

# NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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Agriculture

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## HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 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			
Soybean	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
CALIFORNIA			
Alfalfa	White	\$1.85	
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.60	- \$1.70
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.40	- \$1.60
Orange	White	\$1.90	- \$1.94
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	
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	\$1.88	- \$2.00
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.90	
Sunflower	White	\$1.95	
Western	White	\$1.95	
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
FLORIDA			
Clover	Extra Light	\$1.70	
Gullberry	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
Mangrove	White	\$1.90	
Orange	White	\$1.90	
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	
Palmetto	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
Palmetto	Light Amber	\$1.55	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
LOUISIANA			
Wildflower	Amber	\$1.50	
MINNESOTA			
Clover	White	\$1.85	- \$1.90
Clover	Light Amber	\$1.50	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
MISSISSIPPI			
Soybean	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
MONTANA			
Clover	White	\$1.85	- \$1.95
NEBRASKA			
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.95	
OKLAHOMA			
Clover	White	\$1.87	

	Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.82
	Tallow	Extra Light Amber	\$1.50
TEXAS			
	Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.48 - \$1.60
WYOMING			
	Alfalfa	White	\$1.95

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 - \$1.69
	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

	Citrus	White	\$1.78
	Citrus	Extra Light	\$1.79
	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.37 - \$1.52
	Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.46 - \$1.51
	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.33 - \$1.35

#### BRAZIL

	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35
	ORGANIC	Extra Light Amber	\$1.61
	ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.49 - \$1.51

#### INDIA

	Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.21 - \$1.28
	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.25 - \$1.33
	Mixed Flower	Amber	\$1.22

#### MEXICO

	Orange	White	\$1.95
	Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85 - \$1.92

#### URUGUAY

	Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$1.35 - \$1.38
	ORGANIC	Extra Light Amber	\$1.57

#### VIETNAM

	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.31 - \$1.35
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**COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER, 2012**

**APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV):** Relief of seasonable temperatures returned to the District after a much hotter than normal summer. Several scattered showers and thunderstorms also traveled through alleviating some of the drought conditions in certain locals. Top soil levels in a few scattered areas remain below normal, but for the most part, soil levels are at normal. Fall blooming flowers like golden rod, asters and sunflowers in the lower elevations, had a decent bloom in September with the rain and more normal temperatures allowing for some nectar gathering. Colonies are generally in good health. Many are still receiving supplemental feeding due to lower than average honey stores.

**ALABAMA:** In September the remainder of excess honey was removed from Alabama bee yards. Bees are being fed all around the state even though there is a nectar flow. Honeybees are in moderate condition. Many beekeepers have treated for mites and there has been late swarming. Pests are moderate. Small hive beetles are present in almost every yard but are not causing many problems. Varroa mites are moderate. Some viruses are present; those being Deformed Wing Virus and Sacbrood. Brood rearing was very active in early September but has slowed with the decline of the fall honey flow. Overall honey production is reported to have been good but somewhat below average in 2012. Prices for local honey remain high.

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures in Arizona were generally above normal for all but the third week of September, when they were at below normal levels. The range statewide in temperatures for the month was a high of 109 degrees Fahrenheit in Yuma, Coolidge and Roll to a low of 34 degrees Fahrenheit at the Grand Canyon. There was much precipitation across the state during the first 3 weeks of the month, with as many as 20 out of 21 districts reporting precipitation in a given week. The last part of September saw none of the 21 districts reporting precipitation. Six out of 21 districts are at or above normal precipitation levels for the year. The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state were watermelons early in September, Cantaloupes and Honeydews towards the end of the month; with alfalfa and desert plant bloom being a major source for the entire month of September. Demand for honey remains good.

**ARKANSAS:** Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of September were from golden rod and cotton. Conditions of the colonies were good throughout the month. Weather conditions showed normal temperatures with little rainfall. Supply and demand remain good.

**CALIFORNIA:** The month of September in the Golden State: a low pressure system moving through the Pacific Northwest brought mild temperatures to Northern California, while high pressure was keeping Southern California hot with high temperatures hitting triple digits. The northern low pressure system brought some precipitation to the far northern coast, but the rest of the State remained dry. Moving into mid-month, temperatures rebounded above their normal values a surge of midlevel moisture brought severe thunderstorms and flash flooding to portions of Southern California. Toward the end of the month, a dry weather pattern with above normal daytime temperatures continued across California. Overnight low temperatures cooled to near normal levels, and no significant precipitation was recorded in the State during the week. Beekeepers are actively preparing their bee colonies for winter. Supplemental feeding – cane sugar water and synthetic pollen, has been occurring as there is no nectar and very little pollen available for the bees. Where available, bees have been feeding on alfalfa, melon, squash and sunflower fields as well as seder, pennyroyal, asters, Michaelmas daisies, coyote brush, and various wildflowers. There has been an increase in varroa damage and beekeepers are treating aggressively for that pest. Drinking water is not a big issue; however rain is needed for the upcoming year. Honey prices are remaining around \$2.00 per pound; however there is very little honey to sell. More than 1 million beehives enter California each year to help pollinate crops, in some cases being trucked long distances through the desert to reach the state. To help assure the health of bees as they cross the state border, beekeepers, farm groups and the state Department of Food and Agriculture are working together to upgrade or install watering systems at highway border stations. The systems allow truck drivers to hook up hoses to provide water to bees.

**COLORADO:** The weather across Colorado during September was highly varied but generally warmer than normal for this time of year. Several locations recorded many days over 90 degrees during September including Denver with 7 and Grand Junction with 5. The exception to the heat wave gripping Colorado was the intermountain area of the State. Alamosa reported 13 days of morning lows of 32 degrees or lower during September. So in this region of the State, the growing season is over. According to the National Weather Service, rainfall was spotty but overall was below normal in most areas of the State. 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 continue to have an adverse effect upon many commercial beekeepers in Colorado this season with the exception being in the west central region of Colorado. There were some above average yields of around 50 to 60 pounds of honey per hive in this region of the State. The higher honey yields in the west central part of Colorado were largely attributed to some timely rains and irrigated alfalfa fields where bees could forage. Some droughty areas in the north and south east parts of Colorado only produced 10 pounds of honey on average per hive. This was the result of the excessive drought that killed foraging bees and queens. The poor queen retention then led into others problems like irregular patterns of brood, which ultimately lead to reduced honey production due to less foraging bees to collect pollen and nectar for the colony. The reduced hive populations in some areas of the State will also reduce the number of hives available to be shipped to California for the almond pollination in early 2013. Overall the 2012 crop of honey in Colorado is only going to be about one third of the yield seen in 2012 and one half of the normal average crop in Colorado. In late September, some beekeepers were still reporting that there was a small honey flow from rabbit brush and Russian thistles. The late honey flow is the result of a slight improvement in overall growing conditions in the fields during the last 30 days. A majority of the 2012 crop honey has been extracted as of late September. According to beekeepers, mites have resurfaced as one of the bigger issues this season besides the drought. Beekeepers are now conducting their fall bee treatments for mites and other pests and viruses. Despite some mite problems, according to beekeepers, bees are still looking generally healthy with few losses at this time. There has been little need to supplement their feeding up to this point. Many beekeepers have indicated that they are planning to start supplementing their bees diet soon with sugar syrup and pollen patties to reduce the stress on their bees and keep them healthy going into the winter. Some commercial beekeepers stated that they will begin shipping their bees to California and Texas in November thereby, hopefully, getting their bees into a better location for the winter months. Supplies of new crop 2012 honey in Colorado appear to be in short supply at this time. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Colorado. Current prices received in Colorado by beekeepers for wholesale white honey and extra light amber is averaging around \$2.00 per pound. There was also some specialty honeydew honey produced in Colorado this season. Honeydew honey is produced from the secretions of aphids and other bugs feeding on plant sap and is best known for its lack of crystallization. It was selling for \$2.10 to \$2.25 per pound on the wholesale level. Preliminary wholesale prices for mixed blends of bees wax are averaging around \$2.50 per pound.

FLORIDA: Northern Florida remained wet throughout the month of September with fairly normal rainfall and temperatures across most of the rest of the state. Almost all bees who were producing honey in other states have returned to Florida. Many producers were treating for varroa mites and small hive beetles. Bee health was considered good overall, with many beekeepers splitting hives to rebuild their colonies in preparation for the California almond pollination season early next year. Supplemental feeding was necessary in many areas due to the lack of natural food sources. The Brazilian Pepper bloom has been very good, especially in Southwestern Florida. Brazilian Pepper will continue to bloom in large areas of the state until the end of October. Spanish Needle, Aster, Goldenrod and other wildflowers were available in limited supplies in many areas. Brazilian Pepper was probably the largest natural food source available with some baker's grade honey also being produced. A light supply of honey coupled with good demand has led to less price differential between table grade and baker's grade honey. Historically, there is usually about a \$.60 per pound premium for table grade honey over the price of baker's grade honey. The premium is presently estimated to be only about \$.30 per pound. Orange blossom honey production in March is the next large honey producing opportunity here.

GEORGIA: Several areas of the state have reported some losses over the summer. Causes for the losses vary from the unknown to hive beetles and possible management of the hives. It has been an unusual year with weather conditions starting with a light winter and early spring with high temperatures and drought in many areas. By the time rains did arrive in the southern part of the state, it did not help the honey production. Northern areas also report less volume, especially the sourwood honey which is highly sought after. There is a little goldenrod, ragweed and wild flowers available for feeding as the bees are preparing for the fall and winter months ahead. Demand is high, prices remain strong and are expected to rise for local and domestic honey because of the lower volume produced this year. For domestic honey demand is expected to exceed available supply.

IDAHO: The 2012 honey producing season has been completed in Idaho as most foraging plants have completed their growing cycle. There were a number of locations across Idaho that dipped below freezing during September. Stanley, Idaho recorded 20 days below freezing during the month. While Boise, Idaho recorded 5 days above 90 degrees. According to the National Weather Service, rainfall was below normal and temperatures were above normal in most areas. The U.S. Drought Monitor currently indicates that the upper panhandle of Idaho is near normal on precipitation. However, the rest of the State is listed as being abnormally dry to moderate in drought conditions. Extraction of honey is well underway and according to beekeepers should be completed by the middle of October. Overall honey yields across the State are expected to be about 50 percent less compared to 2011. The final exact yield of honey per hive has not been determined yet. However, at the moment it appears that honey yields per hive will be close to yields obtained in 2010. The lower yields this year seem to be attributed to drier and warmer weather. According to beekeepers, mites have resurfaced as one of the biggest issues this season. Following extraction of the honey, beekeepers are planning on treating for the mites. Despite mite problems, according to beekeepers, bees are still looking generally healthy with few losses. There has been little need to supplement their feeding up to this point. Many beekeepers have indicated that they are planning to utilize their own honey as a supplemental feed this fall to reduce their production costs when feeding becomes necessary. While other beekeepers in the state have indicated that they will utilize corn syrup as a supplemental feed source. With the high price associated with corn syrup, beekeepers are looking for any way possible to reduce their costs. 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. Many of the commercial beekeepers plan to winter their bees in climate controlled building structures until January. At that time, many commercial beekeepers plan to move their hives to California to position them for the annual almond pollination. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Idaho. With the lower honey yields this season, beekeepers are expecting a shortage of honey going into the winter months. Current prices received in Idaho by beekeepers for wholesale white honey are \$1.95 to 2.05 per pound. Retail prices for 2012 crop white honey range from \$2.75 to 3.25 per pound. Preliminary prices for mixed blends of bees wax range from \$2.50 to 2.60 per pound on the wholesale level.

ILLINOIS: Beekeepers have finished fall extraction activities due to the favorable weather conditions over most of the state. Most beekeepers have finished installing mite treatment and have prepared their hives for overwintering. Temperatures were warmer than normal with high's in the low to mid 90's over central and southern areas. By midmonth temperatures had moderated to more normal temperatures of high 70's to mid-80's over the state. Rainfall of varied amounts had returned breaking the drought which occurred throughout the summer. The last of the month two to four inches of rainfall had greatly increased the fall flow of aster, goldenrod and numerous wild flowers. Marigold's and various mint varieties had higher flowering volume than normal for the fall season. Some beekeepers had started supplemental feeding. Other floral sources of Butterfly, rag weed, roses, mums, and African Marigolds had produced favorable pollen and honey stores. Beekeepers have noted the demand for local honey is good due to the fall festival. Bulk honey movement was moderate with Retail sales reported as moderate.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Temperatures were mostly below normal throughout the region with the exception of Nebraska. Much cooler temperatures allowed better growing condition for fall greening. Precipitation was about normal with variances around the states. Drought conditions are still present, as rainfalls continue to increase. There was some early frost in Iowa on the 18th, 22-23rd of the month. Beekeepers are reporting that problems with mites are still a problem this season. Despite the mite problems, bees were able to produce a great crop. Many beekeepers have stated record barrels of honey. The fall flow is very good. Beekeepers also reported that the bees will have more honey for winter over. Honey sales are very good. Some floral sources are wild flowers and goldenrod.

INDIANA: Bees were reported in good condition going into fall. Extraction had finished over most of the state. Beekeepers had treated for mites as honey extraction was completed. The population of Small Hive Beetle and mites over the state has continued to decline due to beekeepers regular schedule of treatments. State inspections have wound down for the season. Hive strength going into overwintering at this point is expected to be good. Most areas received the needed rainfall with reports of two to four inches over much of the state. Various varieties of mint had heavy bloom going into fall buildup of stores. The last of the month heavy rainfall occurred due to the hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico which produced an excellent fall honey flow from mainly the Goldenrod, Butterfly Bush and Aster. Fall festival sales of honey and wax were reported very well with Retail demand also reported as well. Wholesale honey demand picked up as well as packer interest.

KENTUCKY: No report issues.

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of September were from aster, goldenrod, and other wild flowers. Colonies were in generally in good to fair condition. Weather has had normal temperatures with little rainfall. Supply and demand are good.

**MICHIGAN:** Fall asters and goldenrod were the last remaining nectar sources for bees during the month. Some beekeepers have reported good goldenrod flows. They are busy harvesting honey and preparing hives for the winter months ahead, while some areas in the state have had a light fall crop of honey. Others are busy feeding bees due to a shorter supply of honey stores from the drought conditions during the summer months. There are reports of the scavenger Small Hive Beetle in some colonies, while others reported a higher incidence of mites.

**MINNESOTA:** During the month of September, the weather in Minnesota was above normal on temperatures except in the very northern part of the State, with below normal precipitation across the entire State. Most areas in Minnesota had seen their season ending frost by September 23rd. 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 now starting to become dry as well and is now listed as being in an abnormally dry to moderate drought situation. Excess spraying of agricultural crops in some locations of Minnesota this season killed foraging bees and queens which resulted in less foraging bees to collect pollen and nectar for the colony. It appears that this then 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. As a result some beekeepers have reported extracting only 40 pounds or roughly one half of a honey crop per hive in locations next to sprayed fields. However some beekeepers have also reported some very good yields of up to 140 pounds of honey per hive. A majority of the 2012 crop honey has been extracted as of late September. According to beekeepers, mites have resurfaced as one of the bigger issues this season besides field spraying losses. Beekeepers stated that part of the problem leading to the increase in mites this season stems from lack of early season treatment product availability. Beekeepers are now conducting their fall bee treatments for mites and other pests and viruses. Despite some mite problems, according to beekeepers, the bees remaining are looking generally healthy. There has been little need to supplement their feeding up to this point. Many beekeepers have indicated that they are starting to supplement their bees diet with sugar syrup or corn syrup and pollen patties to reduce the stress on their bees and keep them healthy going into the winter. The reduced hive populations in some areas of the State will also reduce the number of hives available to be shipped to California for the almond pollination in early 2013. 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. Supplies of new crop 2012 honey appear to be in adequate supply, in Minnesota at this time. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Minnesota. Current prices received in Minnesota by beekeepers for wholesale white honey is \$1.80-1.85 per pound.

**MISSISSIPPI:** Most areas are not reporting major losses from the summer. Any losses appear to be about normal. Weather has not appeared to have an impact on the bees, although rain is heavy in some areas. Volume is less than last year and demand is high. Bees are feeding on goldenrod, boneset, aster and wild flowers. Demand is high for local honey and prices are steady.

**MONTANA:** During September, temperatures averaged above normal, while precipitation levels averaged below normal. Much of the state was reported to be in a moderate to extreme drought by the September U.S. Drought Monitor. Moisture measurements for the week ending on September 30th, measured top soils at 73 percent very short, compared to 34 percent last year, 23 percent short, 50 percent last year, 4 percent adequate compared to 16 percent last year, and 0 percent surplus both this year and last. Subsoil moisture measurements were 94 percent very short and short, while 6 percent of the measurements measured adequate or surplus moisture. This summer's continuing hot and dry conditions have resulted in little natural foraging vegetation for the bees other than irrigated crops such as late Alfalfa. Honey extraction was ongoing in September with variable results from good to below average yields reported by beekeepers. After extraction, keepers were busy stripping down hives, applying treatments, and supplemental pollen patties and sugar syrup feed to the hives, and generally preparing colonies to be trucked to California or the other wintering areas. Colony health was reported to generally be good. Honey demand was good.

**NEW ENGLAND:** New England weather for the month of September featured seasonally warm, milder than normal temperatures with an extended period of summer weather with many locations with record highs for the season. Keepers report huge populations of bees easily filling the entire area of 2 deeps for brood rearing with them constantly being used and refilled. In this regard many hives appear strong and heavy. Bees have been working celthra alnifolia, Mexican & Chinese bamboo, fall aster, staghorn sumac, white & sweet clover, thistle, purple loose strife, button bush, assorted wild weeds especially knotweed, sweet pepper bush, assorted wild flowers and particularly golden rod. Other late food sources still blooming are buckwheat, Indian silk and coreopsis to finish the month. The ornamentals, joe-pye weed, pickerel weed, sedum (stone crop) are out in abundance as well as jewel weed which leaves a slight white pollen mark on the thorax. Overall bees are working hard with a strong population buildup. At this point in time, many keepers re-queen in the fall in order to have a strong, healthy queen and brood for the spring. The amount of brood rearing in the fall affects the winter adult population. The more young bees produced in the fall, the more adult bees there will be available for winter brood rearing. The queen begins reducing egg laying in November and may stop completely in December. Reportedly, many queens have stopped laying in many hives early with many new beekeepers concerned that they are going into winter without queens. In this case, many purportedly are showing a shortage of honey and pollen as well. Keepers advise on the need to observe 3 or 4 frames of brood in the early fall and plenty of food stores. Keepers are looking to maintain 3 or more deep frames of brood for as long as the queen will lay. Ideally, heavy egg laying is necessary by mid-September and feeding 2:1 sugar syrup will stimulate the queen to lay more heavily. At this time, keepers want to see 10 or more frames full of bees. Half frames represent weak hives and those with fewer than 6 or 7 frames of bees in the late fall will probably need to be combined with other hives. Currently bees are working diligently at storing as much nectar as possible. They are also working at evaporating moisture from the nectar. As the nectar is cured into honey, the bees will move the honey and arrange the stores for winter. Keepers inspect and are proceeding with the arrangement of honey supers for winter with the final setup being brood in the bottom with honey and pollen in the top. In early fall keepers will ensure that there are a couple of frames of honey on the outer edges of the bottom box. Keepers state that if the queen does not move to the bottom box by early October, then keepers will proceed to move all the brood frames to the bottom so honey can be stored in the top box and this will ensure that the top hive box is either full or advancing to be so by sugar feeding by the beginning of November. Keepers need as many young healthy bees as possible for the winter. Bees live longer in the winter because they don't get worn out foraging. One of the keepers tasks in the fall is to be sure each hive has 60 to 70 pounds of food stores before cold weather, so hives should still be heavy from the fall. Beekeepers have been busy concentrating on extracting honey as well as winter preparations which focus on the treatments for nosema, chalkbrood, wax moth, hive beetle, and also American foulbrood, varroa and tracheal mites. Seasoned beekeepers have observed that early on-back in July, many hives had high levels of mite infestation with the possibility that nosema disease was the main causal agent. Several keepers complained about slow growth in their hives. It would logically follow that a shortened lifespan of workers would consequently impact the foraging population and thus result in less nectar collection. Some experienced beekeepers advised treating with Fumigellin-B and consequently observed marked improvement after treatment for nosema. Nosema disease has been a growing concern, hence more difficult for beekeepers to identify and being blamed

for hives failing to thrive. Reportedly this year, there has been a huge increase in wax moth presence especially on bottom boards and on inside covers due to warmer weather. Wax moth and mice were a big problem last winter and spring. More attention to mouse guards and preventing wax moths are being discussed at bee association meetings. Additionally, this is the time of year when yellow jackets have been found to be hanging around on the ground around hives. Keepers report that hives are showing early eviction of drones and swarming was a problem in several regional areas. Seasoned keepers claim that September is the final exam for beekeepers. If you can control varroa mites and nosema disease then you will improve the chances of winter survival by four. In many regional areas, purportedly mites have been heavy and many keepers are still trying to get honey off hives and treat for mites. Reportedly, the new formic acid quick strips seem to be the preferred treatment, however, back orders have held up beekeepers from getting them earlier. Overall, the 2012 season was a reasonably good season by exhibiting the noted concerns with bee health, average honey production and good conditions for queen rearing. New England honey yields are currently coming in at an average of 100-110 pounds per hive, which is much better than anticipated in June. Demand for local honey has never been better and prices are up. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$7.00 to \$10.00 mostly \$9.50 occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were steady with 5 gallon units at \$175.00 to \$215.00 mostly \$210.00 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:** Beekeepers in Western New York have reported a lighter fall crop of honey due to dry weather conditions. There have also been a few reports of early bee losses and mite increases. Demand has been excellent at farm markets with prices climbing to \$2.35 pound wholesale. Commercial beekeepers have begun to ready hives for transport to southerly locations around November 1.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Temperatures and precipitation in North Carolina were mostly above normal for September. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated 13 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 12 percent surplus for the week ending September 30. The North Carolina Drought Council reported 16 counties as abnormally dry. Bees appear to be healthy and populations in the hives are normal. However, beekeepers have had to feed more than usual because of light stores from the lack of nectar sources this fall. It is important that beekeepers get hive weights up before winter makes feeding difficult. Demand for honey is very good.

**NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA:** The weather has been warm and dry which has advanced the maturity of various crops. Harvesting of row crops is well underway or nearly done in some areas. Water and soil moisture is short and some rain is needed. Extraction is ongoing with variable production. The condition of the hives is also fairly good. Beekeepers prepare for fall.

**OHIO:** Reports of honey flows have been mixed across the state. Rainy and cooler weather has limited cleansing flights and feedings on remaining flowers. Some beekeepers have been supplementing feeding hives after the summer drought, and in preparation for the winter months ahead. The higher incidence of mites has beekeepers being vigilant in treatments. Regionally, honey sales have been booming at farm markets, driving speculation of stronger honey markets in the coming months, with several regions of the US reporting poorer honey flows.

**OKLAHOMA:** In Northern Oklahoma pollen and nectar sources received during September were no natural sources, supplemental feeding necessary. Conditions of the colonies were good. Weather conditions have shown above normal temperatures for this time of year, with little rainfall. Supply is low while demand is high. Price is at \$2.25 a pound. If the area does not get rain soon, some beekeepers will be out of business. In Southern Oklahoma pollen and nectar sources received during September were end of season Alfalfa, sesame seeds, fall vegetable crops and nut trees. There are still some farmers planting non pollinating cotton so there, were several large cotton crops this year to pollinate. Condition of the colonies and bees were still strong, but queens have slowed down egg- laying excessively due to the drought. Hive beetles are still a problem even with the heat. No nosema noted to date. Bees would have been as strong with supplemental feeding earlier this year. Supplemental feeding has almost been essential since late July for the hobbyist and locations with no pollination or nectars. Weather conditions were hot and dry for the month of September. A few rains mid-September but only about a trace. Production went up in the hives where the queen was still laying. Honey quite dark for Oklahoma, maybe due to feeding on mostly drought resistant crops for so long this season. Drones driven out of hives early for those hives that queen had significantly reduced laying. Supply was average due to the lack of rain in May, June, July and August. Demand is extremely high. Prices were \$12.00-15.00 a quart.

**OREGON:** Temperatures were generally above average over much of Oregon during September with lots of sunshine and very little precipitation, allowing crop harvests to generally progress ahead of normal rates. At the month's end, topsoil moisture measurements measured 42 percent very short, 33 percent short, 25 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measured 37 percent very short, 32 percent short and 31 percent adequate or surplus. Colonies were reported to be of generally good strength. The wild flower, white and yellow clover, blackberry, and alfalfa nectar flows finished with the continuing warm and dry conditions, while later in the month, more seasonal temperatures brought the first hint of fall to the air. Colonies were trucked home to western Oregon from central and eastern Oregon as seed crop harvesting finished. Keepers finished extracting an average honey crop, before stripping down hives, applying mite treatments, and supplemental pollen patties and sugar syrup feed to the hives there it was needed. Honey demand was good.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Colonies across the state were reported to be in good conditions. Hive beetles still remained the biggest problem. The state experienced hot and humid weather with temperatures averaging above normal for most of the month. Bees were gathering pollen from mainly goldenrod and frostweed. Hive stores were reported to be holding up but most beekeepers were feeding their hives syrup. The local honey demand remains very strong. Wholesale prices were reported to be \$1.75 per pound for cotton honey.

**TENNESSEE:** Honey production across the State of Tennessee has been better than average this year in most areas. Asters and Goldenrod continues to bloom and is producing well this year for fall honey stores in most areas.

**TEXAS:** Pollen and nectar sources received during September were from fall wild flowers, little cotton, goldenrod, and aster. Colonies are in generally good condition. Weather conditions found temperatures below normal with little rainfall. Supply and demand remains good.

UTAH: The month of September has been warmer than normal across the State. Rainfall was slightly above normal in the Cedar City area and below normal in Salt Lake City. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State of Utah is still in a severe to extreme drought. The trend of higher temperatures across the State started in the spring this year and has still not abated. As one beekeeper stated, unless bees had access to alfalfa fields that were irrigated, there really has not been much vegetation for the bees to utilize this season. These drought conditions have had an adverse effect upon many commercial beekeepers in Utah this season with the exception being in the Delta area of Utah. There were some average yields of honey in this region of the State, largely attributed to some timely rains and irrigated alfalfa fields where bees could forage. Overall honey production will be less in Utah when compared to 2011. In late September, some beekeepers were still reporting that there was a small honey flow from rabbit brush and irrigated fields of alfalfa. The late honey flow is the result of a slight improvement in overall growing conditions in the fields during the last 30 days. A majority of the 2012 crop honey has been extracted as of late September. According to beekeepers, mites have resurfaced as one of the bigger issues this season besides the drought. Beekeepers are now conducting their fall bee treatments for mites, foulbrood and viruses. Despite some mite problems, according to beekeepers, bees are still looking generally healthy with few losses at this time. There has been little need to supplement their feeding up to this point. Many beekeepers have indicated that they are planning to utilize their own honey as a supplemental feed this fall to reduce their production costs when feeding becomes necessary. Some commercial beekeepers stated that they will begin shipping their bees to California in October and November thereby, hopefully, getting their bees into a better location for the winter months. Supplies of new crop 2012 honey in Utah appear to be in short supply at this time. 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 \$1.85 to 2.05 per pound and light amber is averaging \$1.55 to 1.65 per pound.

WASHINGTON: Harvest of fall crops continued with apple and pear harvest in full swing. Soft fruit harvest continued winding down as September progressed. Beekeepers continue to extract honey and hives generally are looking good and preparations for cooler weather ahead are being made. The weather has been generally warm and dry. Lightning storms set off a number of wildfires in Central Washington, some of which continued to burn throughout the month, affecting air quality in many areas.

WISCONSIN: Most beekeepers that keep hives overwintering in state have finished installing strips for fall treatment of mites. Over most of the state, early estimates for honey production was close to normal despite the extended heat wave and periods of dry weather. The main floral sources were Goldenrod and Aster. Most beekeepers were pleased with hive strength going into winter. Most migrant beekeepers had moved their hives to winter yards earlier than previous years. Honey demand had been very good due to fair festivals. Bulk honey and wax movement had some improvement according to many beekeepers.

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

	Year to Date		August 2012	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
<b>COMB &amp; NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -</b>				
Bahamas, The	8,317	32,061	0	0
Bahrain	40,230	97,651	0	0
Barbados	9,739	59,387	871	5,237
Bermuda	2,396	16,446	0	0
Brazil	9,792	23,768	4,896	11,884
Cayman Islands	2,149	13,418	994	6,484
China	20,599	50,000	20,599	50,000
Germany(*)	6,949	25,222	0	0
Guyana	14,775	61,441	6,939	16,844
Honduras	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	47,470	236,291	2,487	13,260
Iceland	6,615	18,559	0	0
Indonesia	282,069	684,671	0	0
Ireland	1,285	3,119	0	0
Israel(*)	81,200	411,684	0	0
Japan	277,045	1,168,262	50,530	221,964
Jordan	0	0	0	0
Korea, South	96,279	429,053	18,441	82,957
Kuwait	183,992	636,082	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,883	7,920	1,157	3,960
Malaysia	18,971	52,040	224	2,925
Mexico	49,869	121,049	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	6,743	32,649	0	0
New Zealand(*)	11,747	28,514	11,747	28,514
Panama	12,193	74,373	3,483	20,933
Philippines	279,115	699,319	48,685	131,324
Poland	22,944	55,692	0	0
Saudi Arabia	53,341	129,475	0	0
Singapore	27,541	74,424	0	0

Taiwan	43,218	209,662	12,660	61,247
Thailand	12,907	46,767	5,810	14,102
United Arab Emirates	206,645	501,595	49,681	120,592
Uruguay	2,966	7,200	2,966	7,200
Vietnam	18,967	46,040	0	0
Yemen(*)	463,072	1,934,350	0	0

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

Australia(*)	2,280	7,038	0	0
Bahamas, The	18,924	85,972	1,080	6,432
Bahrain	3,674	7,128	0	0
Barbados	10,612	26,370	0	0
Bermuda	13,385	58,427	1,251	9,375
Cambodia	1,527	10,052	0	0
Canada	260,389	1,014,553	53,771	248,153
Cayman Islands	555	3,273	0	0
China	15,212	79,400	0	0
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	16,982	68,900	8,491	35,200
Japan	253,322	681,001	21,782	52,870
Kuwait	105	2,627	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,201	3,960	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	12,432	59,251	573	3,905
New Zealand(*)	285	3,662	0	0
Nigeria	1,378	3,345	0	0
Panama	1,216	7,476	0	0
Philippines	6,535	41,978	980	6,203
Saudi Arabia	36,000	188,539	18,000	95,933
Taiwan	2,483	13,260	0	0
Thailand	235,079	507,214	62,798	135,432
United Arab Emirates	50,465	335,140	0	0
United Kingdom	19,382	40,000	0	0
Vietnam	79,780	188,316	0	0
Yemen(*)	10,987	84,000	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,975,932</b>	<b>13,287,316</b>	<b>410,896</b>	<b>1,392,930</b>

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

Year to Date			August 2012		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

**WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -**

Argentina	6,601,718	19,119,688	19,633,333	394,232	1,138,090	1,171,554
Brazil	228,206	751,317	791,138	0	0	0
Canada	9,300,916	34,431,728	34,681,312	1,164,118	4,347,930	4,364,539
Chile	96,512	277,000	285,000	0	0	0
Egypt	4,338	8,676	9,237	0	0	0
France(*)	663	8,500	9,115	270	3,533	3,691
Hungary	614	7,728	8,367	0	0	0
India	1,519,354	4,185,535	4,445,541	334,800	926,280	998,280
Italy(*)	13,799	99,947	102,803	0	0	0
Mexico	519,990	1,876,975	1,888,811	76,652	264,122	266,822

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
Tanzania	38,400	121,344	124,344	38,400	121,344	124,344
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	16,391,204	47,744,901	49,309,753	1,999,586	5,906,633	6,093,746
Australia(*)	38,993	140,375	143,375	0	0	0
Austria	750	5,334	5,680	0	0	0
Brazil	2,178,142	7,183,472	7,433,957	131,949	422,244	438,341
Canada	319,219	1,353,863	1,363,058	38,581	144,719	146,333
Chile	529,114	1,443,021	1,498,400	0	0	0
China	18,734	56,449	59,949	0	0	0
France(*)	12,208	58,165	63,144	0	0	0
Guatemala	341,700	820,080	858,485	341,700	820,080	858,485
India	6,046,632	15,873,854	16,708,894	627,600	1,568,310	1,659,706
Indonesia	241,280	524,320	547,721	0	0	0
Italy(*)	19,629	124,630	127,328	0	0	0
Japan	10	2,871	2,970	0	0	0
Malaysia	89,900	220,255	220,265	0	0	0
Mexico	1,241,566	3,900,714	3,928,207	175,573	589,526	591,799
Pakistan	57,000	142,500	152,000	19,000	47,500	51,000
Switzerland(*)	9,912	30,779	33,188	0	0	0
Thailand	72,560	162,400	170,101	16,200	36,936	39,136
Ukraine	510,773	1,347,047	1,383,067	37,835	96,855	98,052
Uruguay	1,508,560	4,104,946	4,257,205	246,522	674,327	691,572
Vietnam	825,150	2,033,957	2,147,594	153,600	362,496	386,535

**LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –**

Argentina	5,722,946	16,551,067	17,145,682	1,056,623	3,104,495	3,277,777
Australia(*)	1,218	14,749	14,750	0	0	0
Austria	13,509	125,037	131,663	0	0	0
Brazil	3,798,396	10,854,503	11,265,340	506,018	1,452,008	1,500,181
Canada	51,646	167,382	168,224	13,324	48,104	48,145
Chile	972,054	2,596,544	2,675,959	113,546	305,233	313,128
Dominican Republic	383,992	1,013,169	1,060,379	88,536	243,176	251,730
France(*)	1,119	13,589	14,991	0	0	0
Germany(*)	75,065	339,634	351,062	0	0	0
Greece	1,545	15,627	16,057	0	0	0
Guatemala	67,862	199,335	205,335	67,862	199,335	205,335
Hong Kong	6,840	42,565	43,320	3,420	21,244	21,660
India	8,465,841	21,273,624	22,561,720	1,173,299	2,932,890	3,112,087
Indonesia	121,996	267,989	288,989	0	0	0
Ireland	292	3,114	3,177	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,399	49,088	52,104	285	4,530	4,783
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	1,941,552	5,599,465	5,644,114	750,412	2,173,628	2,173,742

New Zealand(*)	55,152	512,256	517,675	0	0	0
Pakistan	535	2,120	2,332	0	0	0
Poland	1,231	7,594	8,068	0	0	0
Russia	2,360	38,638	42,188	0	0	0
Spain	9,291	70,866	72,517	1,000	6,973	7,081
Switzerland(*)	4,949	36,451	36,676	978	15,288	15,313
Thailand	36,600	86,560	86,924	0	0	0
Turkey	735,453	1,761,540	1,917,543	212,040	491,040	535,040
Ukraine	37,200	100,812	108,812	0	0	0
Uruguay	7,936,442	21,268,535	21,770,393	919,230	2,501,174	2,557,347
Vietnam	9,124,750	22,471,731	23,561,843	2,456,690	6,033,435	6,283,102

**NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---**

Argentina	394,486	1,143,154	1,165,405	0	0	0
Armenia	452	3,510	4,123	0	0	0
Australia(*)	1,050	16,194	16,444	0	0	0
Brazil	285,618	753,787	790,179	18,810	52,048	53,609
Canada	186,573	626,659	627,037	0	0	0
Chile	56,265	149,309	153,956	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	192,322	334,727	346,903	28,789	22,489	24,337
Egypt	1,500	3,560	4,056	0	0	0
France(*)	1,255	17,270	19,974	0	0	0
Germany(*)	1,239	12,286	12,908	644	6,436	6,809
Greece	2,589	26,960	31,310	1,380	10,637	12,987
Hungary	3,252	16,985	17,985	0	0	0
India	1,684,296	5,259,629	5,516,996	1,231	10,692	10,694
Indonesia	94,540	183,048	195,048	0	0	0
Israel(*)	8,544	68,569	70,924	6,576	39,485	40,848
Italy(*)	9,214	104,732	109,489	420	4,807	4,985
Japan	1,958	6,306	6,534	0	0	0
Lithuania	5,372	21,079	23,762	0	0	0
Mexico	309,304	800,577	812,912	57,712	159,888	159,921
Moldova	6,198	19,581	22,286	4,140	8,065	9,069
New Zealand(*)	397,946	2,308,796	2,371,306	14,026	165,265	172,642
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	0	0	0
Taiwan	806,880	1,885,358	1,969,610	174,360	402,800	422,747
Thailand	92,630	203,786	206,841	0	0	0
Ukraine	40,940	114,960	120,532	19,140	61,050	61,247
United Kingdom	10,266	37,318	40,504	0	0	0
Uruguay	245,578	625,516	639,102	0	0	0
Vietnam	1,603,640	3,830,175	4,010,306	368,700	895,076	956,935

**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	4,820	58,579	61,021	690	9,456	9,845
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	894	12,026	12,513	0	0	0
Brazil	76,880	244,909	258,290	0	0	0
Bulgaria	83,402	318,591	335,852	15,685	50,439	53,017
Canada	426,924	2,387,299	2,395,252	52,247	265,296	266,796
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	0	0	0
Egypt	2,511	11,770	12,716	0	0	0
France(*)	76,186	787,008	825,343	10,712	100,431	105,831
Germany(*)	82,670	454,485	472,713	1,873	18,635	19,925
Greece	25,910	264,174	274,343	7,032	91,879	94,851
Guatemala	1,133	2,753	2,929	0	0	0
Hungary	4,320	20,519	22,046	0	0	0
India	255,641	913,868	948,951	3,014	13,703	14,501
Israel(*)	4,377	20,798	20,877	0	0	0
Italy(*)	10,087	104,741	106,715	0	0	0
Lebanon	5,631	68,925	71,225	3,066	40,050	40,550
Lithuania	10,308	41,213	45,335	0	0	0
Malaysia	59,601	60,935	60,938	0	0	0
Mexico	54,191	167,990	184,789	17,249	53,473	58,820
Moldova	9,767	39,877	43,971	609	3,316	3,641
New Zealand(*)	108,697	945,187	967,139	38,613	229,745	230,545
Poland	19,443	53,060	57,445	0	0	0
Portugal	8,266	56,924	59,060	0	0	0
Russia	21,269	128,239	140,880	1,948	11,588	12,747
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(*)	41,719	355,888	371,254	1,966	29,955	31,369
Taiwan	100,276	162,445	174,910	21,893	31,445	34,175
Thailand	660	2,907	3,100	660	2,907	3,100
Turkey	46,891	264,419	271,830	0	0	0
Ukraine	34,762	120,820	132,898	516	3,542	3,892
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	0	0	0
Zambia	2,985	44,145	44,386	0	0	0

**FLAVORED HONEY –**

Australia(*)	11,900	121,633	124,133	0	0	0
Canada	13,276	116,928	118,420	179	6,711	6,714
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	0	0	0
France(*)	8,114	34,215	35,371	0	0	0
Germany(*)	11,450	133,846	139,030	3,274	49,735	51,748
Greece	240	3,815	4,051	0	0	0
India	1,427	6,630	6,955	907	3,198	3,437
Italy(*)	4,854	79,680	81,846	1,547	21,216	21,581
Japan	90	17,934	18,034	0	0	0
Korea, South	64,495	1,622,007	1,688,454	4,369	85,581	91,572
Mexico	96,498	967,616	974,649	7,713	67,910	68,046
Peru	894	45,890	49,390	894	45,890	49,390
Poland	1,015	4,470	4,916	0	0	0
Portugal	1,980	11,119	11,419	708	3,664	3,773
Spain	6,361	37,281	41,186	2,217	12,874	14,509
Taiwan	21,707	36,970	40,169	2,641	5,215	5,664
Thailand	45,936	201,322	208,941	19,218	86,152	89,594
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	1,896,113	5,952,002	6,111,454	187,697	601,727	618,970
Canada	155,248	707,268	715,597	19,589	77,728	77,828
Dominican Republic	50,377	114,217	114,416	0	0	0
Greece	8,368	113,582	116,566	0	0	0
Italy(*)	8,391	110,195	113,227	1,094	15,251	15,762
Mexico	242,305	781,278	785,895	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	12,597	80,163	82,363	0	0	0
Taiwan	3,150	12,390	12,743	0	0	0
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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	101,286,325	297,835,835	307,909,342	14,285,629	40,880,928	42,329,409

**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