
	1958	410	60	168
N.B.	1947-56	400	52	126
	1957	260	60	90
	1958	270	58	93
Que.	1947-56	3,970	58	3,993
	1957	2,720	75	3,728
	1958	2,660	46	2,532
Ont.	1947-56	4,240	57	11,036
	1957	3,140	82	11,111
	1958	3,000	41	5,543
Man.	1947-56	2,000	107	5,099
	1957	1,200	124	5,208
	1958	1,030	117	5,183
Sask.	1947-56	4,550	107	4,140
	1957	2,650	134	3,819
	1958	2,470	125	3,662
Alta.	1947-56	3,520	109	5,267
	1957	1,800	134	6,459
	1958	1,490	155	7,114
B.C.	1947-56	1,960	74	1,119
	1957	2,770	83	1,411
	1958	1,700	121	2,166
CANADA	1947-56	21,150	74	30,974
	1957	15,040	98	32,051
	1958	13,130	80	26,532

This Memorandum prepared in the Crops Section of the Agriculture  
Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

1/ Does not include Newfoundland.

2/ Subject to revision.