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United States Honey Production Up 5 Percent

Honey production in 2013 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 149 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2012. There were 2.64 million colonies producing honey in 2013, up 4 percent from 2012. Yield per colony averaged 56.6 pounds, up 1 percent from the 56.0 pounds in 2012. 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 38.2 million pounds on December 15, 2013, up 20 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 2013 to 212.1 cents per pound, up 6 percent from 199.2 cents per pound in 2012. 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 2012 crop reflect honey sold in 2012 and 2013. Some 2012 crop honey was sold in 2013, which caused some revisions to the 2012 crop prices.

Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2012 and 2013

Color class	Price					
	Co-op and private		Retail		All	
	2012 (cents per pound)	2013 (cents per pound)	2012 (cents per pound)	2013 (cents per pound)	2012 (cents per pound)	2013 (cents per pound)
Water white, extra white, white	192.3	211.2	323.9	313.6	194.2	212.6
Extra light amber	195.4	203.4	303.5	333.4	200.2	207.6
Light amber, amber, dark amber	183.0	194.1	352.4	393.9	205.8	214.0
All other honey, area specialties	213.4	219.0	519.5	471.2	281.6	241.1
All honey	191.3	204.7	348.0	373.5	199.2	212.1

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	247	1,067
Arizona	22	46	1,012	253	179	1,811
Arkansas	25	63	1,575	189	198	3,119
California	330	35	11,550	3,119	194	22,407
Colorado	25	48	1,200	468	207	2,484
Florida	193	64	12,352	1,235	184	22,728
Georgia	59	51	3,009	181	192	5,777
Hawaii	10	75	750	263	415	3,113
Idaho	92	32	2,944	530	163	4,799
Illinois	7	61	427	145	355	1,516
Indiana	8	59	472	203	254	1,199
Iowa	37	61	2,257	1,196	217	4,898
Kansas	6	55	330	125	228	752
Kentucky	5	51	255	41	315	803
Louisiana	41	86	3,526	141	183	6,453
Maine	4	34	136	24	239	325
Michigan	73	57	4,161	1,332	203	8,447
Minnesota	125	67	8,375	1,591	192	16,080
Mississippi	18	118	2,124	64	177	3,759
Missouri	7	53	371	108	280	1,039
Montana	145	52	7,540	2,413	195	14,703
Nebraska	43	65	2,795	1,146	193	5,394
New Jersey	14	33	462	51	197	910
New Mexico	5	52	260	99	339	881
New York	51	51	2,601	988	223	5,800
North Carolina	13	39	507	106	376	1,906
North Dakota	480	69	33,120	5,962	192	63,590
Ohio	18	60	1,080	410	246	2,657
Oregon	60	32	1,920	845	216	4,147
Pennsylvania	16	60	960	269	257	2,467
South Dakota	260	63	16,380	3,604	195	31,941
Tennessee	6	61	366	59	293	1,072
Texas	92	52	4,784	718	200	9,568
Utah	25	38	950	209	187	1,777
Vermont	4	60	240	53	239	574
Virginia	4	41	164	23	377	618
Washington	62	41	2,542	1,017	238	6,050
West Virginia	6	48	288	95	291	838
Wisconsin	60	69	4,140	1,863	205	8,487
Wyoming	50	51	2,550	459	187	4,769
Other States ^{5 6}	30	46	1,389	167	311	4,320
United States ^{6 7}	2,539	56.0	142,296	31,829	199.2	283,454

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: 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	281	1,023
Arizona	29	36	1,044	251	189	1,973
Arkansas	22	60	1,320	66	201	2,653
California	330	33	10,890	2,505	210	22,869
Colorado	26	43	1,118	324	210	2,348
Florida	220	61	13,420	1,074	204	27,377
Georgia	67	50	3,350	637	224	7,504
Hawaii	13	83	1,079	65	198	2,136
Idaho	83	32	2,656	1,036	201	5,339
Illinois	7	48	336	101	415	1,394
Indiana	6	47	282	82	267	753
Iowa	39	48	1,872	1,217	254	4,755
Kansas	6	46	276	39	255	704
Kentucky	3	41	123	17	302	371
Louisiana	50	98	4,900	490	183	8,967
Maine	7	43	301	27	303	912
Michigan	85	55	4,675	982	213	9,958
Minnesota	130	58	7,540	1,282	197	14,854
Mississippi	17	116	1,972	39	185	3,648
Missouri	10	47	470	85	253	1,189
Montana	159	94	14,946	5,231	208	31,088
Nebraska	46	60	2,760	1,628	206	5,686
New Jersey	11	44	484	34	389	1,883
New York	55	48	2,640	1,030	199	5,254
North Carolina	10	38	380	84	363	1,379
North Dakota	480	69	33,120	6,955	204	67,565
Ohio	17	45	765	390	321	2,456
Oregon	62	35	2,170	456	229	4,969
Pennsylvania	13	45	585	257	298	1,743
South Dakota	265	56	14,840	6,381	206	30,570
Tennessee	7	45	315	63	358	1,128
Texas	106	59	6,254	1,689	212	13,258
Utah	30	34	1,020	92	207	2,111
Vermont	3	51	153	46	331	506
Virginia	5	35	175	42	423	740
Washington	69	39	2,691	1,023	221	5,947
West Virginia	6	46	276	83	356	983
Wisconsin	59	60	3,540	1,558	231	8,177
Wyoming	47	66	3,102	558	211	6,545
Other States ^{5 6}	33	39	1,295	186	417	5,400
United States ^{6 7}	2,640	56.6	149,499	38,160	212.1	317,087

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.

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 1.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.64 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	19	-	85	6	3
Honey production	1.3	2.4	1,193	-	4,796	5	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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