



## Canada's

### Agriculture, Food and Beverage INDUSTRY

#### Canada's Honey Industry

Canadian honey is recognized around the world for its superior quality and prized taste. The traditionally long summers of the Canadian prairies provide honeybees with access to bountiful flowering crops, and overall conditions that are perfect for nectar production. As a result of these ideal conditions, the average honey yield in Canada is twice the world's average.



Canadian honey is enjoyed in 27 different countries according to 2005 export statistics. In 2005, approximately 7,895 beekeepers across the country maintained nearly 610,000 colonies that produced close to 34,000 tonnes of honey. In 2005, Canada exported 12,230 tonnes of honey, valued at approximately \$30 million. On average Canada exports one third to one half of this

honey production each year. The US remained, by far, the primary destination for Canadian honey exports in 2005, absorbing 85% of total exports. The US was followed by Germany with 7%.

Canadian honey production in 2005 slipped slightly from 2004 totals due to lower production rates in Alberta and British Columbia, as a result of a cold summer. This, along with strong competition from the US and other major markets such as China, Vietnam and Argentina, has impacted Canadian honey production and export levels.

Despite obvious challenges, the Canadian honey industry remains strong, and is reaching new levels of efficiency each year. Canada's clean and vast environment, coupled with high honey production standards results in a superior product. Likewise, the Canadian honey industry meets and surpasses ISO standards for honey export.

The Canadian honey industry offers much more than just honey. Other honey by-products include:

- Beeswax for candles and household products such as polishes;
- Protein-rich pollen, which is used as a diet supplement;
- Propolis, which is becoming widely known and excepted as an ingredient in cosmetics and lip balms, as well as tonic; and
- Royal jelly, a special feed produced by worker bees for the queen bee, which is used in skin creams and lotions.

The number of Canadian honeybee colonies/hives continues to grow, reflecting bee health and a sustained demand for high



quality Canadian honey.

The safety and quality of Canadian honey is second to none. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, through the Honey Regulation of the Canadian Agricultural Products Act, ensures that producers and importers meet strict Federal standards.

In most provinces, the beekeeping industry is served by provincial apiculturists who are responsible for the registration of beekeepers, bee health, management practices and other issues affecting beekeepers.

### **Additional Information**

The Canadian honeybee industry is almost totally self-sufficient and is regulated by strict import restrictions; it does however, import honeybees from Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Bees play a vital role in the pollination of many crops. Fruit and vegetable producers rent beehives from beekeepers in the spring to make sure that pollination takes place. It has been estimated that honeybee pollination contributes to up to \$1 billion annually in terms of increased agricultural production.

Packaged honey, which is filtered and can be pasteurized, does not need any preservatives and has a shelf life of up to two years.

### **For More Detailed Information**

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### **Other Links:**

Canadian Honey Council

[www.honeycouncil.ca/users/folder.asp](http://www.honeycouncil.ca/users/folder.asp)

Statistics Canada free publication on honey  
Situation and Trends

[www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/23-221-XIB/23-221-XIB2005000.pdf](http://www.statcan.ca/english/freepub/23-221-XIB/23-221-XIB2005000.pdf)

Canada Agricultural Products Act – Honey  
Regulations

<http://lois.justice.gc.ca/en/C-0.4/C.R.C.-c.287/index.html>

Further information on products, suppliers and investment opportunities in the Canadian agri-food industry is available on the **Agri-Food Trade Service Web site** at: [www.ats.agr.gc.ca](http://www.ats.agr.gc.ca)

Canada's food and agricultural products reflect our dedication to excellence, and our deep commitment to safety, quality, environmental responsibility, innovation and service.

In every facet of our industry, we seek to earn the trust of our customers by answering their needs and exceeding their expectations. Those values along with our belief in building strong relationships, have given Canadian agriculture and food products an international reputation for excellence. Customers around the world know that they can trust the goodness of Canada.

