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FIRST ESTIMATE OF HONEY PRODUCTION, 1968*

Preliminary estimates indicate that a honey crop of 32.4 million pounds was produced in 1968. This was about 26 per cent less than the previous season's output, but slightly above the average of 34.1 million pounds for the period 1956-65. The decrease in the 1968 production, as compared to that of 1967, was mainly due to a reduction in average yield per colony; the total number of colonies at 412,590 was also down from the 1967 estimate of 445,070.

In Ontario higher average yields more than off-set the decrease in colony numbers and total production was about 2.7 million pounds higher than that of 1967. The average yield per colony in Alberta showed a marked decrease this year and this, along with fewer colonies, resulted in a 1968 production of 9.4 million pounds, some 7.3 million pounds less than the 1967 crop. In Quebec and Manitoba beekeepers harvested crops of 2.4 million pounds and 4.6 million pounds, respectively. These crops were lower than those produced in 1967 due to a decrease in colony numbers and lower average yields per colony. Beekeepers in Saskatchewan took off 4.8 million pounds of honey in 1968. Here again the crop was smaller than the 1967 output due to a lower average yields and a decrease in colony numbers. In British Columbia the honey crop at 2.0 million pounds was 2 per cent below the 1967 outturn.

In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the 1968 honey crop was higher than that of the previous year but in Prince Edward Island a decrease in colony numbers resulted in a slightly reduced crop.

The total number of active beekeepers in Canada in 1968 was estimated to be 9,600 as compared to 9,660 in 1967. The 1956-65 average shows that there were 12,320 beekeepers with 347,920 colonies.

*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.

Agriculture Division, Crops Section



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Preliminary Estimates of the Number of Beekeepers and Colonies of Bees and
Production of Honey in Canada(1), by Province, 1966, 1967 and 1968(2)
with 10-year averages, 1956-65

Province and Year		Beekeepers	Colonies	HONEY	
				Average Yield per Colony	Total Production
		no.	no.	lb.	'000 lb.
P.E.I.	1956-65	90	800	76	61
	1966	60	710	70	50
	1967	50	720	36	26
	1968	50	620	36	22
N.S.	1956-65	360	2,830	68	193
	1966	290	3,500	59	208
	1967	290	3,500	60	210
	1968	360	3,400	70	238
N.B.	1956-65	220	1,370	66	90
	1966	180	1,600	64	102
	1967	260	1,740	63	110
	1968	290	1,930	72	139
Que.	1956-65	2,270	49,760	61	3,053
	1966	1,720	43,550	75	3,266
	1967	1,660	47,120	65	3,063
	1968	1,480	43,550	55	2,395
Ont.	1956-65	2,810	130,240	74	9,640
	1966	2,550	134,900	76	10,216
	1967	2,440	133,170	45	6,050
	1968	2,590	126,100	69	8,701
Man.	1956-65	930	42,730	136	5,813
	1966	860	53,000	168	8,910
	1967	850	55,000	156	8,590
	1968	830	52,000	89	4,628
Sask.	1956-65	2,110	33,990	130	4,430
	1966	1,250	42,000	145	6,100
	1967	1,110	46,680	140	6,535
	1968	1,000	43,630	111	4,843
Alta	1956-65	1,480	64,630	138	8,934
	1966	1,150	114,000	116	13,180
	1967	1,400	120,000	139	16,730
	1968	1,500	110,000	85	9,350
B.C.	1956-65	2,050	21,570	89	1,918
	1966	1,940	36,600	67	2,470
	1967	1,600	37,140	72	2,660
	1968	1,500	31,360	65	2,038
CANADA	1956-65	12,320	347,920	98	34,132
	1966	10,000	429,860	104	44,502
	1967	9,660	445,070	99	43,974
	1968	9,600	412,590	78	32,354

(1) Does not include Newfoundland. (2) Subject to revision.