



## 2002-2003 CANADIAN HONEY SITUATION AND TRENDS

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Market and Industry Services Branch  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5

<http://www.agr.gc.ca>

### Table of Contents

1. Overview	Page 02
Interesting Facts	Page 02
Nutritional Information	Page 03
2. Canadian Situation	Page 03
Production	Page 03
<u>Table 1</u> - Canadian Honey Production and Value	Page 03
<u>Table 2</u> - Number of Beekeepers, Hives and Yield per Hive in Canada	Page 04
Consumption	Page 05
3. Trade	Page 05
<u>Table 3</u> - Honey Exports by Province	Page 05
<u>Table 4</u> - Honey Exports Markets	Page 05
<u>Table 5</u> - Honey Imports by Major Countries	Page 06
4. United States Situation	Page 06
5. World Situation	Page 07
<u>Table 6</u> - Honey Production in Selected Countries	Page 07
6. Opportunities and Challenges	Page 07

## 1. OVERVIEW

In 2002, the western provinces from Manitoba to British Columbia all lost production due to the drought conditions that prevailed during the crop period. Eastern Canada was mainly the reverse as production was up in all provinces though drought conditions did have some minor effect in Quebec and Ontario. Overall preliminary Canadian production was down 5.9 % from 2001 and down 1 % from the previous five-year average.

Approximately seventy-eight percent of Canadian honey production is concentrated in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba (**Table 1**). With the presence of good foraging crops such as clover and canola, the long summer days can provide average yields exceeding 100 kilograms per hive. Most of the honey produced is sold in bulk to other parts of the country or exported, with much of it packaged in attractive consumer sized containers.

Beekeeping is practised throughout Canada by nearly 9,000 dedicated producers ranging from large commercial operations to part-time apiarists. For the period 1996 - 2001, the number of hives in Canada has been slowly increasing to reach 602,328 in 2001, though preliminary [Statistics Canada](#) 2002 data is showing a slight dip to 585,683. During this same time, there has been a rationalization among commercial beekeepers, with larger operators increasing holdings by buying out smaller operators. The average number of hives per beekeeper has increased by 74 % since 1992, rising from 38 to 66.

To maintain adequate colony numbers, Canadian beekeepers over-winter bees in Canada and supplement with imported honeybee queens from Hawaii and queens and packaged bees from New Zealand and Australia. Canada prohibited the importation of honeybees from the continental United States (U.S.) in 1987. The prohibition has been extended through December 2004 with the [Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#) (CFIA) reviewing the situation annually to ensure the ban is appropriate. Health concerns relative to the continental U.S. include the introduction/spread of fluvalinate resistant varroa mite, treatment resistant American foulbrood, the small hive beetle and the tracheal mite, as well as the possible importation of Africanized honeybees. Because of the widespread nature of these diseases/pests in the U.S. and in the absence of disease control programs, there is no authority that can certify **clean bees** for export to Canada. CFIA has completed a risk assessment of the impact of the unrestricted importation of honey bees from the U.S. The Canadian Honey Council will use the results of this assessment to develop a national industry consensus on the importation of queen bees prior to the January 2004 annual meeting in Winnipeg Manitoba. At the most recent (December 2002) annual meeting in Niagara Falls Ontario, it was important to note that recommendations were put forward for limited imports to Canada however Canadian Honey Council delegates passed a resolution recommending to CFIA that the border with the continental U.S. remain closed.

An important by-product of honeybees is their value in pollinating fruit, vegetables and other crops. The value of pollination to Canadian agriculture (the orchard industry for example) is estimated to be worth close to \$1 billion per year.

Other by-products of beekeeping include: wax for cosmetics, candles and crafts; pollen as a food supplement for bees and humans; as well as propolis and bee venom which are being researched for their health benefits.

Bee disease and pest management is vital to the future prosperity of the Canadian beekeeping industry. In this regard, the [Canadian Bee Research Fund](#) has been set up as a long-term endowment to support bee research. The [Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists](#) and the [Canadian Honey Council](#) jointly administer the fund.

Canadian pure honey is renowned world wide for its quality and flavour. Most Canadian honey is graded and marketed as Canada No.1 White and produced from white clover, canola and alfalfa. The lighter honey is often used to blend with darker honey to reduce the strong flavour in some honey. All packers must be registered with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency when trading internationally and inter-provincially.

### Interesting Facts

Honey is "manufactured" in one of the world's most efficient factories, the beehive. Bees may travel as far as 100,000 kilometres and visit more than two million flowers to gather enough nectar to make just 500 grams of honey.

The colour and flavour of honey differ depending on the bees' nectar source (the blossoms). In fact, there are more than 300 unique kinds of honey in North America, originating from such diverse floral sources as clover, canola, basswood, buckwheat and wildflowers. In general, lighter coloured honeys are mild in flavour; while darker honeys are usually more

robust in flavour.

### Nutritional Information

Honey is primarily composed of fructose, glucose and water. It also contains other sugars as well trace enzymes, minerals, vitamins and amino acids.

Honey contains a variety of minerals and trace elements in small amounts (0.1 to 1.5 %) depending on floral sources and geographic origin. Two tablespoons (30 ml) of honey contains 25 mg of potassium.

Honey contains trace amounts of vitamins C, B and sometimes A, D and K.

## 2. CANADIAN SITUATION

### Production

For 2002, preliminary Canadian honey production (**Table 1**) was estimated to be 33,296 metric tonnes (mt). The 2001 Statistics Canada revised production was reported at 35,387 mt after reaching the 1998 record level of 46,083 mt. In addition, production in 2002 was still 8 % below the 5-year average production during the period 1997-2001. Alberta retained its title of being the largest producing province, with increasing numbers of colonies estimated at 229,000 colonies versus 2001 of 227,000 hives (**Table 2**). Drought conditions continued in 2002. In 2002, Alberta had reduced production by 10 % from the previous year, while Saskatchewan produced an estimated 8,618 mt, a decrease of just over 11 % over 2001 of 9,752 mt, Manitoba production was reported at 6,511 also decreasing by 8 % over the previous year's 7,094 figure.

Ontario and Quebec witnessed increased production by 8 % and 47 % respectively due to better conditions in comparison to the western provinces.

The total value for 2001 (the most recent year available from Statistics Canada) Canadian honey amounted to \$92.9 million, up sharply over the previous 2 years of \$70.3 and \$69.3, though slightly below the 1998 record of \$93.5 million. Producer prices for bulk raw honey from the 2001 crop reached \$2.63 per kilograms (kg), up from \$2.18 in 2000 and higher than the record 1998 production level of \$2.03 per kg. The price of honey has increased on account of a world shortage of honey. It is due in part to drought in major producing areas, loss of Chinese honey from the market caused by antibiotic residue concerns as well as anti-dumping actions against China and Argentina in the U.S.

Alberta accounted for 32.8 % of Canadian production in 2002, followed by Saskatchewan with 25.9 %, Manitoba 19.6 %, Ontario 10.5 %, Quebec 5.5 %, British Columbia 4.3 %, and Atlantic Canada with 1.7 %. The average Canadian yield per hive in 2002 was 57 kg versus the 59 kg in 2001 and considerably below the record 82 kg attained in 1998. Saskatchewan remained the 2002 leader in yield, reaching 87 kg per colony though down from the 98 kg reached in 2001, but almost 53 % above the national average.

**Table 1 Canadian Honey production and Value**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
<b>PRODUCTION (metric tonnes)</b>											
Prince Edward Island	41	32	30	35	39	58	50	36	59	56	-5.1%
Nova Scotia	386	375	300	428	290	412	524	363	285	342	20.0%
New Brunswick	167	130	134	138	177	202	122	120	96	164	70.8%
Québec	1,854	946	2,045	1,169	1,312	2,116	1,847	1,159	1,219	1,800	47.7%
Ontario	4,799	2,815	3,790	3,458	3,318	4,776	3,740	3,249	3,219	3,490	8.4%
Manitoba	5,012	6,062	6,400	4,763	6,024	9,181	7,511	6,033	7,094	6,511	-8.2%
Saskatchewan	6,397	7,763	7,022	6,205	7,468	9,906	10,886	8,165	9,752	8,618	-11.6%
Alberta	10,770	14,064	9,664	9,169	10,716	17,388	11,251	10,926	12,150	10,907	-10.2%
British Columbia	1,347	2,066	1,190	1,612	1,666	2,044	1,166	1,806	1,513	1,408	-6.9%
Canada	30,773	34,253	30,575	26,977	31,010	46,083	37,097	31,857	35,387	33,296	-5.9%
<b>VALUE (\$'000)</b>											

Prince Edward Island	137	87	116	121	130	145	155	188	217		
Nova Scotia	791	1,294	1,094	1,532	1,016	1,445	1,825	1,240	692		
New Brunswick	482	442	384	520	590	525	354	594	471		
Québec	5,470	4,483	6,735	3,112	6,058	6,565	4,830	3,546	5,259		
Ontario	10,352	6,815	9,869	8,593	8,593	9,302	8,059	8,929	9,224		
Manitoba	6,932	9,063	12,843	13,140	15,250	17,200	12,420	12,917	16,735		
Saskatchewan	8,930	11,584	14,052	17,391	17,275	17,475	18,000	14,040	25,800		
Alberta	16,758	21,729	18,280	25,337	26,039	34,000	20,158	19,741	27,488		
British Columbia	3,302	4,840	3,303	5,525	6,859	6,827	4,561	8,089	7,032		
Canada	53,154	60,337	66,676	75,271	81,810	93,484	70,362	69,284	92,918		

Source: Statistics Canada

**Table 2 Number of Beekeepers, Hives and Yield per Hive in Canada**

PROVINCES	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
<b>Number of Beekeepers</b>											
Prince Edward Island	75	75	70	50	70	35	35	35	78	78	0.0%
Nova Scotia	510	522	463	475	455	450	440	450	400	418	4.5%
New Brunswick	510	510	480	480	480	275	275	275	284	284	0.0%
Québec	893	760	690	690	800	312	324	243	237	240	1.3%
Ontario	4,500	4,500	4,300	4,300	4,100	4,000	3,600	3,000	3,000	3,000	0.0%
Manitoba	800	800	800	800	830	855	855	860	800	800	0.0%
Saskatchewan	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,450	1,350	1,350	1,315	1,325	0.8%
Alberta	761	750	750	750	725	730	725	747	739	739	0.0%
British Columbia	3,700	2,839	2,221	2,122	2,020	2,393	2,357	2,293	2,249	2,000	-11.1%
Canada	13,149	12,156	11,174	11,067	10,880	10,500	9,961	9,253	9,102	8,884	-2.4%
<b>Number of Hives</b>											
Prince Edward Island	720	600	700	950	950	1,015	1,580	1,775	1,702	1,713	0.6%
Nova Scotia	11,200	12,500	10,300	8,000	14,700	16,500	17,500	19,500	20,500	20,500	0.0%
New Brunswick	4,900	5,200	5,900	6,100	6,500	5,560	6,000	7,585	4,874	5,100	4.6%
Québec	31,579	27,765	34,332	34,000	29,317	29,797	34,129	31,035	30,576	27,500	-10.1%
Ontario	92,000	85,000	84,000	84,000	77,000	81,000	85,000	80,000	75,000	75,000	0.0%
Manitoba	85,000	81,000	83,000	75,000	83,000	88,000	92,000	95,000	91,000	87,000	-4.4%
Saskatchewan	86,000	86,000	86,000	86,000	89,000	91,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	0.0%
Alberta	148,000	159,000	175,000	175,000	175,000	205,000	205,000	217,000	227,000	229,000	0.9%
British Columbia	44,985	44,200	41,750	45,261	44,521	45,742	47,615	47,968	51,676	39,870	-22.8%
Canada	504,384	501,265	520,982	514,311	519,988	563,614	588,824	599,863	602,328	585,683	-2.8%
<b>Number of Hives per Beekeeper</b>											
Prince Edward Island	10	8	10	19	14	29	45	51	22	22	0.0%
Nova Scotia	22	24	22	17	32	37	40	43	51	49	-4.3%
New Brunswick	10	10	12	13	14	20	22	28	17	18	4.6%
Québec	35	37	50	49	37	96	105	128	129	115	-11.2%
Ontario	20	19	20	20	19	20	24	27	25	25	0.0%
Manitoba	106	101	104	94	100	103	108	110	114	109	-4.4%
Saskatchewan	61	61	61	61	64	63	74	74	76	75	-0.8%
Alberta	194	212	233	233	241	281	283	290	307	310	0.9%
British Columbia	12	16	19	21	22	19	20	21	23	20	-13.2%
Canada	38	41	47	46	48	54	59	65	66	66	0.0%
<b>Yield per hive (kilograms)</b>											

Prince Edward Island	57	54	43	37	42	37	32	21	35	33	-5.7%
Nova Scotia	35	30	30	30	20	25	30	19	14	17	21.4%
New Brunswick	35	25	23	23	28	37	21	16	20	33	65.0%
Québec	59	35	60	35	45	72	55	38	40	66	65.0%
Ontario	53	34	46	42	44	59	44	41	43	47	9.3%
Manitoba	59	75	78	64	73	105	82	64	78	75	-3.8%
Saskatchewan	75	91	82	73	84	109	109	82	98	87	-11.2%
Alberta	73	89	56	53	66	85	55	51	54	48	-11.1%
British Columbia	30	47	29	36	38	45	25	38	30	36	20.0%
Canada	62	69	59	53	60	82	64	54	59	57	-3.4%

Source: Statistics Canada

### Consumption

Per capita consumption of honey for 2001 (the last reported year) was 0.78 kilograms (kg). Previously, per capita consumption for 2000 was at 0.62kg, 1999 at 0.82 kg and for the record 1998 production year of 1.02 kg.

### 3. TRADE

#### Canadian Exports Set Record in 2002

Canadian 2002 honey **exports** increased to a record 21,922 metric tonnes (mt), having increased 72.7 % over the previous year's 12,691 mt. The value of those exports increased to C\$87.9 million, a 170 % increase over 2001 at C\$32.6 million. The United States remained by far the primary destination in 2002, absorbing 90 % of total exports, followed by Germany with 5 % (**Table 3, 4**). During the five-year period 1997-2001, exports averaged 34 % of annual Canadian production while imports averaged 9 % of Canadian production. In 2002, Canada exported 2.7 times as much honey as was imported.

In 2002, **imports** were up 56 % over 2001 and up 165 % over the 1997-2001 average. However, 2002 was 61 % of the 1996 record high. Argentina accounted for 71 % of total imports while China only accounted for 14 %, followed by the U.S. with 8 %. Argentina's imports will probably continue to increase in 2003, in response to concerns over antibiotics in Chinese honey. The total value of all imports was C\$23.2 million in 2002, up 177 % over 2001 and increasing by 323 % over the 1997-2001 average (**Table 5**). Some imports of less expensive dark-coloured (amber) honey are utilized in the manufacturing of food products such as cereals.

**Table 3 Honey Exports by Provinces**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
<b>VOLUME (metric tonnes)</b>											
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	29	7.4%
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	160	-
New Brunswick	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	12	37	208.3%
Québec	367	1,077	2,263	965	679	643	624	551	1,070	1,921	79.5%
Ontario	607	810	1,730	4,276	862	330	465	501	1,192	886	-25.7%
Manitoba	3,688	3,022	6,018	2,542	2,684	5,318	7,594	9,016	6,698	8,750	30.6%
Saskatchewan	309	298	1,106	824	574	623	1,537	2,292	1,556	5,862	276.7%
Alberta	3,362	3,401	4,386	1,356	2,350	4,160	4,321	2,888	2,082	3,959	90.2%
British Columbia	20	36	63	17	152	134	180	30	54	318	488.9%
Canada	8,353	8,644	15,587	9,980	7,301	11,208	14,721	15,299	12,691	21,922	72.7%
<b>VALUE (\$'000)</b>											
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	123	92.2%
Nova Scotia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	414	-
New Brunswick	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	24	188	683.3%
Québec	651	1,713	4,354	2,368	1,644	1,458	1,228	1,039	2,600	9,029	247.3%
Ontario	1,039	1,412	3,112	10,479	2,260	981	1,085	1,251	3,076	3,886	26.3%

Manitoba	6,530	6,060	12,482	8,710	8,903	13,702	16,507	18,478	17,747	33,011	86.0%
Saskatchewan	529	530	2,025	2,227	1,323	1,330	2,833	4,038	3,797	23,506	519.1%
Alberta	6,291	6,824	9,237	4,174	6,383	10,276	8,772	6,030	5,186	16,567	219.5%
British Columbia	38	119	130	47	673	614	553	109	139	1,223	779.9%
Canada	15,078	16,658	31,370	28,005	21,186	28,361	30,978	30,983	32,633	87,947	169.5%

Source: Statistics Canada

**Table 4 Canadian Honey Export Markets**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
<b>VOLUME (metric tonnes)</b>											
United States	5,431	4,648	12,024	8,002	3,941	7,050	12,084	12,860	10,564	19,614	85.7%
Germany	1,352	1,874	1,688	1,187	2,211	2,948	1,666	1,352	889	971	9.2%
Japan	119	408	734	113	366	316	206	301	446	468	4.9%
United Kingdom	591	472	376	278	424	278	250	264	321	408	27.1%
Denmark	88	58	78	0	0	61	142	121	42	82	95.2%
Other Countries	772	1,185	687	401	478	555	373	399	429	379	-11.7%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>8,353</b>	<b>8,645</b>	<b>15,587</b>	<b>9,981</b>	<b>7,420</b>	<b>11,208</b>	<b>14,721</b>	<b>15,297</b>	<b>12,691</b>	<b>21,922</b>	<b>72.7%</b>
<b>VALUE (\$'000)</b>											
United States	10,190	9,921	24,432	22,835	12,530	18,820	25,782	26,345	27,825	80,770	190.3%
Germany	2,298	3,208	3,398	2,936	5,814	6,689	3,278	2,659	1,930	2,552	32.2%
Japan	182	752	1,305	356	941	707	383	684	1,029	2,014	95.7%
United Kingdom	933	677	710	781	922	632	451	452	700	1,375	96.4%
Denmark	138	92	130	0	0	127	272	225	110	227	106.4%
Other Countries	1,338	2,008	1,397	1,098	1,190	1,385	813	618	1,038	1,009	-2.8%
<b>Canada</b>	<b>15,079</b>	<b>16,658</b>	<b>31,372</b>	<b>28,006</b>	<b>21,397</b>	<b>28,360</b>	<b>30,979</b>	<b>30,983</b>	<b>32,632</b>	<b>87,947</b>	<b>169.5%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada

**Table 5 Canadian Honey Imports by Major Countries**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
<b>VOLUME (metric tonnes)</b>											
Argentina	346	195	3	1,534	297	1	69	117	1,054	5,720	442.7%
United States	422	372	309	554	448	405	377	391	292	642	119.9%
China, Peoples Republic	557	1,856	3,522	10,918	933	1,800	2,201	2,018	3,551	1,096	-69.1%
Australia	76	0	0	3	24	1	5	41	28	121	332.1%
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	168	0.0%
Other Countries	85	125	415	402	290	203	207	259	280	371	32.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,486</b>	<b>2,548</b>	<b>4,249</b>	<b>13,411</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>2,410</b>	<b>2,859</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>5,205</b>	<b>8,118</b>	<b>56.0%</b>
<b>VALUE (\$'000)</b>											
Argentina	447	250	8	4,003	710	3	118	213	1,810	17,805	883.7%
United States	812	783	791	1,518	1,178	1,059	1,049	1,050	830	2,019	143.3%
China, Peoples Republic	637	1,948	5,014	20,755	1,888	3,017	3,411	2,700	4,986	1,757	-64.8%
Australia	116	0	0	8	58	3	8	139	80	339	323.8%
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	330	0.0%
Other Countries	285	391	858	892	709	569	520	645	697	992	42.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>3,372</b>	<b>6,671</b>	<b>27,176</b>	<b>4,543</b>	<b>4,651</b>	<b>5,106</b>	<b>4,747</b>	<b>8,403</b>	<b>23,242</b>	<b>176.6%</b>

Source: Statistics Canada

#### 4.0 UNITED STATES SITUATION

According to the U.S. National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), honey production in 2002 from producers with five or more colonies totalled 77,565 metric tonnes, down 8 percent from 2001. This was the lowest annual production since 1989. There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up 1 percent from 2001. U.S. yield per colony averaged 30.8 kilograms (kg), down 8 percent from the 33.6 kg in 2001.

Colonies that produced in more than one state were counted in each state and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were reported at 17,690 metric tonnes on December 15, 2002, down 40 percent from the year earlier.

Prices for the 2002 honey crop increased to a record high U.S. \$1.29 per pound, up 83 percent from the U.S. 70.4 cents reported in 2001. Of note, that the previous record price was U.S. 88.8 cents recorded in 1996. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-operatives. The main producing U.S. states in 2002 were North Dakota (15 %), California (14 %), Florida (12 %) and South Dakota (7 %). In 2002, the highest state yield per colony was in Hawaii with 61.7 kg followed by Louisiana with 56.3 kg.

In September 2000, the U.S. launched an anti-dumping investigation against imports from Argentina and China. On May 7, 2001, preliminary anti-dumping duties were imposed on all imports from these 2 countries and in November 2001 the final determination of material injury was published.

## 5.0 WORLD SITUATION

The Peoples Republic of China continued as the world leader in production (**Table 6**) and by a significant factor in 2002, with an estimated production of 257,800 metric tonnes (mt). The recent Canadian and U.S. anti-dumping actions combined with the finding of antibiotic residues in Chinese honey has and will result in lower exports to these two countries.

Argentina is estimated to have produced 85,000 mt in 2002, up 6.3 % from the 2001 crop of 80,000 mt. The majority of that country's production is exported, with their key markets being the U.S. and Germany, which accounted for 75 % of Argentina's total shipments. Exports to the U.S. were down substantially in 2001 due to the U.S. anti-dumping duty, but exports to Canada jumped dramatically in 2002 to 5,720 mt up 443 % from the 2001 levels of 1,054 mt.

Canada was the ninth largest honey producer in the world in 2002 with 3 % of production.

In 2001, Germany was considered the largest honey importing country in the world at 92,200 mt followed by the United States at 65,749 mt.

**Table 6 Honey Production in Selected Countries**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002/2001
<b>Volume (metric tonnes)</b>											
Argentina	60,000	64,000	70,000	57,000	75,000	75,000	98,000	93,000	80,000	85,000	6.3%
Australia	22,556	25,990	18,839	25,925	27,044	22,021	18,852	21,381	21,500	21,500	0.0%
Brazil	18,367	17,514	18,123	21,173	19,062	18,308	19,751	21,865	22,202	22,000	-0.9%
Canada	30,773	34,253	30,575	26,977	31,010	46,083	37,097	31,857	35,387	33,296	-5.9%
China, Peoples Republic	180,895	181,172	182,090	188,791	215,138	210,691	236,283	251,839	254,758	257,800	1.2%
Germany	26,648	22,233	36,685	14,674	15,069	16,306	20,286	20,409	25,951	22,000	-15.2%
Mexico	61,973	56,432	49,228	49,178	53,681	55,297	55,323	58,935	59,069	55,189	-6.6%
Spain	28,393	22,036	19,274	27,312	31,544	32,700	30,456	31,000	31,000	32,000	3.2%
Turkey	59,207	54,908	68,620	62,950	63,319	67,490	67,259	61,091	60,190	60,190	0.0%
United States	104,640	98,500	95,454	89,850	89,147	99,930	94,000	99,945	84,335	90,000	6.7%
World	1,136,119	1,116,692	1,151,356	1,101,324	1,155,787	1,188,401	1,234,308	1,246,432	1,255,271	1,270,002	1.2%

SOURCE: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, except Canada - Statistics Canada

## 6.0 OPPORTUNITIES and CHALLENGES

The Canadian Honey Council is working towards the development of a national strategy for honey production under the Canadian On Farm Food Safety (COFFS) Program.

There is a growing market for certified Aorganic® honey and it is expected to increase in the near future.

The rise in the price of honey from the 2002 crop has been a boon to beekeepers with honey to sell, but drought has prevented many Alberta producers from benefiting from the price rise.

Antibiotics found in Chinese honey in early 2002 has caused a world shortage of honey in export markets with the resultant price rise. Canada could benefit from this situation if favourable weather conditions prevail for the 2003 crop.

The number of bee colonies has slowly increased during the last decade to reach a high of 602,328 in 2001. However, the high cost of imported packaged bees and the increased management practices required to control parasitic mites will likely limit industry growth.

Infestation of Varroa parasitic mites is a continuing concern in Canada, but the infestation is not endemic and research is proving beneficial to the industry.

There remains a concern that the insecticide Almidacloprid® may be responsible for bee losses and the Canadian Honey Council is awaiting longer-term research and surveys to confirm the cause of losses.

Increased global trade is proving to be a benefit to Canadian producers as high quality Canadian honey continues to demand premium prices, but supply will be the problem, especially if the drought continues in parts of the Prairies in 2003.

Asian markets could be considered for high quality, attractively packaged Canadian honey.

GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) is expected to be implemented in the Canadian Honey Grading Regulations to reflect excellent sanitation and quality of products.

#### **Other links**

[Statistics Canada free publication on honey](#)

[All about Canada's honey industry](#)

[Federal government programs and services](#)

[Canadian Honey Council](#)

[Agri-Food Trade Service](#)

**Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français.**

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Please contact for more information:

Doug Peters

Horticulture and Special Crops Division  
Market and Industry Services Branch  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5  
Telephone: (613) 759-6231  
Facsimile: (613) 759-6312

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