

INDUSTRY SUMMARY · 2026

Beekeeping in Quebec

2025 INDUSTRY FIGURES

528
beekeepers, 3.2% of Canada

69,917
colonies, 8.2% of Canada

2,040 t
honey produced, 5.3% of Canada

$21.2M
honey production value, 8.8% of Canada

Berry crops need bees

Commercial beekeepers rent colonies to pollinate Quebec's wild blueberries, cranberries and orchards.

Wild blueberry
Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean and Côte-Nord

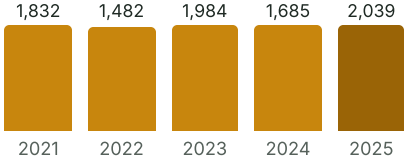
Quebec is one of Canada's largest wild (lowbush) blueberry producers; growers bring in hives at bloom.

Cranberry
Centre-du-Québec

Quebec grows more cranberries than any other province; bogs are stocked with hives each summer.

A small honey crop

HONEY PRODUCTION, TONNES



Quebec produced about 2,040 t of honey in 2025, its largest crop in five years.

Production value was $21.2M. Quebec's figure includes inventory sales; other provinces' do not, so the values are not directly comparable.

Honey production averages about 29 kg per colony in Quebec, compared with 45 kg nationally.

Registration and rules

- **Every owner of honey bees must register with MAPAQ each year**, between April 1 and June 1; the flat fee is indexed to inflation.
- **Hives must carry the owner's name and address** on at least one hive per apiary; no hive within 15 m of a public road or a dwelling, with some exceptions.
- **Registered owners get free bee-disease diagnostics** from MAPAQ, and bringing bees into Quebec needs MAPAQ authorization.

Breeding Quebec queens

- **Six professional breeders produce about 30,000 queens a year** through the AADQ's queen-breeding committee, and aim for 75,000 within five years.
- **A selection programme has run since 2010** at the CRSAD research centre in Deschambault with Université Laval, selecting for hygienic behaviour, honey production and spring build-up. Honey production rose about 0.63 kg per colony per year in its first decade; genomic selection is now being added.
- **The goal is fewer imports.** Canadian beekeepers import about 360,000 queens a year, mostly from California and Hawaii.



Hives in the garden of the Monastère des Augustines, Quebec City

WINTERING INDOORS

63% of Quebec colonies wintered indoors in 2024-25, the highest share in Canada. Indoor colonies lost 21% that winter, against 28% for those wintered outside.

LES APICULTEURS ET APICULTRICES DU QUÉBEC

The province's beekeepers' association, founded in 2019 as a professional union affiliated with the UPA. It reports about 150 hobby and professional members.
apiculteursduquebec.com

Hive losses, winter 2024-25



Hive losses, winter 2025-26 (preliminary)



Sources: AAFC, Statistical overview of the Canadian honey and bee industry, 2025 (industry figures) · Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture 2021: Quebec continues to be the main force behind maple, blueberries, cranberries, dairy cows and pigs (berries) · Gouvernement du Québec, Enregistrement et responsabilités des propriétaires d'abeilles (rules) · CAPA final report 2025 and preliminary report 2026 (wintering, hive losses) · AADQ · Genome Québec, OptiBuzz (queen breeders) · Maucourt S, Fortin F, Robert C, Giovenazzo P (2021) Genetic progress achieved during 10 years of selective breeding for honeybee traits of interest to the beekeeping industry. Agriculture 11:535 · Université Laval, Des outils génomiques pour accélérer le développement de lignées d'abeilles plus performantes (2024) (ApiOmic, imports). Honey per colony calculated from AAFC tables. Photos via Wikimedia Commons: Veillg1, CC0 (hives, Clarendon); Cephas, CC BY-SA 4.0 (Augustines).

Prepared by the Canadian Beekeepers Federation · canadianbeekeepers.ca