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LATEST ESTIMATES OF PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF HONEY 1956*

The revised estimate of the 1956 honey crop is 24.3 million pounds. This is 3 per cent below the 1955 crop of 25.0 million pounds and 23 per cent below the 1945-54 average. The decrease in production in 1956 from that of 1955 was brought about by a drop in yields. Average production per colony was less in 1956 than in the previous year for all provinces except the Maritimes and British Columbia where the reverse was true and Ontario where yields were the same in both years. The all-Canada 1956 average yield of 74 pounds per colony, however, is 7 per cent higher than in the period 1945-54. The Prairie Provinces produced 53.9 per cent of the honey crop in 1956, 51.7 per cent in 1955 and 48.1 per cent during the years 1945-54.

Both the number of beekeepers and colonies of bees were slightly higher in 1956 than in 1955. More colonies were operated in 1956 than in the previous year in all provinces except New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. The total value of the 1956 honey crop was 4.4 million dollars, slightly above the 1955 figure but 20 per cent below the average for the 10-year period 1945-54. The average price to beekeepers for the 1956 honey crop was 18 cents per pound, the same as in 1955 and one cent above the 1945-54 average.

Table 1.- Production and Value of Honey in Canada, 1955 and 1956, with 10-year Averages, 1945-54

Year	Bee-keepers no.	Colonies no.	Average Yield per Colony lb.	Total Production '000 lb.	Average Price per Pound \$	Total Value \$'000
1945-54	26,960	459,900	69	31,663	.17	5,520
1955	14,150	323,600	77	25,031	.18	4,399
1956	14,410	330,000	74	24,272	.18	4,419

* 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. A final yield and price survey is conducted in November. Provincial officials provide the mailing lists of beekeepers and aid in the interpretation of survey results.



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Table 2.- Latest Estimates of the Numbers of Beekeepers and Colonies of Bees, Production and Value of Honey and Value of Honey and Wax in Canada, by Province, 1955 and 1956, with 10-year Averages, 1945-54

Province and Year	Bee-keepers	Colonies	HONEY				Value of Honey & Wax	
			Average Yield per Colony	Total Production	Average Price per Pound	Total Value		
	no.	no.	lb.	'000 lb.	\$	\$'000	\$'000	
P.E.I.	1945-54	130	800	74	59	.19	11	12
	1955	120	900	73	66	.20	13	13
	1956	110	1,000	92	92	.20	18	19
N.S.	1945-54	400	2,000	55	110	.23	25	26
	1955	400	2,200	61	134	.23	31	32
	1956	410	2,200	73	161	.22	35	36
N.B.	1945-54	430	2,500	52	129	.28	36	37
	1955	260	1,500	57	86	.28	24	25
	1956	220	1,400	72	101	.31	31	32
Que.	1945-54	4,560	77,400	51	3,965	.21	850	876
	1955	3,250	53,100	70	3,717	.20	743	767
	1956	2,890	51,600	57	2,941	.23	676	695
Ont.	1945-54	4,780	209,300	53	11,165	.18	1,954	2,032
	1955	3,530	158,200	45	7,119	.18	1,281	1,336
	1956	3,300	141,600	45	6,372	.18	1,147	1,201
Man.	1945-54	2,680	52,100	97	5,060	.16	811	844
	1955	1,200	38,600	131	5,057	.16	809	844
	1956	1,200	40,000	125	5,000	.17	850	884
Sask.	1945-54	6,410	47,000	98	4,606	.16	757	785
	1955	2,210	22,100	148	3,271	.17	556	579
	1956	2,650	27,000	124	3,348	.17	569	591
Alta.	1945-54	5,310	53,600	104	5,553	.15	859	890
	1955	1,270	35,200	131	4,611	.16	738	769
	1956	1,800	48,200	98	4,724	.16	756	792
B.C.	1945-54	2,260	15,200	67	1,016	.21	217	223
	1955	1,910	11,800	82	970	.21	204	212
	1956	1,830	17,000	90	1,533	.22	337	349
CANADA	1945-54	26,960	459,900	69	31,663	.17	5,520	5,725
	1955	14,150	323,600	77	25,031	.18	4,399	4,577
	1956	14,410	330,000	74	24,272	.18	4,419	4,599

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