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Special Note

Honey price per pound data have been updated to dollars per pound from cents per pound. Before deciding to update this data, NASS reviewed our estimating programs against mission- and user-based criteria requirements to maintain the strongest data in service to U.S. agriculture. Information about all NASS surveys and reports is available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

United States Honey Production Up 2 Percent in 2019

United States honey production in 2019 totaled 157 million pounds, up 2 percent from 2018. There were 2.81 million colonies producing honey in 2019, down 1 percent from 2018. Yield per colony averaged 55.8 pounds, up 2 percent from the 54.5 pounds in 2018. 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 41.0 million pounds on December 15, 2019, up 40 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Down 11 Percent in 2019

United States honey prices decreased 11 percent during 2019 to 1.97 cents per pound, compared to 2.21 cents per pound in 2018. 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 2018 crop reflect honey sold in 2018 and 2019. Some 2018 crop honey was sold in 2019, which caused some revisions to the 2018 crop prices.

Price Paid per Queen was 18 Dollars in 2019

The average prices paid in 2019 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$18, \$85, and \$100 respectively. Pollination income for 2019 was \$310 million, up 3 percent from 2018. Other income from honey bees in 2019 was \$77.7 million, down 18 percent from 2018. These estimates along with expenditure and apiary worker information can be found on page 4 of this report.

Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2018

[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)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	6	45	270	14	3.72	1,004
Arizona	24	38	912	109	3.01	2,745
Arkansas	28	50	1,400	84	1.88	2,632
California	335	41	13,735	3,022	2.11	28,981
Colorado	31	48	1,488	283	2.05	3,050
Florida	215	49	10,535	737	2.40	25,284
Georgia	98	34	3,332	200	2.76	9,196
Hawaii	17	103	1,751	18	1.92	3,362
Idaho	96	31	2,976	655	1.96	5,833
Illinois	11	41	451	108	4.83	2,178
Indiana	7	46	322	106	3.58	1,153
Iowa	38	49	1,862	1,005	2.40	4,469
Kansas	5	73	365	95	3.10	1,132
Kentucky	4	41	164	34	5.43	891
Louisiana	45	83	3,735	261	1.91	7,134
Maine	12	32	384	92	2.98	1,144
Michigan	97	44	4,268	768	2.49	10,627
Minnesota	119	61	7,259	1,161	1.94	14,082
Mississippi	20	87	1,740	70	2.07	3,602
Missouri	9	45	405	36	2.83	1,146
Montana	160	92	14,720	3,680	1.90	27,968
Nebraska	40	59	2,360	850	2.01	4,744
New Jersey	13	31	403	165	7.47	3,010
New York	56	48	2,688	833	3.24	8,709
North Carolina	10	33	330	63	5.76	1,901
North Dakota	550	72	39,600	4,752	1.87	74,052
Ohio	14	73	1,022	491	3.72	3,802
Oregon	93	35	3,255	1,009	2.36	7,682
Pennsylvania	19	44	836	309	3.89	3,252
South Carolina	16	48	768	15	3.17	2,435
South Dakota	255	47	11,985	5,154	1.91	22,891
Tennessee	7	46	322	84	4.11	1,323
Texas	132	56	7,392	1,035	2.12	15,671
Utah	26	41	1,066	75	2.10	2,239
Vermont	7	48	336	94	3.76	1,263
Virginia	4	40	160	35	7.24	1,158
Washington	77	43	3,311	563	2.15	7,119
West Virginia	6	37	222	38	4.33	961
Wisconsin	51	45	2,295	711	2.95	6,770
Wyoming	39	56	2,184	175	1.91	4,171
Other States ^{5 6}	36	39	1,399	314	6.02	8,422
United States ^{6 7}	2,828	54.5	154,008	29,303	2.21	340,358

¹ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was harvested during the year. It is possible to harvest 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.

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	(1,000)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Alabama	7	42	294	44	3.20	941
Arizona	23	46	1,058	201	1.97	2,084
Arkansas	20	55	1,100	176	1.53	1,683
California	335	48	16,080	3,216	1.56	25,085
Colorado	32	46	1,472	500	2.14	3,150
Florida	205	45	9,225	830	2.48	22,878
Georgia	102	33	3,366	370	2.61	8,785
Hawaii	16	80	1,280	51	1.28	1,638
Idaho	92	32	2,944	677	1.67	4,916
Illinois	11	39	429	116	4.31	1,849
Indiana	9	55	495	198	3.95	1,955
Iowa	38	55	2,090	1,170	2.24	4,682
Kansas	7	79	553	171	2.95	1,631
Kentucky	6	41	246	44	4.50	1,107
Louisiana	54	72	3,888	428	2.04	7,932
Maine	15	35	525	110	2.92	1,533
Michigan	94	50	4,700	1,363	2.36	11,092
Minnesota	118	59	6,962	3,063	1.63	11,348
Mississippi	22	80	1,760	141	1.85	3,256
Missouri	10	43	430	73	3.32	1,428
Montana	173	86	14,878	5,802	1.48	22,019
Nebraska	39	52	2,028	223	1.46	2,961
New Jersey	15	28	420	155	3.33	1,399
New York	59	58	3,422	1,027	4.49	15,365
North Carolina	14	42	588	118	4.06	2,387
North Dakota	520	65	33,800	6,422	1.40	47,320
Ohio	15	67	1,005	442	3.42	3,437
Oregon	87	32	2,784	1,141	2.07	5,763
Pennsylvania	19	50	950	409	4.24	4,028
South Carolina	16	47	752	45	5.01	3,768
South Dakota	270	72	19,440	7,582	1.53	29,743
Tennessee	8	57	456	91	4.65	2,120
Texas	126	60	7,560	1,814	2.30	17,388
Utah	22	29	638	89	2.06	1,314
Vermont	6	48	288	84	4.34	1,250
Virginia	5	39	195	49	7.51	1,464
Washington	81	35	2,835	1,191	2.12	6,010
West Virginia	6	37	222	47	4.50	999
Wisconsin	46	47	2,162	692	2.99	6,464
Wyoming	39	56	2,184	306	1.35	2,948
Other States ^{5 6}	30	47	1,418	351	5.91	8,380
United States ^{6 7}	2,812	55.8	156,922	41,022	1.97	309,136

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Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2018 and 2019

Color class	Co-op and private		Retail		All	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
Water white, extra white, white	1.98	1.61	3.63	3.99	2.01	1.67
Extra light amber	2.01	1.63	3.44	3.55	2.12	1.85
Light amber, amber, dark amber	2.10	1.93	4.89	5.63	2.51	2.54
All other honey, area specialties	2.64	2.40	7.17	7.77	3.62	3.84
All honey	2.03	1.70	4.38	4.85	2.21	1.97

Income and Expenditures – United States: 2018 and 2019

[Represents income and expenditures on the total number of colonies, regardless of whether honey was harvested]

Item	2018	2019
	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Income		
Pollination income	301,854	309,630
Other income ¹	94,644	77,677
Expenditures		
Varroa control and treatment	17,788	16,366
Other colony issues ²	4,825	4,535
Feed ³	65,220	58,010
Foundation	9,534	7,887
Hives/woodenware	13,646	10,230

¹ Includes sales of queens, queen cells, beeswax, propolis, etc.

² Includes Nosema, tracheal mites, foulbrod, paralysis, Kashmir, coudy wing, etc.

³ Includes syrup, sugar water, honey, pollen paties, and other feeds.

Queen, Package, and Nuc Prices Paid – United States: 2018 and 2019

[Represents prices paid on the total number of colonies, regardless of whether honey was harvested]

Item	2018	2019
	(dollars)	(dollars)
Queen	18	18
Package	87	85
Nuc	108	100

Apiary Workers – United States: 2018 and 2019

[Represents number of paid and unpaid workers that worked with colonies, regardless of whether honey was harvested]

Item	2018	2019
	(workers)	(workers)
Apiary workers	23,000	25,000

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Data for honey producing operations are collected from a stratified sample of all known operations with at least 5 honey bee colonies that also meet USDA’s definition of a farm. To qualify as a farm, an operation must be any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year. NASS Regional Field Offices maintain a list of all known operations and use known sources of operations to update their lists. All sampled operations 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 from operations with five or more colonies.

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 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 1.2 percent. This means that chances are 1 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.81 million colonies by more than 1.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.2 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	1.2	2.2	15	-	85	3	1
Honey production	1.2	2.3	932	-	4,796	3	1

- 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@usda.gov

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Fatema Haque – Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 690-3244
Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs, Egg Products	(202) 690-3676
Adam Peters – Honey, Honey Bee Colonies	(202) 690-4870
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery	(202) 720-6147

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- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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@usda.gov.

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