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# Statistical Overview of the Canadian Honey and Bee Industry 2015

Prepared by:  
Horticulture and Cross Sectoral Division  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
September 2016



Government  
of Canada

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ISSN: 1925-3796  
AAFC No.: 12581E

Paru également en français sous le titre  
*Aperçu statistique de l'industrie apicole canadienne, 2015*  
ISSN: 1925-380X  
No d'AAC: 12581F

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## Overview

In 2015, over 8,500 beekeepers across Canada kept one or more honey bee colonies, with a total national population of over 720,000 colonies. After four years of growth, the number of beekeepers fell 4% in 2015 from the previous year. The total number of honey bee colonies has continuously increased over the past decade, peaking in 2015. The increase in the numbers of colonies correlated with rising honey prices which drove the total value of honey produced in Canada to \$231 million in 2015. The year 2015 also saw record volumes of honey production, estimated at 95 million pounds, 5% more than the 90.5 million pounds recorded in 2012.

The majority of bee colonies are in the Prairies, where long summer days and a favourable crop mix are ideal for foraging; Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba collectively accounted for 68% of the country's total honey production. Alberta alone had 296,000 bee colonies in 2015, which represents 41% of Canada's total.

Ontario currently has the largest number of beekeepers, with 2,562 of the 8,533 national total. British Columbia and Alberta have the second and third largest number of beekeepers, with 2,363 and 1,000 beekeepers respectively.

The Prairie provinces, taken together, produced 77 million pounds, which comprises 81% of Canada's honey production in 2015. Alberta contributed the most to Canada's overall honey production with 45%, followed by Saskatchewan (20%) and Manitoba (17%). Alberta experienced the largest increases in honey production and value in 2015 (20% and 17%, respectively).

In 2015, Canada's honey industry recorded a positive trade balance of \$23.7 million, up 46% from the previous year's balance. However, this increase in trade balance in 2015 still remains lower than the highest trade balance of \$58.3 million achieved in 2012. After two consecutive years of decreases since 2012, Canada's total honey export was over \$64 million in 2015, an increase of 33% from 2014. The United States is the largest export destination for Canadian honey and accounted for 69% of all honey exports in 2015. The second and third largest honey export destinations are Japan and China, respectively.

Canada imported \$41 million worth of honey in 2015, the highest total value of imports in the previous five years. In recent years, Argentina was the largest exporter of honey (by value) to Canada; however, its total value of honey exports to Canada declined significantly, from \$5.6 million in 2014 to just \$1.5 million in 2015, dropping to seventh place among exporting countries. New Zealand became the largest exporter of honey to Canada in 2015, with an import value of \$7.5 million. Brazil and the United States were the second and third largest sources of Canadian imports, valued at \$7.3 million and \$6.2 million, respectively. Most of the imports from New Zealand and Brazil are types of honey that are not produced here, such as that from Manuka flowers, which generate premium prices.



# 1. Production

## 1.1. Number of beekeepers<sup>1</sup> by province

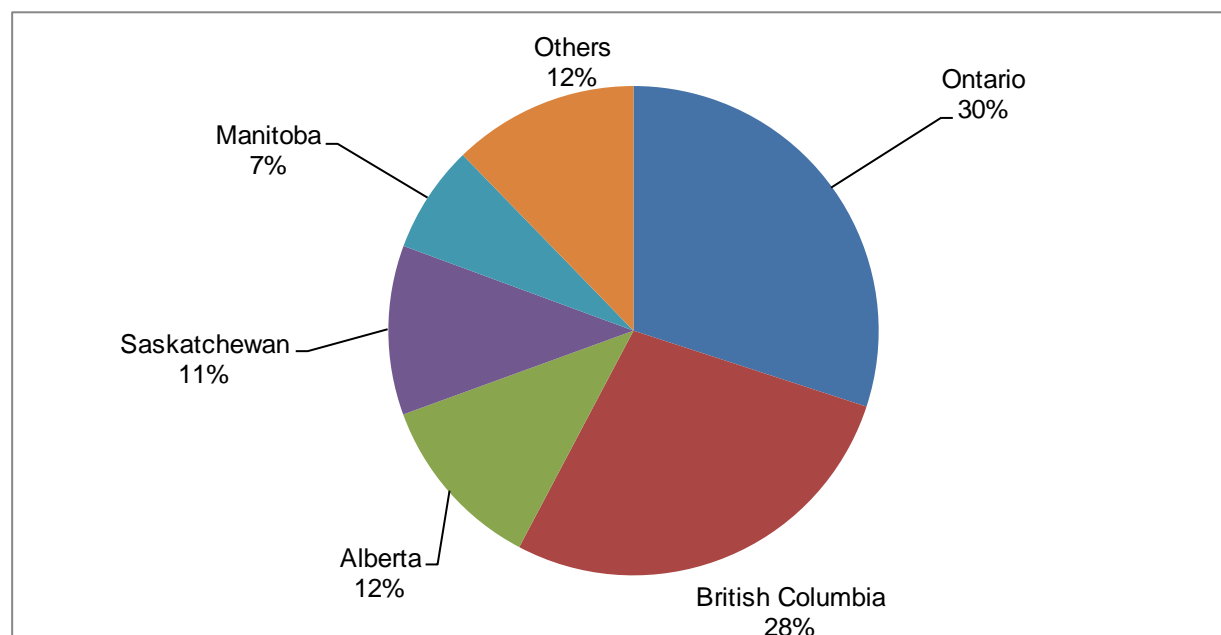
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Prince Edward Island	43	46	47	45	45
Nova Scotia	209	230	287	320	395
New Brunswick	209	244	244	277	291
Quebec	268	305	296	309	315
Ontario	2,900	3,200	3,155	3,262	2,562
Manitoba	501	517	532	546	607
Saskatchewan	850	748	715	719	955
Alberta	798	883	890	1,015	1,000
British Columbia	1,935	2,139	2,323	2,405	2,363
<b>Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>7,713</b>	<b>8,312</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>8,898</b>	<b>8,533</b>

Notes:

1. Beekeeper numbers may include providers of pollination services.
2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has no honey production to report.

Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)

## 1.2. Number of beekeepers by province – percent share, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)



### 1.3. Number of colonies<sup>1</sup> by province

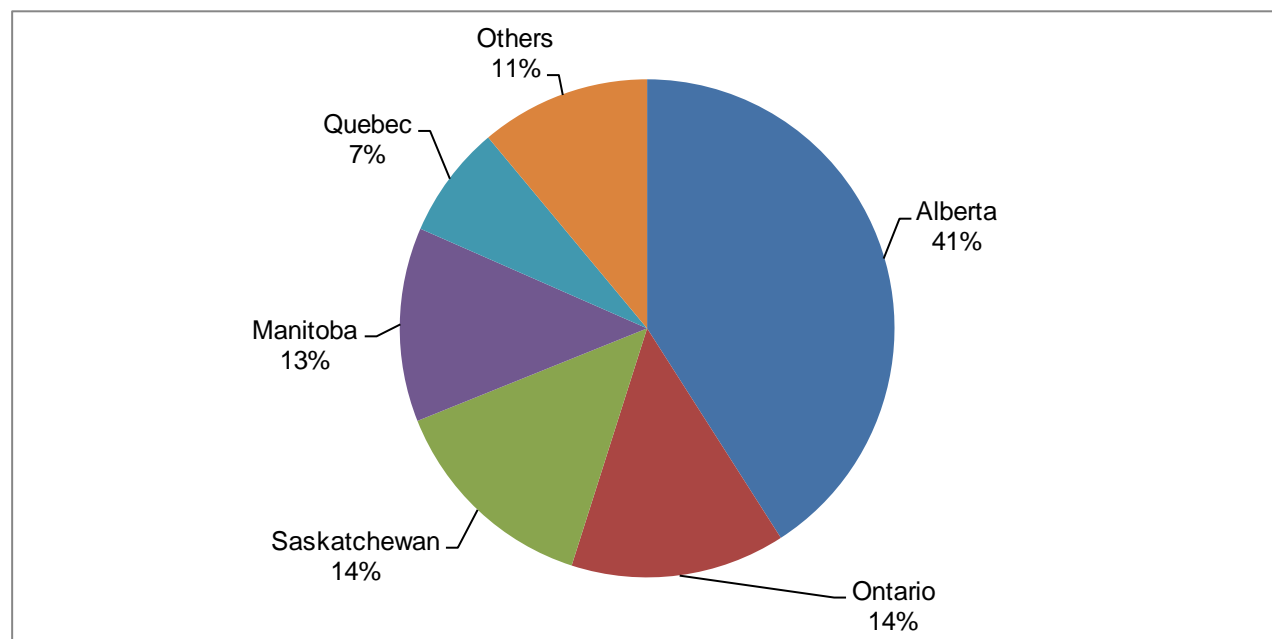
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Prince Edward Island	2,954	3,719	4,432	3,777	4,005
Nova Scotia	19,300	19,000	19,500	23,000	23,776
New Brunswick	4,500	5,650	4,318	5,441	6,710
Quebec	41,407	49,708	47,203	49,635	53,000
Ontario	90,000	101,000	97,500	112,800	101,135
Manitoba	77,000	80,000	73,800	78,700	90,909
Saskatchewan	90,000	110,000	100,000	95,000	101,000
Alberta	274,600	278,400	278,100	282,900	295,000
British Columbia	38,159	42,560	42,544	44,999	45,571
<b>Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>637,920</b>	<b>690,037</b>	<b>667,397</b>	<b>696,252</b>	<b>721,106</b>

Notes:

1. Colony numbers may include providers of pollination services.
2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has no honey production to report.

Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)

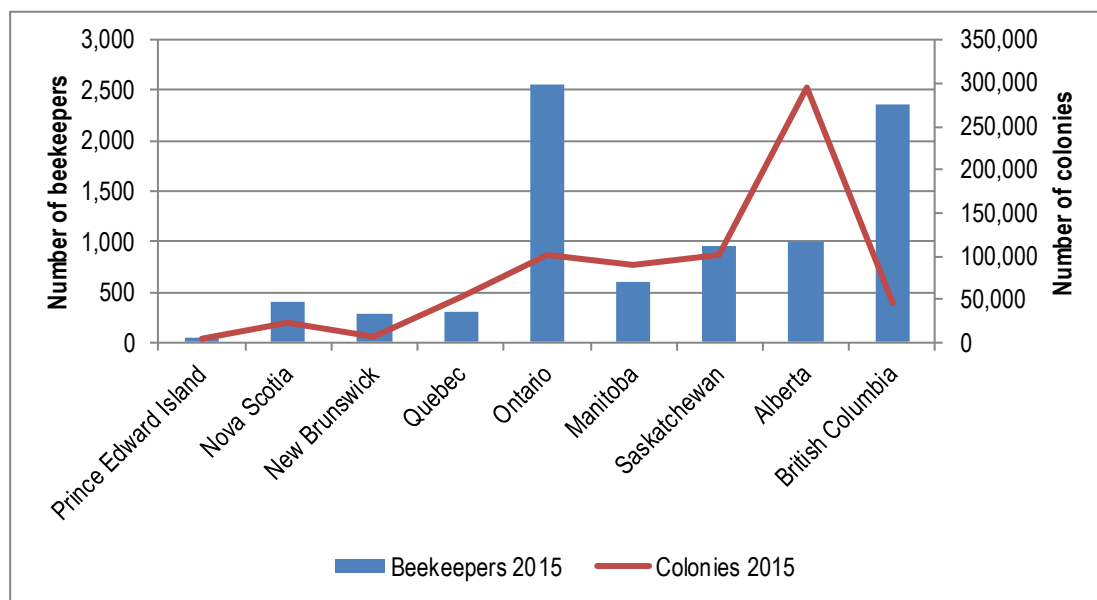
### 1.4. Number of colonies by province – percent share, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)



### 1.5. Number of beekeepers and number of colonies by province



Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)





### 1.6. Total honey production<sup>1</sup> by province – thousands of pounds

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Prince Edward Island	271	184	176	155	164
Nova Scotia	248	400	495	430	420
New Brunswick	208	199	207	236	276
Quebec	2,867	4,395	3,286	4,196	3,747
Ontario	9,023	9,439	6,363	10,577	9,405
Manitoba	15,400	13,200	12,472	14,087	16,000
Saskatchewan	15,930	23,125	18,200	16,530	18,837
Alberta	34,050	38,000	33,200	35,500	42,755
British Columbia	1,826	1,817	2,069	3,840	3,692
<b>Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>79,824</b>	<b>90,759</b>	<b>76,468</b>	<b>85,551</b>	<b>95,296</b>

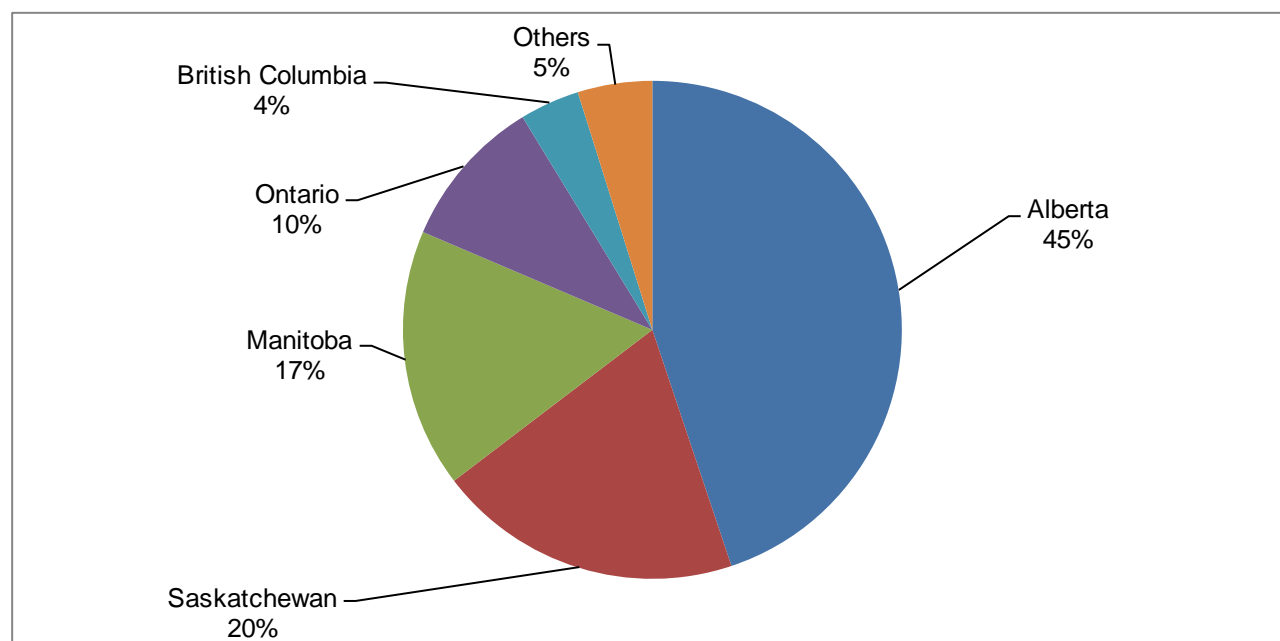
Notes:

1. Production excludes inventory

2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has limited beekeeping.

Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)

### 1.7. Total honey production by province – percent share<sup>1</sup>, 2015



Note:

1. Total is not equal to 100 due to rounding.

Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)



### 1.8. Value<sup>1</sup> of honey by province - thousands of dollars

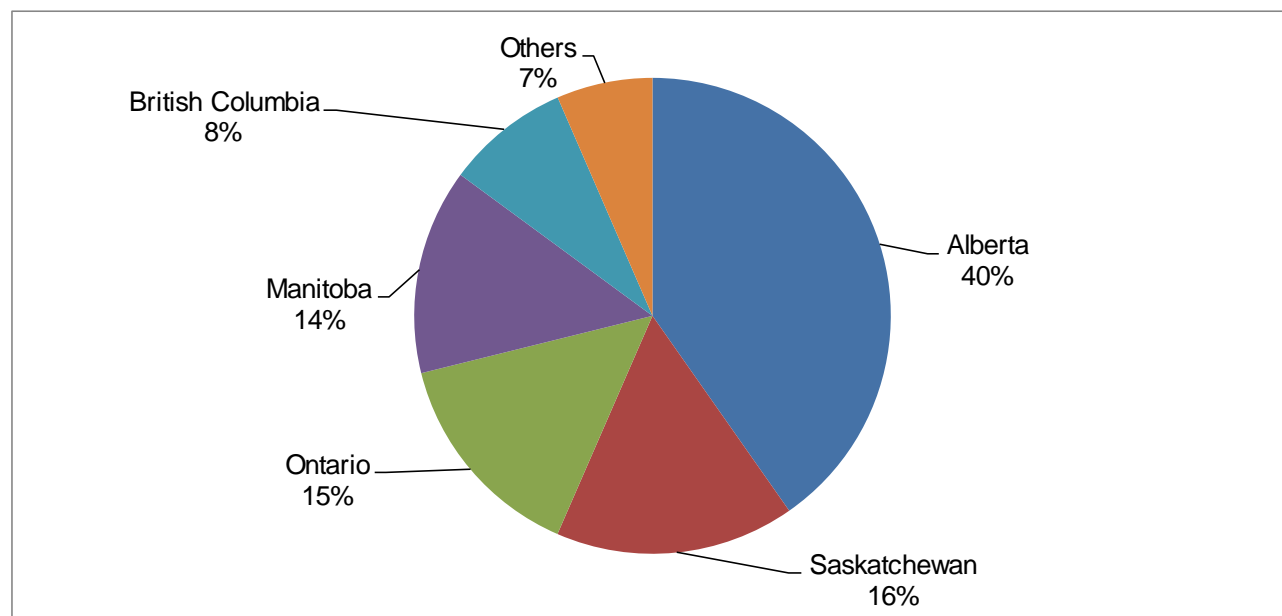
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Prince Edward Island	813	551	453	415	569
Nova Scotia	745	1,260	1,559	1,257	1,297
New Brunswick	781	503	517	630	740
Quebec	10,234	12,291	12,279	13,386	12,500
Ontario	22,537	23,815	20,362	36,147	33,858
Manitoba	24,948	23,100	25,318	30,288	32,400
Saskatchewan	24,692	38,156	37,310	34,713	37,700
Alberta	59,168	68,340	72,905	79,788	93,418
British Columbia	6,774	8,190	10,580	12,617	19,471
<b>Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>150,691</b>	<b>176,206</b>	<b>181,283</b>	<b>209,241</b>	<b>231,953</b>

Notes:

1. Value excludes inventory sales except for in Quebec.
2. Newfoundland and Labrador is excluded since the province has limited beekeeping.

Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)

### 1.9. Value of honey by province – percent share, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 001-0007)



## 2. Trade

### 2.1. Trade balance

#### 2.1.1. Canada's honey trade balance – thousands of Canadian dollars

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Exports	38,543	73,237	59,135	48,426	64,883
Imports	13,324	14,923	26,015	32,215	41,209
<b>Trade Balance (Exports - Imports)</b>	<b>25,219</b>	<b>58,315</b>	<b>33,120</b>	<b>16,211</b>	<b>23,674</b>
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)					



## 2.2. Exports

### 2.2.1. Canada's honey exports by province<sup>1</sup> – value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

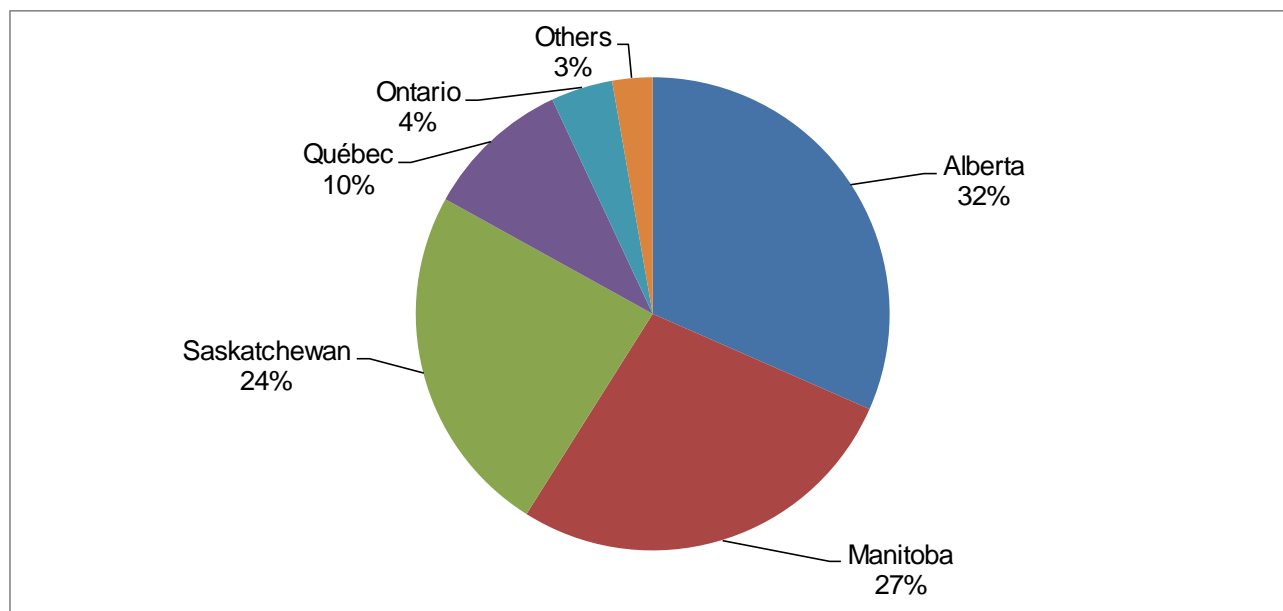
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Prince Edward Island	284	58	19	0	34
Nova Scotia	71	2	2	3	2
Quebec	7,149	19,265	11,650	4,369	6,480
Ontario	1,932	2,140	2,273	2,327	2,735
Manitoba	14,435	23,097	15,571	11,274	17,745
Saskatchewan	4,449	17,294	16,056	13,764	15,640
Alberta	9,389	10,995	12,832	14,929	20,499
British Columbia	835	386	733	1,759	1,748
<b>Canada</b>	<b>38,543</b>	<b>73,237</b>	<b>59,135</b>	<b>48,426</b>	<b>64,883</b>

Note:

1. Exports may include honey not produced in that province.

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)

### 2.2.2. Canada's honey exports by province – percent share, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)



### 2.2.3. Canada's honey exports by province - volume (metric tonnes)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Prince Edward Island	36	3	2	0	6
Nova Scotia	19	0	0	0	0
Quebec	1804	4963	2392	787	1116
Ontario	297	383	332	314	360
Manitoba	3600	5779	3334	2187	3316
Saskatchewan	1311	4455	3335	2645	2999
Alberta	2168	2566	2507	2840	3640
British Columbia	218	75	146	316	264
<b>Canada</b>	<b>9,453</b>	<b>18,224</b>	<b>12,050</b>	<b>9,090</b>	<b>11,701</b>
Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)					

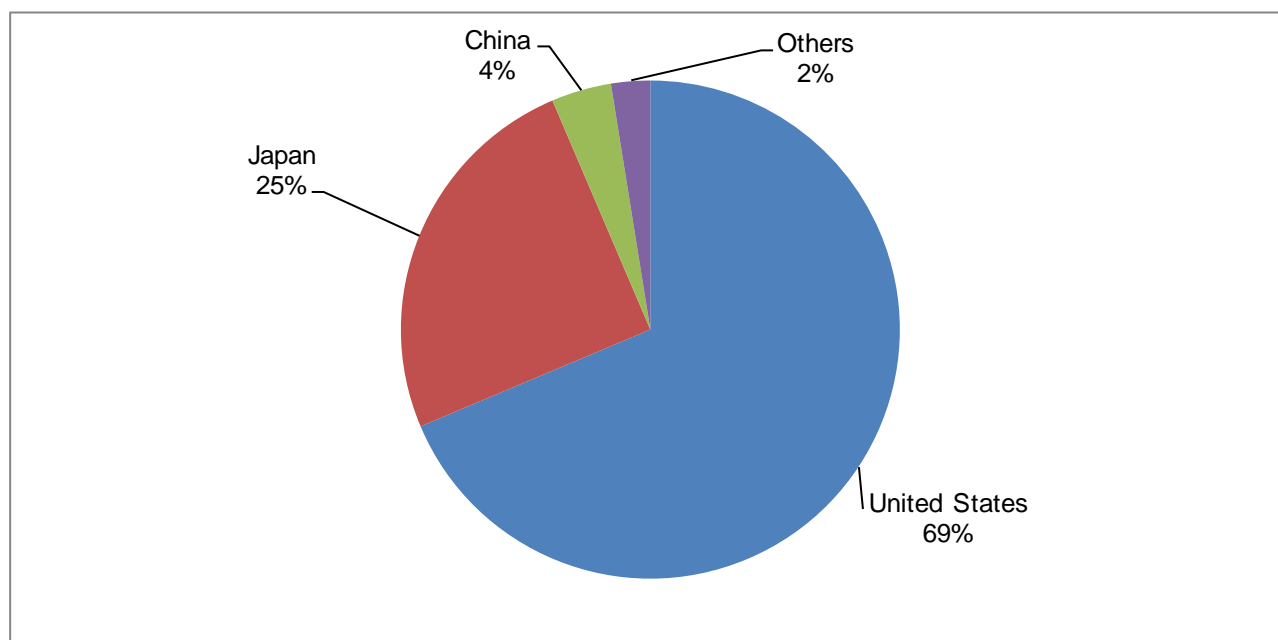


## 2.2.4. Canada's top 10 honey export destinations - value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
United States	27,605	61,870	45,454	29,705	44,541
Japan	7,860	8,771	11,873	16,308	16,176
China	973	1,067	1,174	1,665	2,522
South Korea	19	207	5	0	751
Hong Kong	368	332	141	504	287
France	262	379	233	1	221
Kuwait	0	0	0	0	118
Greece	24	17	2	0	66
Barbados	69	70	24	39	55
Algeria	14	0	0	0	31
Others	1,349	525	230	204	114
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,543</b>	<b>73,237</b>	<b>59,135</b>	<b>48,426</b>	<b>64,883</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)

## 2.2.5. Canada's top honey export destinations by country – percent share, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)



## 2.2.6. Canada's top 10 honey export destinations - volume (metric tonnes)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
United States	7,148	15,832	9,385	5,577	8,234
Japan	1,690	1,897	2,363	3,143	2,810
China	191	203	196	250	402
South Korea	4	37	1	0	116
Hong Kong	46	47	22	85	43
France	57	69	37	0	26
Kuwait	0	0	0	0	21
Greece	4	3	1	0	12
Barbados	12	12	4	6	9
Algeria	3	0	0	0	8
Others	297	123	40	29	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,453</b>	<b>18,224</b>	<b>12,050</b>	<b>9,090</b>	<b>11,701</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)



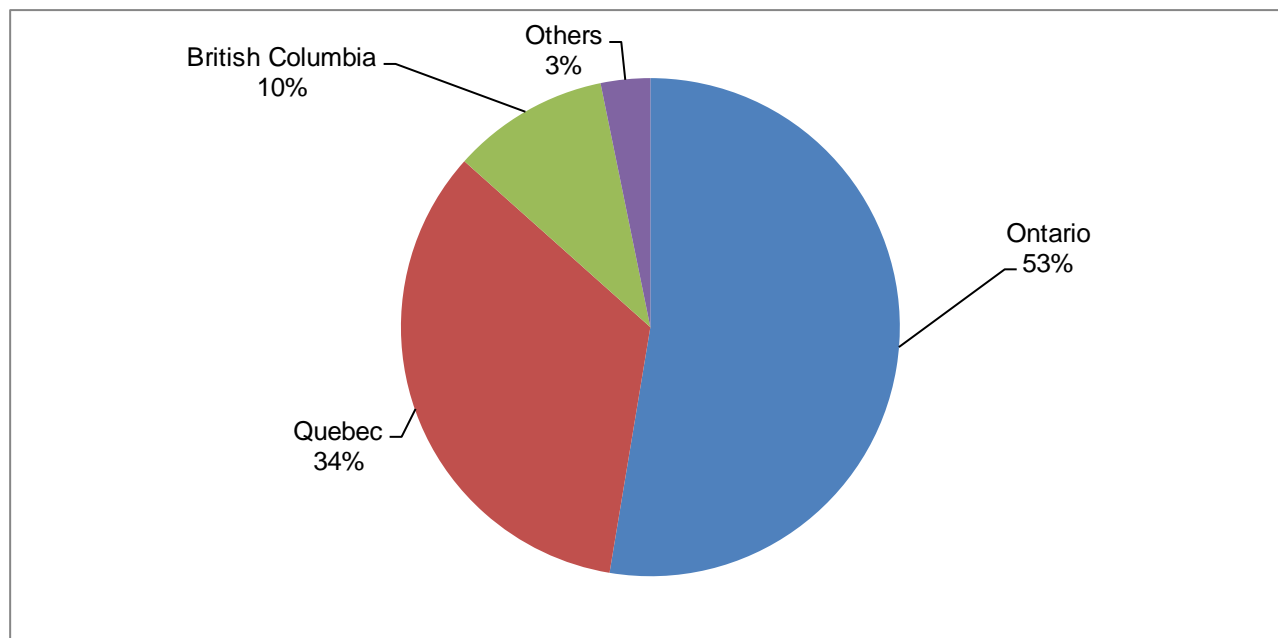
## 2.3. Imports

### 2.3.1. Canada's honey imports by province - value (Canadian dollars)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nova Scotia	749	760	3,087	2,819	408
New Brunswick	646	417	0	0	113
Quebec	3,878,440	4,750,239	6,722,969	11,426,777	14,004,883
Ontario	7,391,401	8,145,010	16,897,806	16,835,830	21,683,754
Manitoba	145,556	38,072	292,122	603,335	453,018
Saskatchewan	12,755	13,177	13,083	48	53,687
Alberta	18,897	79,620	9,986	123,767	813,019
British Columbia	1,875,952	1,895,226	2,076,442	3,222,272	4,199,835
<b>Canada</b>	<b>13,324,396</b>	<b>14,922,521</b>	<b>26,015,495</b>	<b>32,214,848</b>	<b>41,208,717</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)

### 2.3.2. Canada's honey imports by province – percent share, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)





### 2.3.3. Canada's honey imports by province - volume (kilograms)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nova Scotia	180	56	649	614	60
New Brunswick	131	73	0	0	9
Quebec	1,071,403	1,397,198	1,760,803	2,848,540	3,219,694
Ontario	1,499,611	1,801,179	3,400,794	3,105,020	3,552,532
Manitoba	38,193	8,784	69,323	57,412	53,698
Saskatchewan	2,598	2,231	3,074	4	5,583
Alberta	2,220	5,155	927	10,558	99,573
British Columbia	223,619	220,302	258,886	316,357	384,085
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,837,955</b>	<b>3,434,978</b>	<b>5,494,456</b>	<b>6,338,505</b>	<b>7,315,234</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)

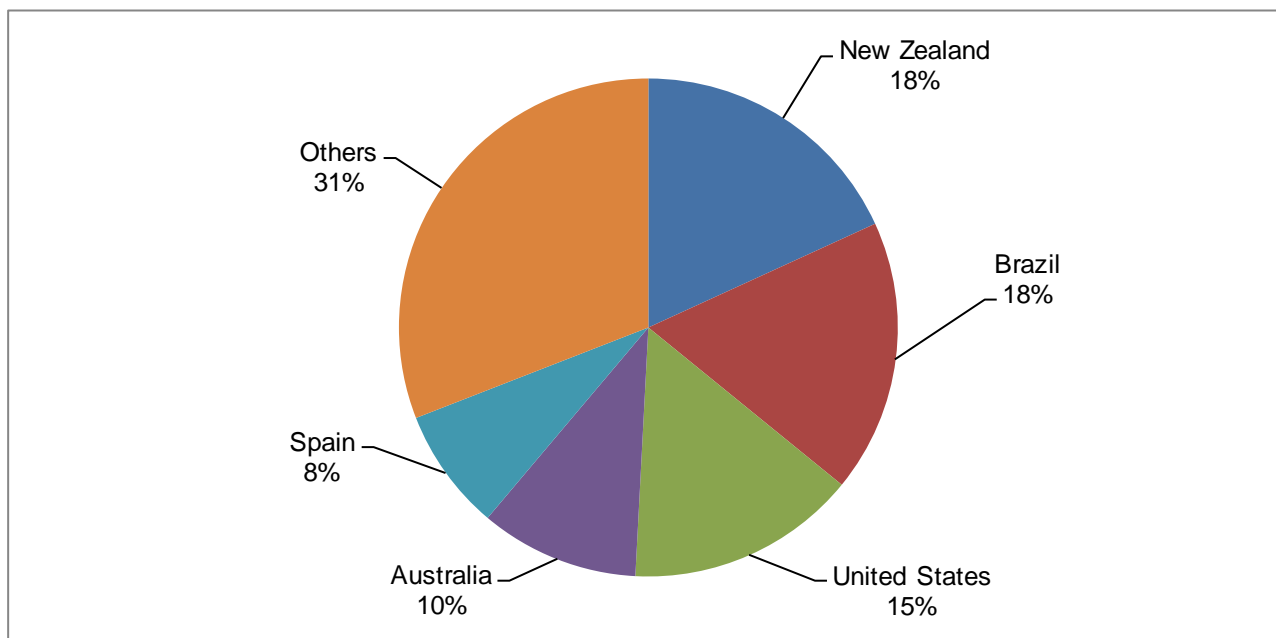


### 2.3.4. Canada's top 10 sources of honey imports - value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Zealand	2,157	2,799	3,749	4,652	7,484
Brazil	2,534	1,672	3,811	6,059	7,302
United States	1,633	1,447	3,065	3,759	6,162
Australia	2,132	2,600	2,789	2,610	4,250
Spain	31	21	42	332	3,271
Thailand	0	0	0	521	2,586
Argentina	1,138	3,834	8,696	5,574	1,512
China	61	198	71	1,216	1,433
Greece	749	788	1,388	878	1,399
India	633	387	582	1,072	1,036
Others	2,258	1,176	1,822	5,543	4,775
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,324</b>	<b>14,923</b>	<b>26,015</b>	<b>32,215</b>	<b>41,209</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)

### 2.3.5. Canada's top sources of honey imports by country - percent share, 2015



Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)



### 2.3.6. Canada's top 10 sources of honey imports - volume (metric tonnes)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Zealand	165	375	197	245	292
Brazil	750	495	1,039	1,430	1,528
United States	428	338	707	615	939
Australia	331	366	410	308	506
Spain	5	4	7	76	766
Thailand	0	0	0	167	765
Argentina	338	1,322	2,398	1,288	444
China	24	91	27	468	553
Greece	86	132	248	139	253
India	158	93	127	286	223
Others	553	220	335	1,317	1,046
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,838</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>5,494</b>	<b>6,339</b>	<b>7,315</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)



### 2.3.7. Canada's Sources for honey bee (package) imports - value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
New Zealand	2,746	2,110	3,398	3,794	3,602
Australia	333	414	1,494	1,579	1,275
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,079</b>	<b>2,524</b>	<b>4,892</b>	<b>5,388</b>	<b>5,101</b>

Notes:

Package bees are sold in a variety of sizes typically one pound, two pound and three pound packages. No detail on the individual numbers of different package sizes is available.

Does not include queen bees.

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)

### 2.3.8. Canada's sources for queen bee imports - value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
United States	3,021	3,399	4,265	5,364	6,417
Australia	150	264	259	109	56
Chile	156	50	168	149	128
New Zealand	159	149	91	104	109
Denmark	4	4	0	14	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,490</b>	<b>3,867</b>	<b>4,782</b>	<b>5,740</b>	<b>6,710</b>

Source: Statistics Canada (CATSNET, May 2016)



## 3. Consumption

### 3.1. Honey available for consumption<sup>1</sup> in Canada – kg per person

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Honey	0.91	0.81	0.84	1.06	1.14
Note: 1. Does not adjust for losses, such as waste and/or spoilage in stores, households, private institutions or restaurants or losses during preparation. Source: Statistics Canada (CANSIM Table 002-0011)					



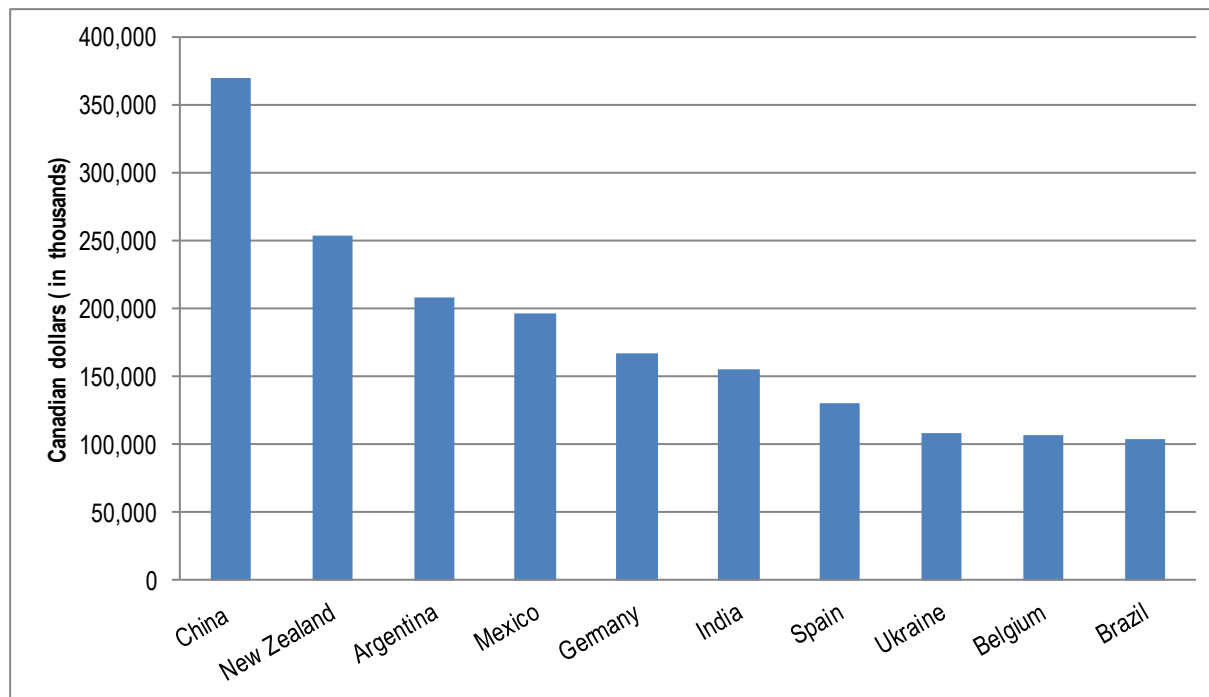
## 4. World data

### 4.1. Top 10 exporters of honey worldwide - value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
China	200,160	214,624	254,821	288,046	370,299
New Zealand	86,548	103,745	144,133	185,525	253,729
Argentina	220,465	215,152	217,318	224,349	208,015
Mexico	88,328	101,861	115,906	161,318	196,692
Germany	113,814	121,146	134,764	155,648	167,103
India	66,644	60,753	78,038	85,400	155,276
Spain	78,083	79,911	94,788	132,191	129,985
Ukraine	27,685	30,962	54,739	103,466	108,802
Belgium	53,907	54,137	68,580	83,454	106,408
Brazil	69,829	52,393	55,830	108,566	104,106
Others	493,534	622,907	1,084,661	827,064	896,370
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,498,997</b>	<b>1,657,590</b>	<b>2,303,579</b>	<b>2,355,027</b>	<b>2,696,786</b>

Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2016)

### 4.2. Top 10 honey exporting countries, 2015



Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2016)



### 4.3. Top 10 exporters of honey worldwide - volume (metric tonnes)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
China	99,894	110,158	124,901	129,824	144,756
New Zealand	8,416	8,616	9,568	9,503	10,646
Argentina	72,356	75,113	64,760	54,407	45,596
Mexico	26,888	32,040	33,458	39,152	42,161
Germany	19,025	21,112	21,921	22,872	23,731
India	25,343	24,514	29,465	26,976	40,829
Spain	18,449	19,661	21,284	26,111	30,150
Ukraine	9,894	13,320	21,731	36,336	36,051
Belgium	16,687	16,557	20,066	21,517	25,897
Brazil	22,399	16,707	16,181	25,317	22,206
Others	115,839	192,897	984,180	175,937	171,854
<b>Total</b>	<b>435,190</b>	<b>530,695</b>	<b>1,347,515</b>	<b>567,952</b>	<b>593,877</b>
Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2016)					

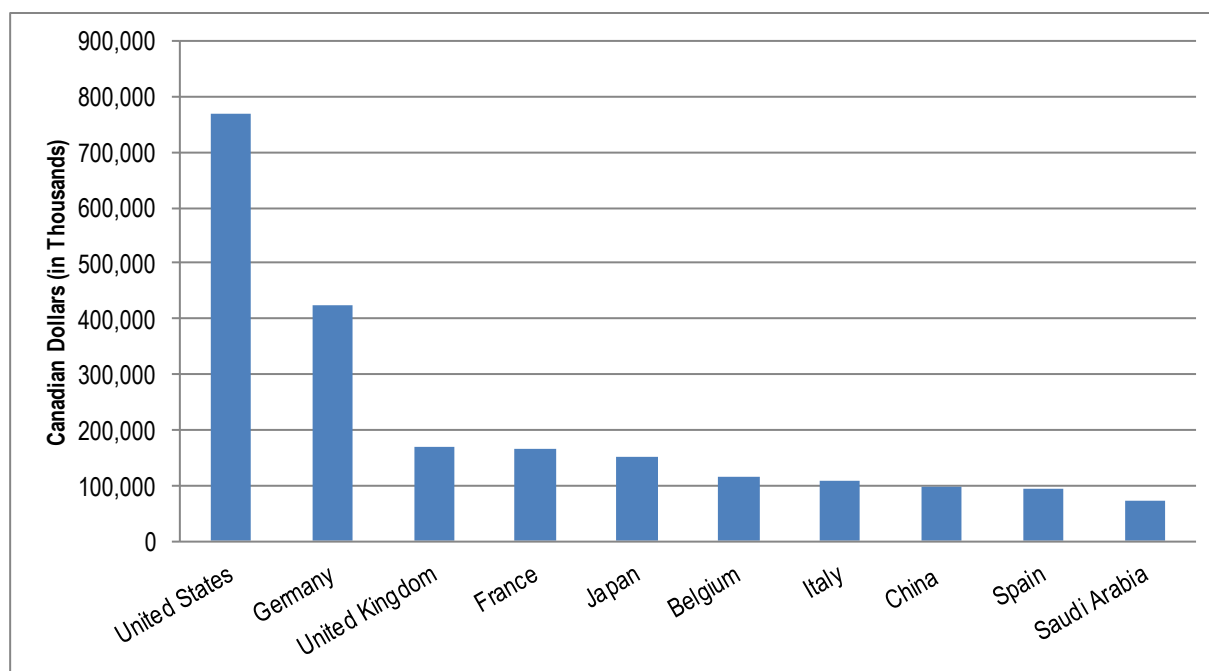


#### 4.4. Top 10 importers of honey worldwide - value (thousands of Canadian dollars)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
United States	394,983	430,371	513,947	641,588	770,172
Germany	269,927	281,283	335,528	353,906	424,409
United Kingdom	125,455	112,215	130,550	146,563	168,236
France	109,708	94,229	118,222	171,378	164,558
Japan	116,537	105,220	119,602	132,676	150,898
Belgium	56,076	55,739	65,375	85,930	115,667
Italy	57,329	55,921	77,875	100,075	108,756
China	12,766	26,219	44,284	64,754	96,064
Spain	43,103	48,155	54,944	67,204	93,012
Saudi Arabia	51,646	62,113	69,163	95,367	72,314
Others	393,773	413,773	492,117	614,016	718,688
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,631,303</b>	<b>1,685,236</b>	<b>2,021,607</b>	<b>2,473,458</b>	<b>2,882,774</b>

Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2016)

#### 4.5. Top 10 honey importing countries, 2015



Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2016)





#### 4.6. Top 10 importers of honey worldwide - volume (metric tonnes)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
United States	130,494	141,016	153,065	165,961	175,205
Germany	78,036	84,417	90,954	85,486	90,345
United Kingdom	35,812	34,214	38,338	39,029	41,893
France	27,574	25,840	28,989	34,715	32,932
Japan	40,584	36,823	39,030	37,870	36,222
Belgium	21,144	20,814	24,313	28,002	32,398
Italy	15,154	15,220	18,493	21,174	23,549
China	2,468	3,370	4,860	5,794	6,521
Spain	17,961	21,081	22,096	24,367	30,651
Saudi Arabia	14,003	16,552	17,502	21,393	15,035
Others	101,085	111,616	124,121	143,006	150,156
<b>Total</b>	<b>484,315</b>	<b>510,963</b>	<b>561,761</b>	<b>606,797</b>	<b>634,907</b>
Source: Global Trade Tracker (May 2016)					



## 5. Key Resources

- Global Trade Tracker
- Statistics Canada. (CANSIM TABLE 001-0007)
- Statistics Canada. (CANSIM TABLE 002-0001)
- Statistics Canada. CATSNET

Import and export data is based on the following Harmonized System Codes (H.S. Codes):

**Honey for import:** 0409000010 0409000021 0409000022 0409000023 0409000024  
0409000025 0409000026 0409000029 0409000090

**Honey for export:** 04090000

**Honey Bees for import:** 0106410011 0106410012 0106410020 0106900011 0106900012  
0106900020