Honey

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United States Honey Production Down 4 Percent in 2024

United States honey production in 2024 totaled 134 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2023. There were 2.60 million colonies producing honey in 2024, up 3 percent from 2023. Yield per colony averaged 51.7 pounds, down 6 percent from 2023. 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 43.4 million pounds on December 15, 2024, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Up 5 Percent in 2024

United States honey prices increased 5 percent during 2024 to $2.69 per pound, compared to $2.55 per pound in 2023. 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 2023 crop reflect honey sold in 2023 and 2024. Some 2023 crop honey was sold in 2024, which caused some revisions to the 2023 crop prices.

Price Paid per Queen was 18 Dollars in 2024

The average prices paid in 2024 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were $18, $89, and $109, respectively. Pollination income for 2024 was $226 million, down 11 percent from 2023. Other income from honey bees in 2024 was $51.3 million, down 11 percent from 2023. 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: 2023

[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	10	40	400	120	5.52	2,208
Arizona	34	42	1,428	600	2.28	3,256
Arkansas	19	46	874	131	3.09	2,701
California	325	42	13,650	5,051	2.29	31,259
Colorado	25	41	1,025	195	3.18	3,260
Florida	147	32	4,704	706	3.00	14,112
Georgia	77	33	2,541	152	3.45	8,766
Idaho	92	32	2,944	442	1.84	5,417
Illinois	9	49	441	146	7.15	3,153
Indiana	9	53	477	329	4.31	2,056
Iowa	40	66	2,640	739	3.05	8,052
Kansas	5	52	260	86	5.49	1,427
Kentucky	10	30	300	84	6.44	1,932
Louisiana	51	45	2,295	161	3.88	8,905
Maine	12	18	216	41	5.11	1,104
Michigan	70	55	3,850	924	3.10	11,935
Minnesota	106	58	6,148	861	2.02	12,419
Mississippi	25	42	1,050	483	3.23	3,392
Missouri	9	43	387	101	4.96	1,920
Montana	114	85	9,690	3,392	2.01	19,477
Nebraska	33	48	1,584	554	2.35	3,722
New Jersey	15	36	540	54	7.46	4,028
New York	41	58	2,378	761	4.63	11,010
North Carolina	11	44	484	179	6.52	3,156
North Dakota	510	75	38,250	9,180	1.78	68,085
Ohio	20	65	1,300	546	4.36	5,668
Oregon	90	37	3,330	1,099	2.75	9,158
Pennsylvania	20	55	1,100	638	5.38	5,918
South Carolina	11	52	572	114	4.62	2,643
South Dakota	210	87	18,270	12,424	1.95	35,627
Tennessee	12	40	480	77	4.78	2,294
Texas	111	35	3,885	505	3.18	12,354
Utah	24	42	1,008	202	2.03	2,046
Vermont	6	49	294	76	4.39	1,291
Virginia	5	39	195	82	9.49	1,851
Washington	83	27	2,241	740	2.53	5,670
West Virginia	6	51	306	177	5.69	1,741
Wisconsin	62	45	2,790	1,004	3.49	9,737
Wyoming	27	78	2,106	400	1.63	3,433
Other States [5] [6]	46	66	3,038	516	5.15	15,646
United States [6] [7]	2,532	55.1	139,471	44,072	2.55	355,651

[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] Includes data for States not published in this table.
[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.

Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2024

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	(1,000)	(pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(1,000 pounds)	(dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
California	310	43	13,330	3,466	2.46	32,792
Florida	124	33	4,092	532	2.80	11,458
Georgia	64	29	1,856	204	3.36	6,236
Idaho	114	22	2,508	351	2.06	5,166
Iowa	41	67	2,747	577	3.81	10,466
Louisiana	68	50	3,400	1,156	2.67	9,078
Michigan	82	61	5,002	850	3.04	15,206
Minnesota	127	54	6,858	3,360	1.85	12,687
Mississippi	29	80	2,320	278	3.47	8,050
Montana	142	71	10,082	2,521	2.06	20,769
New York	52	53	2,756	965	5.88	16,205
North Carolina	15	40	600	168	6.25	3,750
North Dakota	490	74	36,260	10,515	1.86	67,444
Ohio	22	57	1,254	715	6.08	7,624
Oregon	84	34	2,856	800	2.71	7,740
Pennsylvania	23	52	1,196	502	6.60	7,894
South Dakota	250	53	13,250	8,745	2.84	37,630
Texas	89	46	4,094	2,252	2.24	9,171
Washington	72	30	2,160	626	2.71	5,854
Wisconsin	57	44	2,508	1,104	3.53	8,853
Other States [5] [6]	342	45	15,264	3,707	4.18	63,804
United States [6] [7]	2,597	51.7	134,393	43,394	2.69	361,517

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Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2023 and 2024

Color class	Co-op and private		Retail		All	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)	(dollars per pound)
Water white, extra white, white	2.04	2.12	5.24	5.32	2.12	2.26
Extra light amber	2.23	2.13	5.36	4.51	2.40	2.36
Light amber, amber, dark amber	2.62	2.50	6.56	6.22	3.28	3.20
All other honey, area specialties	3.10	3.49	8.72	7.84	4.58	4.77
All honey	2.24	2.27	6.24	5.74	2.55	2.69

Income and Expenditures – United States: 2023 and 2024

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

Item	2023	2024
	(1,000 dollars)	(1,000 dollars)
Income		
Pollination income	254,945	225,785
Other income [1]	57,720	51,260
Expenditures		
Varroa control and treatment	15,112	16,584
Other colony issues [2]	4,267	4,285
Feed [3]	46,868	45,423
Foundation	5,753	6,280
Hives/woodenware	10,496	12,684

[1] Includes sales of queens, queen cells, beeswax, propolis, etc.
[2] Includes Nosema, tracheal mites, foulbrood, paralysis, Kashmir, cloudy wing, etc.
[3] Includes syrup, sugar water, honey, pollen patties, and other feeds.

Queen, Package, and Nuc Prices Paid – United States: 2023 and 2024

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

Item	2023	2024
	(dollars)	(dollars)
Queen	19	18
Package	91	89
Nuc	120	109

Apiary Workers – United States: 2023 and 2024

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

Item	2023	2024
	(workers)	(workers)
Apiary workers	25,000	26,000

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 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 1 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.60 million colonies by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.8 percent.

Reliability of Honey Estimates

[Based on data for the previous ten 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	0.4	0.8	7	-	25	7	-
Honey production	0.5	0.9	479	-	1,660	7	-

- 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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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.