Honey

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United States Honey Production Down 1 Percent

Honey production in 2012 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 147 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2011. There were 2.62 million colonies producing honey in 2012, up 5 percent from 2011. Yield per colony averaged 56.1 pounds, down 6 percent from the 59.6 pounds in 2011. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, at the United States level yield 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 32.9 million pounds on December 15, 2012, down 10 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Record High Honey Prices

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2012 to 195.1 cents per pound, up 11 percent from 176.5 cents per pound in 2011. United States and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through cooperatives, private, and retail channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2011 crop reflect honey sold in 2011 and 2012. Some 2011 crop honey was sold in 2012, which caused some revisions to the 2011 crop prices.

Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2011 and 2012

Color class	Price					
	Co-op and private		Retail		All	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)
Water white, extra white, white	170.1	189.9	274.1	296.9	172.9	191.4
Extra light amber	164.4	189.6	307.1	293.5	171.1	194.3
Light amber, amber, dark amber	165.7	179.4	315.4	350.1	183.4	200.2
All other honey, area specialties	182.6	210.2	461.0	522.7	225.2	286.5
All honey	167.7	187.8	314.7	340.5	176.5	195.1

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2011

[Producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State]

State	Honey producing colonies [1]	Yield per colony	Production	Stocks December 15 [2]	Average price per pound [3]	Value of production [4]
	(1,000)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(cents)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	9	50	450	63	251	1,130
Arizona	23	53	1,219	427	155	1,889
Arkansas	22	64	1,408	239	162	2,281
California	370	48	17,760	3,730	165	29,304
Colorado	31	55	1,705	443	200	3,410
Florida	180	61	10,980	988	168	18,446
Georgia	65	43	2,795	196	165	4,612
Hawaii	9	74	666	246	365	2,431
Idaho	87	36	3,132	1,879	178	5,575
Illinois	7	50	350	98	390	1,365
Indiana	8	51	408	147	214	873
Iowa	25	62	1,550	961	196	3,038
Kansas	7	44	308	117	215	662
Kentucky	4	39	156	12	317	495
Louisiana	36	77	2,772	471	167	4,629
Maine	4	30	120	17	198	238
Michigan	74	64	4,736	2,084	181	8,572
Minnesota	120	53	6,360	2,099	163	10,367
Mississippi	18	115	2,070	104	153	3,167
Missouri	8	43	344	76	214	736
Montana	145	92	13,340	3,202	170	22,678
Nebraska	41	59	2,419	653	175	4,233
New Jersey	11	41	451	135	370	1,669
New Mexico	7	56	392	153	169	662
New York	49	56	2,744	1,235	196	5,378
North Carolina	14	62	868	95	283	2,456
North Dakota	460	71	32,660	7,512	167	54,542
Ohio	15	66	990	228	234	2,317
Oregon	60	34	2,040	755	168	3,427
Pennsylvania	24	44	1,056	306	255	2,693
South Dakota	250	66	16,500	4,290	170	28,050
Tennessee	7	44	308	68	293	902
Texas	78	58	4,524	633	178	8,053
Utah	23	39	897	170	175	1,570
Vermont	4	43	172	43	231	397
Virginia	4	40	160	21	407	651
Washington	71	38	2,698	836	193	5,207
West Virginia	4	53	212	45	257	545
Wisconsin	57	63	3,591	1,508	189	6,787
Wyoming	35	54	1,890	265	172	3,251
Other States [5] [6]	25	46	1,156	211	299	3,456
United States [6] [7]	2,491	59.6	148,357	36,761	176.5	261,850

[1] 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.
[2] Stocks held by producers.
[3] Average price per pound based on expanded sales.
[4] Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.
[5] Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and South Carolina not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
[6] Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.
[7] United States value of production will not equal summation of States.

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2012

[Producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State]

State	Honey producing colonies [1]	Yield per colony	Production	Stocks December 15 [2]	Average price per pound [3]	Value of production [4]
	(1,000)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(cents)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	8	54	432	65	243	1,050
Arizona	22	46	1,012	253	170	1,720
Arkansas	26	63	1,638	197	184	3,014
California	340	35	11,900	3,213	193	22,967
Colorado	26	48	1,248	487	212	2,646
Florida	199	64	12,736	1,274	181	23,052
Georgia	62	51	3,162	190	189	5,976
Hawaii	10	75	750	263	319	2,393
Idaho	96	32	3,072	553	161	4,946
Illinois	7	61	427	145	340	1,452
Indiana	9	59	531	228	244	1,296
Iowa	38	61	2,318	1,229	211	4,891
Kansas	7	55	385	146	235	905
Kentucky	5	51	255	41	318	811
Louisiana	41	86	3,526	141	177	6,241
Maine	4	34	136	24	225	306
Michigan	76	57	4,332	1,386	203	8,794
Minnesota	130	67	8,710	1,655	188	16,375
Mississippi	19	118	2,242	67	163	3,654
Missouri	7	53	371	108	256	950
Montana	149	52	7,748	2,479	191	14,799
Nebraska	44	65	2,860	1,173	191	5,463
New Jersey	14	33	462	51	188	869
New Mexico	5	52	260	99	313	814
New York	52	51	2,652	1,008	228	6,047
North Carolina	13	39	507	106	369	1,871
North Dakota	495	69	34,155	6,148	189	64,553
Ohio	19	60	1,140	433	242	2,759
Oregon	62	32	1,984	873	211	4,186
Pennsylvania	17	60	1,020	286	262	2,672
South Dakota	270	63	17,010	3,742	194	32,999
Tennessee	7	61	427	68	285	1,217
Texas	95	52	4,940	741	200	9,880
Utah	26	38	988	217	185	1,828
Vermont	4	60	240	53	234	562
Virginia	4	41	164	23	385	631
Washington	64	41	2,624	1,050	235	6,166
West Virginia	7	48	336	111	280	941
Wisconsin	63	69	4,347	1,956	204	8,868
Wyoming	51	51	2,601	468	182	4,734
Other States [5] [6]	31	47	1,444	172	304	4,390
United States [6] [7]	2,624	56.1	147,092	32,922	195.1	286,976

[1] 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.
[2] Stocks held by producers.
[3] Average price per pound based on expanded sales.
[4] Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.
[5] Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and South Carolina not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.
[6] Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.
[7] United States value of production will not equal summation of States.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for honey producing operations are collected from a stratified sample of all known producers with five or more colonies. 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 five or more colonies are mailed a questionnaire and given adequate time to respond by mail or electronic data reporting (EDR). Those that do not respond by mail or EDR are telephoned or possibly 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. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the 5-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

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 1.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.62 million colonies by more than 1.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.8 percent.

Reliability of Honey Estimates

[Based on data for the past 10 years]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Years	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Honey producing colonies	1.0	1.8	16	-	50	7	2
Honey production	0.8	1.4	771	-	2,928	6	3

- Represents zero.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch ..... (202) 720-3570

Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section ..... (202) 720-4447
- Cody Brokmeyer – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised ..... (202) 690-3237
- David Colwell – Cold Storage ..... (202) 720-8784
- LaKeya Jones – Catfish Processing, Catfish Production, Trout Production, Census of Aquaculture, Honey, Mink ..... (202) 720-0585
- Dawn Keen – Egg Products ..... (202) 720-4448
- Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs ..... (202) 690-8632
- Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery ..... (202) 720-3244

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.