

honey production



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Commercial apiaries with 300 or more colonies in the 20 major honey producing States expect to produce 116 million pounds of honey in 1973, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is 3 percent less than the Commercial Production in 1972 but 1/5 greater than in 1971. Commercial apiaries had 1,572,000 colonies of bees in 1973 compared with 1,630,000 a year ago and 1,605,000 in 1971. Yield per colony for the 20 major States is expected to average 74 pounds, up slightly from 1972 but 14 pounds more than in 1971.

Commercial production in California is expected to be 17,490,000 pounds, down one-sixth from last year, due to fewer colonies of bees. South Dakota production, at 12,688,000 pounds, is expected to be a tenth below last year. Number of colonies of bees is up slightly but yield per colony is expected to be off 20 pounds from last year. In Florida, both number of colonies and yield per colony are expected to be up slightly from a year ago, resulting in a 6 percent increase in commercial production to 13,328,000 pounds in 1973.

In California, colonies have been in good to excellent condition. In 1973, honey flow has been good, particularly on buckwheat in southern areas. Flow on citrus and other fruits has been somewhat disappointing. In the Plains States, summer weather has been dry, damaging honey plants and decreasing production.

Colonies of bees and commercial honey production in 20 major producing States, 1971-73 1/

State	Colonies of bees				Yield per colony			Honey production			
	1971	1972	1973	1973 as % of 1972	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1973 as % of 1972
	1,000 colonies		Percent		Pounds			1,000 pounds		Percent	
Arizona	41	43	47	109	60	52	70	2,460	2,236	3,290	147
California	431	418	330	79	40	50	53	17,240	20,900	17,490	84
Colorado	37	32	26	81	55	71	66	2,035	2,272	1,716	76
Florida	130	130	136	105	80	97	98	10,400	12,610	13,328	106
Georgia	67	69	70	101	55	38	49	3,685	2,622	3,430	131
Idaho	91	86	100	116	39	47	55	3,549	4,042	5,500	136
Illinois	12	11	10	91	80	63	64	960	693	640	92
Iowa	42	42	36	86	95	80	100	3,990	3,360	3,600	107
Michigan	61	61	56	92	70	55	70	4,270	3,355	3,920	117
Minnesota	79	91	90	99	84	98	111	6,636	8,918	9,990	112
Montana	72	72	73	101	55	110	91	3,960	7,920	6,643	84
Nebraska	102	104	110	106	56	80	68	5,712	8,320	7,480	90
New York	51	53	54	102	70	59	65	3,570	3,127	3,510	112
North Carolina	6	6	7	117	79	60	90	474	360	630	175
North Dakota	55	59	72	122	77	142	92	4,235	8,378	6,624	79
Oregon	28	25	26	104	40	41	40	1,120	1,025	1,040	101
South Dakota	106	115	122	106	97	124	104	10,282	14,260	12,688	89
Texas	66	81	81	100	52	96	65	3,432	7,776	5,265	68
Washington	70	77	76	99	26	43	45	1,820	3,311	3,420	103
Wisconsin	58	55	50	91	104	72	115	6,032	3,960	5,750	145
20 States	1,605	1,650	1,572	96	59.7	73.3	73.8	95,862	119,445	115,954	97

1/ Colonies and honey production from apiaries with 300 or more colonies.