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FIRST ESTIMATE OF HONEY PRODUCTION - 1962*

Preliminary estimates indicate a honey crop in 1962 of 30.5 million pounds 13 per cent below the 1961 crop of 35.0 million pounds. However, this year's production is slightly higher than the 1951-60 average of 29.1 million pounds. The reduction in output this year was brought about by a drop in average yield per colony to 89 pounds from 104 pounds in 1961. A small increase in the number of colonies was insufficient to offset the lower yield. The number of active beekeepers, estimated at 10,500 this year was down from the 11,660 of 1961 and substantially below 14,720, the average for the period 1951-60.

Honey production was lower in 1962 than in 1961 in all provinces except Ontario and Quebec. This is attributed to unfavourable weather conditions. Wet, cool weather throughout most of the season prevailed in the Maritime Provinces while on the Prairies, conditions were also less favourable than last year. British Columbia also experienced much unsettled weather throughout most of the season. In Ontario and Quebec the early summer was dry but generous rains were received later favouring plant growth. As a result of the increased production in Ontario and Quebec this year and decreases in other provinces a larger proportion of the total Canadian crop was harvested east of the Great Lakes this year than last. The five eastern provinces produced a total of 14.3 million pounds, 47 per cent of the Canadian total in 1962 compared with 12.7 million pounds, 36 per cent of the crop in 1961.

Average yields per colony were lower this year than last except in Ontario and Quebec where increases were recorded. Similarly yields also fell below the 1951-60 average in all provinces except Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba.

* 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 Number of Beekeepers and Colonies of Bees
and Production of Honey in Canada 1/, by Province, 1961 and 1962 2/
with 10-year Averages, 1951-60

Province and Year		Beekeepers	Colonies	H O N E Y	
				Average Yield Per Colony	Total Production
		no.	no.	lb.	'000 lb.
P.E.I.	1951-60	110	860	81	70
	1961	90	900	72	65
	1962	80	540	60	32
N.S.	1951-60	400	2,320	64	148
	1961	390	2,690	93	250
	1962	340	2,800	47	132
N.B.	1951-60	300	1,730	61	106
	1961	170	1,280	70	90
	1962	200	1,400	55	77
Que.	1951-60	3,060	57,090	62	3,540
	1961	2,130	48,700	61	2,971
	1962	2,000	48,260	66	3,185
Ont.	1951-60	3,410	155,050	66	10,233
	1961	2,700	126,000	74	9,324
	1962	2,610	127,000	86	10,922
Man.	1951-60	1,230	40,810	124	5,060
	1961	790	40,560	164	6,652
	1962	730	38,560	131	5,051
Sask.	1951-60	2,590	28,360	120	3,403
	1961	2,000	36,800	108	3,970
	1962	1,800	37,200	77	2,864
Alta.	1951-60	1,660	42,420	122	5,175
	1961	1,390	60,000	160	9,600
	1962	1,260	65,400	106	6,932
B.C.	1951-60	1,980	15,620	89	1,390
	1961	2,000	19,980	105	2,100
	1962	1,500	20,570	63	1,296
CANADA	1951-60	14,740	344,260	85	29,125
	1961	11,660	336,910	104	35,022
	1962	10,520	341,730	89	30,491

1/ Does not include Newfoundland.

2/ Subject to revision.

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