



Maple Syrup

June 14, 1995

A special "THANK YOU" goes to New England maple producers and buyers who have helped us by completing the annual Maple Syrup survey during April and May.

SYRUP PRODUCTION DOWN NATIONWIDE

Maple syrup production in New England for 1995 totaled 627,000 gallons, down 12 percent from last year. Vermont remained the major producing state in New England and the nation, with 58 percent of the region's production and 33 percent of the total U.S. output.

1995 production was down from 1994 across all New England States, except Maine which showed an 8 percent increase in production. The largest percentage decrease was indicated in Connecticut with a 36 percent reduction in production to 7,000 gallons. Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont producers averaged a 16 percent decrease in production.

New England's 1995 sugaring season lasted approximately 31 days, 3 days greater than 1994. The average opening dates were February 23 in Connecticut, March 1 in Massachusetts, March 6 in New Hampshire, March 9 in Vermont and March 11 in Maine. Overall, weather was not favorable for syrup production. Temperatures were reported to be 27 percent favorable, 56 percent too warm and 17 percent too cold for sap flow across the region. Nights generally were too warm for good sap flow. The sugar content of this year's sap was low; taking 46 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup. Syrup color this year was darker than average. The average closing dates were March 25 in Connecticut, April 1 in Massachusetts, April 7 in New Hampshire, and April 10 in Vermont. Maine sugaring continued through April, with some production in early May.

The preliminary value of New England's 1995 maple syrup crop based on grower expectations is \$14.5 million. This is a 15 percent decrease from the 1994 total value of \$17.0 million for the five New England states. The preliminary average gallon equivalent price for New England syrup across retail, wholesale, and bulk markets is \$23.09 which is down 90 cents from last year's price of \$23.99.

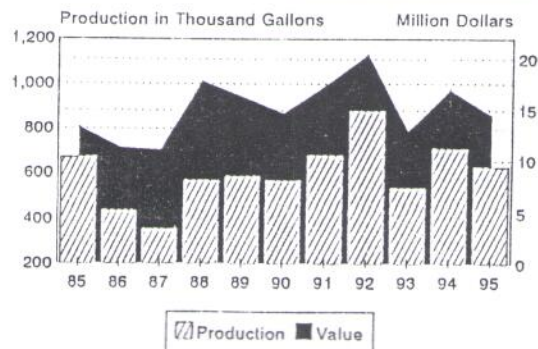
UNITED STATES: U.S. Maple syrup production in 1995 totaled 1.1 million gallons, down 17 percent from last year. The preliminary crop value is \$25.5 million, down 21 percent from 1994. The U.S. estimate now consists of the 10 major producing states shown on page 2.

Maple syrup production in 1995 was down across the entire nation, with the exception the state of Maine. Producers experienced an extremely mild season with temperatures generally too warm too early throughout the syrup producing region. Some producers took advantage of the mild weather and put out more taps, while others did not tap as many trees because of poor sap flow. New York's production decreased 17 percent over last season to 208,000 gallons, ranking them second to Vermont in production.

1994 PRICES AND SALES: Average gallon equivalent prices for 1994 maple syrup across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales varied across the region. Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont all sales equivalent prices decreased to \$42.80, \$34.80, and \$23.90 from 1993 figures of \$43.20, \$35.50, and \$24.00 respectively. Massachusetts' price increased to \$36.40 from \$33.70 in 1993. Maine's price remained the same at \$14.30.

Syrup surpluses, as well as an increase in wholesale sales in Connecticut and increasing bulk sales in Vermont, were factors in the price decreases in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Fewer carryover stocks and decreasing bulk sales helped to increase Massachusetts prices overall. Maine conditions and prices remained stable. The 1994 gallon equivalent price of \$23.99 across all New England states decreased 1 percent from 1993 price of \$24.33.

Maple Syrup Production & Value New England, 1985-1995



New England includes ME, MA, NH, VT and CT starting in 1992

MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price and Value, 1993 - 1995

STATE	Production			Average Gallon Equivalent Price of All Sales ^{1/}			Value of Production		
	1993	1994	1995	1993	1994	1995 ^{2/}	1993	1994	1995 ^{2/}
	----- 1,000 Gallons -----			----- Dollars -----			----- 1,000 Dollars -----		
Connecticut	10	11	7	43.20	42.80	42.50	432	471	298
Maine	113	150	162	14.30	14.30	14.50	1,616	2,145	2,349
Massachusetts	33	40	29	33.70	36.40	33.00	1,112	1,456	957
New Hampshire	66	73	64	35.50	34.80	33.00	2,343	2,540	2,112
Vermont	310	435	365	24.00	23.90	24.00	7,440	10,397	8,760
NEW ENGLAND^{3/}	532	709	627	24.33	23.99	23.09	12,943	17,009	14,476
Michigan	75	85	55	25.50	29.30	25.10	1,913	2,491	1,381
New York	180	251	208	18.70	24.50	25.10	3,366	6,150	5,221
Ohio	75	90	65	29.70	26.00	23.70	2,228	2,340	1,541
Pennsylvania	40	59	43	24.10	25.90	23.40	964	1,528	1,006
Wisconsin	105	130	98	19.80	21.00	19.10	2,079	2,730	1,872
UNITED STATES	1,007	1,324	1,096	23.30	24.40	23.30	23,493	32,248	25,497

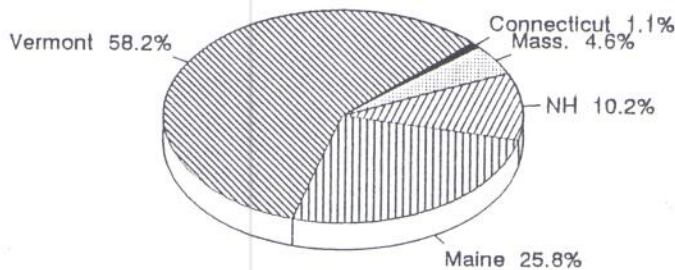
^{1/} Average gallon equivalent price is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales. This price is lower for states, such as Maine, with more wholesale and bulk sales. The average gallon equivalent price is not the average retail price paid for a gallon of syrup -- see page 3 for retail gallon average prices.

^{2/} 1995 price and value are preliminary and based on grower expectations during April and May 1995.

^{3/} New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, VT

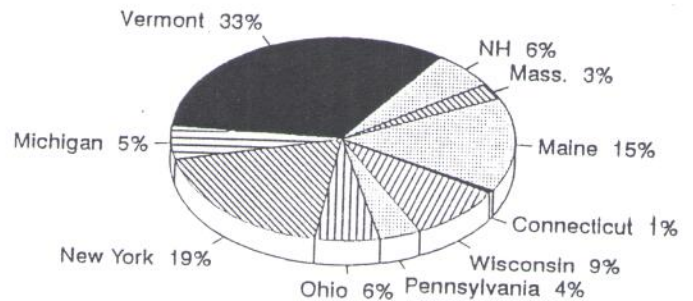
New England Maple Production, 1995
Percent by State

(Chart may not add to 100% due to rounding)



US Maple Production, 1995
Percent by State

(Chart may not add to 100% due to rounding)



MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, New England, 1993 - 1994

TYPE OF SALE	Connecticut		Maine		Massachusetts		New Hampshire		Vermont	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	Percent									
Retail	85	80	6	5	65	65	60	60	35	35
Wholesale	10	15	2	3	15	20	25	25	20	15
Bulk	5	5	92	92	20	15	15	15	45	50

MAPLE SYRUP: Sales Percentages, Other States, 1993 - 1994

TYPE OF SALE	Michigan		New York		Ohio		Pennsylvania		Wisconsin	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	Percent									
Retail	53	54	31	44	83	70	60	52	40	24
Wholesale & Bulk	47	46	69	56	17	30	40	48	60	76

MAPLE SYRUP: Prices by Type of Sales and Size of Container, 1993 - 1994

STATE & YEAR	Retail					Wholesale					Bulk				All Sales gallon equivalent price ^{2/}
	Gal	½ Gal	Quart	Pint	½ Pint	Gal	½ Gal	Quart	Pint	½ Pint	Grade A			Grade B & C	
											light amber	med amber	dark amber		
----- Dollars Per Container -----											----- Dollars Per Pound ^{3/} -----			Dollars	
Connecticut															
1993	33.80	19.50	10.90	6.55	4.25	^{1/}	16.20	8.40	5.00	3.20	-	-	^{1/}	^{1/}	43.20
1994	33.90	19.60	10.80	6.55	4.10	^{1/}	17.20	9.40	5.50	3.20	-	-	^{1/}	^{1/}	42.80
Maine															
1993	31.30	17.00	9.40	5.50	3.15	22.60	13.30	7.10	4.20	2.50	-	1.30	1.10	.95	14.30
1994	32.40	17.60	9.75	5.85	3.80	25.40	16.20	7.05	4.25	2.55	1.25	1.20	1.10	.90	14.30
Massachusetts															
1993	31.40	17.60	10.10	6.25	4.15	24.90	14.80	8.10	4.85	2.80	1.55	1.35	1.20	1.00	33.70
1994	32.50	18.30	10.70	6.35	3.95	25.60	15.10	8.40	4.60	2.80	1.55	1.30	1.40	.95	36.40
New Hampshire															
1993	31.00	17.20	10.40	6.10	3.60	23.00	14.10	8.20	4.60	2.75	1.65	1.50	1.25	1.00	35.50
1994	30.10	17.60	10.40	6.40	3.70	23.30	13.30	7.60	4.45	2.60	1.45	1.30	1.25	1.00	34.80
Vermont															
1993	26.60	16.00	9.50	5.90	3.85	20.40	13.80	7.85	4.55	2.90	1.55	1.40	1.25	1.05	24.00
1994	26.90	15.50	9.40	5.90	3.75	21.90	13.00	7.50	4.50	2.85	1.40	1.30	1.15	1.10	23.90
Bulk All Grades															
											----- Dollars Per Pound ^{3/} -----				
Michigan															
1993	24.20	15.40	8.34	5.31	3.31	21.50	12.40	6.40	3.98	1.62	1.38			25.50	
1994	28.70	16.20	8.92	5.48	3.29	24.90	14.10	7.05	3.96	2.72	1.65			29.30	
New York															
1993	26.80	15.80	8.90	5.40	3.50	19.70	13.40	7.30	4.10	2.80	1.11			18.70	
1994	30.00	15.90	9.00	5.60	3.30	21.50	13.40	7.80	4.40	2.70	1.25			24.50	
Ohio															
1993	26.10	15.60	8.70	5.50	4.00	20.80	13.00	7.00	4.50	3.30	1.20			29.70	
1994	26.10	15.10	8.40	5.40	3.40	20.50	12.00	6.40	3.80	2.60	1.40			26.00	
Pennsylvania															
1993	27.10	14.60	8.30	4.40	3.50	23.20	12.30	6.30	3.60	2.80	1.15			24.10	
1994	25.80	14.80	8.60	5.40	3.50	23.20	13.50	7.30	4.40	2.80	1.10			25.90	
Wisconsin															
1993	23.80	12.20	6.60	4.30	2.60	16.30	12.20	6.10	3.50	2.10	1.11			19.80	
1994	23.00	13.00	6.80	4.20	2.75	20.90	13.00	6.80	3.70	2.50	1.21			21.00	

^{1/} Data withheld to prevent disclosure of individual operations

^{2/} Average gallon equivalent price is a weighted average across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales.

^{3/} For dollars per gallon: multiply dollars per pound by 11.03 pounds per gallon

FREQUENT COMMENTS FROM MAPLE PRODUCERS, BY COUNTY

CONNECTICUT - Fairfield: Low sugar content most of season. Unusual season, too mild a winter. **Hartford:** Early season. Favorable early on. Too warm later. Started with very light syrup, turned dark quickly. Nights weren't cold enough. Trees budded early. **Litchfield:** Warm at end of February, but cold for some time after that. **Middlesex:** More dark gallons than we prefer due to very warm conditions at times and a glut of sap to boil. Too many extended "very warm" periods. **New Haven:** A most unusual short season. **New London:** Weather did not cooperate. No snow. Not cold at night. Very short season. **Tolland:** No good high pressure weather systems. Good freezes but as day warmed clouds would dim the sun thereby lowering temperatures. Sap runs about half of expected. **Windham:** First run around February 20th. The first week of March was too cold, then by mid-March it wasn't freezing at night. Sugar content very low.

MAINE - Cumberland: It either stayed warm or it stayed cold - only two good sap runs this year. Excellent flavor syrup. Mostly all dark syrup. **Franklin:** Syrup has good flavor. Color below average since sugar content was low. Sap came slow, but steady. **Oxford:** In April the temperatures were ideal, but the buds had started to get larger and the syrup was getting very dark. Quality was good. **Penobscot:** Weather was not good this year. Sap was slow running. Not enough snow in the woods. **Piscataquis:** Weather good for sugaring; however, lack of snow and dry ground conditions made for slow sap flow and low sugar content. **Somerset:** Strong runs later in the season. We had a bumper crop in March. **York:** Fair conditions and production. No fluctuations in temperature. Crazy season - started with January thaw and ended with frogs peeping.

MASSACHUSETTS - Berkshire: Too cold in February, too warm in March. My first and last sap runs were in mid-February. **Essex:** I should have boiled the first of February. **Franklin:** Nights did not freeze for 10 days in mid-March. A cooler than normal April made for perfect sugaring conditions. Our sugar content was lower than usual this year. A good year for pipelines on the mountain because of the light snow cover. Worst year

in a decade. **Hampden:** Season was too iffy with warm weather in February to even tap trees. Syrup was good quality, but the weather was awful. **Hampshire:** The season was over before it really started. **Middlesex:** Not enough temperature fluctuation or snow cover. Sap of average sweetness. **Worcester:** Too warm temperatures, no snow, and no frost made for a bad year. Unstable conditions. Terrible year - too warm and not enough freezing nights.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Belknap: No sap run in April despite favorable weather. Quirky weather to say the least! **Carroll:** Season opened very early. **Cheshire:** Sap ran in mid-February before we were ready to tap. A very funny year. Second part of season was too warm, made dark syrup. **Coos:** It was either too warm or too cold. Good cold nights, but cold north wind during the day just shut the flow right off. **Grafton:** Too warm in the early part of the season. **Hillsborough:** Crazy season. The warm spell in February is when we made half of our syrup. Warm nights prohibited flow. Sugar content low. **Merrimack:** Season was not favorable - too warm. Average quality syrup. Good color all season. **Rockingham:** Missed the early runs in January and February. **Sullivan:** Warm spells lasted too long between freezes. Cloudy, didn't warm up fast enough.

VERMONT - Addison: Short intense season. **Bennington:** We choose not to sugar because of the weird winter weather. **Caledonia:** Season was too warm early, then too cold late. Low sugar content in sap. **Chittenden:** Syrup started out fancy then turned to dark as soon as it got too warm. **Franklin:** Crazy! Wind kept temperatures about 10 degrees colder than it should have been. **Essex:** A long dragged out season. No sugar in the sap. **Lamoille:** Good flavor, but too warm. Weird season. **Orange:** Too cold early - too warm late. **Orleans:** Not enough cold nights and warm days. **Rutland:** Excellent flavor. Did a lot of boiling for a gallon! I think the big thaw in January had a lot to do with this year's poor season. **Windham:** Very poor year - it was too cold or too warm. Made mostly dark syrup. **Windsor:** The weather was either too warm or too cold.

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