



Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists  
Preliminary report on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2025)

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This report presents the **preliminary data** collected by the provinces of Canada regarding honey bee losses for the winter of 2024-2025. The final data will be published in the annual Statement on honey bee wintering losses in Canada. There may be discrepancies between results in the preliminary and final reports.

### **Methodology**

Beekeepers that owned and operated a specified minimum number of colonies (Table 1) were included in the survey. The survey reported data from full-sized producing honey bee colonies that were wintered in Canada, but does not include nucleus (partial) colonies. Thus, the information gathered provides a valid assessment of honey bee losses and commercial management practices.

The common definitions of a honey bee colony and a commercially viable honey bee colony in spring that were used in the survey were:

- Honey Bee Colony: A full-sized honey bee colony either in a single or double brood chamber, not including nucleus colonies (splits).
- Viable Honey Bee Colony in Spring: A honey bee colony that survived winter, with a minimum of 4 frames with 75% of the comb area covered with bees on both sides as of May 1<sup>st</sup> (British Columbia), May 15<sup>th</sup> (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince-Edward-Island and Quebec) or May 21<sup>st</sup> (Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador).

The questionnaire of colony loss and management was provided to producers using various methods of delivery including mail, email, online and a telephone survey; the method of delivery varied by jurisdiction (Table 1). In each province, data were collected and analyzed by the Provincial Apiarist. All reported provincial results were then analyzed and summarized at the national level. The national percent winter loss was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Percentage Winter Loss} = \left( \frac{\text{Sum of the estimated total colony losses per province in spring 2025}}{\text{Sum of total colonies in operation in each province for 2024}} \right) \times 100$$

### **Preliminary results**

The survey delivery methods, size of beekeeping operations and response rate of beekeepers for each province are presented in Table 1. The total number of colonies operated in a province reported by this survey may vary slightly from Statistics Canada official numbers, due to the data collection periods for the provincial database and the Statistics Canada report being done at different times of year.

Table 1: Survey parameters and honey bee colony mortality (2024-2025) by province

Province	Total number of colonies operated in 2024	Estimated number of colonies lost based on the estimated provincial winter loss	Type of data collection	Number of beekeepers targeted by survey	Number of respondents (% of participation)	Size of beekeeping operations targeted by survey (# colonies)	Number of respondents' colonies that were wintered in fall 2024	Number of respondents' colonies that were alive and viable in spring 2025	Percentage of surveyed colonies as a proportion of the total number of colonies in the province	Provincial Winter Loss including Non-viable Colonies
Newfoundland and Labrador	908	117	email, telephone, online	17	12 (71%)	20	708	617	78.0%	12.9%
Prince Edward Island	4500	1039	email, telephone	25	15 (60%)	25	3901	3000	86.7%	23.1%
Nova Scotia	30873	5658	online	48	34 (71%)	50	21587	17631	69.9%	18.3%
New Brunswick	13778	6164	email	40	19 (48%)	50	7924	4379	57.5%	44.7%
Quebec	65229	15305	online	110	68 (62%)	50	39905	30542	61.2%	23.5%
Ontario	83977	31357	online, telephone	223	55 (25%)	50	20019	12544	23.8%	37.3%
Manitoba	114000	39683	online, email, telephone	203	36 (18%)	50	18377	11980	16.1%	34.8%
Saskatchewan	95000	41619	online	240	72 (30%)	100	37926	21311	39.9%	43.8%
Alberta	331292	130320	email, telephone	165	79 (48%)	100	235944	143131	71.2%	39.3%
British Columbia*	Data unavailable at this time									
<b>CANADA**</b>	<b>739557</b>	<b>270244</b>	-	<b>1071</b>	<b>390 (36%)</b>	-	<b>386291</b>	<b>245135</b>	<b>52.2%</b>	<b>36.5%</b>

\* To this date participation rate is insufficient.

\*\* Excluding British Columbia.