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United States Honey Production Up 19 Percent

Honey production in 2014 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 178 million pounds, up 19 percent from 2013. There were 2.74 million colonies producing honey in 2014, up 4 percent from 2013. Yield per colony averaged 65.1 pounds, up 15 percent from the 56.6 pounds in 2013. 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 41.2 million pounds on December 15, 2014, up 8 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 2014 to 216.1 cents per pound, up 1 percent from 214.1 cents per pound in 2013. 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 2013 crop reflect honey sold in 2013 and 2014. Some 2013 crop honey was sold in 2014, which caused some revisions to the 2013 crop prices.

Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2013 and 2014

Color class	Price					
	Co-op and private		Retail		All	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)	(cents per pound)
Water white, extra white, white	210.9	204.0	340.9	327.1	212.9	205.6
Extra light amber	204.0	208.4	330.6	381.8	209.0	215.8
Light amber, amber, dark amber	197.3	207.7	405.1	423.4	219.2	232.3
All other honey, area specialties	222.4	251.6	492.5	525.2	248.9	305.2
All honey	205.8	206.4	382.4	406.6	214.1	216.1

Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2013

[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	7	52	364	55	285	1,037
Arizona	29	36	1,044	251	196	2,046
Arkansas	22	60	1,320	66	202	2,666
California	330	33	10,890	2,505	211	22,978
Colorado	26	43	1,118	324	210	2,348
Florida	220	61	13,420	1,074	203	27,243
Georgia	67	50	3,350	637	226	7,571
Hawaii	13	83	1,079	65	197	2,126
Idaho	83	32	2,656	1,036	202	5,365
Illinois	7	48	336	101	419	1,408
Indiana	6	47	282	82	277	781
Iowa	39	48	1,872	1,217	245	4,586
Kansas	6	46	276	39	250	690
Kentucky	3	41	123	17	325	400
Louisiana	50	98	4,900	490	189	9,261
Maine	7	43	301	27	314	945
Michigan	85	55	4,675	982	216	10,098
Minnesota	130	58	7,540	1,282	199	15,005
Mississippi	17	116	1,972	39	186	3,668
Missouri	10	47	470	85	262	1,231
Montana	159	94	14,946	5,231	209	31,237
Nebraska	46	60	2,760	1,628	207	5,713
New Jersey	11	44	484	34	419	2,028
New York	55	48	2,640	1,030	212	5,597
North Carolina	10	38	380	84	367	1,395
North Dakota	480	69	33,120	6,955	204	67,565
Ohio	17	45	765	390	329	2,517
Oregon	62	35	2,170	456	239	5,186
Pennsylvania	13	45	585	257	303	1,773
South Dakota	265	56	14,840	6,381	207	30,719
Tennessee	7	45	315	63	355	1,118
Texas	106	59	6,254	1,689	210	13,133
Utah	30	34	1,020	92	209	2,132
Vermont	3	51	153	46	389	595
Virginia	5	35	175	42	450	788
Washington	69	39	2,691	1,023	230	6,189
West Virginia	6	46	276	83	366	1,010
Wisconsin	59	60	3,540	1,558	238	8,425
Wyoming	47	66	3,102	558	211	6,545
Other States ^{5 6}	33	39	1,295	186	383	4,960
United States ^{6 7}	2,640	56.6	149,499	38,160	214.1	320,077

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, New Mexico, 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: 2014

[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	7	53	371	26	340	1,261
Arizona	26	39	1,014	193	202	2,048
Arkansas	21	65	1,365	137	200	2,730
California	320	39	12,480	2,995	203	25,334
Colorado	27	37	999	200	200	1,998
Florida	245	60	14,700	1,029	208	30,576
Georgia	73	62	4,526	362	219	9,912
Hawaii	15	93	1,395	140	228	3,181
Idaho	100	34	3,400	850	203	6,902
Illinois	8	49	392	94	441	1,729
Indiana	5	62	310	115	324	1,004
Iowa	35	43	1,505	933	251	3,778
Kansas	7	75	525	84	233	1,223
Kentucky	5	47	235	56	393	924
Louisiana	48	84	4,032	524	226	9,112
Maine	8	47	376	41	536	2,015
Michigan	91	63	5,733	1,835	250	14,333
Minnesota	132	60	7,920	1,426	206	16,315
Mississippi	20	112	2,240	45	201	4,502
Missouri	12	47	564	96	357	2,013
Montana	162	88	14,256	5,132	205	29,225
Nebraska	50	75	3,750	1,688	210	7,875
New Jersey	12	30	360	119	298	1,073
New York	60	55	3,300	1,518	272	8,976
North Carolina	12	43	516	88	347	1,791
North Dakota	490	86	42,140	9,271	200	84,280
Ohio	15	61	915	256	352	3,221
Oregon	71	40	2,840	767	219	6,220
Pennsylvania	17	46	782	203	275	2,151
South Carolina	9	54	486	19	383	1,861
South Dakota	280	87	24,360	5,846	209	50,912
Tennessee	7	63	441	88	323	1,424
Texas	116	78	9,048	2,081	223	20,177
Utah	29	28	812	130	213	1,730
Vermont	3	58	174	61	503	875
Virginia	6	41	246	57	507	1,247
Washington	68	44	2,992	1,167	248	7,420
West Virginia	6	31	186	33	404	751
Wisconsin	53	54	2,862	1,030	232	6,640
Wyoming	38	61	2,318	255	206	4,775
Other States ^{5 6}	31	45	1,404	202	358	5,026
United States ^{6 7}	2,740	65.1	178,270	41,192	216.1	385,241

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, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island 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. NASS Regional 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 1.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.74 million colonies by more than 1.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.4 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	1.3	2.4	18	-	85	5	3
Honey production	1.3	2.4	1,095	-	4,796	4	4

- 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

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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.

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