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FIRST ESTIMATE OF HONEY PRODUCTION, 1963 *

Preliminary estimates indicate that a honey crop of 42.3 million pounds was produced in 1963, 38 per cent above the 1962 crop of 30.7 million pounds and substantially higher than the 35.0 million pounds produced in 1961. Production this year is also above the 1951-60 average by about 45 per cent and it is the largest crop since 1948, when production reached 45.2 million pounds. The increase in output this year compared with 1962, was brought about by a 6 per cent increase in colony numbers which reached a total of 359,410 and a 31 per cent increase in the average yields to 118 pound per colony. The number of active beekeepers, estimated at 10,180 this year, was slightly below the 10,370 of 1962.

Honey production was higher in 1963 than in 1962 in all provinces except Ontario. The higher yields are attributed to generally favourable weather conditions throughout most of Canada. In Ontario, where the reduction from 1962 is quite limited, dry weather in July is blamed for the smaller average yield. The largest increase in production from 1962 occurred in the province of Alberta, where an estimated 11.4 million pounds of honey were produced this year, placing Alberta in the position of being the largest producer of this commodity. A very much larger proportion of the 1963 crop was produced in the four western provinces this year than last.

Average yields per colony in 1963 were above those recorded in the period 1951-60 in all provinces, except British Columbia. In all provinces numbers of beekeepers were substantially lower this year than during the previous decade.

* 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, 1962 and 1963 2/
with 10-year Averages, 1951-60

Province and Year	Beekeepers no.	Colonies no.	H O N E Y	
			Average Yield Per Colony lb.	Total Production '000 lb.
P.E.I. 1951-60	110	860	81	70
1961	90	900	72	65
1962	80	540	54	29
1963	60	600	101	61
N.S. 1951-60	400	2,320	64	148
1961	390	2,690	93	250
1962	340	2,800	53	148
1963	300	2,700	73	197
N.B. 1951-60	300	1,730	61	106
1961	170	1,280	70	90
1962	170	1,100	56	62
1963	210	1,410	87	122
Que. 1951-60	3,060	57,090	62	3,540
1961	2,130	48,700	61	2,971
1962	1,990	48,300	65	3,140
1963	2,010	49,100	85	4,174
Ont. 1951-60	3,410	155,050	66	10,233
1961	2,700	126,000	74	9,324
1962	2,500	126,000	93	11,718
1963	2,630	130,000	87	11,310
Man. 1951-60	1,230	40,810	124	5,060
1961	790	40,560	164	6,652
1962	730	38,560	120	4,630
1963	700	43,000	175	7,525
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
1963	1,650	36,700	158	5,802
Alta. 1951-60	1,660	42,420	122	5,175
1961	1,390	60,000	160	9,600
1962	1,260	65,400	105	6,867
1963	1,100	71,600	160	11,456
B.C. 1951-60	1,980	15,620	89	1,390
1961	2,000	19,980	105	2,100
1962	1,500	20,570	61	1,255
1963	1,520	24,300	69	1,680
CANADA 1951-60	14,740	344,260	85	29,125
1961	11,660	336,910	104	35,022
1962	10,370	340,470	90	30,713
1963	10,180	359,410	118	42,327

1/ Does not include Newfoundland.

2/ Subject to revision.