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Released March 22, 2017, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## Special Note

Beginning with this publication, new tables have been added with estimates on expenditures, incomes, and other data related to beekeeping. Please contact the Livestock Branch at (202) 720-3570 or email at [HQ\\_SD\\_LB@nass.usda.gov](mailto:HQ_SD_LB@nass.usda.gov) with any questions or concerns.

## United States Honey Production Up 3 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies in 2016

United States honey production in 2016 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 162 million pounds, up 3 percent from 2015. There were 2.78 million colonies from which honey was harvested in 2016, up 4 percent from 2015. Yield of honey harvested per colony averaged 58.3 pounds, down 1 percent from the 58.9 pounds in 2015. 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 41.3 million pounds on December 15, 2016, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude those held under the commodity loan program.

## Operations with Less than Five Colonies Produced 766 Thousand Pounds of Honey in 2016

United States honey production in 2016 from producers with less than five colonies totaled 766 thousand pounds, up 6 percent from 2015. There were 24 thousand colonies from which honey was harvested in 2016, up 4 percent from 2015. The average yield was 31.9 pounds per colony in 2016, up 2 percent from the previous year. This yield is 26.4 pounds less than what was harvested per colony on operations with five or more colonies.

## Honey Prices Down Slightly for Operations with Five or More Colonies in 2016

United States honey prices decreased during 2016 to 207.5 cents per pound, down slightly from 208.3 cents per pound in 2015. 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 2015 crop reflect honey sold in 2015 and 2016. Some 2015 honey was sold in 2016, which caused some revisions to the 2015 honey prices. Price data was not collected for operations with less than five colonies.

## Price Paid per Queen was 19 Dollars for Operations with Five or More Colonies in 2016

For operations with five or more colonies, the average prices paid in 2016 for honey bee queens, packages, and nucs were \$19, \$89, and \$117 respectively. The average prices paid in 2016 for operations with less than five colonies were \$33 per queen, \$109 per package, and \$122 per nuc. Comparable data is not available for 2015. For operations with five more colonies, pollination income for 2016 was \$338 million, down 1 percent from 2015. Other income from honey bees for operations with five or more colonies in 2016 was \$149 million, down 10 percent from 2015. These estimates along with expenditure and apiary worker information can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this report.

## Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2015

[Operations with 5 or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State]

| State                              | Honey producing colonies <sup>1</sup> | Yield per colony | Production     | Stocks December 15 <sup>2</sup> | Average price per pound <sup>3</sup> | Value of production <sup>4</sup> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                    | (1,000)                               | (pounds)         | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds)                  | (cents)                              | (1,000 dollars)                  |
| Alabama .....                      | 7                                     | 47               | 329            | 13                              | 383                                  | 1,260                            |
| Arizona .....                      | 26                                    | 49               | 1,274          | 306                             | 203                                  | 2,586                            |
| Arkansas .....                     | 24                                    | 72               | 1,728          | 121                             | 206                                  | 3,560                            |
| California .....                   | 275                                   | 30               | 8,250          | 1,485                           | 203                                  | 16,748                           |
| Colorado .....                     | 29                                    | 51               | 1,479          | 399                             | 226                                  | 3,343                            |
| Florida .....                      | 220                                   | 54               | 11,880         | 832                             | 197                                  | 23,404                           |
| Georgia .....                      | 69                                    | 40               | 2,760          | 221                             | 243                                  | 6,707                            |
| Hawaii .....                       | 14                                    | 102              | 1,428          | 71                              | 191                                  | 2,727                            |
| Idaho .....                        | 89                                    | 32               | 2,848          | 1,082                           | 193                                  | 5,497                            |
| Illinois .....                     | 8                                     | 51               | 408            | 155                             | 466                                  | 1,901                            |
| Indiana .....                      | 6                                     | 53               | 318            | 165                             | 323                                  | 1,027                            |
| Iowa .....                         | 36                                    | 50               | 1,800          | 990                             | 220                                  | 3,960                            |
| Kansas .....                       | 8                                     | 36               | 288            | 107                             | 350                                  | 1,008                            |
| Kentucky .....                     | 5                                     | 46               | 230            | 55                              | 404                                  | 929                              |
| Louisiana .....                    | 44                                    | 99               | 4,356          | 348                             | 195                                  | 8,494                            |
| Maine .....                        | 10                                    | 47               | 470            | 47                              | 543                                  | 2,552                            |
| Michigan .....                     | 90                                    | 58               | 5,220          | 1,984                           | 244                                  | 12,737                           |
| Minnesota .....                    | 122                                   | 68               | 8,296          | 2,157                           | 184                                  | 15,265                           |
| Mississippi .....                  | 15                                    | 83               | 1,245          | 87                              | 240                                  | 2,988                            |
| Missouri .....                     | 10                                    | 52               | 520            | 52                              | 355                                  | 1,846                            |
| Montana .....                      | 146                                   | 83               | 12,118         | 3,757                           | 194                                  | 23,509                           |
| Nebraska .....                     | 57                                    | 48               | 2,736          | 1,450                           | 204                                  | 5,581                            |
| New Jersey .....                   | 12                                    | 27               | 324            | 207                             | 420                                  | 1,361                            |
| New York .....                     | 58                                    | 62               | 3,596          | 899                             | 294                                  | 10,572                           |
| North Carolina .....               | 12                                    | 45               | 540            | 103                             | 451                                  | 2,435                            |
| North Dakota .....                 | 490                                   | 74               | 36,260         | 9,428                           | 180                                  | 65,268                           |
| Ohio .....                         | 17                                    | 50               | 850            | 357                             | 360                                  | 3,060                            |
| Oregon .....                       | 71                                    | 38               | 2,698          | 809                             | 243                                  | 6,556                            |
| Pennsylvania .....                 | 17                                    | 53               | 901            | 225                             | 362                                  | 3,262                            |
| South Carolina .....               | 14                                    | 67               | 938            | 38                              | 410                                  | 3,846                            |
| South Dakota .....                 | 290                                   | 66               | 19,140         | 9,379                           | 179                                  | 34,261                           |
| Tennessee .....                    | 7                                     | 59               | 413            | 78                              | 404                                  | 1,669                            |
| Texas .....                        | 126                                   | 66               | 8,316          | 1,164                           | 210                                  | 17,464                           |
| Utah .....                         | 27                                    | 42               | 1,134          | 147                             | 192                                  | 2,177                            |
| Vermont .....                      | 5                                     | 52               | 260            | 62                              | 423                                  | 1,100                            |
| Virginia .....                     | 6                                     | 38               | 228            | 50                              | 553                                  | 1,261                            |
| Washington .....                   | 73                                    | 44               | 3,212          | 1,221                           | 180                                  | 5,782                            |
| West Virginia .....                | 5                                     | 35               | 175            | 32                              | 444                                  | 777                              |
| Wisconsin .....                    | 52                                    | 67               | 3,484          | 1,603                           | 243                                  | 8,466                            |
| Wyoming .....                      | 38                                    | 77               | 2,926          | 146                             | 190                                  | 5,559                            |
| Other States <sup>5 6</sup> .....  | 30                                    | 39               | 1,168          | 371                             | 524                                  | 6,102                            |
| United States <sup>6 7</sup> ..... | 2,660                                 | 58.9             | 156,544        | 42,203                          | 208.3                                | 326,081                          |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Stocks held by producers.

<sup>3</sup> Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

<sup>4</sup> Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

<sup>5</sup> Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>6</sup> Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

<sup>7</sup> United States value of production will not equal summation of States.

## Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value – States and United States: 2016

[Operations with 5 or more colonies that also qualify as a farm. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State]

| State                              | Honey producing colonies <sup>1</sup> | Yield per colony | Production     | Stocks December 15 <sup>2</sup> | Average price per pound <sup>3</sup> | Value of production <sup>4</sup> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                    | (1,000)                               | (pounds)         | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds)                  | (cents)                              | (1,000 dollars)                  |
| Alabama .....                      | 7                                     | 52               | 364            | 33                              | 337                                  | 1,227                            |
| Arizona .....                      | 27                                    | 46               | 1,242          | 261                             | 199                                  | 2,472                            |
| Arkansas .....                     | 24                                    | 69               | 1,656          | 99                              | 184                                  | 3,047                            |
| California .....                   | 310                                   | 36               | 11,160         | 2,009                           | 200                                  | 22,320                           |
| Colorado .....                     | 32                                    | 40               | 1,280          | 282                             | 217                                  | 2,778                            |
| Florida .....                      | 215                                   | 50               | 10,750         | 538                             | 244                                  | 26,230                           |
| Georgia .....                      | 96                                    | 39               | 3,744          | 899                             | 269                                  | 10,071                           |
| Hawaii .....                       | 16                                    | 113              | 1,808          | 127                             | 231                                  | 4,176                            |
| Idaho .....                        | 97                                    | 34               | 3,298          | 1,253                           | 172                                  | 5,673                            |
| Illinois .....                     | 10                                    | 48               | 480            | 77                              | 539                                  | 2,587                            |
| Indiana .....                      | 7                                     | 62               | 434            | 208                             | 336                                  | 1,458                            |
| Iowa .....                         | 37                                    | 48               | 1,776          | 746                             | 207                                  | 3,676                            |
| Kansas .....                       | 7                                     | 48               | 336            | 54                              | 297                                  | 998                              |
| Kentucky .....                     | 5                                     | 46               | 230            | 48                              | 402                                  | 925                              |
| Louisiana .....                    | 50                                    | 86               | 4,300          | 301                             | 193                                  | 8,299                            |
| Maine .....                        | 12                                    | 34               | 408            | 65                              | 321                                  | 1,310                            |
| Michigan .....                     | 89                                    | 60               | 5,340          | 1,709                           | 225                                  | 12,015                           |
| Minnesota .....                    | 124                                   | 59               | 7,316          | 1,390                           | 164                                  | 11,998                           |
| Mississippi .....                  | 19                                    | 85               | 1,615          | 113                             | 174                                  | 2,810                            |
| Missouri .....                     | 8                                     | 62               | 496            | 30                              | 218                                  | 1,081                            |
| Montana .....                      | 159                                   | 77               | 12,243         | 3,183                           | 175                                  | 21,425                           |
| Nebraska .....                     | 48                                    | 46               | 2,208          | 640                             | 188                                  | 4,151                            |
| New Jersey .....                   | 12                                    | 27               | 324            | 198                             | 669                                  | 2,168                            |
| New York .....                     | 64                                    | 57               | 3,648          | 1,167                           | 320                                  | 11,674                           |
| North Carolina .....               | 12                                    | 37               | 444            | 89                              | 461                                  | 2,047                            |
| North Dakota .....                 | 485                                   | 78               | 37,830         | 6,809                           | 173                                  | 65,446                           |
| Ohio .....                         | 15                                    | 79               | 1,185          | 664                             | 384                                  | 4,550                            |
| Oregon .....                       | 74                                    | 35               | 2,590          | 622                             | 206                                  | 5,335                            |
| Pennsylvania .....                 | 19                                    | 50               | 950            | 266                             | 315                                  | 2,993                            |
| South Carolina .....               | 16                                    | 45               | 720            | 36                              | 450                                  | 3,240                            |
| South Dakota .....                 | 280                                   | 71               | 19,880         | 12,127                          | 174                                  | 34,591                           |
| Tennessee .....                    | 6                                     | 55               | 330            | 69                              | 478                                  | 1,577                            |
| Texas .....                        | 133                                   | 70               | 9,310          | 2,607                           | 196                                  | 18,248                           |
| Utah .....                         | 31                                    | 32               | 992            | 169                             | 191                                  | 1,895                            |
| Vermont .....                      | 6                                     | 52               | 312            | 69                              | 282                                  | 880                              |
| Virginia .....                     | 5                                     | 38               | 190            | 30                              | 582                                  | 1,106                            |
| Washington .....                   | 84                                    | 35               | 2,940          | 412                             | 188                                  | 5,527                            |
| West Virginia .....                | 5                                     | 32               | 160            | 43                              | 373                                  | 597                              |
| Wisconsin .....                    | 54                                    | 62               | 3,348          | 1,205                           | 244                                  | 8,169                            |
| Wyoming .....                      | 40                                    | 68               | 2,720          | 190                             | 176                                  | 4,787                            |
| Other States <sup>5 6</sup> .....  | 35                                    | 44               | 1,525          | 416                             | 426                                  | 6,497                            |
| United States <sup>6 7</sup> ..... | 2,775                                 | 58.3             | 161,882        | 41,253                          | 207.5                                | 335,905                          |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Stocks held by producers.

<sup>3</sup> Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

<sup>4</sup> Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

<sup>5</sup> Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

<sup>6</sup> Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

<sup>7</sup> United States value of production will not equal summation of States.

## Number of Colonies, Yield, and Production – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Operations with less than 5 colonies that also qualify as a farm]

| State                            | Honey producing colonies <sup>1</sup> |         | Yield per colony |          | Production     |                |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|
|                                  | 2015                                  | 2016    | 2015             | 2016     | 2015           | 2016           |
|                                  | (1,000)                               | (1,000) | (pounds)         | (pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) |
| United States <sup>2</sup> ..... | 23                                    | 24      | 31.3             | 31.9     | 720            | 766            |

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.

## Honey Price by Color Class – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Operations with 5 or more colonies that also qualify as a farm]

| Color class                             | Price             |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|   | Co-op and private |                   | Retail            |                   | All               |                   |
|   | 2015              | 2016              | 2015              | 2016              | 2015              | 2016              |
|   | (cents per pound) | (cents per pound) | (cents per pound) | (cents per pound) | (cents per pound) | (cents per pound) |
| Water white, extra white, white .....   | 188.6             | 185.1             | 305.4             | 490.8             | 190.6             | 192.9             |
| Extra light amber .....                 | 202.5             | 187.7             | 411.8             | 377.5             | 213.2             | 195.1             |
| Light amber, amber, dark amber .....    | 200.4             | 189.4             | 412.1             | 436.4             | 234.7             | 224.8             |
| All other honey, area specialties ..... | 284.9             | 244.0             | 656.6             | 792.8             | 351.5             | 385.6             |
| All honey .....                         | 195.0             | 188.1             | 409.9             | 462.0             | 208.3             | 207.5             |

## Queen, Package, and Nuc Prices Paid – United States: 2016

[Operations that qualify as a farm. Represents prices paid by operations, regardless of whether honey produced. For more estimates on the total number of colonies, see the *Honey Bee Colonies* report]

| United States              | Queen         | Package       | Nuc           |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                            | (dollars per) | (dollars per) | (dollars per) |
| <b>Operations with</b>     |               |               |               |
| 5 or more colonies .....   | 19            | 89            | 117           |
| Less than 5 colonies ..... | 33            | 109           | 122           |

## Pollination and Other Income – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Operations that qualify as a farm. Represents incomes from the total number of colonies, regardless of whether honey was harvested. For more estimates on the total number of colonies, see the *Honey Bee Colonies* report]

| United States              | Pollination income |                 | Other income <sup>1</sup> |                 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
|                            | 2015               | 2016            | 2015                      | 2016            |
|                            | (1,000 dollars)    | (1,000 dollars) | (1,000 dollars)           | (1,000 dollars) |
| <b>Operations with</b>     |                    |                 |                           |                 |
| 5 or more colonies .....   | 340,275            | 337,834         | 165,732                   | 148,523         |
| Less than 5 colonies ..... | 70                 | 180             | 103                       | 62              |

<sup>1</sup> Includes sales of queens, queen cells, beeswax, propolis, etc.

## Expenditures for Honey Bee Operations – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Operations that qualify as a farm. Represents expenditures on the total number of colonies, regardless of whether honey was harvested. For more estimates on the total number of colonies, see the *Honey Bee Colonies* report]

| Expenditures                           | 5 or more colonies |                 | Less than 5 colonies |                 |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
|  | 2015               | 2016            | 2015                 | 2016            |
|  | (1,000 dollars)    | (1,000 dollars) | (1,000 dollars)      | (1,000 dollars) |
| Varroa control and treatment .....     | 16,128             | 16,042          | 264                  | 262             |
| Other colony issues <sup>1</sup> ..... | 6,371              | 6,647           | 100                  | 82              |
| Feed <sup>2</sup> .....                | 50,283             | 50,307          | 559                  | 482             |
| Foundation .....                       | 9,461              | 7,294           | 400                  | 320             |
| Hives/woodenware .....                 | 11,156             | 9,014           | 719                  | 706             |

<sup>1</sup> Includes Nosema, tracheal mites, foulbrood, paralysis, Kashmir, cloudy wing, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Includes syrup, sugar water, honey, pollen patties, and other feeds.

## Apiary Workers – United States: 2015 and 2016

[Operations that qualify as a farm. Represents number of paid and unpaid workers that worked with colonies, regardless of whether honey was harvested. For more estimates on the total number of colonies, see the *Honey Bee Colonies* report]

| United States              | Apiary workers |           |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|
|                            | 2015           | 2016      |
|                            | (workers)      | (workers) |
| 5 or more colonies .....   | 23,000         | 24,000    |
| Less than 5 colonies ..... | 19,000         | 19,000    |

## Statistical Methodology

**Survey Procedures:** Data for honey producing operations are collected from a stratified sample of all known operations 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 1.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 2.78 million colonies by more than 1.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 2.4 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 ..... | 1.3                    | 2.4                         | 17   | -        | 85      | 5            | 1            |
| Honey production .....         | 1.3                    | 2.4                         | 1,080  | -        | 4,796   | 4            | 2            |

- 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch .....  | (202) 720-3570 |
| Bruce Boess, Head, Poultry and Specialty Commodities Section .....   | (202) 720-4447 |
| Aaron Cosgrove – Catfish Production, Egg Products, Poultry Slaughter, Trout Production,<br>Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised ..... | (202) 690-3237 |
| Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Cold Storage .....   | (202) 720-4751 |
| Tom Kruchten – Census of Aquaculture .....   | (202) 690-4870 |
| Kim Linonis – Layers, Eggs .....   | (202) 690-8632 |
| Joshua O’Rear – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies.....  | (202) 690-3676 |
| Miste Salmon – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Mink .....  | (202) 720-3244 |

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