

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 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)

ARKANSAS			
Wild flower	Light Amber	\$1.50	
CALIFORNIA			
Alfalfa	White	\$1.89	
Avocado	Light Amber	\$1.49	
Buckwheat	Extra Light Amber	\$1.74	
Cotton	Extra Light Amber	\$1.84	
Orange	White	\$1.89	- \$1.94
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00	
Orange	Light Amber	\$1.89	
Sage	White	\$1.89	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.89	
DAKOTAS			
Alfalfa	White	\$1.90	- \$1.95
Canola	White	\$1.90	- \$1.95
Clover	White	\$1.80	- \$2.00
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.90	
Sunflower	White	\$1.95	
Western	White	\$1.95	
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
FLORIDA			
Mangrove	White	\$1.90	
Orange	White	\$1.90	
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	
Palmetto	Light Amber	\$1.55	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
IOWA			
Alfalfa	White	\$1.90	
KANSAS			
Clover	White	\$1.85	
LOUISIANA			
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.45	- \$1.60
MICHIGAN			
Wildflower	White	\$1.95	
MINNESOTA			
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
MISSISSIPPI			
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.55	- \$1.80
MONTANA			
Alfalfa	White	\$1.95	
Basswood	White	\$1.95	
Clover	White	\$1.90	- \$1.95
NEBRASKA			

Alfalfa	White	\$1.90	- \$1.95
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
OKLAHOMA			
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.70	
OHIO			
Alfalfa	White	\$1.90	
TEXAS			
Tallow	Extra Light Amber	\$1.48	- \$1.55
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.48	- \$1.60
WISCONSIN			
Basswood	White	\$1.90	
Wildflower	White	\$1.95	
Wildflower	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.

Canola	White	\$1.65	
Clover	White	\$1.67	
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.47	

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	\$1.40	- \$1.52
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.42	- \$1.52
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35	- \$1.50
BRAZIL			
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35	
ORGANIC	Extra Light Amber	\$1.61	
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.51	- \$1.64
INDIA			
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.21	- \$1.28
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.30	- \$1.35
MEXICO			
Orange	White	\$1.95	
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$1.92	
URUGUAY			
ORGANIC	Extra Light Amber	\$1.57	
VIETNAM			
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.31	- \$1.37

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING AUGUST, 2012

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): Appalachian District (MD,PA,VA,WV): The District continued to experience hotter than normal temperatures in August with several severe thunderstorms. Some of those storms brought hail. Despite this, parts of the District are drier than normal. Nectar continues to be short and beekeepers are continuing to provide supplemental feeding to colonies. Wildflowers like golden rod, clover and milkweed are past peak and fall asters and sunflowers are at peak. Colonies are generally in good health, but honey production is lower than normal for most of the District.

ALABAMA: Beekeepers in Alabama still have honey to remove from the hives. Yields of honey appear somewhat lower than last year but may be average to a little below average overall. Bees are finishing up with cotton and late soybeans and goldenrod pollen. Bee populations remain strong. There are some reports of unexplainable losses. The summer dearth period had a good bit of rain keeping flowers blooming and keeping the hives supported where not much stored honey had to be consumed. Mites generally seem right on the edge of treatment threshold and many beekeepers are opting to treat this year for the mites. Small hive beetles seem to be spotty and generally present but not a threat. There are no reported disease problems.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were above normal for the entire month of August. The range in temperatures statewide for August was a high of 116 degrees Fahrenheit in Yuma to a low of 47 degrees Fahrenheit at the Grand Canyon. There was precipitation reported at most stations throughout Arizona at some point in the month of August, but precipitation still remains at below normal levels for the year. The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state were desert plant bloom throughout the month of August; while cantaloupes, honeydews and miscellaneous melons were a source during the early part of the month. Demand for honey remains good.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received during August were mostly some trees, wild flowers and a few crops. Bees are in good condition. No mites have been reported. Some feeding has continued due to little rainfall. Last of month rain has fallen and has continued to fall off and on. Honey supply is light and the demand is strong.

CALIFORNIA: The month of August in the Golden State began with temperatures several degrees above normal as high pressure built into California. Monsoonal moisture caused a few showers and thunderstorms for far southeastern California, bringing 1/3" to 1" of rainfall for the southern California desert area. The rest of California remained dry. Near normal temperatures returned early into the month. However, as the month progressed a sharp warming trend prevailed and triple digit heat was common across all of California except for the immediate coastal strip. Toward the end of the month, a series of low pressure systems approached the Pacific Northwest weakening the high pressure across Northern California and permitting an onshore flow pattern which brought some cooling to the north. Another low pressure system moved into Southern California from the southeast. This system was more tropical in nature with abundant moisture. It triggered widespread thunderstorm activity across the southeastern desert and the southern half of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Bee colonies are actively being prepared for the upcoming winter months. Some bee colonies are being fed pollen substitutes while others still have adequate food available. Nothing much is being done with the hives that are healthy and preparing for winter properly, other than harvesting a little surplus honey, if there is any. Hive inspections and manipulations have become less frequent. The colonies are gradually winding down. Both their brood nests and their population numbers are decreasing. Bees worked alfalfa, melon, squash and sunflower fields. Where available, bees were feeding on Borage, clover, roses, lavender, scented geraniums, squash plants, yellowstar thistle, sunflowers, cosmos, asters, zinnias, asters, butterfly bush, purple coneflower, sedum, asters, pennyroyal, yellow mustard, pincushion flower, thyme, oregano, basil, statice, wild radish and salvia.

COLORADO: August was another hot and dry month across Colorado. According to the National Weather Service, rainfall was below normal and temperatures were above normal in most areas of the State. Some areas in the western part of the State did receive some late rain in August, but it was too late and did not help produce any measurable pollen and nectar for the bees. One Beekeeper stated that they went on vacation for 10 days in August because there was nothing to do. This is the first time in his career that there has not been any work to complete during this time of the year. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State of Colorado is in a severe to extreme drought except the southeast part of the State which is even drier and is considered to be in an exceptional drought. These drought conditions have had an adverse effect upon commercial beekeepers in Colorado this season. First, the lack of precipitation has placed an enormous stress on the vegetative cover including wild flowers during the growing season. It has resulted in less pollen and nectar for the bees to collect. Bees have been basically confined to irrigated alfalfa fields. Despite the drought conditions, Colorado beekeepers stated that bees are still looking generally healthy with few losses. There still seems to be a good population of bees in hives despite the hot and dry conditions. Some deformed wing virus, black queen cell virus and nosema have been noticed in beehive checks conducted by beekeepers during August. Mite populations have been lower during late summer. Extraction of honey has started and should be completed by early September. Based upon the current estimates, the hot and dry conditions have lowered the expectations for the potential honey yields in Colorado by half this season. Following extraction of the honey, beekeepers are planning on treating for viruses, mites and other pests. Commercial beekeepers also plan to start feeding either corn syrup or sugar syrup in addition to pollen patties in September. What they ultimately feed will depend upon the cost of the supplemental feed inputs. By supplementing the bee's diet, beekeepers stated that they could obtain heavier bees going into the fall and winter months so there is a better chance of survival. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Colorado. Current prices received in Colorado by beekeepers for wholesale white honey are \$1.90 per pound.

FLORIDA: August was mostly hot with alternating periods of rain and below normal rainfall. The afternoon showers and thunderstorms, the rainy season, were less wide spread than normal, resulting in some areas being abnormally dry for August. A few smaller producing beekeepers reported some losses from the heat, particularly when supplemental feeding was not provided in a timely manner. There were few sources of pollen and nectar except Spanish Needle, aster, smartweed, and wildflowers. They were only available in limited quantities and locations. Partridge pea is one type of wildflower that was available in some areas, mainly in the Panhandle and parts of Central Florida extending eastward to the Atlantic coastal counties. Producers were returning from the Northern states, but some will remain in the North producing honey until September or October. Many producers were treating for varroa mites or small hive beetles. Early August into November is when many hives are split to increase colony numbers. Brazilian Pepper was just beginning to bloom in Western Florida in late August and will spread eastward over the next couple of months. It is a major source of food for many bees including the split hives, and a source for honey production. No appreciable production of honey will occur until much later in the year. Stored stocks are very light, with demand exceeding supply. This is holding prices steady, near record high prices for Florida honey.

GEORGIA: The month of August had many factors playing into the welfare of the bees. The early part of the month was very hot and dry with rain and wind late in the month from Hurricane Issac which played a big role. Most of the beekeepers experienced normal losses for this time of year and the hive beetle showed up again in several areas of the state causing concern in the hives. Weather conditions both early and late in the month prevented bees from being able to forage for pollen, especially since many of the blooms came early this year. Some beekeepers have had to supplement food. The fall crop appears to be light this year and the Sourwood crop is light as well. In the northern areas bears have been a problem raiding the hives in search for food. Demand is high and the market is good, with prices expected to continue to rise later this year due to the less availability of honey.

IDAHO: August was another hot and dry month across Idaho. According to the National Weather Service, rainfall was below normal and temperatures were above normal in most areas. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the upper panhandle of Idaho is listed as being near normal on precipitation. However, the rest of the State is listed as being abnormally dry to moderate in drought conditions. Beekeepers are still hoping to obtain some late honey flow from irrigated alfalfa fields. Otherwise, there is very little vegetative cover left to provide any foraging for bees. According to beekeepers, bees are still looking generally healthy with few losses. There still seems to be a good population of bees in hives despite hot and dry conditions. Wax moth and mites have been noticed during beehive checks conducted by beekeepers. Extraction of honey has started and should be completed by early September. Based upon the current estimates, the hot and dry conditions have lowered the expectations for the potential honey yield for this season. Following extraction of the honey, beekeepers are planning on treating for viruses, mites and other pests. Commercial beekeepers also plan to start feeding either corn syrup or sugar syrup in addition to pollen patties in September. Beekeepers stated that by supplementing the bee's diet they could obtain heavier bees going into the fall and winter months so there will be a better chance of survival. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Idaho. Current prices received in Idaho by beekeepers for wholesale white honey are \$1.95 to \$2.00 per pound

ILLINOIS: The weather for August stayed in the mid 80-90s as temperatures were unseasonably warm with fairly light to moderate moisture for the northern and central part of the state. Temperatures were much warmer and unfavorably dry for the Southern part of the state, however there were some cooler days and nights during the early part of the month. Temperatures seemed to be unseasonably warm and dry for the month of August. Beekeepers report their hives in fair to good condition as they prep and prepare their hives for fall. Beekeepers also report a fairly good honey flow as the month of August comes to an end. Beekeepers report very little supplemental feeding as the majority of the beekeepers seem to be happy with the health of their bee's. Demand for honey is moderate to fairly good. Prices at retail and farmers markets are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: No report issued.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of August were somewhat hot and humid for the southern part of the state but, cooler with added moisture for the northern and central part of the state. Most of the Beekeepers report their bees in fair to good condition. They also report a fair to good honey flow during the early part of the month, but moderate as the month came to an end. A few Beekeepers report light supplemental feeding as well as more bee activity as they prepare their beehives for the month of September. Demand for honey is moderate to fairly good as prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: Most of Kentucky suffered from drought in August, especially western Kentucky. Consequently, beekeepers have had to feed their hives. Some pollen has been available, and some areas have experienced local rain storms. Situations vary according to the locations of the hives.

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources during August were from various trees and wild flowers. The colonies were in generally fair to good condition. Weather conditions have been very warm with heavy rains and flooding the latter part of the month. Some bees and hives were lost in the low laying areas and near rivers and creeks due to the flooding. Supply is low and the demand is good.

MICHIGAN: Some beekeepers in the South Central and Eastern regions of the state have reported low honey stores throughout the summer due to April freezes and hot temperatures and drought conditions that prevailed during the summer months. It is doubtful that many beekeepers will remove any honey from hives in some cases. Bees are working some nectar from golden rod and several of the early fall asters. Mid-state beekeepers have reported better honey flows during the month due to increased moisture and the early advent of goldenrod and unharvested fields of alfalfa. There is some concern about a higher incidence of mites which could result in higher bee losses over the winter. Raw honey at local farm markets has been selling from \$5.00-\$6.50 pound. At month's end, early fall asters provided a good forage source. All beekeepers across the state expect to supplement feed with protein and sugar syrups this fall where needed.

MINNESOTA: The month of August was had varied weather across Minnesota. On the east side of the State there were near normal temperatures and precipitation. However, in the northwest and southeast parts of the State conditions were relatively hot and dry. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the northwest and southwest areas of Minnesota are listed as being in a moderate to severe drought. The rest of Minnesota is still listed as being in a normal precipitation pattern. Beekeepers are hoping to obtain some late honey flow from alfalfa, buck wheat and golden rod. According to beekeepers, bees are looking generally healthy with few losses. There seems to be a good population of bees in hives despite periodic hot and dry conditions. Some hives experienced problems with queen bees during August. Beekeepers and researchers are puzzled about what caused many of the hives to lose their queen. The good news, according to beekeepers, is that many of the hives that lost queens re-queened their own hives. Since many hives were without a queen for a period of time, there were less brood and consequently less honey produced. There has been an increase in hive mite populations during beehive checks conducted by beekeepers in August. Extraction of honey has started and should be completed by early September. Based upon the current estimates, despite the hot and dry conditions, honey yields in Minnesota are predicted to be slightly better than last year. The quality of the 2012 honey crop appears to be better than 2011. Following extraction of the honey, beekeepers are planning on treating for viruses, mites and other pests. Commercial beekeepers have not started feeding any supplemental feed to the bees yet. Supplemental feeding of either corn syrup or sugar syrup in addition to pollen patties is planned after fall hive maintenance. By supplementing the bee's diet, beekeepers stated that they could obtain heavier bees going into the fall and winter months so there is a better chance of survival. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Minnesota. Current prices received in Minnesota by beekeepers for wholesale white honey are \$1.90 to 1.95 per pound.

MISSISSIPPI: Various parts of the state have experienced more rain than usual, especially the latter part of August. Hurricane Issac caused problems especially in the southern areas. Beekeepers expect a better crop in quality and volume than last year, but it is still average in comparison to other

“normal” years. Demand is good and prices are steady. Beekeepers are waiting for the Goldenrod, Aster and Bonesett to start to bloom for the fall pollen collection.

MONTANA: During August temperatures were seasonally normal while the precipitation levels were slightly below normal in most areas of the state. At the month's end, topsoil moisture measured 52 percent very short, 12 percent last year; 39 percent short, 54 percent last year; 9 percent adequate, 33 percent last year; 0 percent surplus, 1 percent last year. Subsoil moisture measured 42 percent very short, 47 short, 11 percent adequate and 0 percent surplus. Colony health was reported to be generally good. A below average honey crop was reported being extracted by beekeepers during August. A honey flow continued from 3rd cutting Alfalfa being allowed to bloom, Yellow and White clover, and wild flowers where ground moisture allowed. The weather was reported to be average or slightly warmer than normal, with a cooling trend with moisture at month's end. Honey demand was reported as good.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather in August, for the most part followed the exact path set in July. It was hot and humid with daytime temperatures in the high 80s and mid 90s early in the month. Bees were bringing in little nectar and pollen early in the day and later in the day many bees are feeding on what has been stored. Precipitation and soil moisture levels were average with light pollen sources and many nectar sources starting to quickly end. Certain regional areas experienced drought like conditions for a longer time frame than others but the entire region has been hit hard with tropical style weather conditions. Areas with higher moisture levels created the resources for a prodigious honey flow with many usually late floral and nectar sources coming on early. In this regard, many of these sources come into full bloom too early and have not provided the necessary pollen for bee broods to work from. This has created a serious problem because it necessitated the feeding of pollen substitute as well as sugar syrup which is a very rare situation and not easily recognized. Weather patterns changed flowering periods and changed foraging at key times. Bees are on an extended pollen and late nectar run bringing in a variety of pollens which is critical for brood rearing, to which there are few substitutes. Bees are putting what they are bringing inside the hive into brood production. This creates an attractive mix for those selling honey. Keepers report that inexplicably this year they are noticing that there are not as many drones as with past years. They are observing that some drones in the pupae stage are being pulled from cells and dragged to the hive entrance which accounts for the low drone populations being reported. Bees were working smartweed (*Polygonum* spp.), jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), black locust, swamp thistle, button bush, purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), wild radish, American basswood/linden (*Tilia Americana*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), winged sumac, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), buckwheat, sweet pepper bush (*Chethora*), meadow sweet (produces a light olive pollen color) as well as vegetable crops and a variety of flowering trees and wild flowers. Some excellent pollen and nectar sources for bees are the legumes such as alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), purple vetch (*Vicia sativa*), birds foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), and clovers such as white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) are all in full bloom at this point in time. This is a time when some keepers will choose to re-queen in order to coincide with the nectar dearth and re-super for the last nectar flow going into the fall. August has been busy for most beekeepers as they start making decisions about winter. Most colonies are in very good condition; queen right, healthy worker populations with sufficient honey and pollen. Additionally, colonies have begun early winterizing with propolis and organizing their winter stores. It is still too early to assess the overall crop for the season as golden rod; knotweed and loosestrife are still blooming. At this point in time, reportedly most honey producers have been finding surplus honey, typically seeing 30-80 pounds in supers and are calling it a so-so year, not the worst but definitely not a great season for honey yields. Most keepers reportedly saw very little honey early in the season. Recently, New England has been receiving regular rainfall so the previous dry conditions have greatly improved for the latter part of August. There have been sporadic complaints regarding small hive beetles, wax moth infestation, varroa mites and nosema disease. Affected colonies that have been slow to build populations seem to bounce back after treatment with Fumidil-B., to the point that these colonies with heavy mite loads look like they will be able to right themselves before winter. Varroa mites have been at higher levels than the last two years and beekeepers are scrambling to treat in order to lower the mite populations. This is often at the loss of any late honey as you do not treat colonies when collecting honey. Utilizing screened bottom boards helps to keep the mite population down. Many keepers are experimenting with brood interruption for mite control. Secondly, keepers are re-queening with local raised queens and this procedure seems to shut down brood production when nectar flows shut down. Consequently keepers are sugar syrup feeding and also feeding pollen with mega food patties as a substitute for natural pollen. Harvested honey this month has been averaging 50 lbs. per colony. Prices and demand for local and regional honey has been excellent and anyone with honey to sell is getting the best price and there is not enough to meet the demand. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$7.00 to \$10.00 mostly \$9.00 occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were steady with 5 gallon units at \$175.00 to \$215.00 mostly \$200.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. Current wholesale prices quoted exclusively for white, cleaned beeswax are steady and for 1lb block units at \$5.50 to \$5.75 mostly \$5.50 and for 50lb block units at \$4.50 to \$5.00 mostly \$4.75. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50lbs are \$2.20 to \$3.50 mostly \$3.50 for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Retail white and cleaned beeswax prices reported are \$16.00 to \$20.00 per pound.

NEW YORK: Western New York beekeepers have reported only an average honey crop. The big concern seems an outbreak of mites which threatens the health of the hives. Mite-a-Way strips have not been effective. Goldenrod is a primary nectar source.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were mostly normal for August. Precipitation was mostly above normal. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated 9 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 25 percent surplus for the week ending August 26. The North Carolina Drought Council reported 14 counties as abnormally dry. Bees appear to be healthy and populations in the hives are normal to above normal. Hives are putting on weight in preparation for winter and so far look pretty good, but will have to be closely monitored to ensure the increased populations do not reduce honey stores. The above normal precipitation has stimulated plant bloom allowing bees to work Aster, Goldenrod, Heartsease and Smartweed. A surplus is not expected as a result of these blooms, but beekeepers may not have to provide as much supplemental feed. Demand for honey is good.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: The weather has been warm and advancing the maturity of various crops. Extraction is ongoing with generally good production. The conditions of the hives are also fairly good. Extraction should continue into September as beekeepers prepare for fall.

OHIO: Colonies were slowly beginning to make winter stores during the latter half of August as goldenrod began to bloom. The big problem facing beekeepers is the lack of queens and high varroa mite counts, especially if early treatments were skipped. Honey prices continued to climb steadily due to increased input costs, such as protein feeds, sugar syrups and medications. Some beekeepers are concerned about heavy winter losses ahead due to weaker hive conditions in many cases, and hope milder September weather conditions and timely rain help boost honey flow ahead of the cold winter

months coming. There has been strong demand at farmer markets for local honey. Many customers have been aware of the bee losses and problems that plague the industry.

OKLAHOMA: Pollen and nectar sources have been scarce due to extreme heat. Feeding has continued during the month. The bees are in good condition. There have been scattered showers during the month. Very little honey has been produced due to the heat. The supply is light and the demand is very good. Prices remain high.

OREGON: During August the weather was generally warm and dry with highs in the 80s to mid-90s. Evening and overnight lows cooled later in the month. At the end of August, topsoil moisture measured 25 percent very short, 47 percent short, 28 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measurements measured 64 percent very short and short, while 36 percent of moisture measurements measured adequate and surplus. Colonies were reported to be of generally good strength. Wild flowers, yellow and crimson clover, blackberries and alfalfa were available as nectar and pollen sources. Beekeepers reported honey demand to be good.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: Beekeepers across the state are reporting better than average honey yields this year from the spring flow. There are reports of potential pesticide kills in several areas of the state. The sourwood honey flow was very spotty this year due to the spotty afternoon thunderstorms at the higher elevations. The hot dry weather that has persisted for most of the summer resulted in beekeepers having to feed to keep their bees alive due to no sources of nectar. Small hive beetles have been more of an issue this year than in past years for many beekeepers.

TEXAS: Many days of triple digits in temperature occurred. There have been scattered showers, some light and some have been heavier as in East and North Central Texas as well as in West Texas. West Texas remains in a drought. The supply is still short and the demand is good. Some supplement feeding continued the first of the month. The showers helped the wild flowers and the stressed bees. No mites have been reported. Some hives that were near Dallas and Ft. Worth and some smaller cities were sprayed at night to kill the mosquitos that are causing the West Nile virus. So far there does not seem to have been damage to the bees in the hives.

UTAH: The month of August has been very hot across the State. Rainfall was above normal in the Cedar City area and below normal in Salt Lake City. The high temperatures across the State limited any positive effect that precipitation could have had on vegetation. Salt Lake City recorded 30 days above 90 degrees with 1 of those days being above 100 degrees. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State of Utah is in a severe to extreme drought. These drought conditions have had an adverse effect upon commercial beekeepers in Utah. First, the lack of precipitation has placed an enormous stress on the vegetative cover including wild flowers during this growing season. It has resulted in less pollen and nectar for the bees to collect. Bees have been basically confined to irrigated alfalfa fields. Besides the poor vegetative cover, it appears that the drought conditions started a sequence of problems including poor queen retention in hives. The poor queen retention then led into others problems like irregular patterns of brood, which ultimately lead to reduced honey production. Some beekeepers have reported extracting only 10 pounds of honey per hive in some locations. Not all honey has been extracted yet, so there is still some hope that there will be some late flow of honey resulting in pockets of good production. Another issue that seemed to be connected to the high temperatures was an increase in insect and mite populations. Since there were more insects out in the agricultural fields, Farmers were forced to spray more. This also had an adverse effect upon bees by causing additional losses for beekeepers from excessive over spraying. After extraction of honey is completed in September, beekeepers will start treating for mites and other viruses. The drought also has had other adverse results by forcing beekeepers to supplement their bee's diet with corn or sugar syrup a majority of the summer. Again, this was the result from the lack of vegetative cover. All of these issues have ultimately affected bees, so consequently bees are not looking very good at this point of time. Some commercial beekeepers stated that they will begin shipping their bees to California in October thereby, hopefully, getting their bees into a better location for the winter months. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Utah. Current prices received in Utah by beekeepers for wholesale white honey are averaging \$2.10 per pound.

WASHINGTON: Harvest of fall crops began with apple and pear harvesting. Peach and nectarine harvest continues as the cherries are mostly finished for the season. Beekeepers are extracting honey and hives generally look good. The weather has cooled off from late July and early August to more normal levels.

WISCONSIN: Weather for the northern part of the state was generally hot and humid, as temperatures were hot and dry for the central and southern part of the state for the month of August. Most Beekeepers report more bee activity during the early part of the month but less as the month came to an end. Most beekeepers report very few problems with mites as they clean, build, and prepare their hives for the fall. Beekeepers report a good honey flow for the early part of the month but moderate for the latter part of the month. Demand for honey is moderate to fairly good as honey prices are generally unchanged.

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

	Year to Date		July 2012	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	8,317	32,061	0	0
Bahrain	40,230	97,651	0	0
Barbados	8,868	54,150	0	0
Bermuda	2,396	16,446	766	5,599
Brazil	4,896	11,884	0	0

Cayman Islands	1,155	6,934	0	0
Germany(*)	6,949	25,222	0	0
Guyana	7,836	44,597	0	0
Hong Kong	44,983	223,031	1,227	7,746
Iceland	6,615	18,559	0	0
Indonesia	282,069	684,671	91,666	222,504
Ireland	1,285	3,119	0	0
Israel(*)	81,200	411,684	0	0
Japan	226,515	946,298	53,623	211,504
Korea, South	77,838	346,096	73,764	331,956
Kuwait	183,992	636,082	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	726	3,960	0	0
Malaysia	18,747	49,115	0	0
Mexico	49,869	121,049	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	6,743	32,649	1,551	8,588
Panama	8,710	53,440	0	0
Philippines	230,430	567,995	46,381	112,581
Poland	22,944	55,692	0	0
Saudi Arabia	53,341	129,475	0	0
Singapore	27,541	74,424	6,755	16,396
Taiwan	30,558	148,415	14,726	71,351
Thailand	7,097	32,665	0	0
United Arab Emirates	156,964	381,003	6,951	16,872
Vietnam	18,967	46,040	0	0
Yemen(*)	463,072	1,934,350	101,741	343,000

**NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED
OR SPECIFIED - - -**

Australia(*)	2,280	7,038	0	0
Bahamas, The	17,844	79,540	986	3,522
Bahrain	3,674	7,128	0	0
Barbados	10,612	26,370	1,098	6,955
Bermuda	12,134	49,052	1,871	7,273
Cambodia	1,527	10,052	0	0
Canada	206,618	766,400	14,697	66,151
Cayman Islands	555	3,273	0	0
China	15,212	79,400	14,361	73,763
Colombia	2,085	5,060	0	0
Hong Kong	14,579	66,735	0	0
India	356,655	834,600	0	0
Israel(*)	225,400	871,855	0	0
Jamaica	8,491	33,700	0	0
Japan	231,540	628,131	95,228	235,505
Kuwait	105	2,627	105	2,627
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,201	3,960	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	11,859	55,346	0	0
New Zealand(*)	285	3,662	285	3,662
Nigeria	1,378	3,345	1,378	3,345
Panama	1,216	7,476	0	0
Philippines	5,555	35,775	0	0
Saudi Arabia	18,000	92,606	0	0
Taiwan	2,483	13,260	0	0
Thailand	172,281	371,782	164,965	354,024
United Arab Emirates	50,465	335,140	17,206	119,254
United Kingdom	19,382	40,000	0	0
Vietnam	79,780	188,316	0	0
Yemen(*)	10,987	84,000	10,987	84,000

GRAND TOTAL	3,565,036	11,894,386	722,318	2,308,178
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U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date			July 2012		
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars
WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -						
Argentina	6,207,486	17,981,598	18,461,779	429,959	1,238,348	1,300,482
Brazil	228,206	751,317	791,138	0	0	0
Canada	8,136,798	30,083,798	30,316,773	1,199,079	4,626,890	4,661,895
Chile	96,512	277,000	285,000	0	0	0
Egypt	4,338	8,676	9,237	0	0	0
France(*)	393	4,967	5,424	0	0	0
Hungary	614	7,728	8,367	0	0	0
India	1,184,554	3,259,255	3,447,261	207,500	588,680	634,000
Italy(*)	13,799	99,947	102,803	0	0	0
Mexico	443,338	1,612,853	1,621,989	130,904	478,859	481,818
New Zealand(*)	23,164	46,328	46,599	0	0	0
Poland	2,650	20,442	21,057	0	0	0
Spain	14,960	82,910	87,326	0	0	0
Switzerland(*)	3,191	21,516	21,924	0	0	0
United Kingdom	5,143	37,791	39,904	0	0	0
Uruguay	113,987	343,381	352,005	0	0	0

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

Argentina	14,391,618	41,838,268	43,216,007	2,079,323	6,080,614	6,254,451
Australia(*)	38,993	140,375	143,375	0	0	0
Austria	750	5,334	5,680	0	0	0
Brazil	2,046,193	6,761,228	6,995,616	266,315	851,326	892,883
Canada	280,638	1,209,144	1,216,725	26,046	110,044	110,894
Chile	529,114	1,443,021	1,498,400	35,904	96,941	97,941
China	18,734	56,449	59,949	0	0	0
France(*)	12,208	58,165	63,144	9,474	30,198	32,359
India	5,419,032	14,305,544	15,049,188	822,463	2,110,611	2,228,354
Indonesia	241,280	524,320	547,721	0	0	0
Italy(*)	19,629	124,630	127,328	18,966	121,441	123,941
Japan	10	2,871	2,970	0	0	0
Malaysia	89,900	220,255	220,265	0	0	0
Mexico	1,065,993	3,311,188	3,336,408	172,921	585,457	586,478
Pakistan	38,000	95,000	101,000	19,000	47,500	51,000
Switzerland(*)	9,912	30,779	33,188	9,912	30,779	33,188
Thailand	56,360	125,464	130,965	0	0	0
Ukraine	472,938	1,250,192	1,285,015	57,079	149,058	149,955
Uruguay	1,262,038	3,430,619	3,565,633	151,675	420,218	435,677
Vietnam	671,550	1,671,461	1,761,059	115,200	280,320	298,840

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	4,666,323	13,446,572	13,867,905	701,070	2,046,893	2,124,699
Australia(*)	1,218	14,749	14,750	0	0	0
Austria	13,509	125,037	131,663	1,118	10,407	11,003
Brazil	3,292,378	9,402,495	9,765,159	471,566	1,313,921	1,356,562
Canada	38,322	119,278	120,079	0	0	0

Chile	858,508	2,291,311	2,362,831	114,901	313,030	320,080
Dominican Republic	295,456	769,993	808,649	36,744	94,795	98,576
France(*)	1,119	13,589	14,991	144	2,393	3,529
Germany(*)	75,065	339,634	351,062	0	0	0
Greece	1,545	15,627	16,057	0	0	0
Hong Kong	3,420	21,321	21,660	0	0	0
India	7,292,542	18,340,734	19,449,633	1,189,106	2,962,650	3,149,594
Indonesia	121,996	267,989	288,989	0	0	0
Ireland	292	3,114	3,177	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,114	44,558	47,321	0	0	0
Japan	4,654	11,403	11,880	0	0	0
Lithuania	768	4,069	4,555	0	0	0
Malaysia	1,629,542	3,962,154	4,124,297	0	0	0
Mexico	1,191,140	3,425,837	3,470,372	384,088	1,119,656	1,120,463
New Zealand(*)	55,152	512,256	517,675	3,393	141,185	142,985
Pakistan	535	2,120	2,332	535	2,120	2,332
Poland	1,231	7,594	8,068	0	0	0
Russia	2,360	38,638	42,188	0	0	0
Spain	8,291	63,893	65,436	1,598	9,922	10,295
Switzerland(*)	3,971	21,163	21,363	3,669	18,346	18,369
Thailand	36,600	86,560	86,924	0	0	0
Turkey	523,413	1,270,500	1,382,503	0	0	0
Ukraine	37,200	100,812	108,812	0	0	0
Uruguay	7,017,212	18,767,361	19,213,046	1,459,765	3,946,186	4,052,003
Vietnam	6,668,060	16,438,296	17,278,741	1,485,500	3,684,336	3,879,703

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	394,486	1,143,154	1,165,405	168,274	518,791	530,744
Armenia	452	3,510	4,123	0	0	0
Australia(*)	1,050	16,194	16,444	0	0	0
Brazil	266,808	701,739	736,570	131,388	345,654	367,820
Canada	186,573	626,659	627,037	40,623	153,360	153,387
Chile	56,265	149,309	153,956	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	163,533	312,238	322,566	25,200	66,516	68,528
Egypt	1,500	3,560	4,056	0	0	0
France(*)	1,255	17,270	19,974	0	0	0
Germany(*)	595	5,850	6,099	0	0	0
Greece	1,209	16,323	18,323	0	0	0
Hungary	3,252	16,985	17,985	0	0	0
India	1,683,065	5,248,937	5,506,302	149,705	434,641	455,641
Indonesia	94,540	183,048	195,048	40,600	91,350	97,350
Israel(*)	1,968	29,084	30,076	0	0	0
Italy(*)	8,794	99,925	104,504	1,582	13,677	14,412
Japan	1,958	6,306	6,534	0	0	0
Lithuania	5,372	21,079	23,762	0	0	0
Mexico	251,592	640,689	652,991	66,800	134,270	138,823
Moldova	2,058	11,516	13,217	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	383,920	2,143,531	2,198,664	12,405	139,978	142,328
Poland	5,321	43,914	49,613	0	0	0
Russia	504	5,785	6,287	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	6,000	5,400	6,132	0	0	0
Spain	5,449	38,788	40,956	1,812	13,141	13,733
Taiwan	632,520	1,482,558	1,546,863	133,980	315,427	329,567
Thailand	92,630	203,786	206,841	0	0	0
Ukraine	21,800	53,910	59,285	20,000	50,000	55,000
United Kingdom	10,266	37,318	40,504	31	4,361	4,797

Uruguay	245,578	625,516	639,102	18,852	51,843	52,864
Vietnam	1,234,940	2,935,099	3,053,371	312,000	759,013	815,875

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Argentina	6,001	28,710	31,210	0	0	0
Armenia	9,362	79,074	81,505	0	0	0
Austria	4,130	49,123	51,176	0	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	894	12,026	12,513	0	0	0
Brazil	76,880	244,909	258,290	18,810	58,687	61,187
Bulgaria	67,717	268,152	282,835	12,629	47,771	49,942
Canada	374,677	2,122,003	2,128,456	49,986	275,483	276,233
Chile	294	3,828	3,831	0	0	0
Croatia	3,645	29,738	30,386	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	5,961	11,812	13,259	1,744	5,000	5,382
Egypt	2,511	11,770	12,716	1,800	8,710	9,594
France(*)	65,474	686,577	719,512	2,297	27,211	28,576
Germany(*)	80,797	435,850	452,788	0	0	0
Greece	18,878	172,295	179,492	1,372	12,732	12,870
Guatemala	1,133	2,753	2,929	0	0	0
Hungary	4,320	20,519	22,046	0	0	0
India	252,627	900,165	934,450	93,468	336,156	346,255
Israel(*)	4,377	20,798	20,877	0	0	0
Italy(*)	10,087	104,741	106,715	1,211	15,479	15,791
Lebanon	2,565	28,875	30,675	0	0	0
Lithuania	10,308	41,213	45,335	5,160	17,046	18,751
Malaysia	59,601	60,935	60,938	0	0	0
Mexico	36,942	114,517	125,969	18,360	56,916	62,608
Moldova	9,158	36,561	40,330	626	3,381	3,675
New Zealand(*)	70,084	715,442	736,594	8,671	94,042	97,030
Poland	19,443	53,060	57,445	0	0	0
Portugal	8,266	56,924	59,060	3,850	26,278	27,202
Russia	19,321	116,651	128,133	566	4,990	5,250
Saudi Arabia	95	3,240	3,340	0	0	0
Serbia	2,417	17,123	18,023	0	0	0
Slovenia	700	4,613	4,760	0	0	0
Spain	94,800	638,975	659,074	0	0	0
Switzerland(*)	39,753	325,933	339,885	3,755	33,843	35,909
Taiwan	78,383	131,000	140,735	7,646	9,673	10,168
Turkey	46,891	264,419	271,830	13,507	79,307	81,382
Ukraine	34,246	117,278	129,006	0	0	0
Uruguay	38,400	105,216	110,103	0	0	0
Uzbekistan, Republic of	2,881	10,083	11,070	0	0	0
Vietnam	45,200	118,577	124,205	19,200	43,200	45,128
Zambia	2,985	44,145	44,386	0	0	0

FLAVORED HONEY –

Australia(*)	11,900	121,633	124,133	11,900	121,633	124,133
Canada	13,097	110,217	111,706	0	0	0
China	193,361	319,216	353,871	0	0	0
Egypt	2,400	5,250	5,500	0	0	0
Estonia	500	3,360	3,377	500	3,360	3,377
France(*)	8,114	34,215	35,371	3,861	13,295	13,784
Germany(*)	8,176	84,111	87,282	6,176	64,571	67,142
Greece	240	3,815	4,051	0	0	0
India	520	3,432	3,518	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,307	58,464	60,265	72	6,590	6,663

Japan	90	17,934	18,034	0	0	0
Korea, South	60,126	1,536,426	1,596,882	11,652	420,900	441,476
Mexico	88,785	899,706	906,603	6,270	63,072	63,988
Poland	1,015	4,470	4,916	0	0	0
Portugal	1,272	7,455	7,646	998	5,020	5,173
Spain	4,144	24,407	26,677	1,188	6,111	6,345
Taiwan	19,066	31,755	34,505	5,792	6,930	7,995
Thailand	26,718	115,170	119,347	0	0	0
United Kingdom	264	3,454	3,461	0	0	0
Vietnam	4,608	26,300	26,963	0	0	0

ORGANIC HONEY –

Australia(*)	18,408	156,654	167,312	0	0	0
Brazil	1,708,416	5,350,275	5,492,484	263,590	929,581	962,879
Canada	135,659	629,540	637,769	419	3,914	3,964
Dominican Republic	50,377	114,217	114,416	896	2,570	2,766
Greece	8,368	113,582	116,566	0	0	0
Italy(*)	7,297	94,944	97,465	2,185	24,629	25,436
Mexico	242,305	781,278	785,895	75,741	227,265	230,972
New Zealand(*)	12,597	80,163	82,363	0	0	0
Taiwan	3,150	12,390	12,743	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL	87,000,696	256,954,907	265,579,933	13,384,067	39,660,492	41,064,244
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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