



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
STATISTICAL OFFICE



World Bee Day

Why 20 May?

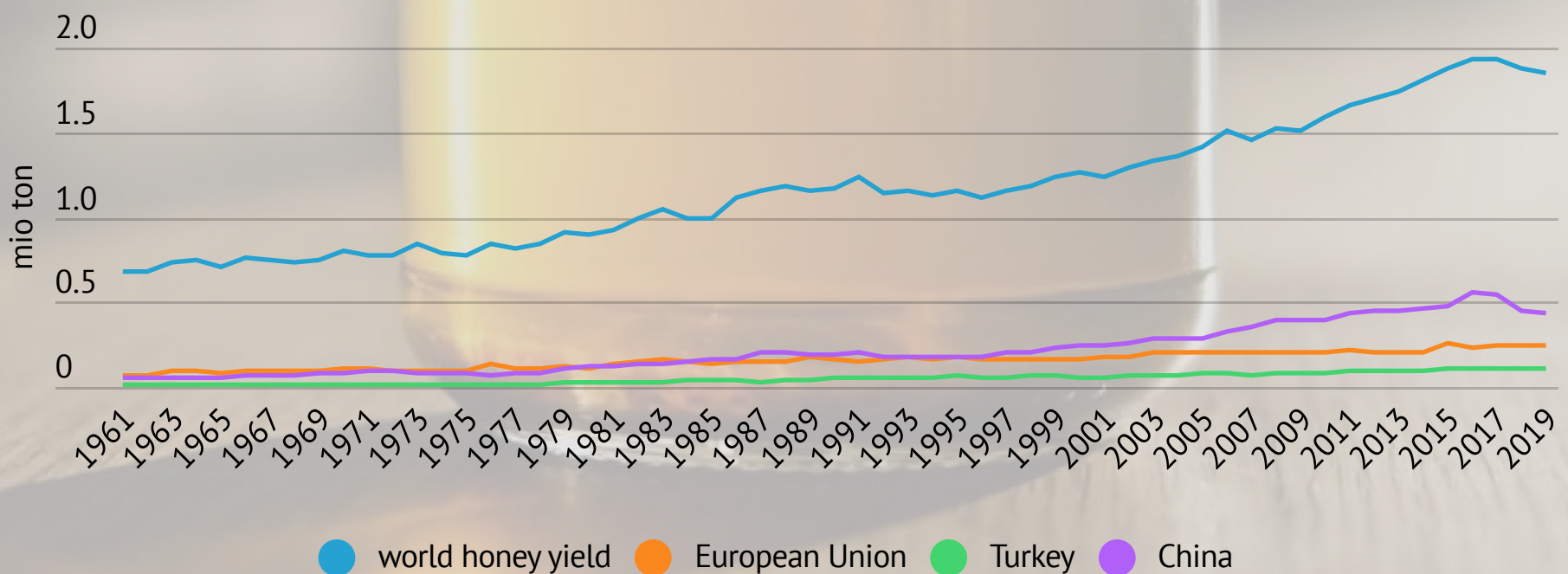
In 2017, at the initiative of Slovenia, the United Nations declared 20 May the World Bee Day. On this day in 1734, Anton Janša, a painter, the founder of modern beekeeping and the first teacher of modern beekeeping in the world, was born in Breznica near Žirovnica. May is also the month of lush development of bees in the northern hemisphere. In the southern hemisphere, it is autumn, the time of collecting honey and making honey products. 20 May is thus primarily aimed at raising awareness of the important role that bees and other pollinators play in ensuring food security.



World honey yield

World honey production is increasing. The total amount of honey in 2019 compared to 1961 increased by 173%, from 679,000 tons to 1.8 million tons. In 2019, the three largest honey producers were Mainland China (24%), the European Union (12.5%) and Turkey (5.9%).

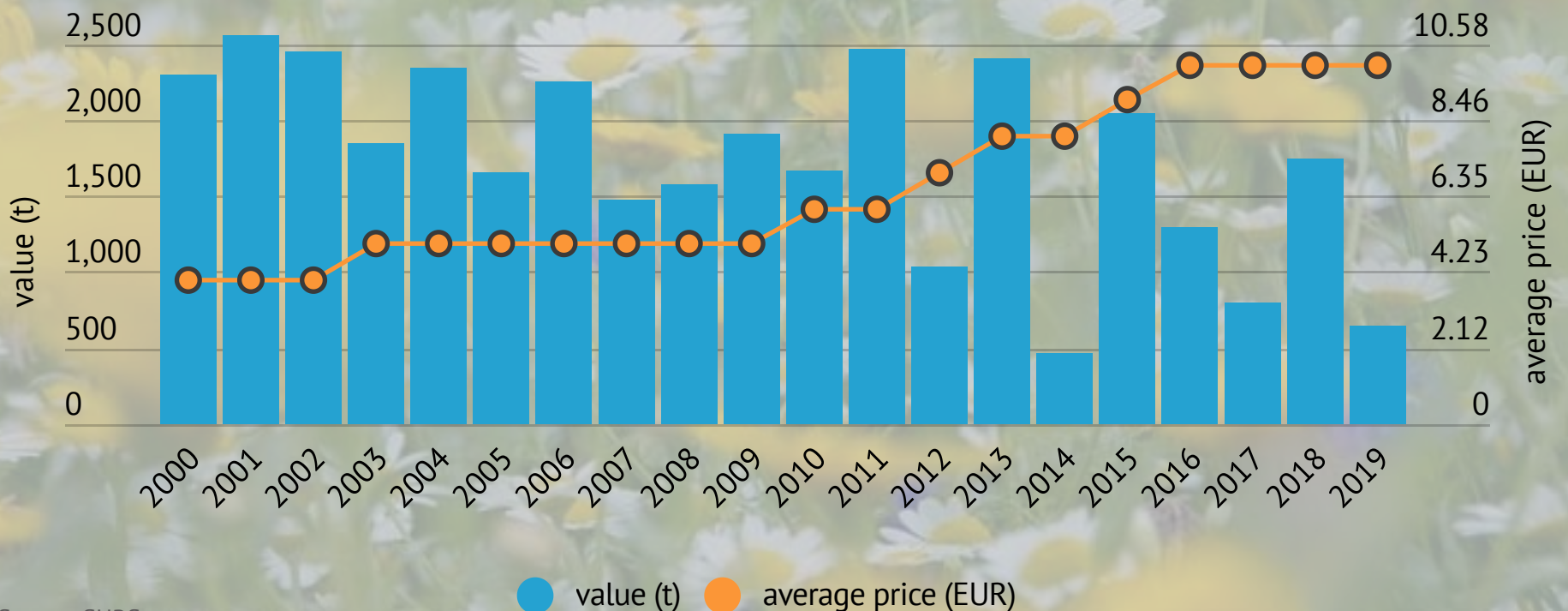
World honey production and comparison between the three largest honey producers in 2019



Honey production in Slovenia

In 2019, 10,145 beekeepers in Slovenia were taking care of 208,000 hives, which means that on average each beekeeper took care of 21 hives. Weather conditions strongly affect the amount of honey produced. In 2019, they were unfavourable for honey production. As a result, 650 tons of honey were produced in Slovenia, which is 63% less than in 2018. The average price of honey on food markets in 2019 was 10 EUR per kg, which is the same as in the past three years.

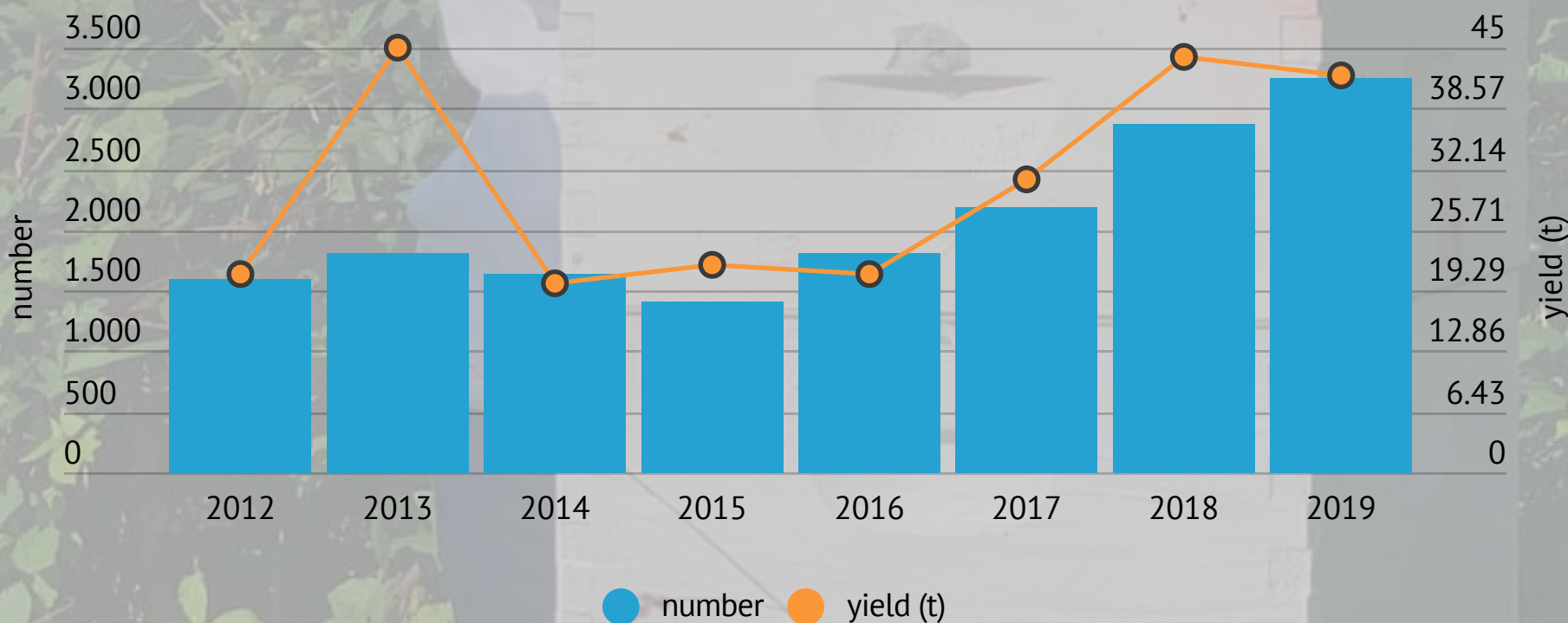
Honey production in Slovenia and its average price on food markets, Slovenia



Organic honey production in Slovenia

The number of hives in organic farming is increasing. In 2019, there were 3,245 hives in organic farming, which is 13% more than in 2018 and as much as 49% more than in 2017. The production of organic honey is also increasing. In 2019, 42 tons of organic honey was produced, which is 36% more than the average of the last eight years.

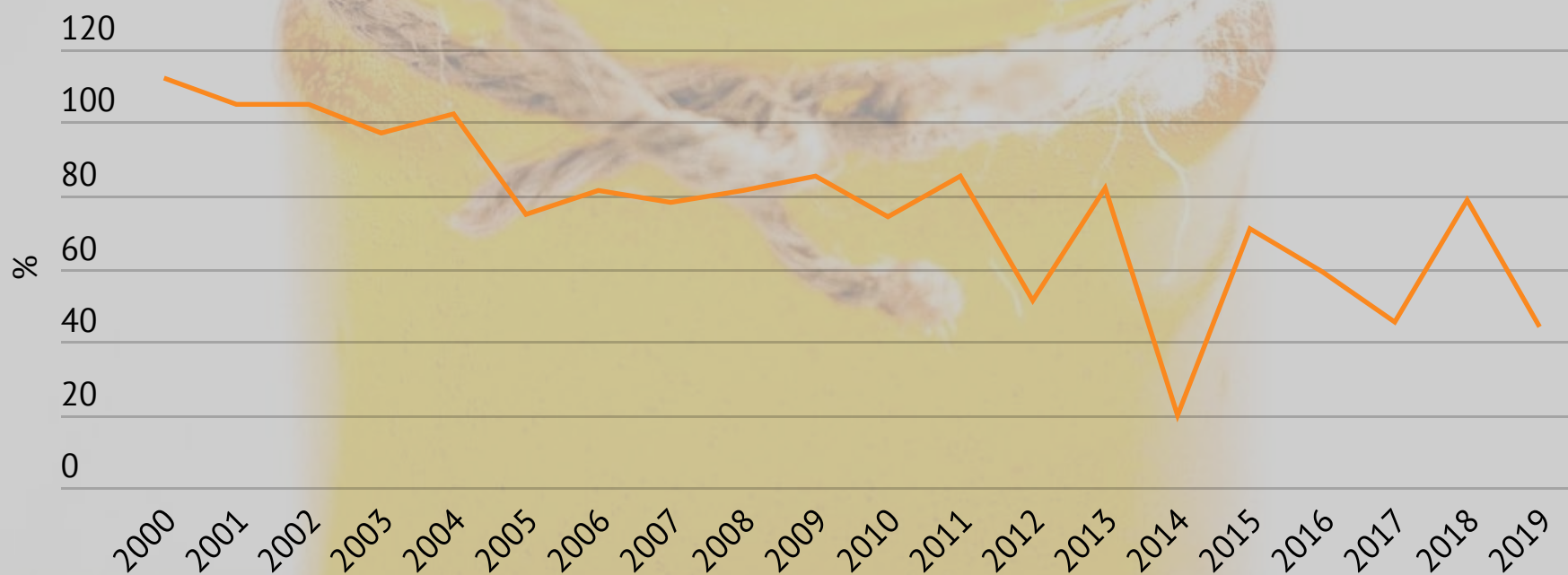
Number of hives in organic farming and yield of organic honey, Slovenia



Self-sufficiency in honey and average honey consumption in Slovenia

The honey self-sufficiency rate in Slovenia was 44% in 2019, which is 35 percentage points less than in 2018. The honey self-sufficiency rate was the lowest (20%) in 2014, and the highest (112%) in 2000. Honey consumption did not change significantly in the 2000–2019 period. The average consumption of honey was the lowest in 2019, 0.7 kg per capita, and the highest in 2006, 2011, 2013 and 2015, 1.4 kg per capita.

Honey self-sufficiency rate, Slovenia



Honey imports and exports

In 2020, Slovenia imported 29% more and exported 8% less honey than in 2019. In 2020, Slovenia imported 1,106 tons of honey worth EUR 3.4 million, mostly from Belgium (22%) and Hungary (22%). In the same year, Slovenia exported 306 tons of honey worth EUR 1.6 million, mostly to Japan (36%) and Canada (26%).

Imports and exports of honey, Slovenia

