

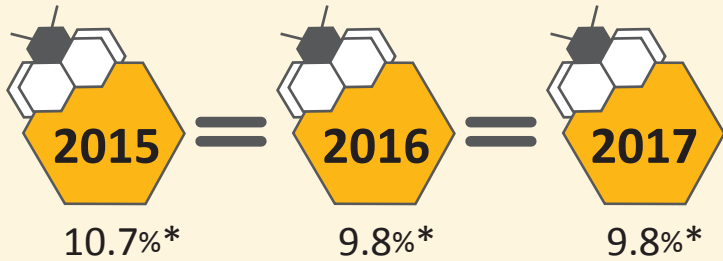
# NZ COLONY LOSS SURVEY SUMMARY 2017



## About the survey

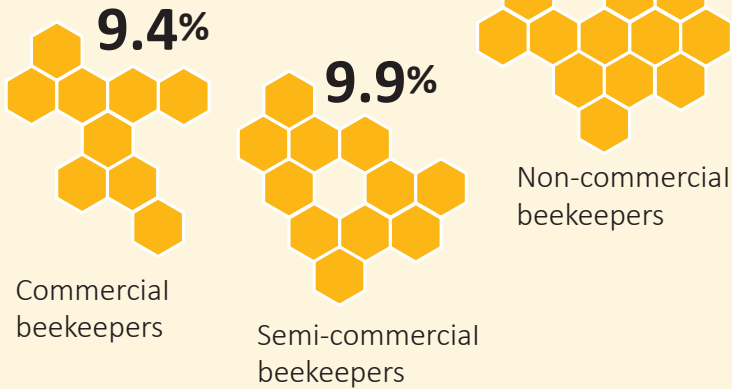
This is an on-line survey of beekeepers that aims to quantify winter colony losses. The survey was conducted in 2015 and 2016. The questionnaire is based on the international COLOSS survey and has been adapted to include topics of specific interest to NZ beekeepers.

## Estimated Total Colony Losses over winter

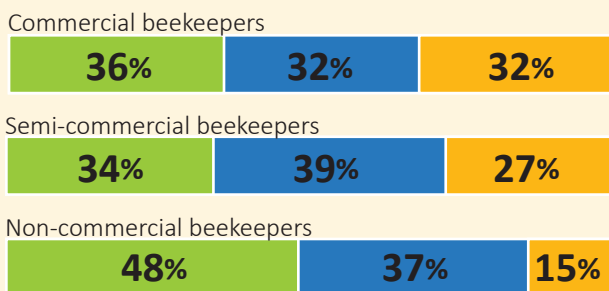


\*estimated colony losses are statistically indistinguishable

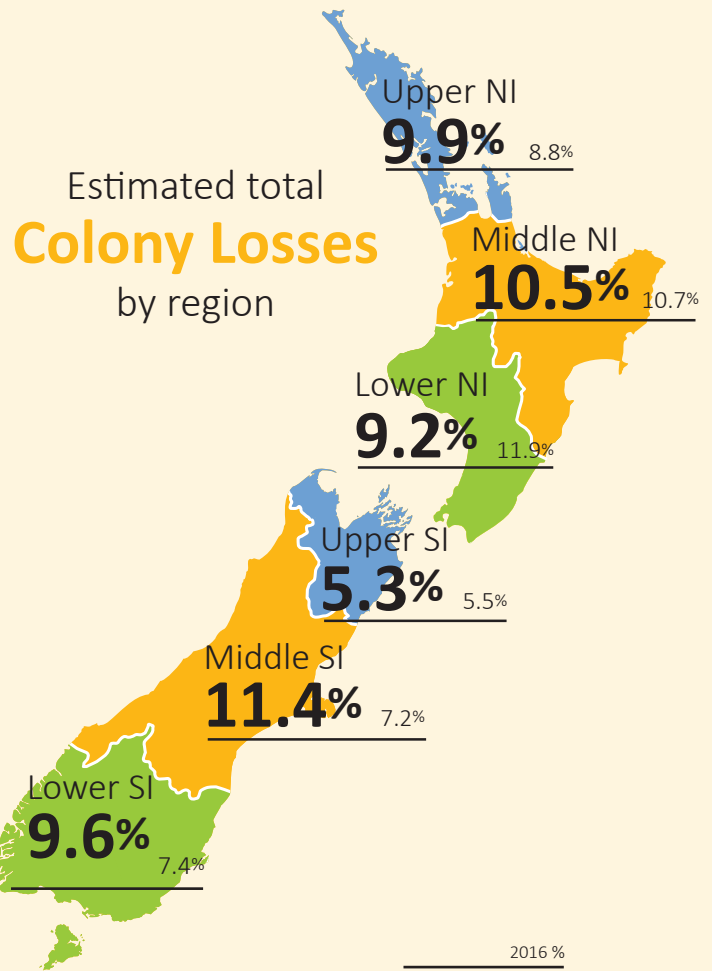
## Average Loss Rates



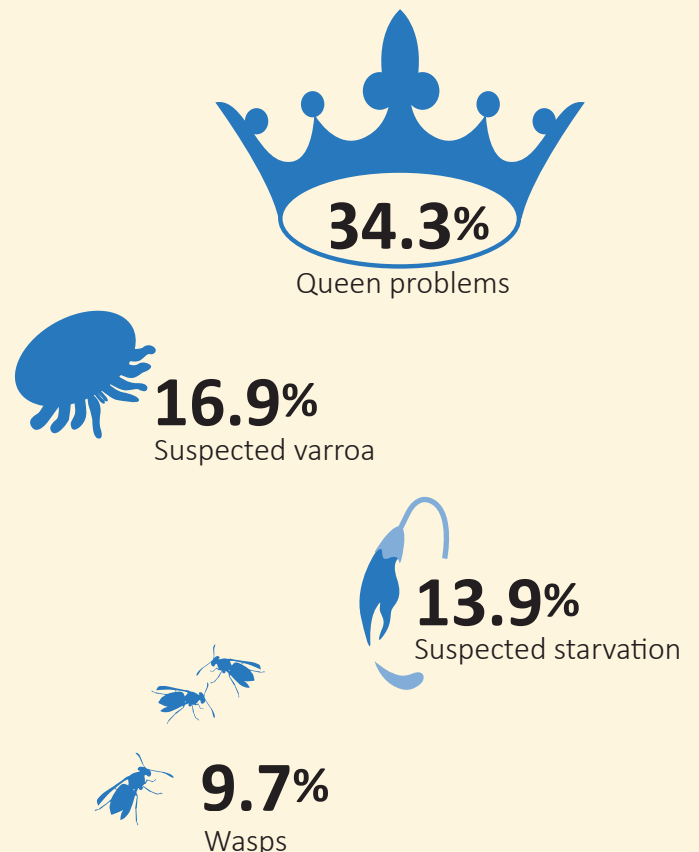
## Varroa mite Monitoring



- No monitoring
- Visual inspection only
- Alcohol wash/sticky board/sugar shake or roll/lab testing



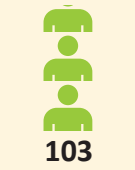
## Leading causes of colony loss



Survey

# Participation

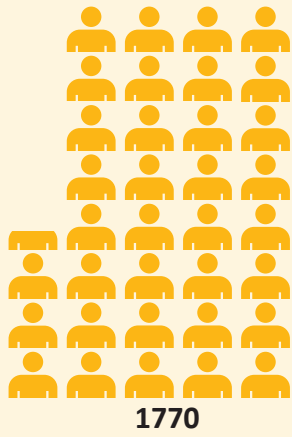
👤 = 50



Commercial beekeepers

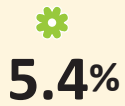


Semi-commercial beekeepers



Non-commercial beekeepers

# Use of production colonies

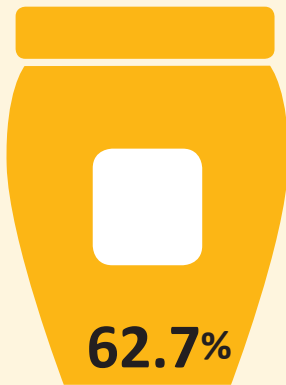


Pollination only



**31.9%**

Both

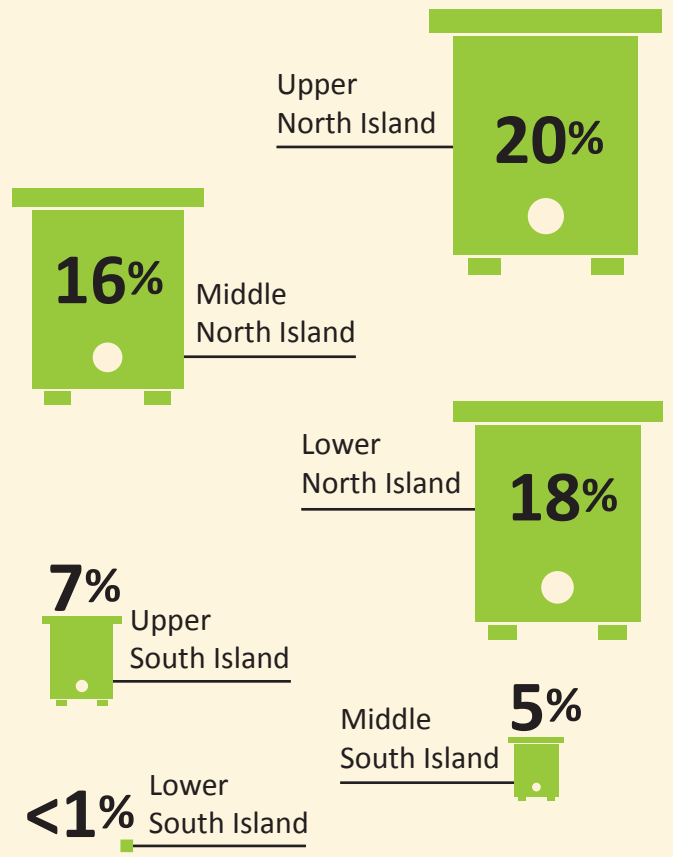


**62.7%**

Honey only

# Apiary sites Overcrowded

by region\*



\*among beekeepers with at least 250 colonies

# In a nutshell...

- Estimated colony losses for winter 2017 were 9.8%. This figure is statistically indistinguishable from 2015 and 2016 estimates. Recent evidence from Europe suggests that colony loss rates may change significantly over time.
- Estimated losses were substantially higher in the Middle South Island and Lower South Island in 2017 than in 2016. Estimated losses fell substantially in the Lower North Island.
- Average loss rates are significantly higher for non-commercial beekeepers than for semi-commercial and commercial beekeepers; however, there is wide variation in individual loss rates.

- Leading causes of colony losses include queen problems, suspected varroa and related complications, suspected starvation, and wasps. Losses to natural disasters, robbing by other bees, American Foulbrood, suspected diseases, accidents, theft/vandalism, and Argentine ants are less common but also contribute to colony losses.
- Non-commercial beekeepers monitor for varroa at higher rates than semi-commercial and commercial beekeepers; visual inspection remains a prominent technique across all size classes.
- Hive numbers and competition for apiary sites continue to grow. Nearly 1/3 of beekeepers with more than 250 colonies reported apiary sites being lost or compromised due to overcrowding.

# NZ COLONY LOSS SURVEY



Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



View full survey results at:

[www.landcareresearch.co.nz/bee-health](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/bee-health)

View full report at:

[www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/16711](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/16711)