

Highlights of the Survey on Beekeeping in Québec

June 2016

2015 BEEKEEPING CAMPAIGN

This 2015 survey by the Institut de la statistique du Québec conducted among Québec beekeepers with at least six producing colonies revealed an increase in the number of active beekeepers (+7.8%) and producing colonies (+9.4%), as well as a drop in yield per colony (-9.3%) in comparison with 2014. In 2015, honey production attained 1,902.9 metric tonnes (t), which is 190.6 t more than the average annual production for 2010–2014 (1,712.3 t).

In 2015, the 333 beekeepers in Québec had 54,294 producing colonies, with a yield of 39 kg of honey each. Between 2010 and 2014, there was an average of 288 beekeepers with 45,553 colonies a year, with an average annual yield of 42 kg.

Honey sales in 2015 totalled \$13.9 million (\$M). The average value generated between 2010 and 2014 totalled \$11.5 M. The average price paid to producers remained stable in comparison with 2014 (\$7.03/kg in 2014 and \$7.02/kg in 2015), though the average price paid for 2010–2014 was \$6.55/kg a year.

The average price of colonies leased for pollination went up for the 17th consecutive year, reaching a new summit in 2015. At \$133.02/colony, the price posted its biggest increase in 17 years (+\$17.47 higher than in 2014). The number of leased colonies (44,981) varied little in comparison with 2014, though their total value jumped by 17.1% to attain a new record of \$6.0 M.

In 2015, the relative share of honey sales by Québec beekeepers in relation to their total earnings (\$21.5 M) dropped from 2014 (68.0% to 64.7%), while the relative share of pollination services and other products increased, respectively, from 26.0% to 27.9% and 6.0% to 7.4%. Total earnings posted an annual average growth of 11.7% over the five-year period stretching from 2011 to 2015.

The combined regions of Estrie and Montérégie had the highest number of active beekeepers in Québec (31.5% of the total). The combined region of Montréal, Laval, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec remained the leader in honey production, with 31.3% of the provincial total. The greater part of the total number of producing colonies in Québec was split nearly equally (44.9% each) between two combined regions: the first being Estrie and Montérégie; and the second Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord and Chaudière-Appalaches.

For the complete statistics on the Québec beekeeping survey:

http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/agriculture/apiculture-miel/index_an.html

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Sales of apary products and services, Québec, 2010-2015

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2015/2014
	k\$						%
Honey	9,516.4	10,234.0	12,291.0	12,278.8	13,386.4	13,904.8	3.9%
Pollination	3,349.5	3,439.0	4,112.8	3,994.6	5,109.0	5,983.3	17.1%
Queen bees	367.2	385.1	316.6	253.0	303.2	441.1	45.5%
Nucleus colonies	175.7	225.5	228.0	182.4	342.4 **	631.1	84.3%
Other products ¹	235.9	322.1	375.8	444.1	525.3	527.2	0.4%
Total	13,644.7	14,605.7	17,324.2	17,152.9	19,666.3	21,487.5	9.3%

Note: The data in this table pertain to beekeepers with at least six producing colonies.

1. Includes pollen, beeswax, royal jelly and propolis.

Unless specifically indicated, coefficient of variation < 15%; estimate good to excellent.

* Coefficient of variation between 15% and 25%; interpret with caution.

** Coefficient of variation > 25%; imprecise estimate provided for information purposes only.

Sources: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec, 2010 to 2015*.

Principal honey statistics by administrative region group, Québec, 2015

Administrative region group	Active beekeepers n	Colonies ¹	Production		Sales		
			Per colony ² kg/n	Total t	Total t	Average price \$/kg	Total value k\$
Bas-Saint-Laurent (01), Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine (11)	16	3,183	33	104.7	131.2	7.96	1,044.4
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean (02), Capitale- Nationale (03), Côte-Nord (09), Chaudière-Appalaches (12)	84	12,078	31	366.0	446.5	4.95	2,210.2
Mauricie (04), Centre-du-Québec (17)	39	10,421	22	160.7	162.3	6.69	1,085.8
Estrie (05), Montérégie (16)	105	12,314	44	475.7	462.2	7.45	3,443.4
Montréal (06), Outaouais (07), Abitibi- Témiscamingue (08), Nord-du-Québec (10), Laval (13)	45	11,351	53	595.1	620.8	7.64	4,742.9
Lanaudière (14), Laurentides (15)	44	4,947	42	200.7	158.4	8.70	1,378.1
Total	333	54,294	39	1 902.9	1,981.4	7.02	13,904.8

Note: The data in this table pertain to beekeepers with at least six producing colonies.

1. This figure includes the colonies of beekeepers who did not harvest any honey this year.

2. Production per colony was calculated based on the colonies of beekeepers who harvested honey this year.

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Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec, 2015*.

Statistics on the rental of colonies for pollination purposes by crop type, Québec, 2015

Crop	Rental		
	Colonies	Average price	Total value
	n	\$/n	k\$
Blueberry	28,848	145.33	4,192.5
Cucumber	374	98.73	36.9
Strawberry	552	77.75	42.9
Cranberry	12,199	124.73	1,521.6
Apple	2,643	61.05	161.4
Other	365	76.66	28.0 *
Total	44,981	133.02	5,983.3

Note: The data in this table pertain to beekeepers with at least six producing colonies.

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Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec, 2015*.

Revision notice

Highlights of the *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec.* 2015 beekeeping campaign, June 2016

Document revised on June 29, 2018

1. On page 1, the last sentence of the fifth paragraph should read as follows:

Total earnings posted an annual average growth of 10.1% over the five-year period stretching from 2011 to 2015.