



2005 APIARY SEASON

The positive trend observed in 2004 continued during the 2005 apiary season. The results of the survey conducted by the Institut de la statistique du Québec of beekeepers with at least six colonies show that for 2005:

- The number of **active colonies** totaled 33 586, an increase of nearly 24% over 2004;
- **Total honey production** reached 1 601.7 tons, or almost 84% more than in 2004;
- The **average productivity** of the colonies amounted to 52 kg, compared with 34 kg in 2004;
- The value of **honey sales** rose to over \$6.2 million, 11.7% higher than in 2004.

These encouraging findings testify clearly to the recovery of the Québec beekeeping sector following the crisis in 2003.

However, the upward trend in the **average price** since 2002 did not continue this year. The average price of a kilo of honey declined from \$6.01 to \$5.20 between 2004 and 2005, a dip of 13%. Furthermore, average wholesale prices recorded a major drop of 38% on average. Retail and semi-retail prices were also lower, but to lesser degrees: 1% and 6%, respectively.

Although the results recorded for 2005 still did not achieve the levels of the 2002 apiary season, they nevertheless approached them and confirmed a clear improvement in the beekeeping situation in Québec.

Pollination-related sales more than doubled (they rose about 110%) since 2003 to total over \$2 million in 2005. That increase was due in part to the growing demand of fruit producers for pollination services and an improvement in the average leasing price. Moreover, steps taken to control varroasis significantly boosted the productivity and number of colonies. As in previous years, colonies were mainly leased to blueberry and apple producers.

As regards **honey regional production**, there was a general upturn in the quantities produced for the Québec regions as a whole. In that regard, the Lanaudière (14) and Laurentides (15) group recorded the highest increase (243%) over the previous year. In accordance with prior years, the **regional breakdown** of honey production and sales clearly favoured the Estrie (05) and Montérégie (16) group. However, a net reduction in magnitude at the provincial level (29% of total production compared with 42% in 2004) was observed.

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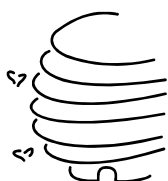


Table 1

Main honey statistics by administrative region group, Québec, 2005¹

	Colonies ²	Production	Sales
	n	t	k\$
Bas-Saint-Laurent (01), Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (11)	1 940	109,6	627,6
Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean (02), Capitale-Nationale (03), Côte-Nord (09), Chaudière-Appalaches (12)	7 307	337,6	1 257,5
Mauricie (04), Centre-du-Québec (17)	4 808	98,1	383,4
Estrie (05), Montérégie (16)	10 803	469,8	2 029,5
Montréal (06), Outaouais (07), Abitibi-Témiscamingue (08), Nord-du-Québec (10), Laval (13)	2 548	204,8	512,9
Lanaudière (14), Laurentides (15)	6 179	381,8	1 526,7
Total	33 586	1 601,7	6 257,6

1. The data in this table are taken from a universe composed of beekeepers who have at least 6 colonies in production.

2. This figure includes the colonies of beekeepers who did not harvest any honey this year.

Source : Institut de la statistique du Québec, 2005 Apiary Survey.

Figure 1

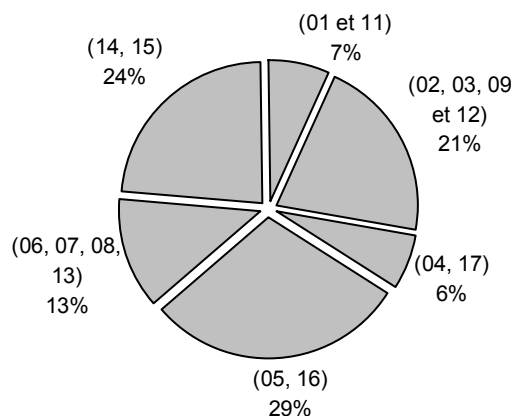
Regionalization of Honey Production, Québec, 2005

Figure 2

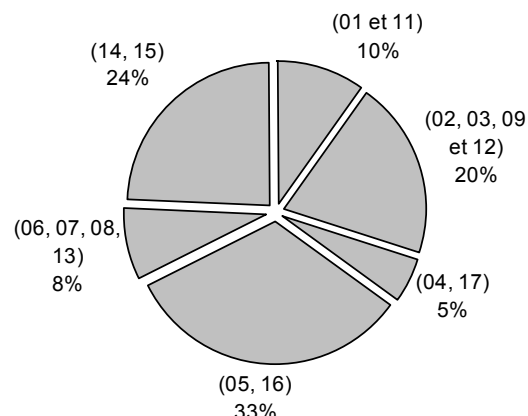
Regionalization of Honey Sales, Québec, 2005

Table 2

Sales of Apiary Products, Québec, 2003-2005

	2003	2004	2005	2005/2004
	k\$			%
Miel	5 076,2	5 601,7	6 257,6	11,7
Pollinisation	958,7	1 464,3	2 007,0	37,1
Pollen	45,1	50,7	68,8	35,7
Autres ¹	424,5	419,3	408,6	-2,6
Total	6 504,5	7 536,0	8 742,0	16,0

1. Includes royal jelly, beeswax, new colonies, and Queen bees.

Source : Institut de la statistique du Québec, 2003, 2004 et 2005 Apiary surveys

Figure 3

Breakdown of the Value of Apiary Products Sales, Québec, 2005