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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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STATISTICAL BULLETIN : BEE-FARMING - AUSTRALIA, 1961-62

The following statement covers statistics of bee-farming in Australia during 1961-62 together with comparable data for previous years. Bee-farming statistics in all States except Queensland are confined to beekeepers with five or more hives. In Queensland the particulars relate to all beekeepers on rural holdings. Statistics for those not on rural holdings in Queensland are confined to beekeepers with ten or more hives.

1. Summary. The production of honey in 1961-62 at 43,651,000 lb. was 7,850,000 lb. (21.9 per cent.) greater than that produced in 1960-61 but 9,552,000 lb. (18.0 per cent.) less than the record production of 53,203,000 lb. recorded in 1948-49. Compared with 1960-61, honey production in 1961-62 increased in Victoria by 1,924,000 lb. (22.9 per cent.), South Australia by 3,963,000 lb. (89.2 per cent.) and Western Australia by 2,671,000 lb. (50.3 per cent.). During the same period Queensland production decreased by 567,000 lb. (30.7 per cent.), Tasmania by 162,000 lb. (36.7 per cent.) and the Australian Capital Territory by 19,000 lb. (22.2 per cent.). New South Wales production in 1961-62 remained approximately the same as that for 1960-61.

Honey production fluctuates considerably from year to year depending upon the effects of seasonal conditions and the flow of nectar, and this factor should be kept in mind in making year-to-year comparisons.

The principal honey-producing State in 1961-62 was New South Wales with 35 per cent. of the total production of Australia. Victoria produced 24 per cent., South Australia 19 per cent. and Western Australia 18 per cent. Average production of honey per productive hive was 126 lb. in 1961-62 compared with 111 lb. in 1960-61 and 138 lb. in 1948-49 (the year of record total honey production).

The number of productive hives in Australia in 1961-62 was 347,000 compared with 324,000 for 1960-61 and an average of 330,000 during the five years 1956-57 to 1960-61. The total number of all beehives in 1961-62 was 458,000 compared with 450,000 in 1960-61.

The production of beeswax amounted to 537,000 lb. in 1961-62 compared with 470,000 lb. in 1960-61 and with an average output of 488,000 lb. during the five years 1956-57 to 1960-61.

Exports of honey in 1961-62 totalled 25,390,000 lb. compared with 16,826,000 lb. in 1960-61 and 13,708,000 lb. in 1959-60, increases of 8,564,000 (50.9 per cent.) and 11,682,000 (85.2 per cent.) over 1960-61 and 1959-60 respectively. Exports of beeswax in the same three years were 211,000 lb., 196,000 lb. and 209,000 lb. respectively.

Particulars for 1961-62 and earlier years of number of beehives, production (quantity and value) of honey and beeswax, number of apiarists and exports (quantity and value) of honey and beeswax are given in the following tables.

2. Honey and Beeswax - Production, Gross Value and Number of Hives : Tables 1 and 2 following set out available details of production, gross value and number of hives, etc., for 1961-62 and comparative data for earlier years.

TABLE 1. - HONEY PRODUCTION

('000 lb.)

State	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62 (a)	Percentage Increase (+) or decrease (-), 1961-62 on 1960-61 (a)
New South Wales	13,029	10,583	18,682	15,286	15,326	+ 0.3
Victoria	5,884	7,624	9,661	8,390	10,314	+ 22.9
Queensland	1,373	1,766	4,119	1,848	1,281	- 30.7
South Australia	4,151	5,453	7,221	4,442	8,405	+ 89.2
Western Australia	7,313	6,680	5,549	5,311	7,982	+ 50.3
Tasmania	481	342	296	441	279	- 36.7
Australian Capital Territory	55	39	34	83	64	- 22.2
Australia:	32,286	32,487	45,562	35,801	43,651	+ 21.9

(a) Subject to revision

TABLE 2. - BEE-FARMING : AUSTRALIA

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	'000	'000	'000 lb.	£'000	lb.	'000 lb.	£'000
1951-52 (a)	277	165	442	20,653	800	74.6	263	62
1952-53	309	118	427	27,810	1,113	90.0	342	84
1953-54	332	110	442	35,737	1,473	107.8	422	120
1954-55	326	131	457	33,633	1,465	103.2	441	133
1955-56	337	115	452	34,465	1,801	102.2	427	132
1956-57	340	113	453	40,458	2,371	118.8	511	157
1957-58	312	131	443	32,286	1,794	103.7	436	115
1958-59	315	136	451	32,487	1,803	103.3	417	105
1959-60	362	103	465	45,562	2,390	125.9	607	155
1960-61	324	126	450	35,801	1,772	110.7	470	111
1961-62(b) -								
New South Wales	137	57	194	15,326	(c)	111.6	208	(c)
Victoria	84	19	103	10,314		123.0	135	
Queensland	21	15	36	1,281		60.8	22	
South Australia	61	11	72	8,405		136.6	123	
Western Australia	38	7	45	7,982		211.1	94	
Tasmania	5	2	7	279		57.1	4	
Australian Capital Territory	1	(d)	1	64		104.0	1	
Australia:	347	111	458	43,651		(c)	125.8		587	(c)

(a) Excludes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Subject to revision. (c) Not yet available. (d) Less than 500.

3. Number of Apiarists: Reference to the coverage (in terms of beekeepers included) of the collection has been made in the first paragraph on page 1 of this bulletin. On this basis, the number of apiarists included in 1961-62 in each State was as follows - New South Wales 2,620, Victoria 1,276, Queensland 484, South Australia 906, Western Australia 443, Tasmania 164 and the Australian Capital Territory 28.

4. Exports of Honey and Beeswax: Tables 3 and 4 following set out details of exports of honey and beeswax for the years 1959-60 to 1961-62.

TABLE 3. - TOTAL EXPORTS OF HONEY : AUSTRALIA (a)

Particulars	1959-60		1960-61		1961-62	
	'000 lb.	£A'000 f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A'000 f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A'000 f.o.b.
<u>Country of Destination</u>						
United Kingdom	7,495	307	12,831	534	9,346	406
India	(b)	(b)	3	(b)	91	6
Singapore	28	3	33	3	51	5
Malaya	40	4	55	5	69	7
Other Commonwealth Countries	148	12	194	16	378	26
Bahrain Is.	15	2	17	2	6	1
Denmark	124	5	408	15	503	20
Germany, Federal Republic of	5,430	190	2,851	113	13,648	580
Netherlands	219	9	134	6	802	35
Other Foreign Countries	209	13	300	16	496	27
<u>States of Final Shipment</u>						
New South Wales	2,267	86	2,349	107	5,283	236
Victoria	4,706	193	4,405	183	11,116	480
Queensland	1,155	44	1,682	66	1,868	84
South Australia	2,517	102	3,140	129	3,069	136
Western Australia	2,989	116	5,190	221	4,031	175
Tasmania	74	4	60	4	23	2
Total:	13,708	545	16,826	710	25,390	1,113

(a) Imports of honey are not recorded separately. (b) Less than half the unit shown.

TABLE 4. - TOTAL EXPORTS OF BEESWAX : AUSTRALIA (a)

Particulars	1959-60		1960-61		1961-62	
	'000 lb.	£A'000 f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A'000 f.o.b.	'000 lb.	£A'000 f.o.b.
<u>Country of Destination</u>						
United Kingdom	187	42	189	40	199	39
New Zealand	..	..	(b)	(b)	5	2
Other Commonwealth Countries	3	1	2	1	2	1
U.S.A.	..	..	..	..	5	1
Other Foreign Countries	19	5	5	1	(b)	(b)
<u>States of Final Shipment</u>						
New South Wales	5	1	18	5	6	2
Victoria	65	15	56	12	88	18
Queensland	12	3	10	2	9	2
South Australia	78	18	38	8	62	12
Western Australia	49	11	74	15	46	9
Total:	209	48	195	42	211	43

(a) Imports of beeswax amounted to 8,212 lb. valued at £2,885 in 1959-60 and 9,543 lb. valued at £3,056 in 1960-61. For 1961-62, imports of beeswax were not recorded separately. (b) Less than half the unit shown.

K. M. ARCHER
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CANBERRA. A.C.T. 4TH DECEMBER, 1962

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning J1971 Extension 13 or, in each State Capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.