



Statistical Overview of the Canadian Honey and Bee Industry 2018

Prepared by: Crops and Horticulture Division Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada October 2019











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Overview

Beekeeping is an important agricultural industry in Canada, producing honey and other hive products, and delivering valuable pollination services to other farmers and to non-agricultural plants.

The total number of honey bee colonies in Canada has steadily increased over the past decade, reaching a record high 796,764 in 2018. The number of beekeepers has also been increasing. In 2018, 10,629 beekeepers across Canada kept one or more honey bee colonies (or hives), a 19% increase over the average of the previous five years.

The majority of honey bee colonies are in the Prairies, where long summer days and a favourable crop mix are ideal for foraging; Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba collectively accounted for 68% of the country's total bee colonies and for 82% of the total honey production. Alberta contributed the most to Canada's overall honey production (40%), followed by Saskatchewan (22%) and Manitoba (20%).

Ontario currently has the largest number of beekeepers, with 3,026 beekeepers or 28% of the national total. British Columbia and Alberta have the second and third largest number of beekeepers, with 2,676 and 1,540 beekeepers respectively.

Beekeepers produced 9.3 million pounds of honey in 2018, down 3% from 2017. Despite the decrease in production, for the second consecutive year, the total value of honey produced in Canada continued to increase, due to higher prices for honey produced in Canada in 2017 and 2018. The total estimated value of honey produced in Canada amounted to \$197 million in 2018, up 3% from 2017 and 16% from 2016.

Exports of Canadian honey totaled over \$78 million, up 1% from 2017. The United States is the largest export destination for Canadian honey and accounted for 80% of all honey exports in 2018. The second and third largest honey export destinations are Japan (16%) and China (2%), respectively.

Canada imported \$37 million worth of honey in 2018, down 10% from 2017, which was the highest total value of imports in the previous five years. Honey from New Zealand topped the list of imported honey by value with a total import value of \$12.8 million. Brazil and Thailand were the second and third largest sources of Canadian imports, valued at \$4.2 million and \$4.0 million, respectively. Most imports from New Zealand are valuable Manuka honey, while Brazil produces large volumes of certified organic honey, which attracts a price premium.



1. Production

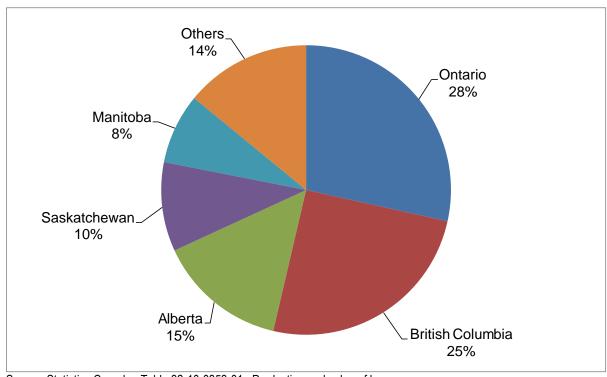
1.1. Number of beekeepers¹ by province

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Prince Edward Island	45	45	40	46	50
Nova Scotia	320	395	451	604	631
New Brunswick	277	291	351	374	388
Quebec	309	333	384	402	425
Ontario	3,262	2,562	2,896	3,331	3,026
Manitoba	546	607	662	746	834
Saskatchewan	719	955	1,150	1,044	1,059
Alberta	1,015	1,064	1,453	1,402	1,540
British Columbia	2,405	2,363	2,640	2,640	2,676
Canada ²	8,898	8,615	10,027	10,589	10,629

Notes:

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey

1.2. Number of beekeepers by province - percent share, 2018



^{1.} Beekeeper numbers may include providers of pollination services.

^{2.} Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has no honey production to report.



1.3. Number of colonies¹ by province

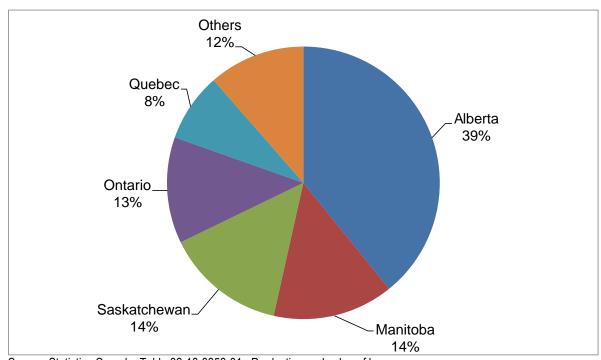
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Prince Edward Island	3,777	4,005	4,920	6,300	4,453
Nova Scotia	23,000	25,504	31,080	26,426	26,426
New Brunswick	5,441	6,710	7,000	7,100	8,141
Quebec	49,635	54,294	64,426	61,020	65,000
Ontario	112,800	101,135	97,342	105,244	100,413
Manitoba	78,700	90,909	102,030	111,802	114,098
Saskatchewan	95,000	101,000	112,000	115,000	114,000
Alberta	282,900	296,880	309,000	317,000	312,200
British Columbia	44,999	45,571	39,885	40,776	52,033
Canada ²	696,252	726,008	767,683	790,668	796,764

Notes:

- 1. Colony numbers may include providers of pollination services.
- 2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has no honey production to report.

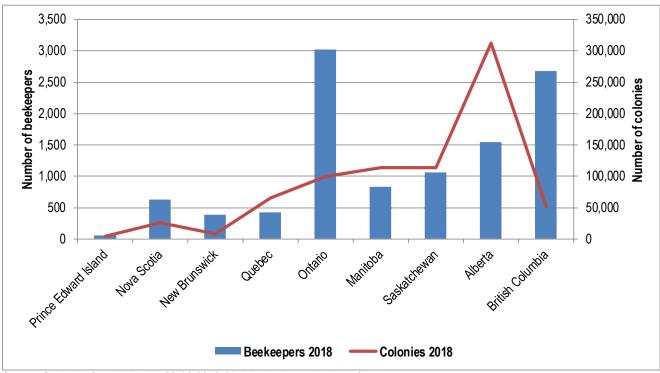
Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey

1.4. Number of colonies by province – percent share, 2018





1.5. Number of beekeepers and number of colonies by province





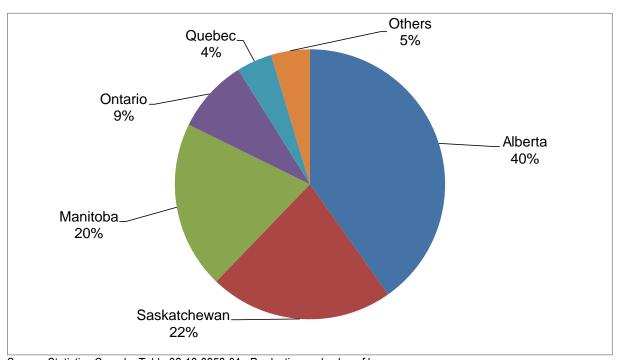
1.6. Total honey production¹ by province – thousands of pounds

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Prince Edward Island	155	168	162	231	168
Nova Scotia	430	411	588	553	553
New Brunswick	236	276	287	201	469
Quebec	4,290	4,194	4,507	3,723	3,967
Ontario	10,577	8,972	8,880	6,087	8,226
Manitoba	14,087	16,000	15,202	19,120	18,710
Saskatchewan	16,530	18,837	22,848	21,965	20,520
Alberta	35,500	39,461	40,170	40,576	37,464
British Columbia	3,840	3,692	1,934	3,556	3,140
Canada ²	85,644	92,011	94,578	96,012	93,217

Notes:

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey

1.7. Total honey production by province - percent share, 2018



^{1.} Production excludes inventory.

^{2.} Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has limited beekeeping.



1.8. Production value¹ of honey by province – thousands of Canadian dollars

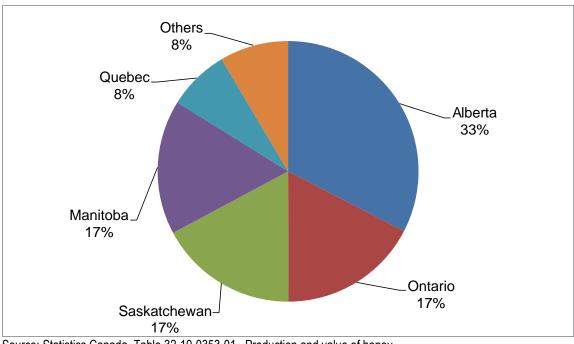
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Prince Edward Island	415	579	445	666	393
Nova Scotia	1,257	1,343	1,686	1,586	1,586
New Brunswick	630	740	661	511	1,430
Quebec	13,386	13,905	15,074	15,120	15,000
Ontario	36,147	31,119	31,966	20,257	34,138
Manitoba	30,288	32,400	21,000	32,268	32,786
Saskatchewan	34,713	26,372	27,418	34,045	33,858
Alberta	79,788	84,555	62,388	71,359	64,055
British Columbia	12,617	19,471	8,622	14,292	13,320
Canada ²	209,241	210,483	169,260	190,104	196,566

Notes:

- 1. Value excludes inventory sales except for in Quebec.
- 2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has limited beekeeping.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey

1.9. Production value of honey by province - percent share, 2018





2. Trade

2.1. Trade balance

2.1.1. Canada's honey trade balance – thousands of Canadian dollars

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Export	48,429	64,883	71,838	76,986	78,018	
Import	32,215	41,214	38,064	41,331	37,250	
Trade Balance						
(Exports - Imports)	16,214	23,669	33,774	35,655	40,768	
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)						



2.2. Exports

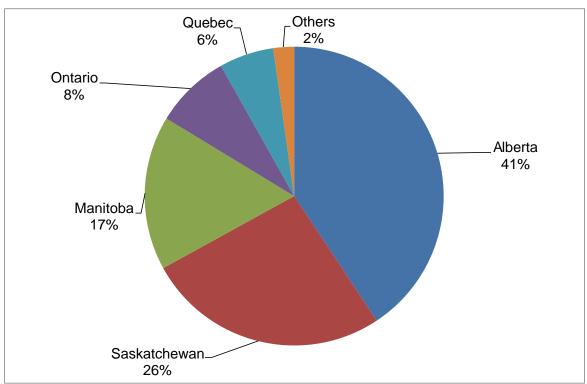
2.2.1. Canada's honey exports by province¹ – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Prince Edward Island	0	34	78	0	0
Nova Scotia	3	2	61	126	15
Quebec	4,369	6,480	6,158	5,446	4,602
Ontario	2,330	2,735	2,212	3,864	6,367
Manitoba	11,274	17,745	17,060	19,310	13,033
Saskatchewan	13,764	15,640	11,346	19,928	20,511
Alberta	14,929	20,499	33,433	27,150	31,751
British Columbia	1,759	1,748	1,490	1,160	1,739
Canada	48,429	64,883	71,838	76,986	78,018

Note:

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)

2.2.2. Canada's honey exports by province - percent share, 2018



Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSnet, June 2019)

^{1.} Exports may include honey not produced in that province.



2.2.3. Canada's honey exports by province - quantity (metric tonnes)

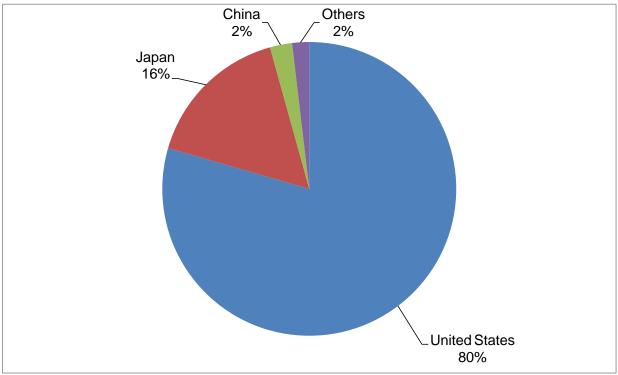
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Prince Edward Island	0	6	14	0	0	
Nova Scotia	0	0	7	22	2	
Québec	787	1,116	1,021	1,006	838	
Ontario	314	360	378	828	1,219	
Manitoba	2,187	3,316	4,580	5,242	3,160	
Saskatchewan	2,645	2,999	3,551	5,541	5,127	
Alberta	2,840	3,640	8,113	6,372	7,959	
British Columbia	316	264	215	186	284	
Total	9,090	11,701	17,879	19,196	18,589	
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)						

2.2.4. Canada's top 10 honey export destinations – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
United States	29,708	44,541	50,894	60,878	62,012	
Japan	16,308	16,176	17,045	12,432	12,643	
China	1,665	2,522	2,396	1,981	1,903	
South Korea	0	751	559	550	696	
Hong Kong	504	287	271	460	347	
Germany	0	0	0	1	81	
Portugal	0	0	0	0	69	
Malaysia	6	0	0	0	40	
United Arab Emirates	0	10	35	77	38	
Singapore	27	21	39	6	34	
Others	211	575	599	601	155	
Total	48,429	64,883	71,838	76,986	78,018	
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)						



2.2.5. Canada's top honey export destinations by country – percent share, 2018



Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSnet, June 2019)

2.2.6. Canada's top 10 honey export destinations – quantity (metric tonnes)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
United States	5,578	8,234	13,553	15,762	15,222	
Japan	3,143	2,810	3,719	2,799	2,785	
China	250	402	323	323	326	
South Korea	0	116	105	109	124	
Hong Kong	85	43	40	72	55	
Germany	0	0	0	0	20	
Portugal	0	0	0	0	12	
United Arab Emirates	0	2	6	14	7	
Singapore	5	4	7	1	6	
Malaysia	1	0	0	0	5	
Others	29	90	125	117	27	
Total	9,090	11,701	17,879	19,196	18,589	
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)						

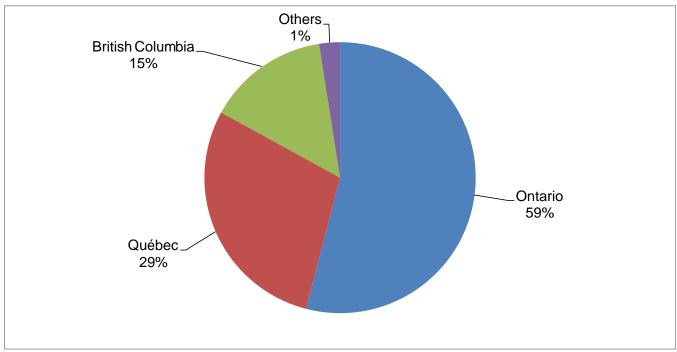


2.3. Imports

2.3.1. Canada's honey imports by province – value (Canadian dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
Nova Scotia	2,819	408	2,062	8,467	2,151		
New Brunswick	0	113	216	7,236	30,121		
Québec	11,426,777	14,004,883	13,932,715	12,355,678	10,782,711		
Ontario	16,835,830	21,683,754	17,958,821	24,630,510	20,129,931		
Manitoba	603,335	453,018	305,147	118,593	32,857		
Saskatchewan	48	53,687	13,854	4,800	20,361		
Alberta	123,767	813,019	1,165,645	27,557	838,835		
British Columbia	3,222,272	4,205,137	4,685,144	4,178,387	5,413,510		
Total	32,214,848	41,214,019	38,063,604	41,331,228	37,250,477		
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 1019)							

2.3.2. Canada's honey imports by province - percent share, 2018



Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSnet, June 2019)



2.3.3. Canada's honey imports by province – quantity (kilograms)

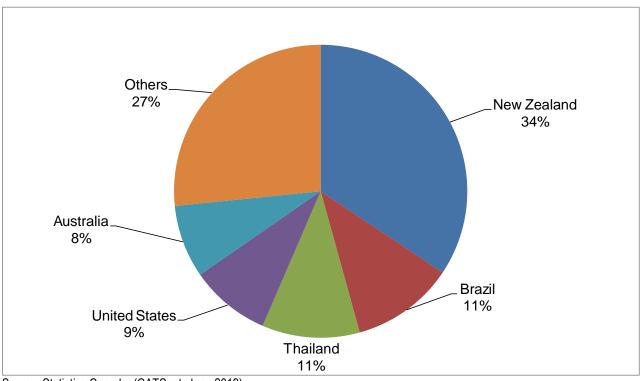
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Nova Scotia	614	60	317	790	420	
New Brunswick	0	9	51	291	3,193	
Québec	2,848,540	3,219,694	3,417,813	2,633,238	2,501,290	
Ontario	3,105,020	3,552,517	2,476,506	3,585,028	2,445,394	
Manitoba	57,412	53,698	39,739	19,182	4,800	
Saskatchewan	4	5,583	936	313	1,359	
Alberta	10,558	99,573	223,966	3,407	24,344	
British Columbia	316,357	384,940	400,887	418,136	369,493	
Canada	6,338,505	7,316,074	6,560,215	6,660,385	5,350,293	
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)						

2.3.4. Canada's top 10 sources of honey imports – value (Canadian dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
New Zealand	4,651,685	7,483,814	7,120,281	9,560,170	12,799,222	
Brazil	6,059,420	7,307,083	10,515,234	7,384,459	4,226,571	
Thailand	520,833	2,585,800	808,688	1,855,794	4,011,223	
United States	3,759,112	6,161,862	4,207,803	2,714,170	3,307,242	
Australia	2,609,958	4,249,661	3,629,420	3,102,488	2,996,890	
India	1,071,590	1,036,187	1,550,297	2,017,945	2,374,765	
Spain	331,913	3,270,807	3,024,203	3,120,697	1,490,462	
Greece	877,670	1,399,416	1,171,384	1,226,620	1,353,404	
Saudi Arabia	524,084	366,877	780,354	951,138	959,367	
Germany	392,828	489,889	328,140	602,337	619,544	
Others	11,415,755	6,862,623	4,927,800	8,795,410	3,111,787	
Total	32,214,848	41,214,019	38,063,604	41,331,228	37,250,477	
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)						



2.3.5. Canada's top sources of honey imports by country – percent share, 2018



Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSnet, June 2019)

2.3.6. Canada's top 10 sources of honey imports – quantity (kilograms)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Thailand	166,640	764,835	230,849	483,515	970,078
Brazil	1,429,623	1,528,830	2,134,017	1,279,957	968,574
India	285,975	222,511	429,116	505,506	760,527
United States	614,813	938,727	652,406	478,512	591,624
New Zealand	245,302	292,186	298,498	346,451	349,397
Australia	307,996	506,390	393,654	333,891	323,392
Spain	75,514	766,116	646,681	734,823	314,974
Greece	139,230	253,231	164,416	177,721	152,907
Saudi Arabia	61,610	36,484	79,207	103,937	102,090
Germany	53,643	67,455	58,203	127,649	88,622
Others	2,958,159	1,939,309	1,473,168	2,088,423	728,108
Total	6,338,505	7,316,074	6,560,215	6,660,385	5,350,293
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)					



2.3.7. Canada's sources of honey bee imports – value (Canadian dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
New Zealand	3,794,388	3,601,795	2,752,912	1,510,369	1,278,340
Australia	1,578,619	1,275,366	559,584	331,206	853,887
Chile	663	0	0	316,067	651,930
United States	14008	223942	249614	0	0
Denmark	0	0	9428	0	0
Total	5,387,678	5,101,103	3,571,538	2,157,642	2,784,157

Notes:

Package bees are sold in a variety of sizes typically one pound, two pound and three pound packages. No detail on the individual numbers of different package sizes is available.

Does not include queen bees.

Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)

2.3.8. Canada's sources of queen bee imports – value (Canadian dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
United States	5,364,363	6,416,761	6,316,094	7,138,232	7,111,970
New Zealand	103,906	108,924	81,787	63,232	884,234
Chile	149,095	128,051	91,396	217,937	225,279
Australia	109,357	56,248	145,681	265,108	212,140
Denmark	13,748	0	0	2767	14166
Total	5,740,469	6,709,984	6,634,958	7,687,276	8,447,789
Source: Statistics Canada. (CATSNET, June 2019)					



3. Consumption

3.1. Honey available¹ for consumption in Canada – kilograms per person

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Honey ²	1.06	1.10	0.93	0.90	0.83

Notes:

1. Food available per person is calculated by dividing the domestic disappearance by the Canadian population as of July 1st of the reference year, at the retail level.

Domestic disappearance represents the total food available for human consumption from the Canadian food supply chain.

Total Supply = Beginning stocks + Production + Imports

Domestic Disappearance = Total supply – Exports – Manufacturing - Waste - Ending stocks

2. Does not adjust for losses, such as waste and/or spoilage in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants or losses during preparation.

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0054-01 Food available in Canada



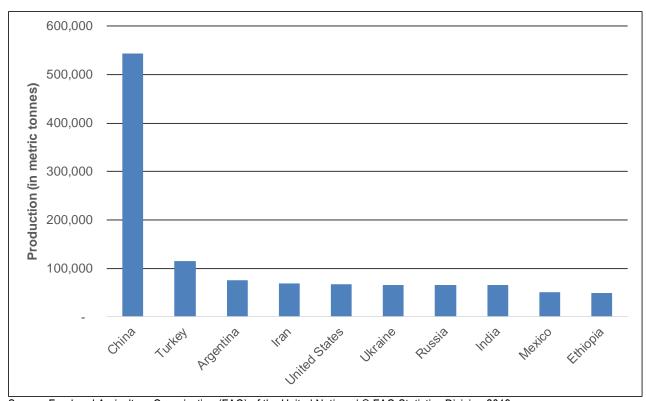
4. World data

4.1. Top 10 producers of honey worldwide – quantity (metric tonnes)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
China	450,300	462,028	473,000	555,000	543,000
Turkey	94,694	103,525	108,128	105,727	114,471
Argentina	67,500	60,000	52,600	68,123	76,379
Iran	74,600	77,800	73,014	67,783	69,699
United States	67,812	80,862	71,008	73,429	66,968
Ukraine	73,713	66,521	63,615	59,294	66,231
Russia	68,446	74,868	67,736	69,764	65,678
India	61,000	61,838	62,967	64,071	64,981
Mexico	56,907	60,624	61,881	55,358	51,066
Ethiopia	48,941	50,000	59,161	47,706	50,000
Others ¹	658,195	685,550	731,721	692,969	692,239
Total	1,722,108	1,783,616	1,824,831	1,859,224	1,860,712

Note:

4.2. Top 10 honey-producing countries, 2017



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations | © FAO Statistics Division 2019

^{1.} In 2017, Canada ranked 12th globally with an estimated total honey production of 39,180 tonnes. Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations | © FAO Statistics Division 2019



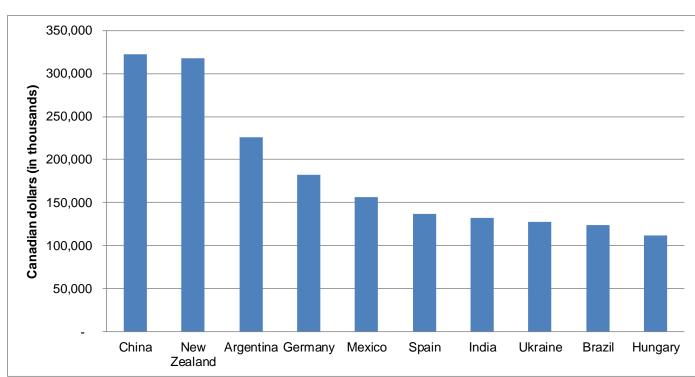
4.3. Top 10 exporters of honey worldwide – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
China	288,046	370,299	367,884	350,287	322,762
New Zealand	185,525	253,729	271,606	348,666	317,420
Argentina	224,349	208,015	223,089	238,189	226,370
Germany	155,648	168,799	181,575	182,095	182,434
Mexico	161,318	196,692	123,115	136,753	156,140
Spain	132,191	129,985	144,399	142,967	137,123
India	85,400	155,276	93,744	135,573	132,635
Ukraine	103,466	108,802	129,046	172,619	127,788
Brazil	108,478	103,934	121,581	158,802	123,790
Hungary	96,977	96,714	91,497	116,502	111,907
Others ¹	843,066	998,989	871,296	982,446	950,060
Total	2,384,464	2,791,235	2,618,832	2,964,901	2,788,429

Note:

Source: Global Trade Tracker (June 2019)

4.4. Top 10 honey-exporting countries, 2018



Source: Global Trade Tracker (June 2019)

^{1.} In 2018, Canada ranked 12th globally with exports totaling \$78,000 thousands.



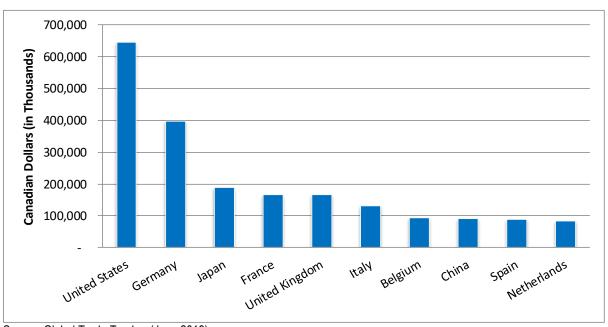
4.5. Top 10 importers of honey worldwide – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
United States	641,588	770,164	559,415	739,701	645,977
Germany	353,906	425,046	370,790	406,723	396,726
Japan	132,676	150,898	209,152	185,433	188,619
France	171,487	165,264	168,814	169,487	167,359
United Kingdom	146,563	168,236	158,725	169,545	166,461
Italy	100,075	108,883	96,028	106,654	130,013
Belgium	86,088	115,356	98,383	103,244	94,335
China	64,754	96,064	96,505	118,605	91,170
Spain	67,204	93,012	86,542	99,535	87,984
Netherlands	55,389	59,275	76,543	79,273	83,953
Others ¹	662,095	758,058	706,529	801,419	765,190
Total	2,481,826	2,910,256	2,627,427	2,979,618	2,817,787

Note:

Source: Global Trade Tracker (June 2019)

4.6. Top 10 honey-importing countries, 2018



Source: Global Trade Tracker (June 2019)

^{1.} In 2018, Canada ranked 17th globally with imports totaling \$37,250 thousands.



6. Key Resources

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Statistics Division
- Global Trade Tracker
- Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0353-01 Production and value of honey
- Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0054-01 Food available in Canada
- Statistics Canada. CATSNET

Import and export data is based on the following Harmonized System Codes (H.S. Codes):

Honey for import: 0409000010 0409000021 0409000022 0409000023 0409000024 0409000025 0409000026 0409000029 0409000090

Honey for export: 04090000

Honey Bees for import: 0106410010 0106410011 0106410012 0106900011 0106900012

Queen Bees for imports: 0106410020