

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Branch

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June 15, 2012

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF May, 2012

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

(# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

CALIFORNIA

Buckwheat	Extra Light Amber	\$1.74	
Sage	Extra Light Amber	\$1.84	
Sage	Light Amber	\$1.74	

DAKOTAS

Clover	White	\$1.75	- \$1.85
Sunflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.75	
Alfalfa	White	\$1.85	
Buckwheat	Light Amber	\$1.70	
Buckwheat	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	
Western	White	\$1.70	
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	

FLORIDA

Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.40	
Gallberry	White	\$1.80	
Galberry	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	- \$1.75
Gallberry	Light Amber	\$1.50	
Orange	White	\$1.85	- \$1.90
Orange	Light Amber	\$1.85	- \$1.90
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	- \$1.90
Palmetto	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	- \$1.80
Palmetto	Light Amber	\$1.70	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	

IDAHO

Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.35	
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KANSAS

Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.35	
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MISSISSIPPI

Soybean	Light Amber	\$1.52	
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MONTANA

Clover	White	\$1.70	- \$1.85
Basswood	White	\$1.85	
Lindon	White	\$1.85	
Alfalfa	White	\$1.85	
Mixed	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	

Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Mixed Flowers	white	\$1.63	- \$1.75
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.28	
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.39	- \$1.42
Clover	White	\$1.56	- \$1.65

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

Argentina			
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.38	- \$1.51
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.37	- \$1.50
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35	- \$1.36
Brazil			
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$1.82	- \$1.86
ORGANIC	White	\$1.79	
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.50	- \$1.58
ORGANIC	Extra Light Amber	\$1.64	- \$1.70
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.36	
Chile			
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.41	
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.38	
India			
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.47	
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.33	- \$1.47
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.20	- \$1.29
MEXICO			
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.40	
Uruguay			
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.39	
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.34	- \$1.38
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.56	
Vietnam			
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.36	- \$1.37

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING May, 2012

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): April's weather continued in May with pattern temperatures and moisture at more seasonal levels. This more normal weather pattern slowed plant production and bloom down a bit so crops are about 1-2 weeks ahead of normal instead of 3-4 weeks ahead. These changes in weather has resulted in a lack of honey production in the area for the most part as replacement bee colonies were not at the right stage to collect pollen from earlier than normal blooming locusts. By the time colonies built up and foragers were ready, bloom was over. Currently,

white clover is the major source of pollen and bees are slowly building honey supplies, but not at the levels they are normally at this time of year. Beekeepers whose colonies survived the winter are reporting that they had better luck with honey production as the bees were able to forage during the peak spring nectar flow. Honey continues to trade at retail farm markets from \$3.50-5.00 per pound with specialty honeys trading occasionally higher.

ALABAMA: Honeybees have stored a tremendous amount of honey in the month of May. A mild winter and an early spring had many nectar producing plants blooming at the same time. The bees took advantage. Sourwood was blooming in some areas of Alabama in May. Clover and privet were the main nectar sources along with persimmon and other trees. Swarming has been heavy in some areas. Large swarms have been reported as well as multiple queens. Small hive beetles remain low in most areas. Varroa mites are present in most hives and are building. Inspections have seen Bee Paralysis and Parasitic Mite Syndrome with some EFB, but no AFB. Beekeepers have extracted honey in May.

ARIZONA: Temperatures were above normal each week during May. The highest temperature of the month was recorded in Roll at 110 degrees Fahrenheit; while the lowest for the month was 20 degrees Fahrenheit at the Grand Canyon. Arizona received little precipitation during the month of May, only receiving precipitation the second week of the month. During that week, 7 of 21 reporting stations received precipitation, with Douglas receiving the most at 0.40 inches. Arizona continues to go through a dry spell. All reporting stations were below 75 percent of the normal precipitation levels for the year. The main nectar and pollen sources for bees were melons (cantaloupes, watermelon, honeydews and miscellaneous melons) and desert plant bloom. Demand for honey was good.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received during May were from various field crops, trees and wild flowers. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather conditions were good throughout the month with warm temperatures and normal rainfall. Supply and demand are good.

CALIFORNIA: May began with cool and wet conditions across California. This system brought rain and mountain snow to the entire state. A series of Pacific storms continued to brush the northern half of the state resulting in widespread, but relatively light precipitation for the north. Southern California continued to experience a relatively cool and moist onshore flow. By mid-month most of the last frontal system had moved out of the state. Warming and drying began state-wide with seasonable weather at mid-month. As the month neared a close, a low pressure system brushed Northern California bringing rain to the extreme northern coastal region. However, this did not affect the high pressure which was over the southern half of the State where very warm temperatures prevailed. The high pressure began to weaken as an unusually strong, low pressure system developed over the British Columbia coast and began to drive southward. This fast moving system reached Southern California and brought cooler temperatures to the State. Moisture was somewhat limited with this system, so significant precipitation was limited to mountainous regions, with some snowfall at the highest elevations. Many interior areas reported at least light rain with this system. Temperatures remained below normal for most areas of the state at month's end. The dry year and warm weather have been both good and bad for the beekeepers. Overall, the bees are in great shape although soon will need feeding and mite treatments. Some beekeepers are sugar feeding, however some beekeepers are reporting that the bees have not taken artificial pollen since the end of March. Stone fruit pollination activities in the state were winding down for the year. The bees are feeding on blackberries and wildflowers and the Toyon in the mountains will be blooming soon. Bees were removed from late stone fruit orchards and placed in kiwi for pollination as well as citrus groves for honey production. Bees are being moved to the seed alfalfa, vegetables, and melons with pollination prices \$45.00 to \$50.00. Water is starting to become a concern. The water is sufficient in some counties but some areas will have unplanted acres due to lack of water. Some beekeepers have water feeders on automatic fillers in the apiary. The bees were able to collect what little nectar was available, but the sources dried up quickly. Honey prices are edging up with no supply on hand and the higher prices have not slowed sales. The bees fared well in May in the mountains making some honey on Manzanita but not much happening now. Some beekeepers will run out of honey this year for the first time in 41 years. The Orange honey crop is light and is going for \$2.00 per pound and up. Farmers market people are paying \$2.25 to \$2.50 for whatever they can get. Blackberry honey, one pound, was sold at a County Fair for \$7.00 a jar, wildflower at \$6.50 a jar and one pound comb honey for \$9.50 in a plastic container. Orchard crops such as fruits and nuts are being heavily impacted by honey bee shortages for pollination, so growers are relying more and more on wild bees and other native pollinators to ensure an abundant harvest. Due to colony collapse disorder and its effects on honey bee hives, it is wise for growers to diversify their pollination dependence. Besides honey bees, there are about 450 other bee species in the eastern U.S., and over 100 of these wild bees visit apple orchards. The more species that are in one area, the more likely there will be a species that can tolerate variable climate conditions, diseases, pesticides, parasites and habitat loss.

COLORADO: Clear to partly cloudy skies prevailed throughout most of the state during the month of May. Clearer skies led to above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. The exception to this was the area around Alamosa, which had slightly above normal precipitation. The additional rain around Alamosa was not enough to offset the dry conditions. It was reported by beekeepers that many Alamosa area Farmers were planning to summer fallow their land as a result of the long term dry conditions. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, almost the entire state of Colorado is listed as being in an abnormally dry to extreme drought. The worse drought conditions in Colorado at this time are confined to the Northwest part of the State. There have also been reports from beekeepers that the snow pack in the mountain areas was only about 15 percent of normal for this time of year. Growing degree days (GDD), accumulated from March 1 to May 26 are ahead of normal in all reporting stations in Colorado. Craig was the lowest reporting station with 705 GDD. Grand Junction was the highest reporting station with 996 GDD, during the same period. Most migratory beekeepers had returned to Colorado by the end of May. The mild spring weather has been a great benefit to beekeepers by allowing them to get an early jump on the honey producing season. The mild weather has placed all flowering plants slightly ahead of normal. At this time, the new flow of honey is primarily from dandelions, and other wild flowers. Beekeepers indicated that bees will be gathering enough pollen and nectar for a full flow of honey from clover and alfalfa by the beginning of June. A few beekeepers indicated that they continue to supplement the bee's diet with corn syrup. It is anticipated that many beekeepers will begin extracting new crop honey by the mid-July. Beekeepers have reported that the bees are looking healthy. Beekeepers attribute this good health to several factors. First, the reduced use of fungicides utilized by Almond Farmers in California, limited the exposure of toxins carried back to the migratory Colorado beehives. In addition, beekeepers mentioned that bee health was improved by the mild weather and good nutrition that they have provided for the bees during the past winter and early spring. Beekeepers have indicated that they are staying ahead of any mite problems at this time by aggressive treatment and good bee nutrition. Low levels of mites have been observed. Thus, very little if any mite treatments have been necessary. The re-queening of hives is almost completed. Demand for honey continues to be excellent. Tight supplies of 2011 crop honey currently exist in Colorado at this time. Any 2011 crop honey that remains has been mainly reserved for prior committed contracts and small retail sales. Colorado beekeepers anticipate good prices for new 2012 crop honey. State beekeepers are looking forward to a great summer, but have indicated that they desperately need beneficial rains for the crops and wild flowers.

FLORIDA: Hot and dry weather continued until mid to late May resulting in a decrease in honey production. Scattered, and in some areas heavy rains then began across much of the state. A lack of water led to decreased pollen and nectar volume. The bees spend too much of their time acquiring the water required for their survival, including hive cooling. Conditions for honey production has improved because of the rains. Most people are still expecting a below normal honey crop for Florida due to hot and dry conditions for much of the main production season of late February into June. Varroa mites continued to be a major problem for many beekeepers with most treating for mites. Gallberry and palmetto were two of the most important sources of nectar and pollen, with Gallberry ending by late in the month. Palm was starting to be available near the end of the month as palmetto was ending. Two smaller sources of nectar and pollen were mangrove in several areas and sea grape in southern areas. Supplemental feeding was necessary in many areas as natural sources became unavailable, with wildflowers soon to become one of the few sources of food for the bees. An estimated 160,000 hives left Florida primarily during the month of May for pollination and honey production in Northern or Northeastern states. Approximately seventy five per cent of these hives will be involved in pollinating such crops as blueberries, cranberries, cantaloupes, watermelons, squash, cucumbers and many other row crops. The other twenty five per cent will be making honey, with the majority being clover honey. Supplies of Florida honey are estimated to be light with good demand. Tupelo light amber honey was steady in the \$2.60-2.80 range per pound, with Gallberry and palmetto light amber also remaining steady at mostly \$2.00 per pound.

GEORGIA: The southern areas of the state finally got some much needed rain late in May. The weather was warmer than normal. After a promising start early in the year, honey volume may not be as much as anticipated. The trees and plants bloomed early this year. In north Georgia, it has been reported that the Sourwood blossoms are not as abundant this year. The amount of honey will be considerably less than last year's crop. In the Central and Southern areas bees are feeding off of melons, vegetables, strawberries and some wildflowers. Some beekeepers in the southern areas pulled honey early and are supplementing food to ensure the bees stay healthy. Throughout the state, the bees are reported to be in fair to good condition however, the month was hard on the bees in general from the heat and lack of rain in some areas, with the Northern areas getting plenty of rain. Currently prices remain steady and demand is strong. An increase in price is expected when the new crop hits the market due to less volume produced and good demand.

IDAHO: A mix of clear to cloudy skies prevailed throughout the state during May. These sky conditions led to near normal to slightly below normal temperatures and below normal precipitation across Idaho. There has been enough water from snow melt to ensure an adequate supply of water for irrigation this summer. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, almost the entire state is listed as near normal for precipitation and soil moisture conditions. Growing degree days (GDD), accumulated from March 1 to May 26 are ahead of normal in all reporting stations. Salmon was the low reporting station with 528 GDD. Boise was the high reporting station with 689 GDD, during the same period. Most of the migratory beekeepers had returned by the end of May. However some migratory beekeepers will continue their travels to other locations including Montana. The mild spring weather has been a great benefit to beekeepers in Idaho by allowing them to get an early jump on the honey producing season. The mild weather has placed flowering plants in Idaho slightly ahead of normal. Beekeepers are currently reporting that bees are actively making enough new honey to feed themselves. At the present time, the flow of honey is primarily from dandelions, mustard, Russian olive and other wild flowers in the foothills. Beekeepers indicated that clover, carrots and onions will be the next sources of pollen and nectar. Some pollination services are rendered by beekeepers to pollinate onions and carrots. A few beekeepers have indicated that they continue to supplement the bee's diet with corn syrup to keep them healthy. It is anticipated that many beekeepers will begin extracting new crop honey by Mid-July. Beekeepers have reported that their bees are looking healthy. Beekeepers attribute this good health to several factors. First, the reduced use of fungicides utilized by Almond Farmers in California which limited the exposure of toxins carried back to the migratory Idaho beehives. In addition, beekeepers mentioned that bee health was improved by the mild weather and the good nutrition that was provided to the bees during the past winter and early spring. Beekeepers have indicated that they are staying ahead of any mite problem by aggressive treatment and good bee nutrition. Low levels of mites have been observed. Demand for honey continues to be excellent in Idaho. Tight supplies of the 2011 honey crop currently exist in Idaho. Any 2011 crop honey that remains has been reserved for prior committed contracts and small retail sales. Idaho beekeepers anticipate good prices for the new 2012 honey crop. Beekeepers stated that the biggest problem currently confronting the industry is the misuse of insecticides in the agricultural sector. Beekeepers have indicated a high desire for communication between themselves and their agricultural partners, about keeping their bees out of freshly sprayed fields.

ILLINOIS: Weather conditions over the state followed the patterns of early February through March. Some areas had frequent storms and abundance of rainfall while other areas experienced normal levels of rainfall. There were also areas that reported dry conditions. Spring planting was close to setting a record with many farmers having finished planting. Beekeepers had reported most of the state the hives was strong and early buildup was heavier than normal. Very little disease problems had been reported as well. Bulk honey movement was generally better than normal due to increase demand.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Mild temperatures continued throughout the midwest region. Temperatures were six to eight degrees above normal. Precipitation and relative humidity continued to be below normal, along with high soil moisture loss and water evaporation. The region is experiencing a flash drought. Beekeepers are expressing concerns about the lack of strong field strengths needed to handle early bloom. Early blooms came at the time colony strengths are being build up. Beekeepers are worried about the opportunity to capture the early and the main flow. Package bees are still being introduced to the hives. Demand for package bees remain strong. Bees are active in fruit orchards, along with black locust, dandelion, various wild flower and clovers. Honey prices continue to remain strong.

INDIANA: Overall state beekeepers reported adequate rainfall with most areas experiencing warmer than normal day and overnight temperatures. Many floral sources were into heavy bloom. Nectar stores were noted as unusually heavy for this time period of the year. Beekeepers experienced very limited disease problems and noted that their hives were stronger than normal. Bulk honey movement was generally good due to favorable weather conditions. Consumer demand has been good.

KENTUCKY: May has been a very good honey month for much of Kentucky. A mild winter, early spring, reasonable rainfall, and relatively dry weather has allowed the bees to get out and forage most days. Some are investigating a possible find of the phorid fly parasite that was reported early this year by California researchers. A diagnosis is hoped to be found soon..

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources received during May were from various field crops, trees and wild flowers. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather conditions have seen normal temperatures, with an adequate rainfall. Supply and demand are good.

MICHIGAN: Beekeepers that were prepared for the unusual weather scenario in this area have fared pretty well. Bees are making honey and are in fairly good shape. They are currently feeding on yellow sweet clover with white sweet clover close behind. Although there were some isolated losses of Black Locust, bees are getting a good flow. It is noted that due to the unusually warm spring, mite counts are up measurably. This has beekeepers concerned about conditions later in the year.

MINNESOTA: A mix of clear to cloudy skies prevailed throughout the state. These sky conditions led to above normal temperatures and precipitation across most of Minnesota. The exception was the slightly below normal precipitation in the northern areas around International Falls. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, almost the entire State of Minnesota is now listed as being near normal for precipitation and soil moisture conditions. The exception is the area around International Falls which is still in a long term moderate drought. Growing degree days (GDD), accumulated from March 1 to May 26 are ahead of normal in all reporting station. Duluth was the lowest reporting station with 388 GDD. Rochester was the highest reporting station with 764 GDD, during the same period. Most migratory beekeepers had returned to Minnesota by the end of May. The mild spring weather has been a great benefit to beekeepers by allowing them to get an early jump on the honey producing season. The mild weather has placed all flowering plants in Minnesota ahead of normal. At this time, the new flow of honey is primarily from dandelions, some trees and wild flowers. According to one beekeeper, "Bees are now making a living in the state by collecting enough pollen and nectar to provide for their needs." This is a huge help in reducing production costs for beekeepers. Beekeepers indicated that bees will be gathering enough pollen and nectar for a full flow of honey beginning around June 1st from basswood, clover, alfalfa and other wild flowers. It is anticipated that many beekeepers will begin extracting new crop honey by the mid-July. Right now, beekeepers from Minnesota have reported that their bees are looking healthy. Beekeepers attribute this good health of bees to several factors including the mild winter weather and good management practices. Beekeepers have indicated that they are staying ahead of any mite problems at this time by aggressive treatment and good bee nutrition. Low levels of mites have been observed so far this year. Thus, very little if any mite treatments have been necessary. Lower spring bee losses in hives have been a welcome relief to beekeepers, who experienced higher losses the last few years. Minnesota beekeepers have indicated they are still making divisions and re-queening. Demand for honey continues to be excellent in Minnesota. Tight supplies of 2011 crop honey currently exist at this time. Any 2011 crop honey that remains has been mainly reserved for prior committed contracts and small retail sales. Good prices are anticipated for new 2012 crop honey in Minnesota. Beekeepers are looking forward to a great summer, as the weather conditions have been almost perfect so far.

MISSISSIPPI: For most areas of the state, bees are reported to be in good shape. Plenty of moisture from the May rainstorms have kept the plants in good bloom cycles. Prices remain steady and demand strong. Beekeepers are optimistic of having a good to normal year in volume production and will be pulling honey in late June.

MONTANA: Montana weather was seasonal with normal amounts of precipitation and normal temperatures. Topsoil moisture measurements at the end of May measured 25 percent very short and short, 66 percent adequate and 9 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measured 31 percent short and very short, and 69 percent adequate or surplus. During May colony health was said to be generally good. Bee keepers were busy with spring chores at home while at the same time trucking home migratory colonies from the Pacific Northwest or California. Wild nectar and pollen plants in bloom were willows, brush, dandelion, and choke cherries. The combined snowmelt from the average snowpack along with fairly frequent May showers had many rivers running near flood levels. Honey demand was good.

NEW ENGLAND: Weather for May featured a pattern that has been seasonal with temperatures normal for most of the month in Southern New England. This month's weather in Northern New England featured a pattern of cooler, unstable temperatures with a mixture of some mild to warm days and some cool to cold temperature days. Precipitation for the month was above normal with all regions reporting high moisture levels that helped push earlier than normal ornamental and floral sources for pollen and nectar such as dandelion (*taraxacum officinale*) as well as ornamental Japanese or blood good red maple and crab apple. Dandelion (*taraxacum officinale*), and ground ivy was very productive this year. Its nectar is very tasty and produces golden honey that is strong in flavor and the pollen is orange in color. Additional early sources exhibiting early bloom were chokecherry (*prunus virginiana*), blackberry (*prunus serotina*), pin cherry (*prunus pensylvanica*), peaches (*prunus persica*), plums (*prunus Americana*), apples (*malus*), as well as honeysuckle (*lonicerata tarian*), blueberry (*vaccinium*), black locust, glossy buckthorn, hawkweed (*king devil*), chive, mustard and lilac. Additional good pollen plants are greater celandine (*chelidonium majus*), autumn olive (*elaeanthus umbellata*), Russian olive (*elaeanthus angustifolia*) and silverberry (*elaeanthus commutate*). Early cold, rainy weather with too little sun and 3-7 days of wet, cool weather was responsible for slowing spring buildup and nectar flows. The rainy weather the last two weeks of the month has slowed plant growth and farm plantings. There have been few blossoms to pollinate and most orchards currently are not getting the needed pollination. This is that noted time of the year known as the fruit bloom to beekeepers. Apple pollination was reportedly problematic as pollination hives were quickly placed into the orchards 2-3 weeks ahead of schedule, due to a very warm March and April and followed by cold and wet weather. Many regional growers reported a 25-50% possible crop loss due to freezing temperatures and wet conditions. Orchard pollination has been completed approximately one month earlier than normal. Reportedly some keepers have addressed fruit grower needs especially apples, by setting up beehives no later than the 2nd week of May. This year pollination fees are set at \$75.00 to \$100.00 mostly \$80.00 per hive with 4- hives per pallet and a 1- pallet minimum. Pollination hives have been deployed to apples, blueberries and other earlier crops but were cut short by continual rain and cool temperatures. Hopefully growers had enough pollination to set a crop. There were no reported strong frost conditions. Many keepers early on had observed pollen frenzies at the front porches of their hives, mostly cream colored and orange pollens as activity was intense. Regionally, the major portion of spring nectar flow emanates from chestnut and black locust bloom to which most of the black locust got washed away earlier than usual. In full bloom are sources such as apples (*malus*, spp.), apricots (*prunus armeniaca*), plum (*prunus* spp.), pears (*pyrus communis*), red currant (*riber rubrum*), wild plum (*prunus Americana*), pin cherry (*prunus pensylvanica*), choke cherry (*prunus virginiana*), and blueberry. Bees are actively collecting from other pollen and nectar sources such as greater celandine, dogwood, honeysuckle, numerous clovers, mostly sweet clover, lilac, mustard, glossy buckthorn, hawkweed, mint, chive, black cherry, wild flowers and other flowering ornamental trees and shrubs. Purportedly, many hives have had good brood that has been hatching during this wet weather and the congestion is likely to stimulate the swarming impulse as swarms are expected to be prolific when the next series of warm sunny days arrive. Already reports of swarm activity are very high and problematic for those who did not make splits and put off supering because rain had dampened most beekeeping activity. Reportedly, health wise, and generally speaking, over wintered hives are doing extremely well with lots of brood building up with full foundation expansion and plenty of forging/worker bees. Honeybees came through the winter in strong condition and this has resulted in early swarms and early buildup of varroa mites. Reports of both began April 1st and this allows considerable time for brood buildup and seasoned beekeepers are predicting historic levels of swarming by the same colonies in August. Bee associations advise beekeepers to be diligent in preventing swarms and to be watching for varroa mites. Beekeepers

are monitoring their colonies often, adding supers or making splits and divides when hives become too crowded, especially using the technique of making new colonies with capped brood frames with swarm colonies. In regional pocket areas where weather was clearly seasonal, colony strength numbers increased dramatically and swarms were numerous. Keepers report that bees are primed for comb building and expansion at this time of the year especially regarding reversing hive bodies. Reportedly, package bees from Georgia were in good to excellent supply and condition with queen quality slightly above average. Spring splits have been developing normally, but require higher sugar ratios for heat generation and protein supplement due to wet conditions slowing natural nectar and pollen availability. Purportedly, this year there seems to be an issue with hive absconding, where by all the bees leave a hive, then in past seasons. Pesticides continue to be a concern to all beekeepers. There have been many reported instances where beekeepers that provide bees to growers for pollination purposes have complained to their grower employers and their beekeeper associations with the concern of the practice of broadcast spraying of crop fungicides in a timely way that puts their pollination hives in high risk circumstances. There is an ongoing national dialogue concerning the issue of how much pollination services are being negatively affected by particular grower fungicide practices and how much there is a risk causal relationship in this regard. Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 11b bottled units were strong and quoted at \$7.00 to \$10.00 mostly \$9.00 and occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were strong with 5 gallon units selling at \$175.00 to \$215.00 mostly \$200.00 occasionally higher for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

NEW YORK: The early record setting warm weather in March continues to impact many beekeepers in the state. The bees seem to be completely off schedule. A hard freeze in late April took out all of the alfalfa and there was practically no bloom from the Black Locust in May. Bees are currently working sweet clover and are making honey. There is uncertainty about what sources will be available in July and August. Demand is strong at both the wholesale and retail levels. Current wholesale prices for honey in drums is higher averaging \$1.95-2.00 per pound.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were mostly seasonable to above normal for May. Precipitation varied throughout the month leaving statewide soil moisture levels at 9 percent short, 72 percent adequate, and 19 percent surplus for the week ending May 27. The North Carolina Drought Council is reporting 36 counties as abnormally dry. Bees appear to be healthy, the populations are sound and swarm numbers have been above normal. Honey flow for North Carolina has been average to above average. Bees have been working Sumac, Dandelion, various clovers (Landino white clover, Sweet clover, and Aslike clover), Vetch, Gallberry and Tulip Poplar. It is recommended beekeepers begin preparing to extract fully capped frames from supers or cut combs as the Tulip Poplar flow comes to a close in order to prevent high moisture contents and fermentation. The sourwood flow in the Mountain region are expected to begin mid to late June and continue through mid-July. Commercial beekeepers have moved hives to New England for apple pollination and Maine for blueberry and cranberry pollination. Demand for honey is good.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: Temperatures have been mixed with some frost and freezing temperatures. Warmer weather later in the month helped bring the crops along. Moisture is adequate in most areas and bees are working alfalfa and various other sources.

OHIO: Beekeepers that were prepared for the unusual weather scenario in this area have fared pretty well. Bees are making honey and are in fairly good shape. They are currently feeding on yellow sweet clover with white sweat close behind. Although there were some isolated losses of Black Locust, bees are getting a good flow. It is noted that due to the unusually warm spring, mite counts are up measurably. This has beekeepers concerned about conditions later in the year.

OKLAHOMA: Pollen and nectar sources received during May for Northern Oklahoma were from various field crops. Colonies were in good condition. Weather conditions were good throughout the month. Supply and demand are good if you have honey. The drought last year affected the wild flower crop with no nectar. Little to no honey is being produced in Northern Oklahoma. Pollen and nectar sources received during May for Southern Oklahoma were from wild flowers, various field crops, and trees. The central and southern parts of the state had an abundance of food sources. Conditions of the colonies were in generally good condition. Weather conditions were good thought out the month with enough sunshine and rain. Supply is very low since the drought last year. Demand is extremely high as Oklahoman's are very organic minded. Prices ranged from \$12-16 quart (3LBS). Pollination fees have risen to \$100 a month due to the amount of watermelon and pumpkin pollination and having to supplement the feeding of the bees.

OREGON: May weather was mostly mild with near normal temperatures and precipitation. Most crops are developing ahead of the last two cool, wet years. Topsoil moisture measurements at the end of May measured 0 percent very short, 18 percent short, 78 percent adequate and 4 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measured 12 percent short and very short, while 88 percent of subsoil moisture measurements were adequate or surplus. During May colony health was reported as generally good. Bee keepers were busy with early spring chores at home while at the same time trucking home migratory colonies remaining in California. Returning colonies joined other colonies already in the field in southwestern Oregon, the Willamette river valley, the Hood River area and the Columbia River Gorge area for the tree fruit and early berry pollination seasons. Crimson clover seed crop were also blooming. By the end of the month, most apple, pear, peaches, cherries, and blueberry crops were showing good fruit. Wild plants such as willows, brush, dandelions, and choke cherries were early sources of pollen and nectar in for the bees. Honey demand was good.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Not available at time of release.

TENNESSEE: Not available at time of release.

TEXAS: Pollen and nectar sources received during May were from wildflowers, cotton, and trees. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather conditions have seen above normal temperatures with periods of rain. Honey production is very low since the drought last year. Supply is very low while demand remains high.

UTAH: Clear to partly cloudy skies prevailed throughout the state during the month of May. Clearer skies led to slightly above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. There has been enough water from snow melt to ensure an adequate supply of water for irrigation this summer. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, almost the entire state is listed as moderate to severe drought. Growing degree days (GDD), accumulated from March 1 to May 26 are ahead of normal in all reporting stations. Cedar City was the low reporting station with 764 GDD. Delta was the high reporting station with 890 GDD, during the same time period. Many of the migratory beekeepers had returned by the end of May. However some migratory beekeepers

will continue their travels to other locations including Wyoming and South Dakota. The mild spring weather has been a great benefit to beekeepers, by allowing them to get an early jump on the honey producing season. The mild weather has placed all flowering plants in Utah about 3 weeks ahead of normal. Beekeepers are reporting that bees in Utah are actively making a new honey flow primarily from dandelions, mustard, early clover, and other wild flowers. With the warm dry weather, bees have had more flying time to collect pollen and nectar. It is anticipated that many beekeepers will begin extracting new crop honey by the mid-July. Beekeepers from Utah have reported that their bees are looking healthy. Beekeepers attribute this good health to several factors. First, the reduced use of fungicides utilized by Almond Farmers in California, limited the exposure of toxins carried back to the migratory beehives. In addition, beekeepers mentioned that bee health was improved by the mild weather and the good nutrition that was provided to the bees during the past winter and early spring. Beekeepers continue to believe that there are several factors that have contributed to Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) including nutrition, viruses/pathogens, insecticides, herbicides and fungicides. By managing these various factors, beekeepers believe that they can improve overall bee health. Beekeepers have completed spring treating for mites, viruses and other diseases. According to beekeepers mite populations are about normal for this time of year. Hive divisions for nucs are completed, but re-queening of hives is an ongoing process according to beekeepers. Demand for honey continues to be excellent. Tight supplies of the 2011 honey crop currently exist at this time. Any 2011 crop honey that remains has been mainly reserved for prior committed contracts and small retail sales. Utah beekeepers anticipate good prices for new 2012 crop honey.

WASHINGTON: Spring is hanging on with summer not far away. The temperatures have continued moderate but not hot. Virtually no frost protection has been needed in most areas. There has been some rain and wind but the growing degrees are close to normal, well ahead of last season which was late. Bees are working wild flowers and alfalfa in some locations. Row crops are coming on as fruit growers prepare for the beginning of cherry harvest.

WISCONSIN: The state had experienced numerous thunderstorms and heavier rainfall amounts which hampered early bee collections. As a result, many hives were reported as running low on stores. Disease problems were not reported. Normal overwintering losses were also slow in gathering due to the weather conditions. Very little bulk sales were reported due to the weather pattern.

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date		April 2012	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	6,704	24,058	362	3,200
Bahrain	24,145	58,608	10,275	24,940
Barbados	5,384	32,774	1,415	8,853
Cayman Islands	562	3,450	0	0
China	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	31,183	155,285	6,327	34,254
India	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	101,786	247,064	40,968	99,441
Israel(*)	81,200	411,684	0	0
Japan	118,071	518,109	33,438	142,498
Jordan	0	0	0	0
Korea, South	3,924	11,016	250	3,312
Kuwait	93,174	226,162	0	0
Malaysia	1,695	7,590	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	3,450	13,373	0	0
Panama	5,226	32,064	1,742	10,688
Philippines	138,316	344,405	45,975	115,154
Taiwan	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	100,729	244,504	40,913	99,310
Yemen(*)	222,682	989,570	39,607	142,130

NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -

Australia(*)	2,280	7,038	0	0
Bahamas, The	12,655	59,909	4,011	27,210
Barbados	8,832	14,790	8,392	12,250
Brazil	0	0	0	0
Canada	102,230	375,267	36,539	108,118
Cayman Islands	555	3,273	0	0
China	851	5,637	0	0
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	6,451	31,572	5,815	25,605

India	334,103	765,000	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	0	0
Israel(*)	225,400	871,855	0	0
Jamaica	8,491	33,700	0	0
Japan	62,702	211,054	43,672	109,189
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,201	3,960	1,201	3,960
Mexico	0	0	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	7,632	33,785	1,700	5,277
Panama	672	4,610	672	4,610
Philippines	1,542	12,139	0	0
Thailand	7,316	17,758	0	0
United Arab Emirates	17,439	118,714	0	0
Vietnam	79,780	188,316	1,780	4,320
GRAND TOTAL	2,018,270	6,662,603	405,554	1,253,712

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date			April 2012		
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars
WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -						
Argentina	3,864,639	11,238,268	11,543,189	901,566	2,599,465	2,666,090
Brazil	133,286	478,183	500,504	39,296	137,552	142,190
Canada	4,586,915	16,532,986	16,642,615	1,083,149	3,940,500	3,981,812
Mexico	150	2,118	2,918	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	23,164	46,328	46,599	0	0	0
Switzerland(*)	3,028	19,158	19,565	0	0	0
United Kingdom	4,590	33,430	35,107	3,486	19,581	20,212

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	7,228,948	20,880,195	21,618,170	2,516,867	7,234,878	7,467,275
Australia(*)	19,501	70,204	72,204	0	0	0
Brazil	1,120,526	3,840,361	3,961,087	345,201	1,194,385	1,222,358
Canada	153,599	773,445	777,017	57,883	207,225	208,658
China	18,734	56,449	59,949	18,734	56,449	59,949
Malaysia	89,900	220,255	220,265	0	0	0
Mexico	469,207	1,324,371	1,336,899	188,438	545,613	550,843
Thailand	56,360	125,464	130,965	0	0	0
Ukraine	207,205	552,984	580,028	75,245	195,029	197,614
Uruguay	882,422	2,364,136	2,462,092	281,948	770,699	805,621
Vietnam	362,850	884,456	927,162	38,630	94,152	100,152

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	2,284,751	6,524,475	6,707,340	492,911	1,402,297	1,437,076
Austria	12,021	111,187	116,961	3,339	31,096	32,984
Brazil	1,637,153	4,781,979	4,974,202	318,381	906,209	941,646
Canada	38,322	119,278	120,079	0	0	0
Chile	422,492	1,111,699	1,151,333	133,829	358,889	372,932
Greece	1,545	15,627	16,057	0	0	0

India	2,918,389	7,325,701	7,740,738	980,325	2,430,961	2,549,925
Italy(*)	2,554	35,662	37,980	964	11,061	11,565
Japan	4,654	11,403	11,880	0	0	0
Malaysia	1,055,027	2,555,364	2,672,122	179,800	440,510	440,530
Poland	1,231	7,594	8,068	0	0	0
Spain	3,852	33,720	34,481	1,074	8,312	8,582
Turkey	521,004	1,253,189	1,365,190	18,560	44,544	48,544
Uruguay	2,991,607	7,912,889	8,097,545	1,223,322	3,254,475	3,334,103
Vietnam	2,967,240	7,261,120	7,656,120	956,330	2,265,661	2,360,556

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	113,962	316,386	318,947	0	0	0
Brazil	59,820	170,853	180,215	0	0	0
Canada	125,581	398,640	398,990	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	46,370	76,362	79,258	22,297	51,562	53,439
France(*)	799	12,837	14,041	0	0	0
Japan	1,958	6,306	6,534	0	0	0
Mexico	105,182	287,841	293,884	39,715	109,292	112,592
New Zealand(*)	242,648	1,243,872	1,272,064	76,399	618,280	634,233
Poland	4,389	36,839	40,989	0	0	0
Russia	504	5,785	6,287	0	0	0
Spain	2,839	20,657	22,021	798	5,292	5,616
Taiwan	154,020	350,236	366,361	39,180	102,564	105,939
Uruguay	170,745	429,693	439,973	95,367	240,321	247,263
Vietnam	618,600	1,472,250	1,497,691	171,000	411,330	428,255

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Argentina	6,001	28,710	31,210	0	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	894	12,026	12,513	0	0	0
Bulgaria	38,647	146,736	156,076	1,995	2,101	2,311
Canada	264,307	1,492,518	1,496,946	76,274	421,213	422,238
France(*)	47,073	467,260	490,459	28,123	294,322	308,946
Germany(*)	67,363	356,674	370,422	12,154	78,327	80,827
India	64,977	241,252	251,760	13,067	74,531	76,039
Italy(*)	8,468	84,797	86,184	3,468	44,376	44,824
Lebanon	2,565	28,875	30,675	0	0	0
Malaysia	59,601	60,935	60,938	20,900	23,387	23,388
Moldova	3,367	19,316	21,300	1,754	9,687	10,650
New Zealand(*)	47,963	496,585	511,345	17,456	168,606	175,207
Poland	15,852	43,059	45,891	4,769	13,688	14,615
Russia	3,555	29,635	32,654	1,861	2,856	3,199
Switzerland(*)	21,869	174,756	182,598	3,791	21,425	22,736
Taiwan	48,135	75,846	82,611	23,829	45,035	48,781
Turkey	27,837	157,943	161,893	12,668	79,053	80,981
Uruguay	38,400	105,216	110,103	0	0	0

FLAVORED HONEY –

Canada	1,437	51,677	52,944	87	2,112	2,135
China	68,467	122,116	134,418	57,060	84,360	92,550
France(*)	4,080	18,500	19,107	0	0	0
Greece	240	3,815	4,051	240	3,815	4,051
India	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Korea, South	37,544	758,047	780,453	16,927	336,921	347,917

Mexico	66,367	653,572	658,678	14,991	147,946	148,819
Taiwan	7,246	12,400	13,259	4,186	7,475	7,938
Vietnam	4,608	26,300	26,963	0	0	0

ORGANIC HONEY –

Brazil	687,180	2,090,591	2,142,511	236,218	712,410	727,953
Canada	57,774	276,228	280,407	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	35,641	81,199	81,201	22,961	50,513	50,514
Greece	8,368	113,582	116,566	0	0	0
Mexico	147,604	491,445	492,245	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL	42,301,852	125,205,474	129,285,161	13,322,173	39,103,434	40,358,775
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Notes:

- 1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics**
- 2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.**
- 3. (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.**
- 4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure. QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.**
- 5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.**
- 6. Product Group : Harmonized**