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United States Honey Production Up 8 Percent

Honey production in 2008 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 161 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. There were 2.30 million colonies producing honey in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 15 percent from the 60.7 pounds in 2007. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 50.4 million pounds on December 15, 2008, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Record High

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2008 to 141.0 cents, up 31 percent from 107.7 cents in 2007. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2008 were up from the previous year for all color classes and marketing channels. Prices for the 2007 crop reflect honey sold in 2007 and 2008. Some 2007 crop honey was sold in 2008, which caused some revisions to the 2007 crop prices.

Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2007-08

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>
Water White, Extra White, White	103.0	138.6	172.8	192.4	104.6	141.2
Extra Light Amber	97.5	133.6	188.0	205.4	106.4	139.1
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	93.8	125.5	218.3	235.7	112.5	139.6
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	132.7	135.7	291.1	302.9	175.6	197.6
All Honey	99.9	134.0	204.6	219.7	107.7	141.0

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 2007^{1 2}**

State	Honey Producing Colonies ³	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ⁴	Average Price per Pound ⁵	Value of Production ⁶
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Cents</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL	11	56	616	209	149	918
AZ	30	64	1,920	902	126	2,419
AR	28	80	2,240	672	95	2,128
CA	340	40	13,600	3,672	104	14,144
CO	31	51	1,581	838	115	1,818
FL	160	71	11,360	1,363	99	11,246
GA	60	58	3,480	522	119	4,141
HI	10	92	920	285	170	1,564
ID	92	41	3,772	1,848	115	4,338
IL	9	63	567	374	249	1,412
IN	8	53	424	119	150	636
IA	26	81	2,106	1,221	131	2,759
KS	14	40	560	196	118	661
KY	4	61	244	54	212	517
LA	29	89	2,581	413	108	2,787
ME	9	26	234	59	132	309
MI	72	64	4,608	2,350	119	5,484
MN	130	68	8,840	2,564	104	9,194
MS	15	92	1,380	166	91	1,256
MO	14	46	644	148	112	721
MT	135	68	9,180	2,479	99	9,088
NE	45	49	2,205	1,477	103	2,271
NV	10	28	280	67	299	837
NJ	9	57	513	185	196	1,005
NM	6	59	354	138	142	503
NY	53	57	3,021	1,843	138	4,169
NC	12	45	540	76	249	1,345
ND	420	74	31,080	9,013	96	29,837
OH	14	61	854	376	177	1,512
OR	46	43	1,978	1,088	131	2,591
PA	25	42	1,050	326	170	1,785
SD	255	52	13,260	10,608	102	13,525
TN	7	65	455	114	199	905
TX	105	82	8,610	1,550	96	8,266
UT	28	42	1,176	270	113	1,329
VT	5	64	320	96	170	544
VA	6	46	276	63	243	671
WA	46	44	2,024	648	125	2,530
WV	6	48	288	95	209	602
WI	60	84	5,040	3,024	122	6,149
WY	43	80	3,440	894	100	3,440
Oth Sts ^{7 8}	15	48	720	230	266	1,915
US ^{8 9}	2,443	60.7	148,341	52,635	107.7	159,763

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

² Revised.

³ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

⁴ Stocks held by producers.

⁵ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁶ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

⁷ CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

⁸ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁹ Summation of States will not equal U.S. level value of production.

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 2008¹**

State	Honey Producing Colonies ²	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ³	Average Price per Pound ⁴	Value of Production ⁵
	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>	<i>Cents</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
AL	9	66	594	214	186	1,105
AZ	25	64	1,600	336	125	2,000
AR	28	75	2,100	525	131	2,751
CA	360	51	18,360	4,039	141	25,888
CO	27	45	1,215	656	150	1,823
FL	150	79	11,850	1,304	130	15,405
GA	55	71	3,905	312	149	5,818
HI	10	90	900	225	148	1,332
ID	90	40	3,600	1,440	142	5,112
IL	8	56	448	116	246	1,102
IN	6	67	402	129	161	647
IA	24	62	1,488	580	156	2,321
KS	10	61	610	128	152	927
KY	4	39	156	27	236	368
LA	29	77	2,233	246	133	2,970
ME	7	42	294	79	150	441
MI	71	73	5,183	2,021	143	7,412
MN	122	78	9,516	2,569	139	13,227
MS	14	98	1,372	110	130	1,784
MO	11	53	583	152	178	1,038
MT	134	70	9,380	4,596	137	12,851
NE	36	67	2,412	1,254	142	3,425
NV	10	29	290	52	237	687
NJ	9	40	360	122	158	569
NM	6	48	288	95	148	426
NY	50	70	3,500	1,260	150	5,250
NC	12	52	624	137	212	1,323
ND	390	90	35,100	8,424	135	47,385
OH	14	53	742	371	188	1,395
OR	50	43	2,150	1,097	148	3,182
PA	23	48	1,104	276	165	1,822
SD	225	95	21,375	11,970	134	28,643
TN	7	61	427	149	204	871
TX	77	64	4,928	1,380	134	6,604
UT	28	48	1,344	242	156	2,097
VT	5	66	330	119	179	591
VA	6	42	252	45	218	549
WA	41	44	1,804	722	150	2,706
WV	6	43	258	49	198	511
WI	58	80	4,640	2,366	140	6,496
WY	39	61	2,379	381	137	3,259
Oth Sts ^{6,7}	15	51	765	130	229	1,752
US ^{7,8}	2,301	69.9	160,861	50,445	141.0	226,814

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

² Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

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⁷ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

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Reliability Statement

Survey Procedures: Data for honey producing operations are collected from a stratified sample of all known producers with 5 or more colonies. States with small populations are not sampled, instead a complete census is surveyed. Individual NASS Field Offices maintain a list of all known honey producers and use known sources of producers to update their lists. All sampled honey producers with 5 or more colonies are mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail. Those that do not respond by mail are telephoned or enumerated in person. Prices are collected by color class and marketing channel.

Estimation Procedures: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the estimates from reported data. All data are analyzed for unusual values. Data from each operation are compared to their own past operating profile and to trends from similar operations. Data for missing operations were estimated based on similar operations or historical data. State offices prepare these estimates by using a combination of survey indications and historic trends. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Individual State estimates are reviewed by the Agricultural Statistics Board for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: The previous year's estimates are subject to revision when current year's estimates are made. Revisions are the result of late reports or corrected data. Price revisions can be the result of additional sales reported the following year.

Reliability: Since all honey producing operations are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. While these errors cannot be measured directly, they are minimized through strict quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist in evaluating the reliability of the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and final estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for honey producing colonies over the past 10 years is 0.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.30 million colonies by more than 0.9 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.7 percent.

Reliability of Honey Estimates ¹

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 Percent Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Honey Producing Colonies	0.9	1.7	38	16	0	50	2	7
Honey Production	0.4	0.8	1,215	514	0	2,182	3	6

¹ Based on data for the past 10 years.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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 David Colwell - Cold Storage (202) 720-8784

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 Bruce Boess - Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production,
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