



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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FIRST ESTIMATE OF HONEY PRODUCTION 1960*

Preliminary estimates indicate a honey crop in 1960 of 32.2 million pounds, 2 per cent above the 1959 crop of 31.5 million and 12 per cent above the 1949-58 average of 28.7 million pounds. An increase in the average yield per colony from 95 pounds in 1959 to 99 pounds in 1960 more than offset a decline in colony numbers between the two seasons from 330,700 to 325,540. The number of active beekeepers was also lower, being estimated at 12,420 in 1960 as against 14,180 in the previous year. Although colony and beekeeper numbers in 1960 were substantially smaller than the average for the period 1949-58 there was a 27 per cent increase in average production per colony.

Honey production was greater in 1960 than in 1959 in each of the four Western Provinces, most of the increase being due to higher yields per colony. A total of 20.7 million pounds of honey was produced in the Western Provinces in 1960, 28 per cent more than in the previous season. Western production represented 64.5 per cent of the Canadian total in 1960 in contrast to 51.2 per cent in 1959 and 51.9 per cent for the ten-year average 1949-58. The Ontario and Quebec crops, on the other hand, were lower in 1960 than in 1959 due to reduced yields and colony numbers. However, in Ontario, the average production per colony of 73 pounds in 1960 was considerably above the 1949-58 average of 58 pounds. Both production and yields were higher in 1960 than in the previous year in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, but were lower in Nova Scotia.

The increase in honey yields in 1960 in the Western Provinces was attributed to the prevalence of generally favourable conditions during the 1960 season. In Western Ontario, however, a cool, wet spring was followed by drought conditions during July and the honey crop was gathered much later in the season than usual. In Eastern Ontario and parts of Quebec the flow was unusually short.

* 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.

Preliminary Estimates of the Number of Beekeepers and Colonies of Bees
and Production of Honey in Canada 1/, by Province, 1959 and 1960 2/,
with 10-year Averages, 1949-1958

Province and Year		Beekeepers	Colonies	HONEY	
				Average Yield Per Colony	Total Production
		no.	no.	lb.	'000 lb.
P.E.I.	1949-58	120	800	86	69
	1959	100	1,000	61	61
	1960	90	600	82	49
N.S.	1949-58	400	2,200	61	134
	1959	420	2,900	62	180
	1960	380	2,800	50	140
N.B.	1949-58	350	2,100	53	111
	1959	220	1,400	44	62
	1960	190	1,200	73	88
Que.	1949-58	3,490	62,600	57	3,583
	1959	2,420	51,900	76	3,952
	1960	2,220	49,840	46	2,284
Ont.	1949-58	3,800	172,200	58	9,913
	1959	2,960	125,000	89	11,125
	1960	2,730	121,500	73	8,870
Man.	1949-58	1,440	41,600	120	4,981
	1959	1,080	44,400	133	5,905
	1960	920	41,700	153	6,380
Sask.	1949-58	3,130	30,700	119	3,653
	1959	2,500	31,200	123	3,838
	1960	2,400	33,200	136	4,515
Alta.	1949-58	2,230	41,900	119	4,994
	1959	1,540	54,200	94	5,095
	1960	1,670	54,900	145	7,960
B.C.	1949-58	1,890	14,800	86	1,269
	1959	2,940	18,700	70	1,309
	1960	1,820	19,800	95	1,881
CANADA	1949-58	16,850	368,900	78	28,707
	1959	14,180	330,700	95	31,527
	1960	12,420	325,540	99	32,167

1/ Does not include Newfoundland.

2/ Subject to revision.

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

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