

## MAPLE SYRUP

**New England** (excluding Rhode Island): In 1998, Vermont remained the largest producing state in New England and the Nation, with 55 percent of the region's production and 31 percent of all United States maple syrup. Together, the five New England states produced 56 percent of the national total.

Maple syrup production in New England for 1998 totaled 653,000 gallons, down 8 percent from the previous year. Poor weather conditions in 1998 led to decreased production in all New England states, except for Massachusetts and Connecticut. The percentage decrease from 1997's production varied from 12 percent in New Hampshire to 8 and 9 percent in Maine and Vermont. Connecticut's production remained the same; while Massachusetts showed a 7 percent increase in production. Several counties in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine were severely affected by the January ice storm, causing many producers to tap fewer trees or not tap at all. New England's 1998 sugaring season lasted approximately 31 days, 3 days shorter than 1997. The season started about two weeks earlier than usual. The average opening dates were February 14 in Connecticut, February 23 in Massachusetts, February 25 in New Hampshire, March 1 in Vermont, and March 17 in Maine. Temperatures were reported to be 57 percent too warm, 31 percent favorable, and 12 percent too cold. The sugar content of this year's sap ran about average, requiring 40 gallons of sap to produce 1 gallon of syrup. Syrup color in 1998 was lighter than normal, with only 15 percent of production reported to be dark amber in color. The average closing dates were March 21 in Connecticut, March 27 in Massachusetts, March 30 in New Hampshire, April 1 in Vermont, and April 17 in Maine.

The 1998 New England maple syrup crop was valued at \$18.4 million. This was a six percent decrease from the 1997 total value of \$19.6 million for the five New England states surveyed. The average gallon equivalent price for New England syrup across the retail, wholesale, and bulk markets was \$28.24 which was up 55 cents from 1997's final price of \$27.69.

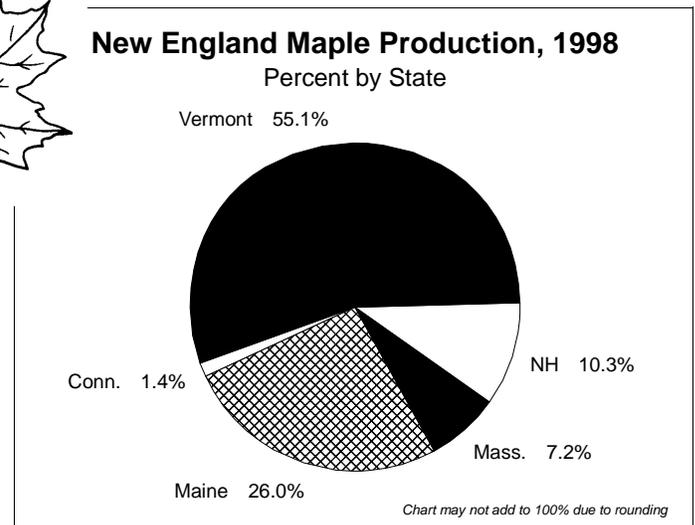
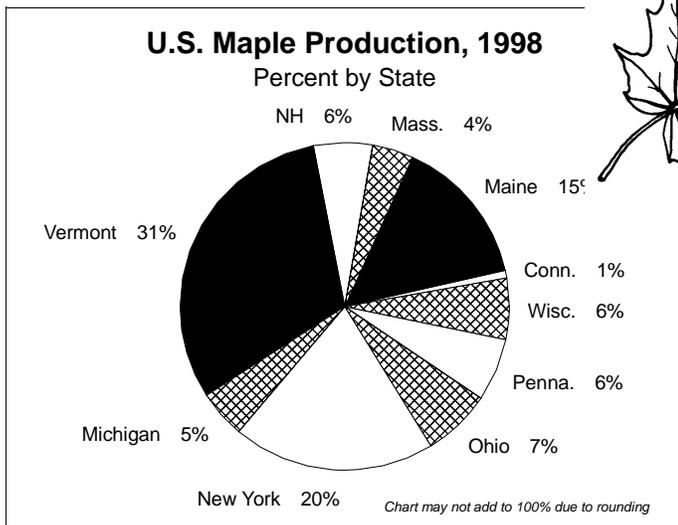
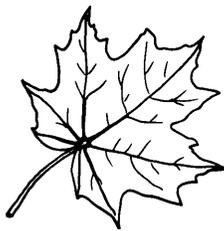
Average gallon equivalent prices for 1998 maple syrup across retail, wholesale, and bulk sales varied widely across the region. Connecticut's all sales equivalent decreased 60 cents to \$41.10 in 1998. Massachusetts' all sales equivalent decreased

\$1.00 to \$36.20. New Hampshire's all sales equivalent decreased \$4.00 to \$36.20. Maine's all sales equivalent increased 80 cents to \$20.60. Vermont's all sales equivalent increased \$1.40 to \$29.00. As expected, Maine and Vermont had a low gallon equivalent price due to the large percentage of bulk sales. The 1998 gallon equivalent price of \$28.24 across all New England states reflects a 2 percent increase from 1997 price of \$27.69.

**United States:** The 1998 United States maple syrup production totaled 1.16 million gallons, down 11 percent from the previous year. The value of production was \$32.2 million, a decrease of nine percent. The United States statistics consists of the ten major producing States.

Maple syrup production decreased in all States except Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. In Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, weather conditions were not favorable for tapping due to warmer than normal temperatures. This caused the sap to begin running in early February and to end by early April. New York saw a major decline in the number of taps due to an ice storm in January; in seven major counties in the northern part of the State, over half of the taps were lost. Despite mild weather in March, New York's trees yielded well. The tapping season in Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin started earlier than normal, and the mild temperatures caused a poor flow of sap. Pennsylvania's weather during tapping went from warm to cold and back to warm, but produced a good flow of sap. All states except Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania averaged a lower yield per tap. Overall, the tapping season was the same length as 1997, but it started more than a week earlier. Many producers in Wisconsin missed the start of the season and did not tap in 1998. Syrup color was medium to light amber. The sap's sugar content was slightly higher than 1997 for the nation but a little lower in New England. Wisconsin had the highest sugar content, followed by Maine. Vermont led the nation in production with 360,000 gallons of syrup but decreased nine percent from the previous season and 35 percent from 1996. New York's production declined 14 percent to 231,000 gallons. Maine was the third leading state with production of 170,000 gallons, eight percent less than 1997.

[For 1999 production, see *Preliminary Statistics.*]



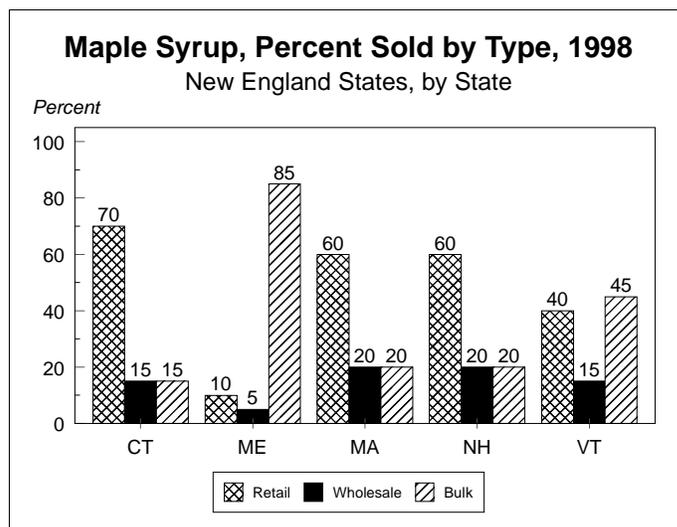
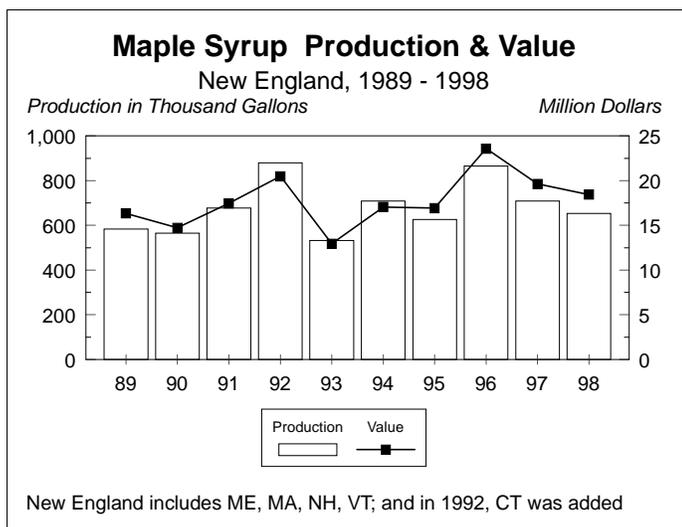
**MAPLE SYRUP: Production, Price and Value, 1989 - 1998**

STATE & YEAR	Production	Average Gallon Equivalent Price from All Sales <sup>1/</sup>	Value of Production
	1,000 Gallons	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
<b>Connecticut</b>			
1989	--	--	--
1990	--	--	--
1991	--	--	--
1992	12	42.00	504
1993	10	43.20	432
1994	11	42.80	471
1995	7	40.20	281
1996	10	42.70	427
1997	9	41.70	375
1998	9	41.10	370
<b>Maine</b>			
1989	103	17.70	1,823
1990	98	17.80	1,744
1991	112	16.70	1,870
1992	153	15.90	2,433
1993	113	14.30	1,616
1994	150	14.30	2,145
1995	162	18.30	2,965
1996	167	21.90	3,657
1997	185	19.80	3,663
1998	170	20.60	3,502
<b>Massachusetts</b>			
1989	24	36.30	871
1990	29	31.80	922
1991	44	33.70	1,492
1992	50	34.80	1,740
1993	33	33.70	1,112
1994	40	36.40	1,456
1995	29	38.10	1,105
1996	49	38.90	1,906
1997	44	37.20	1,637
1998	47	36.20	1,701

STATE & YEAR	Production	Average Gallon Equivalent Price from All Sales <sup>1/</sup>	Value of Production
	1,000 Gallons	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
<b>New Hampshire</b>			
1989	56	37.40	2,094
1990	63	33.70	2,123
1991	81	32.80	2,657
1992	94	32.90	3,093
1993	66	35.50	2,343
1994	73	34.80	2,540
1995	64	37.70	2,413
1996	89	37.20	3,311
1997	76	40.20	3,055
1998	67	36.20	2,425
<b>Vermont</b>			
1989	400	28.90	11,560
1990	375	26.50	9,938
1991	440	26.00	11,440
1992	570	22.30	12,711
1993	310	24.00	7,440
1994	435	23.90	10,397
1995	365	27.80	10,147
1996	550	26.50	14,575
1997	395	27.60	10,902
1998	360	29.00	10,440
<b>New England<sup>2/</sup></b>			
1989	583	28.04	16,348
1990	565	26.07	14,727
1991	677	25.79	17,459
1992	879	23.30	20,481
1993	532	24.33	12,943
1994	709	23.99	17,009
1995	627	26.97	16,911
1996	865	27.60	23,876
1997	709	27.69	19,632
1998	653	28.24	18,438

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

<sup>2/</sup> New England includes ME, MA, NH, VT in 1992 and earlier years. New England includes CT, ME, MA, NH, VT starting in 1992.



### MAPLE SYRUP: Prices by Type of Sales and Size of Container, 1989 - 1998

STATE & YEAR	Retail					Wholesale					Bulk				All Sales gallon equiv price <sup>1/</sup>
	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 <sup>2/</sup>				Dollars
<b>Connecticut</b>															
1992	33.20	19.60	10.20	6.30	4.00	*	15.70	9.20	5.10	3.05	-	-	-	-	42.00
1993	33.80	19.50	10.90	6.55	4.25	*	16.20	8.40	5.00	3.20	-	-	-	-	43.20
1994	33.90	19.60	10.80	6.55	4.10	*	17.20	9.40	5.50	3.20	-	-	*	*	42.80
1995	35.00	19.60	11.10	6.00	4.20	*	14.80	8.10	4.85	3.60	-	-	*	*	40.20
1996	35.40	20.50	11.00	6.95	4.25	*	17.40	8.85	6.50	3.20	-	-	*	*	42.70
1997	34.40	19.90	11.80	6.90	4.20	34.30	17.40	8.90	5.10	3.15	1.60	1.50	1.72	1.25	41.70
1998	34.30	19.60	11.40	7.10	4.65	33.90	18.20	10.10	5.60	3.65	1.60	1.83	1.60	1.38	41.10
<b>Maine</b>															
1989	35.00	19.80	10.60	6.05	3.90	32.10	17.30	9.60	5.40	3.00	-	-	1.35	-	17.70
1990	35.40	19.10	10.60	6.25	3.80	27.90	15.40	8.90	4.90	2.80	-	-	1.35	-	17.80
1991	34.00	18.70	10.20	6.00	3.70	26.70	15.30	8.35	4.65	2.85	1.45	1.25	1.20	0.85	16.70
1992	31.60	17.90	9.75	5.50	3.55	19.40	14.00	7.85	4.20	2.60	1.30	1.20	1.10	0.95	15.90
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	0.95	14.30
1994	32.40	17.60	9.75	5.80	3.80	25.40	16.20	7.05	4.25	2.55	1.25	1.20	1.10	0.90	14.30
1995	30.20	16.90	9.45	5.45	3.60	25.80	13.60	7.05	4.30	2.70	1.55	1.50	1.40	1.25	18.30
1996	32.30	17.50	9.35	5.55	3.70	25.40	13.60	7.50	4.50	2.80	1.60	1.50	1.40	1.55	21.90
1997	31.80	16.70	9.25	5.35	3.85	27.80	14.50	8.30	5.00	3.15	1.50	1.40	1.30	1.30	19.80
1998	33.30	17.70	10.00	5.85	4.15	26.10	15.90	8.55	4.90	3.60	1.59	1.54	1.49	1.41	20.60
<b>Massachusetts</b>															
1989	33.60	18.20	10.80	6.40	3.95	28.70	16.40	8.90	4.80	2.90	2.50	2.15	1.60	1.50	36.30
1990	33.90	18.60	10.10	6.50	4.20	26.70	15.60	8.70	4.90	3.10	2.35	2.10	1.60	1.20	31.80
1991	33.60	18.60	10.10	6.50	4.10	27.00	15.20	8.85	5.05	2.90	1.75	1.55	1.35	1.15	33.90
1992	32.40	18.70	10.80	6.40	3.75	21.90	17.60	8.50	5.10	2.90	1.20	1.15	1.05	1.00	34.80
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	0.95	36.40
1995	30.10	17.80	10.50	6.40	4.15	23.50	14.70	8.15	4.75	2.75	1.85	1.60	1.30	1.20	38.10
1996	32.40	18.30	10.60	6.65	4.05	25.70	16.00	8.60	5.05	3.25	1.67	1.63	1.32	1.34	38.90
1997	31.60	18.50	10.70	6.55	4.35	25.20	16.20	8.80	5.30	3.20	1.61	1.68	1.50	1.23	37.20
1998	31.90	18.60	11.20	6.30	5.05	26.40	15.40	8.30	5.05	3.05	2.25	1.83	2.20	1.24	36.20
<b>New Hampshire</b>															
1989	33.90	19.00	10.70	6.55	3.90	30.30	16.90	9.20	5.55	3.10	2.05	2.00	1.65	1.00	37.40
1990	33.30	18.70	10.10	6.30	3.75	28.50	16.00	8.95	5.25	2.75	1.85	1.70	1.20	0.90	33.70
1991	32.20	18.00	10.30	6.15	3.70	28.70	15.40	8.75	5.05	2.90	1.60	1.50	1.30	1.00	32.80
1992	31.40	18.00	10.80	6.30	3.70	21.70	12.30	6.85	4.10	2.90	1.25	1.15	1.10	1.00	32.90
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
1995	31.20	17.80	10.40	6.25	3.70	25.50	14.70	7.75	4.55	2.75	2.00	1.40	1.50	1.05	37.70
1996	32.10	17.80	10.50	6.20	3.80	24.90	14.80	8.40	4.90	3.10	1.84	1.62	1.34	1.18	37.20
1997	33.10	19.10	10.90	6.45	3.70	25.60	15.50	8.55	5.40	2.90	1.72	1.57	1.40	1.28	40.20
1998	30.90	17.70	10.80	6.50	3.85	27.60	15.60	8.20	4.95	3.10	3.66	1.81	1.46	1.38	36.20
<b>Vermont</b>															
1989	32.80	18.50	10.60	6.40	4.00	29.00	16.70	9.10	5.40	3.25	2.00	1.85	1.50	0.90	28.90
1990	30.90	17.60	10.10	6.10	3.75	28.40	15.70	8.75	5.15	3.10	1.95	1.65	1.25	0.85	26.50
1991	29.80	17.10	9.75	5.95	3.75	24.80	14.40	8.30	4.70	2.90	1.70	1.55	1.20	1.05	26.00
1992	26.70	16.00	9.50	6.00	3.70	21.80	13.40	7.15	4.65	2.75	1.20	1.15	1.10	1.05	22.30
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
1995	28.80	16.90	10.40	6.45	4.20	24.00	13.60	7.95	4.65	3.10	1.80	1.50	1.40	1.30	27.80
1996	28.30	16.50	10.10	6.15	4.20	24.30	13.90	8.10	4.80	3.05	1.79	1.56	1.39	1.25	26.50
1997	28.30	17.00	10.00	6.25	4.05	24.70	14.50	8.20	4.55	3.10	1.76	1.62	1.48	1.39	27.60
1998	29.80	17.60	10.30	6.35	4.45	26.80	15.50	8.60	5.00	3.05	1.91	1.80	1.67	1.55	29.00

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

<sup>2/</sup> For dollars per gallon: multiply dollars per pound by 11.03 pounds of maple syrup per gallon.

\* Data not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.