

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN : BEE-FARMING - AUSTRALIA 1953-54

The following statement covers statistics of Bee-farming in Australia during 1953-54, together with comparable data for previous years.

The production of honey in 1953-54 at 35,778,000 lb. was 7,968,000 lb. (28.7 per cent) greater than that recorded in 1952-53 but was 17,425,000 lb. (32.8 per cent) lower than the peak production of 53,203,000 lb. recorded in 1948-49. Honey production in 1953-54 was higher than in the previous year in all States except South Australia where output was lower by 1,278,000 lb. (16.7 per cent). The increases recorded in each State were - New South Wales, 2,335,000 lb. (29.0 per cent); Victoria, 3,147,000 lb. (50.5 per cent); Queensland 722,000 lb. (33.3 per cent); Western Australia 2,972,000 lb. (87.6 per cent); Tasmania, 56,000 lb. (18.1 per cent). Honey production fluctuates considerably from year to year depending on the effects of seasonal conditions on the flow of nectar.

Exports of honey in 1953-54 totalled 14,362,000 lb. compared with 16,613,000 lb. in 1952-53, 15,919,000 lb. in 1951-52 and only 687,000 lb. in 1938-39.

The number of productive hives in Australia in 1953-54 was 331,161 compared with 309,120 for 1952-53 and with an average of 329,953 during the years 1948-49 to 1952-53. The total number of all beehives in 1953-54 was 424,238 compared with 412,374 recorded in 1952-53. The principal honey producing States are New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, the numbers of hives (total, productive and unproductive) recorded for these States in 1953-54 representing 81 per cent of the Australian total. Average production of honey per productive hive was 108 lb. in 1953-54 compared with 90 lb. in 1952-53 and 138 lb. in 1948-49 (the year of record total honey production).

The production of beeswax amounted to 422,041 lb. in 1953-54 compared with 341,779 lb. in 1952-53 and with an average output of 381,677 lb. during the years 1948-49 to 1952-53.

Tables I-V following set out details for the industry for 1953-54 with comparative data for years back to 1938-39.

TABLE I - HONEY PRODUCTION (c)
('000 lb.)

State	1938-39	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) 1953-54 on	
						1938-39	1952-53
						%	%
N.S.W.	2,724	9,994	6,814	8,046	10,381	(+)281.1	(+)29.0
VIC.	1,340	8,088	5,208	6,235	9,382	(+)600.1	(+)50.5
Q'LD.	1,165	1,925	706	2,166	2,888	(+)147.9	(+)33.3
S.A.	2,941	5,803	4,191	7,656	6,378	(+)116.9	(-)16.7
W.A.	754	1,314	3,480	3,394	6,366	(+)744.3	(+)87.6
TAS.	148	315	254	309	365	(+)146.6	(+)18.1
TOTAL:(a)	9,073	(b)27,439	(b)20,653	27,810	35,778	(+)294.3	(+)28.7

(a) Excludes particulars for Northern Territory.

(b) Excludes particulars for Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Subject to revision.

TABLE II - BEE-FARMING, AUSTRALIA. (a)

Year	Beehives			Honey Produced			Beeswax Produced	
	Pro- ductive	Unpro- ductive	Total	Quan- tity	Gross Value	Average Production per Produc- tive Hive	Quan- tity	Gross Value
				'000 lb.	£'000	lb.	lb.	£'000
1938-39	174,292	77,017	251,309	9,073	131	52.00	140,675	9
1939-40	185,570	65,863	251,433	9,661	183	52.06	137,476	10
1940-41	211,173	48,753	259,926	17,178	334	81.34	226,885	21
1941-42	219,119	53,821	272,940	19,764	420	90.20	272,248	29
1944-45	215,498	56,503	272,001	19,882	540	92.26	293,573	36
1945-46	238,742	95,542	334,284	14,906	436	62.44	194,856	24
1946-47	290,799	72,316	363,115	30,996	924	106.58	372,835	46
1947-48	309,473	105,211	414,684	25,844	779	83.51	324,356	40
1948-49	385,286	76,190	461,476	53,203	1,598	138.09	632,441	86
1949-50(b)	327,962	149,495	477,457	25,663	788	78.25	324,436	48
1950-51(b)	350,503	116,515	467,018	27,439	871	78.29	346,583	71
1951-52(b)	276,892	149,922	426,814	20,653	800	74.59	263,148	62
1952-53	309,120	103,254	412,374	27,810	1,112	89.97	341,779	86
1953-54 (d) -								
New South Wales	108,664	35,127	143,791	10,381	476	95.53	122,985	41
Victoria	86,422	21,549	107,971	9,382	(c)	108.56	100,562	(c)
Queensland	29,913	12,182	42,095	2,888	(c)	96.55	43,045	(c)
South Australia	74,456	17,754	92,210	6,378	(c)	85.66	78,455	(c)
Western Australia	26,971	5,150	32,121	6,366	(c)	236.03	72,500	(c)
Tasmania	4,316	1,143	5,459	365	21	84.63	4,342	2
TOTAL:	331,161	93,077	424,238	35,778	(c)	108.04	422,041	(c)

(a) Excludes particulars for Northern Territory. (b) Excludes particulars for Australian Capital Territory. (c) Not yet available.
(d) Subject to revision.

TABLE III - NUMBER OF APIARISTS FURNISHING RETURNS

Year	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	Australia (a)
1938-39	(b)	2,445	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
1945-46	(b)	1,644	862	1,165	352	(b)	(b)
1946-47	2,440	1,600	841	1,099	358	293	6,631
1947-48	2,474	1,603	845	1,186	395	313	6,816
1948-49	2,853	1,628	899	1,120	424	283	7,207
1949-50	3,339	1,584	795	1,215	418	292	7,643
1950-51	3,058	1,562	729	1,237	397	367	7,350
1951-52	2,968	1,494	586	1,164	586	277	7,075
1952-53	2,700	1,382	711	1,180	579	336	6,888
1953-54	2,786	1,319	840	1,178	(c)	356	(c)

(a) Excludes particulars for Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory. (b) Not available. (c) Not yet available.

TABLE IV - TOTAL EXPORTS OF HONEY, AUSTRALIA

Country of Destination	1938-39		1951-52		1952-53		1953-54	
	'000 lb.	£A f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A f.o.b.
United Kingdom	583	10,921	11,251	487,631	15,138	673,828	7,750	330,857
India	13	526	78	6,417	117	8,588	62	5,835
Malaya	20	747	61	4,744	58	5,647	58	5,363
Other British Countries	15	474	322	24,004	241	21,834	447	27,346
Egypt	}	(a)	55	5,774	13	1,688	-	-
Germany (Fed. Rep.)			3,589	152,659	734	37,654	5,028	217,035
Netherlands			442	17,629	132	6,817	669	28,175
Other Foreign Countries	56	1,289	121	7,646	180	17,300	348	19,692
<u>States of Final Shipment -</u>								
N.S.W.	429	8,570	6,016	270,264	832	46,032	1,266	57,674
Vic.	40	1,451	3,878	171,804	4,422	216,899	2,845	127,292
Q'ld.	2	43	1,125	45,991	491	22,218	808	32,520
S.A.	161	2,964	3,178	136,412	7,363	322,912	4,934	216,835
W.A.	55	929	1,713	81,713	3,484	165,078	4,487	198,859
Tas.	-	-	9	320	21	217	22	1,130
Total:	687	13,957	15,919	706,504	16,613	773,356	14,362	634,310

(a) Not available separately. Included with Other Foreign Countries.

TABLE V - TOTAL EXPORTS OF BEESWAX, AUSTRALIA

Country of Destination	1938-39		1951-52		1952-53		1953-54	
	lb.	£A f.o.b.	lb.	£A f.o.b.	lb.	£A f.o.b.	lb.	£A f.o.b.
United Kingdom	-	-	20,924	5,934	131,066	25,380	178,095	38,934
New Zealand	5,337	127	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaya	(a)	(a)	327	171	-	-	560	196
Other British Countries	228	15	2,336	817	22,400	1,390	52	12
Foreign Countries	-	6	-	-	3,466	745	-	-
<u>States of Final Shipment -</u>								
N.S.W.	336	31	2,663	988	47,182	5,743	7,432	1,862
Vic.	5,229	117	-	-	26,924	5,174	49,304	10,413
Q'ld.	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,352	3,744
S.A.	-	-	14,031	4,042	68,395	13,621	61,889	13,646
W.A.	-	-	6,893	1,892	14,431	2,977	43,730	9,477
Total:	5,565	148	23,587	6,922	156,932	27,515	178,707	39,142

(a) Not available separately. Included with Other British Countries.

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