

INDUSTRY SUMMARY · 2026

Beekeeping in New Brunswick

2025 INDUSTRY FIGURES

507
beekeepers, 3.1% of Canada

6,800
colonies, 0.8% of Canada

122 t
honey produced, 0.3% of Canada

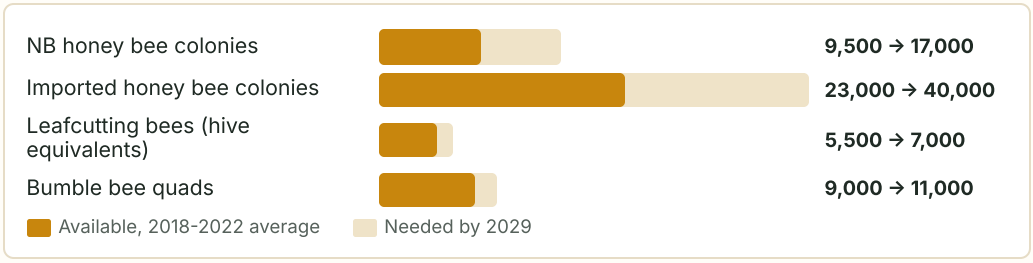
$1.4M
honey production value, 0.6% of Canada

Bees for the blueberry crop

Most New Brunswick colonies work in pollination, not honey. The province has about 40,600 acres of wild blueberry, 22% of Canada's lowbush blueberry land, most of it in the northeast. Growers harvested 38 million kg in 2022.

Not enough pollinators

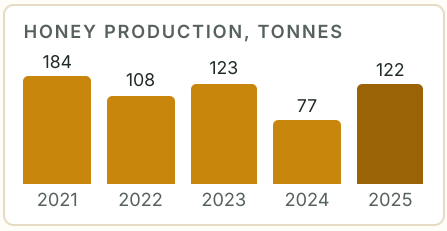
Demand for pollination already exceeds supply from all sources. The province's 2024-2029 pollination strategy aims to raise pollinating units by 60%, from 47,000 to 75,000 by spring 2029.



Bees from away

About 23,000 colonies come in for blueberry bloom each year, mainly from Ontario, under import permits and inspection. Small hive beetle has already arrived once, in Ontario hives brought to the Acadian Peninsula.

A small honey crop



New Brunswick produced about 122 t of honey in 2025, 0.3% of Canada's crop.

The crop swings widely, from 184 t in 2021 to 77 t in 2024.

The Bee Act, in force since March 1, 2023

- **Every beekeeper must register, even with one or two colonies.** Registration is free and renewed each year between May 15 and June 29.
- **Hives carry the beekeeper's registration code** at least 2.5 cm high, on one hive per pallet.
- **Antibiotics for bees come only through a veterinarian.** American and European foulbrood must be reported.


Harvesting wild blueberries


Bumble bee on clover, Moncton

Hive losses, winter 2024-25
NB **45%**
Canada **39%**

Hive losses, winter 2025-26 (preliminary)
NB **27%**
Canada **34%**

NEW BRUNSWICK BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Represents the province's commercial and hobby beekeepers: spring workshops, mentoring and a list of where to buy bees. Members can apply to the province's Honey Bee Industry Development Program to expand colony numbers. nbba.ca

Sources: AAFC, Statistical overview of the Canadian honey and bee industry, 2025 (industry figures) · Bleuets NB Blueberries, Economic impact assessment (2022) (blueberry area) · CBC, Honey bee shortage could pose 'challenge' for wild blueberry growers (2022 crop) · Government of New Brunswick, New Brunswick Wild Blueberry Pollination Strategy 2024-2029 · GNB, Bees, General Regulation 2023-13 and registration FAQ (rules) · Bee Culture, small hive beetle in the Acadian Peninsula · CAPA final report 2025 and preliminary report 2026 (hive losses) · NBBA. Photos via Wikimedia Commons: Dr Wilson, CC BY-SA 3.0 (blueberry harvest); James Mann, CC BY 2.0 (honey bee on crocus, Moncton); James Mann, CC BY 2.0 (clover).

Prepared by the Canadian Beekeepers Federation · canadianbeekeepers.ca