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REVISED ESTIMATE OF HONEY PRODUCTION - PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF VALUE OF HONEY 1958\*

The revised estimate of the 1958 honey crop is 27.5 million pounds, 14 per cent below the 1957 production of 32.0 million pounds. This decrease was due to a lower average yield of 83 pounds per colony, 15 per cent less than that of the previous year. However, production per colony in 1958 was 12 per cent greater than the 1947-1956 average.

There was considerable variation between the different provinces. Ontario and Quebec produced 8.1 million pounds in 1958, 46 per cent less than in 1957, the result of sharply reduced yields caused by unfavourable weather conditions. In all other provinces, except Nova Scotia, beekeepers harvested larger crops in 1958 than in 1957. In 1958, 69 per cent of the total honey crop was produced in the four western provinces, while in 1957, only 53 per cent originated in those areas.

The number of colonies in 1958 stood at 332,700, somewhat higher than the 1957 total of 325,700. The number of active beekeepers, however, at 13,150, was substantially below the 15,040 of the previous year. The average number of colonies per beekeeper in 1958 was 25.3; in 1957, 21.7; and during the period 1947-1956, 19.8. There were increases in total colony numbers in 1958 in all provinces except Ontario and Alberta.

The total value of honey produced in Canada in 1958 is estimated at 4.6 million dollars, 22 per cent below the 1957 figure of 5.9 million dollars. The preliminary estimate of the average price received by beekeepers for the 1958 crop is 17 cents per pound, compared with the final price of 18 cents in 1957. These prices represent average returns per pound for honey, not including the cost of containers, received by beekeepers as reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. It is emphasized that the 1958 figure is preliminary. Beekeepers replying to the second honey survey (the second survey of the 1958 crop was conducted in January, 1959) are asked to indicate the average price received for their honey. However, in the case of those patronizing Co-operatives, final payments are not known to the individual producers at the time this survey is made. Therefore, each year, Co-operative establishments handling honey in Canada are asked to prepare estimates of the volume and value of honey which they expect to handle and the average returns which they anticipate paying their patrons by the end of the season. Final figures are obtained in the following year. This information is used in calculating a weighted average price for the province concerned. To the extent that such returns are estimates, the 1958 prices are preliminary and subject to revision.

\* 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 at about the end of the year. Provincial officials provide the mailing lists of beekeepers and aid in the interpretation of survey results.



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Estimates of the Numbers of Beekeepers and Colonies of Bees, Production and Value of Honey and Value of Honey and Wax in Canada 1/, by Province, 1957 and 1958 2/, with 3-year Averages, 1947-1956

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. 1947-56	120	800	86	69	.19	13	14
1957	100	800	69	55	.20	11	12
1958	100	1,000	65	65	.21	14	15
N.S. 1947-56	390	2,100	60	125	.23	29	30
1957	400	2,500	68	170	.22	37	39
1958	410	2,800	58	162	.23	37	38
N.B. 1947-56	400	2,400	52	126	.29	36	37
1957	260	1,500	60	90	.31	28	29
1958	270	1,600	61	98	.29	28	29
Que. 1947-56	3,970	68,800	58	3,993	.22	865	891
1957	2,720	49,700	75	3,728	.25	932	958
1958	2,680	54,700	44	2,407	.25	602	619
Ont. 1947-56	4,240	195,000	57	11,036	.18	1,949	2,028
1957	3,140	135,500	82	11,111	.19 <sup>3/</sup>	2,111	2,205
1958	3,000	135,200	42	5,678	.18	1,022	1,057
Man. 1947-56	2,000	47,500	107	5,099	.16	818	850
1957	1,200	42,000	124	5,208	.16	833	873
1958	1,030	44,300	120	5,316	.15	797	835
Sask. 1947-56	4,550	38,700	107	4,140	.16	673	698
1957	2,650	28,500	134	3,819	.16	611	641
1958	2,470	29,300	138	4,043	.15	606	634
Alta. 1947-56	3,520	48,500	109	5,267	.16	819	849
1957	1,800	48,200	134	6,459	.16	1,033	1,081
1958	1,490	45,900	165	7,574	.15	1,136	1,187
B.C. 1947-56	1,960	15,100	74	1,119	.22	241	249
1957	2,770	17,000	83	1,411	.22	310	321
1958	1,700	17,900	121	2,166	.18	390	405
CANADA 1947-56	21,150	418,900	74	30,974	.18	5,443	5,646
1957	15,040	25,700	98	32,051	.18	5,906	6,159
1958	13,150	35,000	83	27,509	.17	4,632	4,819

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

- 1/ Does not include Newfoundland.
- 2/ Subject to revision.
- 3/ Revised.