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United States Honey Production Down 12 Percent

Honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 144 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2008. There were 2.46 million colonies producing honey in 2009, up 5 percent from 2008. Yield per colony averaged 58.5 pounds, down 16 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2008, and is the lowest yield since 1989. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields 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 37.2 million pounds on December 15, 2009, down 27 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Record High

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2009 to 144.5 cents, up 2 percent from 142.1 cents in 2008. U.S. and State level prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Prices for the 2008 crop reflect honey sold in 2008 and 2009. Some 2008 crop honey was sold in 2009, which caused some revisions to the 2008 crop prices.

Honey: Price by Color Class, United States, 2008-2009

Color Class	Price					
	Co-op and Private		Retail		All	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>	<i>Cents per Pound</i>
Water White, Extra White, White	138.9	140.8	195.0	272.1	141.2	142.3
Extra Light Amber	135.2	141.7	209.7	242.4	140.7	146.1
Light Amber, Amber, Dark Amber	127.4	133.6	240.5	275.6	142.0	144.6
All Other Honey, Area Specialties	143.3	138.5	326.8	394.8	205.9	217.8
All Honey	135.4	139.2	224.7	278.4	142.1	144.5

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 2008**^{1 2}

State	Honey Producing Colonies ³	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ⁴	Average Price per Pound ⁵	Value of Production ⁶
	<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	9	66	594	214	190	1,129
AZ	25	64	1,600	336	126	2,016
AR	28	75	2,100	525	135	2,835
CA	360	51	18,360	4,039	139	25,520
CO	27	45	1,215	656	151	1,835
FL	150	79	11,850	1,304	132	15,642
GA	65	71	4,615	369	152	7,015
HI	10	90	900	225	159	1,431
ID	90	40	3,600	1,440	146	5,256
IL	8	56	448	116	259	1,160
IN	7	67	469	150	168	788
IA	24	62	1,488	580	158	2,351
KS	10	61	610	128	155	946
KY	4	39	156	27	244	381
LA	40	77	3,080	493	136	4,189
ME	7	42	294	79	157	462
MI	71	73	5,183	2,021	144	7,464
MN	122	78	9,516	2,569	139	13,227
MS	14	98	1,372	110	130	1,784
MO	11	53	583	152	168	979
MT	134	70	9,380	4,596	137	12,851
NE	36	67	2,412	1,254	145	3,497
NV	10	29	290	52	142	412
NJ	9	40	360	122	162	583
NM	6	48	288	95	148	426
NY	50	70	3,500	1,260	165	5,775
NC	12	52	624	137	218	1,360
ND	400	90	36,000	8,640	136	48,960
OH	14	53	742	371	168	1,247
OR	50	43	2,150	1,097	141	3,032
PA	23	48	1,104	276	165	1,822
SD	225	95	21,375	11,970	134	28,643
TN	7	61	427	149	209	892
TX	77	64	4,928	1,380	134	6,604
UT	28	48	1,344	242	157	2,110
VT	5	66	330	119	220	726
VA	6	42	252	45	242	610
WA	49	44	2,156	862	151	3,256
WV	6	43	258	49	216	557
WI	58	80	4,640	2,366	150	6,960
WY	39	61	2,379	381	137	3,259
Oth Sts ^{7 8}	16	51	817	163	234	1,912
US ^{8 9}	2,342	69.9	163,789	51,159	142.1	232,744

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

² Revised.

³ 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.

⁴ Stocks held by producers.

⁵ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁶ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

⁷ CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

⁸ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁹ Summation of States will not equal U.S. level value of production.

**Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price,
and Value by State and United States, 2009¹**

State	Honey Producing Colonies ²	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec 15 ³	Average Price per Pound ⁴	Value of Production ⁵
	<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	9	49	441	66	182	803
AZ	20	52	1,040	562	153	1,591
AR	24	57	1,368	301	139	1,902
CA	355	33	11,715	2,109	139	16,284
CO	28	53	1,484	326	140	2,078
FL	150	68	10,200	1,428	138	14,076
GA	65	41	2,665	346	147	3,918
HI	10	95	950	323	163	1,549
ID	103	46	4,738	1,706	145	6,870
IL	8	34	272	57	226	615
IN	9	32	288	101	198	570
IA	26	42	1,092	339	151	1,649
KS	9	63	567	164	189	1,072
KY	5	35	175	25	273	478
LA	37	103	3,811	610	132	5,031
ME	6	50	300	51	186	558
MI	66	60	3,960	1,505	151	5,980
MN	122	65	7,930	1,427	140	11,102
MS	14	104	1,456	87	132	1,922
MO	11	47	517	57	198	1,024
MT	146	70	10,220	3,577	145	14,819
NE	48	56	2,688	1,102	144	3,871
NV	10	52	520	57	129	671
NJ	9	32	288	46	193	556
NM	7	60	420	143	163	685
NY	47	65	3,055	978	183	5,591
NC	11	45	495	84	252	1,247
ND	450	77	34,650	7,623	137	47,471
OH	11	50	550	132	275	1,513
OR	55	34	1,870	767	149	2,786
PA	21	40	840	319	199	1,672
SD	270	66	17,820	6,237	139	24,770
TN	7	51	357	86	235	839
TX	74	63	4,662	886	138	6,434
UT	26	38	988	198	147	1,452
VT	5	49	245	69	236	578
VA	6	39	234	56	328	768
WA	62	44	2,728	1,064	149	4,065
WV	5	37	185	33	267	494
WI	63	60	3,780	1,588	151	5,708
WY	37	48	1,776	391	143	2,540
Oth Sts ^{6,7}	15	51	768	127	280	2,150
US ^{7,8}	2,462	58.5	144,108	37,153	144.5	208,236

¹ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

² 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.

³ Stocks held by producers.

⁴ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

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⁶ CT, DE, MD, MA, NH, OK, RI, and SC not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

⁷ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

⁸ Summation of States will not equal U.S. level value of production.

Reliability Statement

Survey Procedures: Data for honey producing operations are collected from a stratified sample of all known producers with five or more colonies. States with small populations are not sampled, instead a complete census is surveyed. 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. Those that do not respond by mail are telephoned or 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.

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 1.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.46 million colonies by more than 1.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.9 percent.

Reliability of Honey Estimates ¹

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 Percent Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Honey Producing Colonies	1.1	1.9	48	20	1	50	4	6
Honey Production	0.7	1.3	1,845	787	64	2,928	5	5

¹ Based on data for the past 10 years.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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 David Colwell - Cold Storage (202) 720-8784

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