

Highlights from the *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*

July 2019

2018 Survey

The 2018 survey was carried out by the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) and covered Québec beekeepers with at least six colonies in production. This survey aims to provide a picture of beekeeping in Québec and track any changes in this industry. The data produced from this survey are available on the ISQ's website.

Honey production

In 2018, it was estimated that there were 425 beekeepers in Québec (+5.7% from 2017) who operated 60,439 colonies (-1.0%). Honey production stood at 2,029.3 metric tonnes (t) (+20.1%). By comparison, honey production averaged 1,814.9 t per year between 2013 and 2017. Yield per colony was 36.3 kilograms (kg) (+21.4%), similar to the average annual yield obtained between 2013 and 2017 (36.5 kg).

Honey sales

The volume of honey sales reached 2,199.2 t in 2018, up 17.6% from 2017, while the average price paid to producers was \$7.57/kg (-6.3%). This increase in volume helped bring honey sales to \$16.7 million (+10.1%).

Colony rentals

The number of colonies rented out for pollination (54,288; +6.3%), the average rental price per colony (\$129.27/colony; +1.4%), and total rental revenue (\$7.0 million; +7.7%) all increased in 2018 from 2017. Colonies rented for blueberry (31,853) and cranberry (18,348) production accounted for 92.5% of the total number of colonies rented.

Total value

The total value of bee production (\$25.4 million) increased by 8.1% from 2017. It was higher than the average annual value registered between 2013 and 2017 (\$21.3 million). The share of honey sales (\$16.7 million) in relation to total bee production rose from 64.3% in 2017 to 65.5% in 2018, while the share of colony rentals (\$7.0 million) remained stable (going from 27.7% to 27.6%). The share of sales of other products (\$1.8 million) declined by 1.1 percentage points (from 8.0% to 6.9%).

Québec regions

The combined regions of Estrie and Montérégie (152 beekeepers and 14,178 colonies) and of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord and Chaudière-Appalaches (103; 13,997) had the highest number of beekeepers and colonies in Québec in 2018. The combined regions of Montréal, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Nord-du-Québec and Laval (44.8 kg/colony) and of Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (44.0 kg/colony) had the highest yield per colony, while Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec had the lowest (16.1 kg/colony).

For complete data from the *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec – 2018 Survey*: www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/agriculture/apiculture-miel/index_an.html.

Principal honey statistics by combined administrative regions, Québec, 2018

Combined administrative regions	Active beekeepers	Colonies ¹	Honey production		Honey sales		
			Per colony ²	Total	Total	Average price	Total value
	n	n	kg/n	t	t	\$/kg	\$/K
Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	18	4,242	44.0	187.1	136.6	8.36	1,142.1
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord and Chaudière-Appalaches	103	13,997	40.9	577.2	637.3	6.78	4,319.0
Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec	50	11,173	16.1	115.5	116.6	9.21	1,074.4
Estrie and Montérégie	152	14,178	33.8	477.3	483.3	7.32	3,536.3
Montréal, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Nord-du-Québec and Laval	43	11,736	44.8	523.8	672.3	7.71	5,185.9
Lanaudière and Laurentides	59	5,113	32.6	148.4	153.0	9.13	1,396.8
Total	425	60,439	36.3	2,029.3	2,199.2	7.57	16,654.6

Value of bee production, Québec, 2013-2018

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018/2017
	\$/K						%
Honey sales	12,278.8	13,386.4	13,904.8	15,074.5	15,120.0	16,654.6	10.1
Colony rentals	3,994.6	5,109.0	5,983.3	8,020.2	6,515.7	7,018.6	7.7
Sales of other products ³	879.5	1,170.9	1,599.4	1,598.6	1,884.7	1,758.5	-6.7
Total	17,152.9	19,666.3	21,487.5	24,693.3	23,520.4	25,431.7	8.1

Statistics on the rental of colonies for pollination by crop type, Québec, 2018

Crop	Colonies rented	Average price	Total value
	n	\$/n	\$/K
Blueberry	31,853	134.15	4,272.7
Cranberry	18,348	132.66	2,433.9
Other ⁴	4,086	76.36	312.0
Total	54,288	129.27	7,018.6

\$ In dollars \$K In thousands of dollars kg Kilogram
n Number t Metric tonnes

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. Includes the colonies of beekeepers who did not harvest any honey.
2. Estimated based on the colonies of beekeepers who harvested honey.
3. Queen bees, nucleus colonies, pollen, beeswax, royal jelly and propolis.
4. Cucumber, strawberry, apple, and various crops not elsewhere specified.

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

Figures may not add up to totals due to rounding.

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec.

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