

Highlights of the *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*

2016 BEEKEEPING CAMPAIGN

July 2017

The 2016 survey of Québec beekeepers with at least six colonies in production, carried out by the Institut de la statistique du Québec, reveals that the number of active beekeepers (384), productive colonies (64,426), colonies rented for pollination (58,483), honey sales (\$15.1 million) and colony rental income (\$8.0 million) increased for the third consecutive year. In comparison, between 2011 and 2015, the annual average was 302 beekeepers, 48,449 colonies, 39,132 rented colonies, \$12.4 million in honey sales, and \$4.5 million in rental income.

In 2016, total honey production exceeded 2,000 metric tons (t) for the first time since 1998, reaching 2,045.1 t, up 7.5% from 2015. Honey yield per colony stood at 36.5 kg, down 6.4% from 2015. Average yield over the 2011-2015 period was 39.5 kg.

The volume of honey sales remained stable in 2016, totalling 1,975.0 t (-0.3% compared with 2015). The average price paid to producers rose 8.7% compared with 2015 (from \$7.02/kg in 2015 to \$7.63/kg in 2016), leading to an 8.4% increase in total sales value (\$15.1 million) over a year. The average price was \$6.78/kg per year on average over the 2011-2015 period.

The number of rented colonies (58,483), the average rental price of colonies (\$137.15/colony) and total rental income (\$8.0 million) all reached record highs in 2016. Compared with 2015, total rental income (+34.0%) increased the most, followed by the number of rented colonies (+30.0%), and then by the average rental price of colonies (+3.1%).

The share of honey sales by Québec beekeepers in relation to their total revenues (\$24.7 million) declined for the third consecutive year, going from 64.7% in 2015 to 61.0% in 2016, while the share of pollination services increased from 27.9% to 32.5%. The share of other products declined from 7.4% to 6.5%. Total revenues grew by 7.3% on average each year over the five-year period stretching from 2012 to 2016.

In 2016, 83.3% of productive colonies in Québec were divided almost equally between four groupings of regions: Estrie and Montérégie (22.1% of the total); Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord and Chaudière-Appalaches (21.8%); Montréal, Laval, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec (20.0%); and Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec (19.4%). The regions of Estrie and Montérégie had the greatest number of active beekeepers with 32.3% of the Québec total, while Montréal, Laval, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec produced the largest quantity of honey (31.5% of the total).

For the complete data from the *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec* :
http://www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/agriculture/apiculture-miel/index_an.html

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www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/droits_auteur_an.htm

Sales of apiary products and services, Québec, 2011-2016¹

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/2015
	k\$						%
Honey	10,234.0	12,291.0	12,278.8	13,386.4	13,904.8	15,074.5	8.4%
Pollination	3,439.0	4,112.8	3,994.6	5,109.0	5,983.3	8,020.2	34.0%
Queen bees	385.1	316.6	253.0	303.2	441.1	462.5	4.9%
Nucleus colonies	225.5	228.0	182.4	342.4 **	631.1	630.3	-0.1%
Other products ²	322.1	375.8	444.1	525.3	527.2	505.8	-4.1%
Total	14,605.7	17,324.2	17,152.9	19,666.3	21,487.5	24,693.3	14.9%

Unless otherwise 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.

1. The data in this table pertain to beekeepers with at least six colonies in production.

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

Note : Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2011 to 2016.

Principal honey statistics by administrative region group, Québec, 2016¹

Administrative region group	Active beekeepers	Colonies ² n	Production		Sales		
			Per colony ³	Total	Total	Average price	Total value
			kg/n	t	t	\$/kg	k\$
Bas-Saint-Laurent (01), Gaspésie—Îles-de-la-Madeleine (11)	20	5,026	40	199.3	208.2	6.42	1,336.5
Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean (02), Capitale- Nationale (03), Côte-Nord (09), Chaudière-Appalaches (12)	92	14,013	31	430.5	456.8	6.73	3,073.3
Mauricie (04), Centre-du-Québec (17)	50	12,489	17	115.1	114.1	7.65	873.6
Estrie (05), Montérégie (16)	124	14,243	40	495.6	558.2	7.91	4,412.9
Montréal (06), Outaouais (07), Abitibi- Témiscamingue (08), Nord-du-Québec (10), Laval (13)	39	12,913	50	643.5	470.0	8.36	3,930.4
Lanaudière (14), Laurentides (15)	59	5,742	30	161.1	167.6	8.64	1,447.8
Total	384	64,426	37	2,045.1	1,975.0	7.63	15,074.5

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

1. The data in this table pertain to beekeepers with at least six colonies in production.

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

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

Note : Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2016.

Statistics on the rental of colonies for pollination purposes by crop type, Québec, 2016¹

Crop	Rental		
	Colonies	Average price	Total value
	n	\$/n	k\$
Blueberry	37,875	147.13	5,572.2
Cucumber	332	71.50	23.7
Strawberry	619	83.69	51.6
Cranberry	16,272	131.76	2,142.8
Apple	2,816	63.80	179.6
Other	569	87.04	50.3
Total	58,483	137.15	8,020.2

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1. The data in this table pertain to beekeepers with at least six colonies in production.

Note : Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2016.

Revision notice

Highlights of the *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec.* 2016 beekeeping campaign, July 2017

Document revised on June 29, 2018

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

Total revenues grew by 9.3% on average each year over the five-year period stretching from 2012 to 2016.