

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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MORNING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 4TH JANUARY, 1956.

EVENING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 4TH JANUARY, 1956.

BROADCASTING STATIONS : MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, 3RD JANUARY, 1956.

STATISTICAL BULLETIN : BEE-FARMING - AUSTRALIA, 1954-55.

The following statement covers statistics of Bee-farming in Australia during 1954-55, together with comparable data for previous years.

The production of honey in 1954-55 at 33,605,000 lb. was 2,132,000 lb. (6.0 per cent.) lower than that recorded in 1953-54 and was 19,598,000 lb. (36.8 per cent.) lower than the peak production of 53,203,000 lb. recorded in 1948-49. Honey production in 1954-55 was lower than in the previous year in all States except New South Wales where output was higher by 6,030,000 lb. (58.1 per cent.). The decreases recorded in each State were - Victoria, 548,000 lb. (5.8 per cent.); Queensland, 1,156,000 lb. (40.0 per cent.); South Australia, 2,707,000 lb. (42.4 per cent.); Western Australia, 3,604,000 lb. (57.0 per cent.); Tasmania, 150,000 lb. (41.1 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 1954-55 totalled 23,471,000 lb. compared with 14,362,000 lb. in 1953-54 and 16,613,000 lb. in 1952-53.

The number of productive hives in Australia in 1954-55 was 325,282 compared with 331,666 for 1953-54 and with an average of 319,229 during the years 1949-50 to 1953-54. The total number of all beehives in 1954-55 was 436,065 compared with 424,660 recorded in 1953-54. 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 1954-55 representing 83 per cent. of the Australian total. Average production of honey per productive hive was 103 lb. in 1954-55 compared with 108 lb. in 1953-54 and 138 lb. in 1948-49 (the year of record total honey production).

The production of beeswax amounted to 440,198 lb. in 1954-55 compared with 422,374 lb. in 1953-54 and with an average output of 339,664 lb. during the years 1949-50 to 1953-54.

Tables 1 to 5 following set out details for the industry for 1954-55 with comparative data for earlier years.

TABLE 1 - HONEY PRODUCTION
('000 lb.)

State	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55 (a)	Percentage change 1954-55 on 1953-54
New South Wales	9,994	6,814	8,046	10,381	16,411	(+) 58.1
Victoria	8,088	5,208	6,235	9,382	8,834	(-) 5.8
Queensland	1,925	706	2,166	2,888	1,732	(-) 40.0
South Australia	5,803	4,191	7,656	6,378	3,671	(-) 42.4
Western Australia	1,314	3,480	3,394	6,325	2,721	(-) 57.0
Tasmania	315	254	309	365	215	(-) 41.1
Total (b) :	(c) 27,439	(c) 20,653	27,810	35,737	(d) 33,605	(-) 6.0

(a) Subject to revision.

(b) Excludes particulars for Northern Territory.

(c) Excludes particulars for Australian Capital Territory.

(d) Includes Northern Territory.

TABLE 2 - 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
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	331,666	92,994	424,660	35,737	1,474	107.75	422,374	120
1954-55 (a) -								
New South Wales	136,116	43,232	179,348	16,411	(a)	120.57	193,544	(d)
Victoria	75,997	27,755	103,752	8,834		116.24	94,012	
Queensland	25,098	13,712	38,810	1,732		69.01	37,034	
South Australia	58,296	21,004	79,300	3,671		62.98	59,708	
Western Australia	25,724	3,958	29,682	2,721		105.79	52,103	
Tasmania	3,464	864	4,328	215		62.19	3,447	
Total (a) :	325,282	110,783	436,065	33,605	(a)	103.31	440,198	(d)

(a) Excludes particulars for Northern Territory.

(b) Excludes particulars for Australian Capital Territory.

(c) Subject to revision.

(d) Not yet available.

(e) Includes particulars for Northern Territory.

TABLE 3 - NUMBER OF APIARISTS FURNISHING RETURNS

Year	N.S.W.	VIC.	Q'LD.	S. A.	W. A.	TAS.	Australia (a)
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	634	356	7,113
1954-55	3,481	1,337	777	1,018	619	(c)	(c)

(a) Excludes particulars for Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Not available.

(c) Not yet available.

TABLE 4 - TOTAL EXPORTS OF HONEY, AUSTRALIA

Country of Destination	1952-53		1953-54		1954-55	
	'000 lb.	£A. f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A. f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A. f.o.b.
United Kingdom	15,138	673,828	7,750	330,857	9,616	405,531
India	117	8,588	62	5,835	62	5,101
Malaya	58	5,647	58	5,363	47	4,359
Other British Countries	241	21,834	447	27,346	154	13,905
Egypt	13	1,688	-	-	8	689
Germany, (Fed. Rep.)	734	37,654	5,028	217,035	12,622	561,861
Netherlands	132	6,817	669	28,175	208	8,987
Other Foreign Countries	180	17,300	348	19,699	754	39,019
<u>States of Final</u>						
<u>Shipment -</u>						
N.S.W.	832	46,032	1,266	57,674	7,906	358,286
Vic.	4,422	216,899	2,845	127,292	7,983	360,224
Q'ld.	491	22,218	808	32,520	804	32,293
S.A.	7,363	322,912	4,934	216,835	3,729	150,246
W.A.	3,484	165,078	4,487	198,859	3,000	136,293
Tas.	21	217	22	1,130	49	2,110
Total :	16,613	773,356	14,362	634,310	23,471	1,039,452

TABLE 5 - TOTAL EXPORTS OF BEESWAX, AUSTRALIA

Country of Destination	1952-53		1953-54		1954-55	
	lb.	£A. f.o.b.	lb.	£A. f.o.b.	lb.	£A. f.o.b.
United Kingdom	131,066	25,380	178,095	38,934	251,835	60,689
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	126	44
Malaya	-	-	560	196	-	-
Other British Countries	22,400	1,390	52	12	2,294	608
Foreign Countries	3,466	745	-	-	6,020	1,449
<u>States of Final</u>						
<u>Shipment -</u>						
N.S.W.	47,182	5,743	7,432	1,862	43,465	11,003
Vic.	26,924	5,174	49,304	10,413	71,972	17,270
Q'ld.	-	-	16,352	3,744	9,520	2,469
S.A.	68,395	13,621	61,889	13,646	59,926	14,289
W.A.	14,431	2,977	43,730	9,477	70,800	17,276
Tas.	-	-	-	-	4,592	483
Total :	156,932	27,515	178,707	39,142	260,275	62,790

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3RD JANUARY, 1956.