



Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists
Preliminary Report on Honey Bee Wintering Losses in Canada (2026)

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This report presents the **preliminary data** collected by the provinces of Canada regarding honey bee losses for the winter of 2025-2026. The final data will be published in the annual Statement on Honey Bee Wintering Losses and Disease Management 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 reports 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 1st (British Columbia), May 15th (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince-Edward-Island and Quebec) or May 21st (Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador).

The colony loss and management survey 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:

$$\text{Percentage Winter Loss} = \left(\frac{\text{Sum of the estimated total colony losses per province in spring 2026}}{\text{Sum of total colonies in operation in each province for 2025}} \right) \times 100$$

Preliminary results

The survey delivery methods, size of beekeeping operations and response rate of beekeepers for each province are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Survey parameters and honey bee colony mortality (2025-2026) by province

Province	Total number of colonies operated in 2025	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 (# of colonies)	Number of respondents' colonies that were wintered in fall 2025	Number of respondents' colonies that were alive and viable in spring 2026	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	990	120	email, telephone, online	19	14 (74%)	20	815	716	82%	12%
Prince Edward Island	5 300	2 656	email, telephone	30	23 (77%)	20	4 595	2 292	87%	50%
Nova Scotia	28 076	10 434	online	51	42 (82%)	50	24 018	15 092	86%	37%
New Brunswick	12 935	3 505	email	55	34 (62%)	50	10 033	7 316	77%	27%
Quebec	69 634	14 167	online	134	69 (51%)	50	40 020	31 878	57%	20%
Ontario	118 109	63 055	online, telephone	228	99 (43%)	50	29 243	13 631	25%	53%
Manitoba	117 856	47 516	online, email, telephone	215	66 (31%)	50	42 635	25 446	36%	40%
Saskatchewan	95 000	23 262	online	120	57 (48%)	100	39 360	29 722	41 %	25%
Alberta	305 202	105 565	email, telephone	156	79 (51%)	100	221 860	145 122	73%	35%
British Columbia	81 255	18 866	online	667	161 (24%)	10	30 468	23 394	37%	23%
CANADA	834 357	289 146	-	1 675	644 (38%)	-	443 047	294 609	53%	34%