

PP-482 [Beekeeping Economy]

The Profile of Beekeeping Sector in Poland

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The number of honey bee colonies is continuously growing in the European Union and Poland is among the top five member countries with the highest amount of colonies. The beekeeping sector is an important part of the Polish agricultural economy, therefore beekeepers are provided with subsidies for overwintered colonies – which was adjusted and increased through years.

The profile of beekeeping sector in Poland was created with data published in annual reports based on materials from: Veterinary Inspectorate (registers of apiaries made by District Veterinary Inspectorates), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture, and market analysis. The readily available data that could be compiled starts from 2011 and was published every year until 2024.

There were 1 246 633 honey bee colonies in Poland in 2011, increasing every year and reaching 2 354 299 in 2024 – so the number of honey bee colonies nearly doubled. This translates to an increase in the average colony density per square kilometre from 3.99 (in 2011) to 7.53 (in 2024). Similarly, the number of beekeepers increased from 49 432 in 2011 to 96 918 in 2024, which means that currently out of every 1,000 Polish residents, nearly 3 are beekeepers. The distribution of the number of beekeepers and honey bee colonies varies geographically and will be shown on a voivodeship basis.

Due to the large number of beekeepers, Poland is an important European Union member country that should be taken into account when conducting studies on factors affecting the beekeeping sector.

*based on reports (2011-2024) prepared by Semkiw P., published at the website of the National Institute of Horticultural Research (inhort.pl)