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United States Honey Production Up 5 Percent

Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 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 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2003 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to the 2002 crop prices.

Special Note

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2003 and revised 2002 estimates included in this publication. States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series. Estimates for 2002 contained in this publication will be republished in the *Honey - Final Estimates 1998-02* publication which is scheduled for release on April 29, 2004.

Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2002-03

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>					
Water White, Extra White, White	139.6	143.8	153.8	187.0	140.2	146.0
Extra Light Amber	127.2	135.1	142.0	177.1	128.3	138.1
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	119.0	128.6	154.3	185.4	122.8	133.9
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	109.8	116.3	194.9	251.3	121.9	130.3
All Honey	131.3	137.1	152.2	184.9	132.7	140.4

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 2002¹**

State	Honey Producing Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ²	Average Price per Pound ³	Value of Production
	<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	12	86	1,032	103	118	1,218
AZ	38	63	2,394	1,197	108	2,586
AR	45	88	3,960	871	126	4,990
CA	470	50	23,500	3,525	132	31,020
CO	24	60	1,440	576	129	1,858
FL	220	93	20,460	2,026	114	23,324
GA	50	52	2,600	52	113	2,938
HI	7	136	952	29	111	1,057
ID	100	57	5,700	1,653	137	7,809
IL	9	80	720	130	147	1,058
IN	8	62	496	233	119	590
IA	33	70	2,310	901	143	3,303
KS	17	52	884	407	150	1,326
KY	5	54	270	78	163	440
LA	35	124	4,340	347	116	5,034
ME	11	41	451	266	121	546
MD	3	46	138	21	196	270
MI	72	77	5,544	1,885	140	7,762
MN	117	73	8,541	1,110	147	12,555
MS	18	78	1,404	281	123	1,727
MO	18	50	900	189	142	1,278
MT	134	63	8,442	1,097	138	11,650
NE	43	75	3,225	1,161	149	4,805
NV	9	62	558	61	267	1,490
NJ	11	40	440	92	100	440
NM	11	44	484	252	110	532
NY	60	98	5,880	2,470	125	7,350
NC	16	42	672	74	141	948
ND	320	75	24,000	8,160	146	35,040
OH	18	70	1,260	504	144	1,814
OK	3	53	159	51	163	259
OR	43	49	2,107	885	135	2,844
PA	29	57	1,653	827	134	2,215
SC	5	94	470	14	125	588
SD	225	51	11,475	2,410	142	16,295
TN	8	61	488	137	140	683
TX	114	67	7,638	985	114	8,707
UT	22	59	1,298	208	130	1,687
VT	7	89	623	274	120	748
VA	8	38	304	79	190	578
WA	50	51	2,550	561	127	3,239
WV	9	51	459	151	132	606
WI	70	95	6,650	2,461	134	8,911
WY	38	63	2,394	383	133	3,184
Oth Sts ^{4,5}	9	50	453	216	229	1,036
US ⁵	2,574	66.7	171,718	39,393	132.7	228,338

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State. ² Stocks held by producers. ³ Prices weighted by sales. ⁴ CT, DE, MA, NH, and RI not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. ⁵ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production. ⁶ U.S. value of production is U.S. production multiplied by U.S. price per pound.

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 2003¹**

State	Honey Producing Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ²	Average Price per Pound ³	Value of Production
	<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	13	82	1,066	43	126	1,343
AZ	40	72	2,880	1,123	138	3,974
AR	40	75	3,000	810	127	3,810
CA	480	67	32,160	6,432	142	45,667
CO	24	86	2,064	722	138	2,848
FL	210	71	14,910	1,491	135	20,129
GA	52	65	3,380	270	128	4,326
HI	7	113	791	43	143	1,131
ID	100	46	4,600	1,380	135	6,210
IL	7	60	420	252	173	727
IN	5	56	280	78	159	445
IA	32	59	1,888	868	145	2,738
KS	16	57	912	447	158	1,441
KY	5	48	240	14	164	394
LA	34	90	3,060	275	124	3,794
ME	8	33	264	145	140	370
MD	2	42	84	21	191	160
MI	65	74	4,810	1,732	147	7,071
MN	120	83	9,960	1,892	146	14,542
MS	21	69	1,449	246	128	1,855
MO	17	53	901	189	141	1,270
MT	145	66	9,570	1,914	148	14,164
NE	45	74	3,330	1,299	143	4,762
NV	6	64	384	46	241	925
NJ	10	19	190	101	157	298
NM	6	41	246	108	116	285
NY	67	72	4,824	1,640	140	6,754
NC	10	44	440	79	190	836
ND	340	87	29,580	6,803	136	40,229
OH	15	50	750	278	143	1,073
OK	3	47	141	69	183	258
OR	42	51	2,142	964	126	2,699
PA	27	50	1,350	419	132	1,782
SC	6	70	420	13	195	819
SD	200	70	14,000	2,520	146	20,440
TN	7	40	280	53	153	428
TX	140	67	9,380	1,126	142	13,320
UT	23	57	1,311	144	130	1,704
VT	7	83	581	163	192	1,116
VA	6	37	222	69	169	375
WA	58	56	3,248	942	152	4,937
WV	8	47	376	194	201	756
WI	74	77	5,698	2,678	144	8,205
WY	39	81	3,159	474	140	4,423
Oth Sts ^{4,5}	8	44	355	166	270	958
US ⁵	2,590	69.9	181,096	40,735	140.4	255,791

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State. ² Stocks held by producers. ³ Prices weighted by sales. ⁴ CT, DE, MA, NH, and RI not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. ⁵ Total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production. ⁶ U.S. value of production is U.S. production multiplied by U.S. price per pound.

The next "*Honey*" report will be released in 2005.

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