

HIGHLIGHTS

from the *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec* 2019 survey

The 2019 survey conducted by the Institut de la statistique du Québec (ISQ) covered Québec beekeepers with at least six colonies in production. This survey aims to provide a picture of beekeeping in Québec and monitor the evolution of this industry. The data produced from this survey are available on the ISQ's website.

Honey production

In 2019, there were an estimated 440 beekeepers in Québec operating nearly 66,700 colonies (+10.4% from 2018). Honey production stood at approximately 1,798 metric tonnes (t) (-11.4%). By comparison, honey production averaged 1,922.6 t per year between 2014 and 2018. Yield per colony was 29.7 kilograms (kg) (-18.2%), below the average annual yield obtained between 2014 and 2018 (36.8 kg).

Honey sales

The volume of honey sales totalled 2,003.9 t in 2019, down 8.9% from 2018, while the average price paid to producers was about \$7.67/kg (+1.3%). The decline in sales volume negatively impacted the value of sales, which decreased to \$15.4 million (-7.5%).

Colony rentals

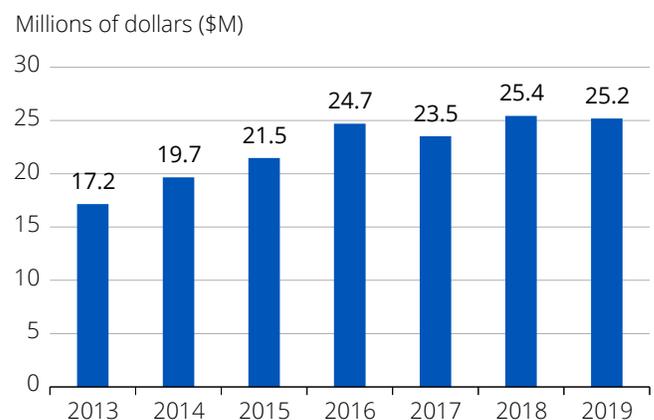
The number of colonies rented out for pollination was little changed in 2019 from the previous year, at 55,283 (54,288 in 2018). The average rental price per colony (\$136.42/colony; +5.5%) and total rental revenue (\$7.6 million; +8.5%) were both up in 2019 from 2018. Colonies rented for blueberry (34,066) and cranberry (18,188) production accounted for 93.8% of all colonies rented.

Total value

The total value of bee production in 2019 is estimated at \$25.2 million (-0.9% from 2018), above the average annual value registered between 2014 and 2018 (\$23.0 million). The share of honey sales (\$15.4 million) in relation to total bee production declined from 65.5% in 2018 to 61.2% in 2019. The share of colony rentals (\$7.6 million) rose from 27.6% to 30.2%, while that of other bee products (\$2.2 million) increased from 6.9% to 8.6%.

Figure 1

Value of bee production, Québec, 2013-2019



Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec. *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec, 2013 to 2019.*

Québec regions

The combined regions of Estrie and Montérégie had the highest number of beekeepers in Québec (162), followed by Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord and Chaudière-Appalaches (101). The combined regions of Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord and Chaudière-Appalaches led the way in terms of the number of colonies (14,743), along with Montréal, Laval, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nord-du-Québec

(14,604). The combined regions of Estrie and Montérégie had the highest yield per colony (37.6 kg/colony), while Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec had the lowest (15.1 kg/colony).

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

Table 1

Principal honey statistics by combined administrative regions, Québec, 2019

Combined administrative regions	Active beekeepers	Colonies ¹	Honey production		Honey sales		
			Per colony ²	Total	Total	Average price	Total value
			kg/n	t	t	\$/kg	\$K
Bas-Saint-Laurent and Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine	19	5,523	28.0	154.9	185.7	7.45	1,382.6
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean, Capitale-Nationale, Côte-Nord and Chaudière-Appalaches	101	14,743	25.1	353.5	375.9	5.90	2,216.8
Mauricie and Centre-du-Québec	50	11,420	15.1	130.8	139.9	9.86	1,379.1*
Estrie and Montérégie	162	14,549	37.6	507.5	483.4	6.54	3,162.6
Montréal, Outaouais, Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Nord-du-Québec and Laval	47	14,604	32.3	457.9	657.8	8.43	5,545.2
Lanaudière and Laurentides	61	5,861	37.2	193.4	161.3	10.67	1,721.6
Total	440	66,700	29.7	1,798.1	2,003.9	7.67	15,407.9

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

1. Includes the colonies of beekeepers who did not harvest any honey.
2. Estimate calculated based on the colonies of beekeepers who harvested honey.

Notes: Unless otherwise indicated, coefficient of variation lower than 15%; estimate good to excellent.
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. *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2019.

Table 2

Value of bee production, Québec, 2013-2019

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019/2018
	\$K							%
Honey sales	12,278.8	13,386.4	13,904.8	15,074.5	15,120.0	16,654.6	15,407.9	-7.5
Colony rentals	3,994.6	5,109.0	5,983.3	8,020.2	6,515.7	7,018.6	7,616.3	8.5
Sales of other products ¹	879.5	1,170.9	1,599.4	1,598.6	1,884.7	1,758.5	2,170.2	23.4
Total	17,152.9	19,666.3	21,487.5	24,693.3	23,520.4	25,431.7	25,194.4	-0.9

1. Queen bees, nucleus colonies, pollen, beeswax, royal jelly and propolis.

Notes: Unless otherwise indicated, coefficient of variation lower than 15%; estimate good to excellent.
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. *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2013 to 2019.

Table 3

Statistics on the rental of colonies for pollination by crop type, Québec, 2019

Crop	Colony rentals		
	Colonies rented	Average price	Total value
	n	\$/n	\$K
Blueberry	34,066	141.40	4,817.1
Cranberry	18,188	139.51	2,537.3
Other ¹	3,569	73.41	262.0
Total	55,823	136.42	7,616.3

1. Cucumber, strawberry, apple, and various crops not elsewhere specified.

Notes: Unless otherwise indicated, coefficient of variation lower than 15%; estimate good to excellent.
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. *Survey on Beekeeping in Québec*, 2019.

Suggested citation:

INSTITUT DE LA STATISTIQUE DU QUÉBEC (2019). *Highlights from the Survey on Beekeeping in Québec: 2019 Survey, Québec, 3p*. Retrieved from www.stat.gouv.qc.ca/statistiques/agriculture/apiculture-miel/FS_apicole19_an.pdf.

This bulletin was prepared at the Institut de la statistique du Québec by:

Patricia Beaugard Desjardins, Geographer

Direction des statistiques sectorielles et du développement durable

Sylvain Carpentier, Director

With the collaboration of:

Émilie Granger, translation

Isabelle Jacques, layout

Direction de la diffusion et des communications

For more information:

Information and Documentation Centre
Institut de la statistique du Québec
200, chemin Sainte-Foy, 3^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5T4

Telephone:
418-691-2401
1-800-463-4090 (Canada and United States)

E-mail: cid@stat.gouv.qc.ca

Website: www.stat.gouv.qc.ca

Legal deposit

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
4th quarter 2020
ISSN 2562-6809 (printed version)
ISSN 2560-8835 (online)

© Gouvernement du Québec
Institut de la statistique du Québec, 2019

Any reproduction other than for personal use is prohibited without the authorization of the Gouvernement du Québec.

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