

Highlights of the *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*

July 2018

2017 BEEKEEPING SEASON

The 2017 survey of Québec beekeepers with at least six colonies in production, carried out by the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ), provides a picture of beekeeping in Québec. The data produced from this survey are available on the ISQ's website.

There were 402 beekeepers in Québec in 2017 (+4.7% from 2016). This number was up for the fourth consecutive year. Québec beekeepers had 61,020 productive colonies (-5.3%). Honey production totalled 1,689.1 metric tonnes (t) (-17.4%), its lowest level since 2013 (1,491.1 t). By comparison, honey production averaged 1,876.0 t per year over the period from 2012 to 2016. Honey yield per colony stood at 29.9 kilograms (kg) (-18.1%), its lowest level since 2009 (27.0 kg). Yield was also below the annual average registered between 2012 and 2016 (39.6 kg).

In 2017, the volume of honey sales was 1,869.3 t, down 5.4% from 2016. The average price paid to producers reached \$8.08/kg (+5.9%), after increasing 8.7% between 2015 and 2016. This brought honey sales to \$15.1 million, the same level as in 2016.

The number of colonies rented out for pollination (51,068; -12.7%), the average rental price per colony (\$127.54/colony; -7.0%), and total rental revenue (\$6.5 million; -18.8%) all declined in 2017 from 2016. This was the first drop in the number of colonies rented out and total rental revenue since 2013. Nonetheless, the number of colonies rented out, the average rental price per colony and rental revenue were above the annual averages for 2012 to 2016, which stood at 44,314 colonies, \$121.07/colony and \$5.4 million, respectively.

The share of honey sales (\$15.1 million) in relation to total revenues (\$23.5 million) rose from 61.0% in 2016 to 64.3% in 2017, while the share of pollination services (\$6.5 million) was down 4.8 percentage points (dropping from 32.5% to 27.7%). The share of other products (\$1.9 million) increased by 1.5 percentage points (6.5% to 8.0%). Although total revenues declined by \$1.2 million between 2016 and 2017, they were higher than the average for the period stretching from 2012 to 2016 (\$20.1 million).

The combined regions of Estrie and Montérégie had the highest number of beekeepers in Québec (135) followed by Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord and Chaudière-Appalaches (99). The combined region of Montréal, Laval, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec remained the leader in terms of number of colonies and honey production (13,407; 540.6 t), along with Estrie and Montérégie (13,377; 480.1 t). Montréal, Laval, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec had the highest yield per colony (40.3 kg/colony), while Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec had the lowest (14.7 kg/colony).

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

Table 1
Principal honey statistics by administrative region group,
Québec, 2017¹

Administrative region group	Active beekeepers	Colonies ²	Production		Sales		
			Per colony ³	Total	Total	Average price	Total value
	n		kg/n	t	t	\$/kg	\$K
Bas-Saint-Laurent (01), Gaspésie–Îles-de-la-Madeleine (11)	19	3,130	22.9	71.6	98.7	9.53	941.3
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean (02), Capitale- Nationale (03), Côte-Nord (09), Chaudière- Appalaches (12)	99	12,879	24.1	302.8	416.2	6.53	2,719.4
Mauricie (04), Centre-du-Québec (17)	45	12,130	14.7	130.2	134.2	8.91	1,195.6 *
Estrie (05), Montérégie (16)	135	13,377	36.4	480.1	528.8	7.96	4,208.8
Montréal (06), Outaouais (07), Abitibi- Témiscamingue (08), Nord-du-Québec (10), Laval (13)	42	13,407	40.3	540.6	527.8	8.53	4,499.9
Lanaudière (14), Laurentides (15)	62	6,097	29.6	163.7	163.6	9.51	1,555.1
Total	402	61,020	29.9	1 689.1	1,869.3	8.08	15,120.0

Unless otherwise indicated, coefficient of variation lower than 15%; estimate good to excellent.

* Coefficient of variation between 15% and 25%; estimate must be interpreted with caution.

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

1. Data pertaining to beekeepers with at least six colonies in production.
2. Includes the colonies of beekeepers who did not harvest any honey.
3. Calculated based on the colonies of beekeepers who harvested honey.

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

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2017.

Table 2
Sales of bee products, Québec, 2012-2017¹

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016
	\$K						%
Honey	12,291.0	12,278.8	13,386.4	13,904.8	15,074.5	15,120.0	0,3%
Pollination	4,112.8	3,994.6	5,109.0	5,983.3	8,020.2	6,515.7	-18,8%
Other products ²	920.4	879.5	1,170.9	1,599.4	1,598.6	1,884.7	17,9%
Total	17,324.2	17,152.9	19,666.3	21,487.5	24,693.3	23,520.4	-4,7%

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1. Data pertaining to beekeepers with at least six colonies in production.
2. Queen bees, nucleus colonies, pollen, beeswax, royal jelly and propolis (as of 2008).

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

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2012 to 2017.

Table 3
Statistics on the rental of colonies for pollination by crop type,
Québec, 2017¹

Crop	Rental		
	Colonies	Average price	Total value
	n	\$/n	\$K
Blueberry	30,165	129.54	3,908.5
Cucumber	76	68.90	5.2 *
Strawberry	430 *	85.11	36.8 *
Cranberry	17,462	135.20	2,362.4
Apple	2,253	64.02	144.2
Other	682	85.92	58.6
Total	51,068	127.54	6,515.7

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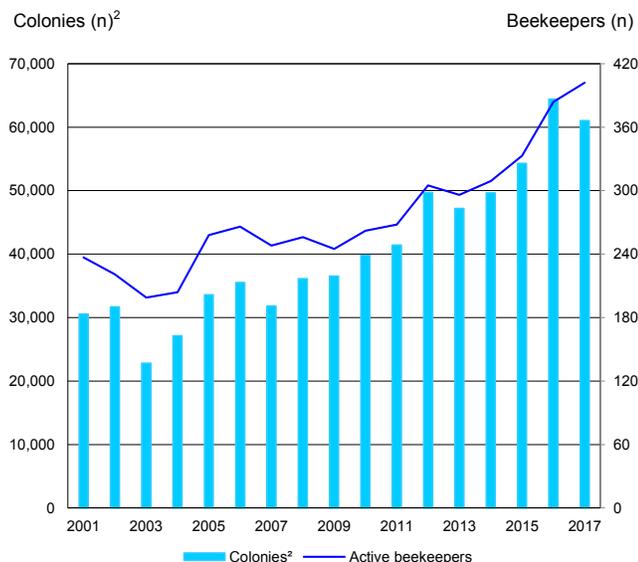
** Coefficient of variation greater than 25%; imprecise estimate provided for information purposes only.

1. Data pertaining to beekeepers with at least six colonies in production.

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

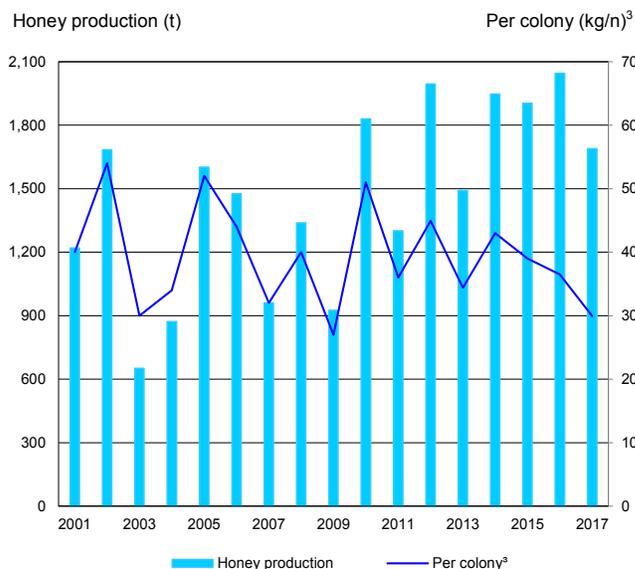
Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2017.

Figure 1
Trends in number of colonies and active beekeepers, Québec, 2001-2017¹



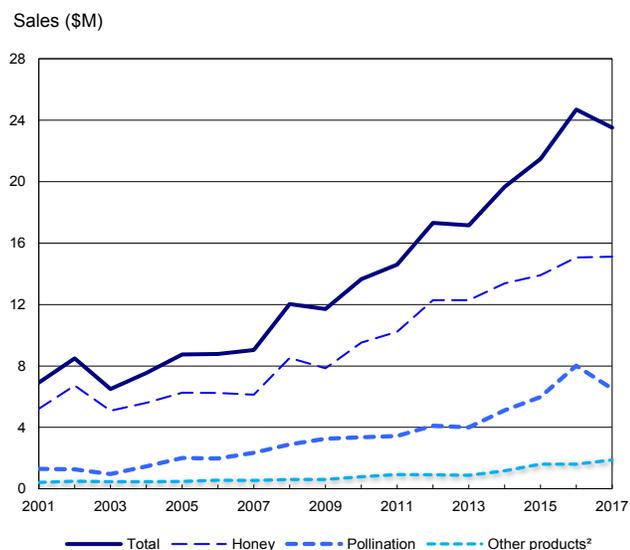
Source and notes: See Table 1.

Figure 2
Trends in honey production, Québec, 2001-2017¹



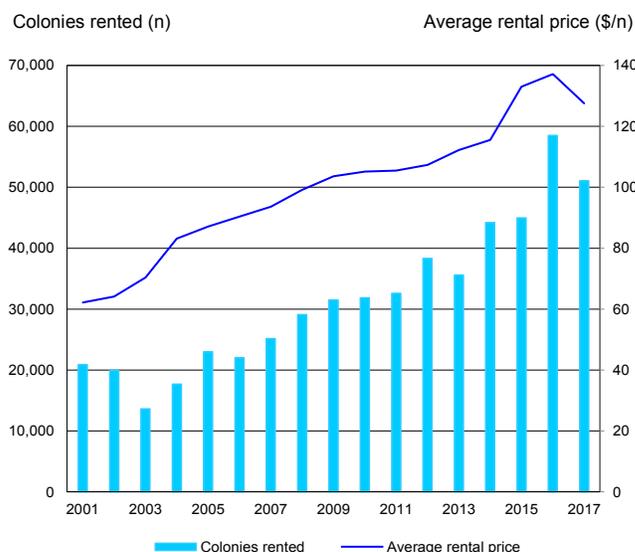
Source and notes: See Table 1.

Figure 3
Trends in sales of bee products, Québec, 2001-2017¹



Source and notes: See Table 2.

Figure 4
Trends in number of colonies rented out for pollination and average rental price, Québec, 2001-2017¹



Source and notes: See Table 3.

Suggested citation:

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