

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

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November 14, 2012

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 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	Extra Light Amber	\$1.40	- \$1.70
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.40	- \$1.60
Cotton	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	
Cotton	Light Amber	\$1.57	
Orange	White	\$1.85	- \$1.90
DAKOTAS			
Alfalfa	White	\$1.95	
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.60	- \$1.66
Canola	White	\$1.95	
Clover	White	\$1.85	- \$2.00
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.90	- \$1.95
Clover	Amber	\$1.35	
Sunflower	White	\$1.95	
Sunflower	Light Amber	\$1.55	- \$1.83
FLORIDA			
Clover	White	\$1.80	
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	
GEORGIA			
Wildflowers	Light Amber	\$1.55	
IOWA			
Wildflowers	White	\$1.95	
KANSAS			
Sunflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
MICHIGAN			
Star Thistle	White	\$1.95	
Star Thistle	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
MINNESOTA			
Basswood	White	\$1.95	
Buckwheat	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
Canola	White	\$1.95	
Canola	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
Clover	White	\$1.90	- \$2.00
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
Star Thistle	White	\$1.95	
Wildflowers	White	\$1.95	
MONTANA			
Clover	White	\$1.97	- \$1.98
NEBRASKA			

Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.90	- \$1.95
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.95	
Clover	Light Amber	\$1.55	- \$1.58
OREGON			
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.89	- \$1.95
Wildflowers	White	\$1.95	
Wildflowers	Light Amber	\$1.55	
Wildflowers	Amber	\$1.35	
WASHINGTON			
Buckwheat	Light Amber	\$1.60	
WISCONSIN			
Wildflowers	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

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	\$1.52	- \$1.62
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.52	- \$1.62
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35	- \$1.52
BRAZIL			
ORGANIC	White	\$1.79	
ORGANIC	Extra Light Amber	\$1.59	- \$1.61
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.55	
CHILE			
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.37	
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.37	
INDIA			
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.22	- \$1.29
URUGUAY			
Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$1.37	
VIETNAM			
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.31	

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING OCTOBER, 2012

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): October was normal with regards to weather and temperatures as the first light frost fell on the area near the end of the month eliminating pollen sources in the District. A few warmer pockets are still seeing bloom on asters and mums. Beekeepers are seeing an increase in small hive beetle in colonies throughout the District, which is weakening the health of the colonies. They are also concerned about the low honey stores as the winter months approach. Beekeepers supplied supplemental feeding earlier than normal and for a longer period this fall; however, many are bracing themselves for the potential for higher than normal winter losses.

ALABAMA: Honeybees are generally in good condition across the state of Alabama. Honey production was generally good but somewhat less than last year. Most colonies have brood and queens were still laying but brood rearing has about come to an end. Populations and honey stores are generally good. Smartweed, goldenrod and aster is still providing some nectar. South Alabama is still dealing with excessive small hive beetles in some yards and varroa mites are a problem. Many beekeepers have treated for mites but seem to have been trying some non-traditional treatments or have treated with the wrong product at the wrong time. There is concern about winter losses.

ARIZONA: Temperatures across the state of Arizona were at above normal levels every week during the month of October. October continued dryer than normal year being experienced by Arizona, as only during the second week of the month did any of the 21 reporting stations receive precipitation. All stations are currently at below normal precipitation levels for the year; and 11 of the 21 stations are below 75% of normal precipitation levels. The range statewide in temperatures for the month was a high of 109 degrees Fahrenheit in Yuma to a low of 17 degrees Fahrenheit at the Grand Canyon. The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state were cantaloupes, honeydews, miscellaneous melons and alfalfa. Demand for honey remains good.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of October were from asters and other later bloomers. Conditions of the colonies were good. Weather conditions showed above normal temperatures with little rainfall. Supply and demand are both good.

CALIFORNIA: The month of October in the Golden State was hot and dry at the start of the month. Daytime highs across interior California reached triple digits. The State remained very dry, with virtually no measurable precipitation reported. By mid-month, a cold front brushed Northern California. This system produced some heavy showers along the north coast, and scattered lighter rains in the mountains of the far northern counties, but had little effect on the rest of the State, where warm and dry conditions prevailed. Southern California eventually saw relief from the extremely dry conditions as the remnants of hurricane Paul moved up into the area from Mexico. Toward the close of the month, a cold front swept through California from the Gulf of Alaska and brought widespread rain and the first significant snowfall of the season to the North. Sacramento Valley rainfall amounts ranged from three-quarters of an inch to an inch and a half, while the San Joaquin Valley had lighter amounts. Almost 2 feet of snow fell across the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. However, temperatures began to warm up again in California as high pressure aloft redeveloped over the West Coast. Beekeepers were preparing their bee hives for the upcoming winter months, moving them to wintering yards and most have buttoned up their hives for the winter. As the nights are becoming longer and colder, the bees are spending more and more time huddled in tight clusters inside their nest cavities. Because the queens have substantially reduced their egg production, if they haven't altogether stopped, the shrinking brood nests contain mostly sealed brood. Every bee that is born now is one of those precious winter bees that will ensure the rebirth of the colonies in a couple of months. The bees we see flying on a nice sunny day are the last of the summer bees. Their days are numbered. The future of the colonies is sealed inside the hives, in the stores and within the clustered winter bees. This period of reduced brood production offers a great opportunity for the bees to gain control over varroa mites, mainly with good grooming behavior. Beekeepers are feeding sugar and pollen substitutes to their bees. Where available to bees that can still return to their hives, bees were feeding on sunflowers, squash, pennyroyal, Japanese knotweed, asters, daisies, coyote brush, borage and various wildflowers. Some out-of-state bee hives were moved into the State in preparation for the almond bloom.

COLORADO: The weather across Colorado during October was warmer than normal on the western side of the State and cooler than normal on the eastern side of the State. According to the National Weather Service, precipitation was below normal except for in the northeast part of the State where it was slightly wetter than normal. Alamosa recorded 28 days with low temperatures below 32 degrees. Many locations across the State had many days above 80 degrees in the first half of October. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State of Colorado continues to be 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. The exceptional drought category is the worst possible drought rating according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. This long term drought is having a profound negative effect on many beekeepers across the state. Many beekeepers have been thankful for irrigated cropland to help sustain their bee hives. One beekeeper stated the temperatures in Colorado during October were still warm enough for bees to fly and forage. He further stated that bees were maintaining "Bankers Hours", by starting their flights each morning around 11:00 am. Now that October has been completed and the last of the honey has been extracted, there is a better idea of the honey yields across the State. Normally beekeepers stated that yields should be in the range of 90 pounds of honey per hive. At best there were some hives in the State that produced 68 to 70 pounds per hive. Beekeepers that were lucky enough to obtain these yields are feeling good now, considering the dry weather that has persisted across the State. Overall it is estimated that average yields across the State will be around one half of normal. There were some pockets in the southwest part of the State that yielded 40 pounds per hive. Areas around Meeker only were able to obtain around 10 pounds of honey per hive. According to beekeepers, mites continue to persist in hives across the State. Between the varroa mites and the dry weather, there has been undue stress placed upon many beehives across the State. Even with, in many cases, two or more treatments for mites this season, the varroa mites continue to persist in higher numbers. As a result of these issues, bees across the State are heading into the winter looking fairly light. Beekeepers have been supplementing the bees diet with sugar water and pollen patties in an effort to put some weight on the bees going into the winter months. Some commercial beekeepers stated that they have shipped their bees to California and Texas in their attempts to stay ahead of the upcoming cold Colorado winter weather. Contract prices that beekeepers may receive for almond tree pollination services look to be around \$155.00 per 10 frame hives during the upcoming 2013 season. Bees are expected to begin these pollination services in February 2013. Beekeepers indicated that once the bees are settled down in California, they will be able to obtain a honey flow from the Eucalyptus trees. Due to the very short honey crop in Colorado during 2012, beekeepers have indicated that supplies will not last very long. Much of the new crop supplies of honey in the State are already sold or committed. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Colorado. Current prices received in Colorado by commercial

beekeepers for wholesale white honey is averaging \$1.95-\$2.00 per pound and extra light amber is averaging \$1.95 per pound. Retail honey prices from private and commercial beekeepers are averaging from \$3.83 to \$6.00 per pound depending upon the specific variety and container size.

FLORIDA: The weather was generally typical for October, fairly dry and generally warm. There were a few colder than normal days near the end of the month, but they did not cause any widespread problems. Brazilian Pepper nectar flow ended with most producers reporting a slow but fairly good honey producing season. There were a few wildflowers available, including aster, Goldenrod and light amounts of Spanish Needle. Supplemental feeding was necessary for most beekeepers, due to a general lack of natural resources. Most beekeepers were concentrating on strengthening their hives for the coming almond pollination season in California. Bee health was generally good, particularly where mites were being adequately controlled. Supplies of honey were very light, with Brazilian Pepper as the only honey available in any appreciable quantities. Demand for Florida honey is very good and prices are about steady. Prices for Brazilian Pepper honey were reported to be generally in the \$1.75-1.80 per pound range. The Bureau of Plant and Apiary Inspection, a part of the Florida Department of Agriculture, is expecting to get emergency Section 18 approval from the F.D.A. for the use of Amitraz for mite control. This emergency use approval is expected to be received by sometime in December. Amitraz uses two different modes to control mites, which makes it harder for mites to become resistant to it, and its' expected approval is being eagerly awaited by many beekeepers. Many beekeepers have struggled to control mites in recent years as most mites have apparently developed resistance to previously available mite controls which have been used for many years.

GEORGIA: The beginning of October was warm and towards the end of the month the weather was relatively mild with a little rain. In most areas of the state the beekeepers reported average to slightly above average losses for the year. In some of the southern areas drought like conditions took a bit of a toll on the hives and forty to fifty percent losses were reported for the year. Currently, the bees are being fed and collecting what little pollen is left in the wild when they can get to it and utilizing the remainder of honey left from the late summer harvest. The beekeepers are preparing hives for the winter months ahead. Prices remain steady and demand is good.

IDAHO: The first part of October was very dry in Idaho. The second half of the month was a real contrast compared to the first half, with wetter than normal across most of the State. Overall the month of October ended above normal on precipitation and below normal on temperatures across most of Idaho. 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 still listed as being abnormally dry to moderate in drought conditions. The drought conditions certainly have contributed to the lower yields of honey per hive this season across large portions of the State. Average yields of honey across the State were in the range of 30 pounds per hive. Overall honey yields across the State are about 50 percent less when compared to 2011 yields. Beekeepers just completed their fall treatments for varroa mites. Despite a few problems with varroa mites and the drought, bees are still looking generally healthy with few losses at this time according to beekeepers. Many of the commercial beekeepers are now wintering their bees for the next 60 days in climate controlled building structures. Temperatures in these structures are maintained at 42.5 degrees Fahrenheit. This seems to be the correct temperature to ease the stress on bees, but prevent the outside temperatures from causing further losses. Tentative contract prices according to Idaho beekeepers for almond pollination services in California range from \$150.00 to a high of \$160.00 per hive. Beekeepers stated most hives currently have a good store of honey, but they are supplementing hives on the basis of need, with pollen patties and corn syrup to help the bees remain healthy going into the winter months. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Idaho. Due to the very short honey crop in Idaho during 2012, beekeepers have indicated that supplies will not last very long. Current prices received in Idaho by commercial beekeepers for wholesale white honey is averaging from \$1.95-\$2.00 per pound. Retail honey prices from private and commercial beekeepers are averaging from \$3.00 to \$6.25 per pound depending upon the specific variety.

ILLINOIS: The weather for the month of October was fairly good during the beginning and middle of the month with fair to moderate moisture within the northern and central part of the state, while temperatures were warmer and more favorable for the eastern and southern part of the state. However beekeepers reported their bees being able to take a moderate amount of cleansing flights while temperatures remained in the high 40s and 50s, but with a few cold snaps during the latter part of the month. Beekeepers reported their bees well as they fed on aster and golden rod for the months of September and October. They also report a large population of healthy bees and one of their best years for honey flow as well as honey quality. Most beekeepers report that they took off approximately 100-150 pounds of honey per hive with good to excellent quality. Demand for honey is moderate to fairly good. Prices at retail and farmers markets are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Warm and cool weather occurred, but cooler weather prevailed throughout the month. Temperatures averaged two to three degrees below normal average. Near to above rainfall fell throughout the state. Drought conditions still exist despite more rainfall. The lack of widespread killing freeze allowed for lawn and pasture vegetative green ups. Beekeepers were winterizing bees, checking and controlling mite damage, making repairs and building of hives. Beekeepers report that the bees have great supplies of stored honey for winter over. Various asters, such as golden rod produced a good fall crop.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of October were somewhat cooler for the northern and central part of the state, while a little warmer for the southeastern and southwestern part of the state. Beekeepers report their bees in good health as they were able to take numerous amounts of cleansing flights while the temperatures ranged from 45-50 degrees. Beekeepers also report that their bees fed on spotty golden rod and aster while available during the month. Most Beekeepers report a very good honey flow during the summer and early fall with approximately 100 pounds of honey per hive, while the average is generally 60 pounds per hive. A few beekeepers reported very little supplemental feeding, as well as mite problems. Demand for honey is moderate to fairly good as prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: No report issued.

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

MICHIGAN: The fall goldenrod flow was exceptional in many regions of the state. The heavier fall flow was welcomed, due to low summer honey flows due to drought-like conditions. The flow also helped ramp up bee populations going into the winter months. By this time, most commercial beekeepers have shipped their bees to southern states for the winter. The commercial beekeepers who send semi loads of honey bees to California in

February/March for almond pollination, have reported contract pricing unchanged from last season's levels between \$150-160 per colony for strong and populous colonies. Honey demand remains strong with white honey bring \$1.95-2.00 pound for load lots.

MINNESOTA: During the month of October, the weather in Minnesota was normal to below normal on temperatures across the entire State. Precipitation during the same period was below normal in most areas of Minnesota. International Falls recorded 18 days with low temperatures below 32 degrees. Day time highs across the State were mostly in the 70's during the month of October. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the northwest and southwest areas of Minnesota are now listed as being in a severe to extreme drought. The rest of Minnesota is now listed as being in a moderate drought situation. Production of honey from the 2012 crop ranges from a high of 140 pounds of honey per hive to 40 pounds. According to beekeepers the overall average across the State this season will fall slightly below the average at around 65 pounds per hive. The higher yields locations are attributed to better forage and more flight times for the bees. Overall the crop of honey in Minnesota was better in 2012 than 2011. According to beekeepers, mites seem to be the major cause of bee losses this fall in Minnesota and will reduce the overall amount of hives available for the almond pollination in California. The normal absence of mite treatments during the summer months combined with lack of available treatments in early spring, caused the mite populations in the State to build up to very high levels by this fall. Even though beekeepers are treating for mites now, the higher population in some hives, has rendered treatment as useless in high mite population hives. The affects of increased mite numbers this fall has definitely increased hive losses according to beekeepers. Despite some major mite problems, beekeepers stated that the bees remaining are looking generally healthy and weighing heavy this fall. The bees are so heavy that instead of being able to ship the normal 408 hives per truck load, beekeepers have indicated that they will only be able to load 384 hives per truck. There has been little need to supplement their feeding up to this point. Many beekeepers have indicated that they will start to supplement their bee's diet with sugar syrup and corn syrup shortly after shipping to Southern States and California. It is anticipated that commercial beekeepers will be moving bees out of Minnesota to other locations starting around November 1, 2012. The pollination services that Minnesota beekeepers provide to the almond growers of California, provides much needed revenue in lieu of ever smaller yields of honey and rising input costs of production. 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 \$2.00-\$2.25 per pound. Retail honey prices from private and commercial beekeepers are averaging from \$3.25 to \$7.66 per pound depending upon the specific variety and container size.

MISSISSIPPI: October was a good month for the beekeepers as most had finished collecting the late summer flow the beginning of the month and the Delta areas were about done at the end of the month. The golden rod provided a good pollen count and honey flow in preparation for the colder winter months. By the end of October the weather was turning colder and the bees were staying in close. Reported losses for the year were about normal as in previous years. Prices remain steady and demand is good.

MONTANA: Two early winter storms, one early in the month and one late, brought snow and freezing temperatures across the landscape of Montana during October. In-between the early and late storms, temperatures were generally normal or slightly above normal with average amounts of precipitation. At the month's end, topsoil moisture measurements measured 24 percent very short, 40 percent short, 35 percent adequate, 1 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measurements were 83 percent short and very short, and 17 percent adequate and surplus. Colony health was reported to be generally good with regular maintenance practices. Sources of local pollen and nectar were generally finished with the first frosts of the fall season, and the end of hay making. Beekeepers were busy finishing up any remaining honey extraction from available fall flows, stripping down hives, and applying mite treatments. Pollen patties were being made for use when supplemental feeding becomes necessary. Honey yields were said to be average for the summer with the honey quality being generally good. By the end of October, some colonies were on the road to California wintering areas, while others were being protected for winter conditions in home yards or intermediate locations. Honey demand was reported to be good.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather for the month of October exhibited relatively warm seasonal temperatures, mild conditions, with daytime highs in the 60's and the latter part of the month experienced cooler temperatures with sporadic heavy rainfall. Soil moisture levels were above normal for the year generally in all parts of the region. Hurricane Sandy doused most of New England with salt laden rain and will force many nectar and pollen sources to quickly diminish by the end of the month hence the fall bloom has ended. The usually lush New England fall leaf color bloom seemed to be subdued this year. This month's main nectar and pollen sources have been mustard cover crop, coreopsis, sweet pepper bush, purple loosestrife, fall aster, buckwheat, Indian silk, button bush, globe thistle, especially golden rod and an assortment of wild weeds such as joe-pyeweed, pickernel weed, jewel weed, Japanese knot weed and various fall wildflowers. There has been plenty of pollen available in most areas from golden rod. Honey flow and colony populations were advancing significantly early on with the bees working hard and creating a strong population buildup with most keepers reporting overall that their hives are looking strong for over wintering. Most beekeepers are now in the process of combining weak colonies to form strong ones and have mouse guards in place. Additionally, keepers see the advantage to winter over in 2 deeps for a faster spring buildup. In many cold regions, some honey robbing between hives occurred due to the depleted nectar supplies and food sources. Currently there is egg lying by all queens with slightly larger egg patterns. Some keepers reportedly were looking for queens because they thought that their hives were queen less. However, queens will stop lying if there is no nectar coming in. Carniolan and Russian bees are very conservative layers during a nectar dearth and all bees will utilize their honey stores when short on nectar being brought in. Hives heavy with honey have exhibited tremendous growth in brood populations. Purportedly, this condition will result in lowering the honey inventory. At this point in time, there is not enough time left to replenish the previous level of honey stores. Most keepers have found light reserves, so are feeding and placing fondant as something to fall back on as most of the feeding has finished for the season. Keepers are feeding with sugar syrup (2:1) and feeding 2 gallons per hive before clustering. Reportedly, bees are taking sugar syrup at a rate of 5-10lbs per week per hive. Nectar gathering seems to be on a sabbatical in favor of sugar syrup. In New England, the daylight hours are getting shorter and the night time hours are getting longer. Many keepers have finished their IPM (Integrated Pest Management) programs in order to have a successful over winter result. Keepers are administrating treatments to combat the various disease killers such as varroa and tracheal mites, wax moth, chalkbrood and American foul brood. The most popular treatments currently being used are mite away strips and pads, apiguard and formic acid. Additionally, keepers are using Terramycin for the prevention of American foul brood. Many keepers claim that this summer's heat and dry weather helped reduce mite loads which supports the sage apiarist's hypothesis that hot and dry weather seasons produce fewer mite problems. This season has proved to be a good season with light varroa/tracheal mite populations, and few disease issues. Hobbyists reported generally speaking, that their colonies have exhibited a mixed bag in honey production results. Most are reporting very light honey yields for this season. Yields are connected to weather conditions and nectar sources as it takes 8 to 10lbs of nectar to make 1lb of honey. It is difficult to generalize about success or underachievement on the efforts of beekeepers honey results, as it is the local environment and the work the bees do that determines the quantity, quality and taste. The criterion of moisture content, clarity and taste

determines how honey is graded for quality. Most keepers report colonies to be in good condition and entering the winter with plenty of bees however, light on honey and pollen. Many keepers consider their bees to be not as well prepared for this winter as in years past. Many keepers are reportedly using insulation wrap around their hive bodies and have previously positioned their hives to be sheltered from the North and West winds in anticipation of a winter that is predicted to be colder with more snow than usual. Most New Englanders feel that they did not even have a winter last year. Demand for local honey has been phenomenal and prices are strong. 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 11b 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. This season in New England, there has been reported a smaller than normal honey crop which points to less wax available on the wholesale and retail market.

NEW YORK: The fall honey flow was disappointing in much of the state, although slightly better than the previous year. Commercial beekeepers have prepared the hives for transport to southerly destinations for overwintering and pollination of winter crops through supplemental feeding activity. Some beekeepers reported 2012 could be one of the lowest production cycles in the last twenty years, with yields of 35-40 pounds per hive, when 60 pounds and higher is the average norm statewide. Bee health has not been as strong as expected, with smaller clusters and bee losses that range from 25-30%. Several factors are suspect in the losses, ranging from pesticides, mites and diseases. Demand has remained strong as wholesale prices ranges from 1.95-2.35 pound. Retail sales have been reminiscent of the 1970s; hobbyist beekeepers have harvested lighter crops, which in turn sparked additional commercial sales.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures and precipitation in North Carolina were mostly above normal for October. During the week ending October 28, Hurricane Sandy brought high winds and several inches of rain to the coastal area. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 13 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus. The North Carolina Drought Council reported 31 counties as abnormally dry and 11 counties as experiencing moderate drought conditions. Bees continued to appear healthy and populations in the hives were normal. Beekeepers continued preparing hives for winter especially providing supplemental feed due to the light fall flow. Going into November beekeepers will continue to check the status of hives with visual inspections or the lift test in an effort to maintain at least 45 pounds of honey stores. It is estimated that only 60 percent of the normal honey crop was produced this season. Therefore, demand for honey is still very good.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: The weather has been mixed with some rain and snow later in the month. Harvest is finishing up for most of the summer crops. Most are finishing about the same as normal but emergence on winter wheat has been a bit slow. Beekeepers are preparing for winter and moving bees to the winter homes.

OHIO: Some beekeepers are facing a shorter honey crop, and supplies have tightened in recent weeks. Overall, there has been a good flow this fall, but the end of the month brought several days of continued showers. Winterizing has begun with minimal feeding at this time. Mites have become a problem, especially where beekeepers failed to treat in a timely manner. There have been reports of hives crashing due to earlier collected contaminated pollen coming in. Commercial beekeepers, which were unable to purchase and apply Amitraz strips, have also been threatened. Demand for honey remains strong with local prices at farmers markets reaching as high as \$10 retail.

OKLAHOMA: In Southern Oklahoma pollen and nectar sources received during November were from honey dew, fall perennials, golden rod, late blooming trees and re-bloomers, and supplemental feeding necessary for most of the state due to the summer drought. Conditions of the colonies was only fair, bees that survived the drought were feed. Weather conditions were like Indian summer but then had two short freeze spells two days a slight rainfall. Supply is better this year than last, but still can't meet demand. Prices are about \$11.00-12.00 a quart, \$6.00-8.00 a pint.

OREGON: Oregon temperatures were generally above normal with dry conditions during October with cooler periods with rain showers mid month and during the last week. At the month's end, topsoil moisture measurements were 5 percent very short, 15 percent short, 68 percent adequate, and 12 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measurements were 20 percent very short, 19 percent short, 60 percent adequate and 1 percent surplus. Colonies were reported to be of generally good strength. With the change of the seasons local nectar sources of wild flowers and alfalfa finished. Keepers extracted the last of the fall honey crop, made fall treatments and inspections as were needed. Mites were reported to be under control. Preparations were being made to ship colonies to intermediate or California staging areas, or to be staged in protected home yards for the upcoming winter months. Honey demand was said to be good.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: The weather in Tennessee for the month of October has been warm and wet across most of the State. Most beekeepers are reporting an average to better than average fall nectar flow producing between 40 and 80 pounds of excess honey for overwintering colonies. Fall asters continue to bloom and produce nectar and pollen.

TEXAS: Pollen and nectar sources received during October were from goldenrod, aster, sunflowers, cosmos, Mexican heather, Mexican Marigold, wild poinsettia, wild petunia, wandering jew, Swedish ivy, morning glories, loofah, pepper plants and eggplants. Conditions of the colonies are in generally good condition. Outside of North Texas the colonies were in good condition. Weather conditions saw little rainfall with warmer than normal temperatures. Throughout the state the demand continues to surpass the supplies.

UTAH: The month of October was warmer than normal across the entire State of Utah. Rainfall was slightly below normal in the Cedar City area and above normal in Salt Lake City. The rainfall pattern was the exact opposite from the September rainfall pattern when comparing the north and south parts of the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State of Utah is still in a severe to extreme drought. The exception is the southwest part of the State which noticed a slight improvement and is now listed as being in a moderate drought. The drought and mite problems contributed to a major reduction in honey yields across large portions of the State. About the only area of the State that had average yields of honey this season were in the Delta area. According to beekeepers, there were some yields in that area around 50 pounds of honey per hive. Most parts of Utah besides the Delta

area, had yields of honey that struggled to reach 10 to 15 pounds per hive. According to beekeepers, bees are still looking generally healthy with few losses at this time. They also mentioned that overall numbers of bees are down, which could create a shortage of bees available for the California almond pollination. Commercial beekeepers have moved some bees to California already, while most should have their bees situated there by December. Tentative contract prices according to Utah beekeepers for almond pollination services in California range from \$140.00 for 8 frame hives to a high of \$165.00 for 12 frame hives. Beekeepers stated that they are in many cases, utilizing their honey stores to feed their bees at the moment to reduce costs, but plan to start supplemental feeding after arrival in California. Due to the very short crop of 2012 honey in Utah, supplies appear to be almost all sold or committed. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Utah. Current prices received in Utah by commercial beekeepers for wholesale white honey is \$2.00-\$2.05 per pound and extra light amber is averaging from \$1.65 to \$1.77 per pound. Current commercial prices received for light capping wax was \$3.25 per pound. Retail honey prices from private and commercial beekeepers are averaging from \$3.25 to \$8.00 per pound depending upon the specific variety and container size.

WASHINGTON: Harvest of fall crops, apples in particular, began to wind down later in the month. Beekeepers were making preparations for winter as the weather began to turn. The long dry spell ended with rain throughout most of the state aiding in fire control improving air quality. Some snow fell in the mountains, but the weather warmed later in the month slightly. Hives were generally looking good.

WISCONSIN: Weather for the northern part of the state was fairly good and generally good for the southern part of the state with a moderate amount of moisture as a whole for the month of October. Most beekeepers report good activity for the bees during the early part of the month as they were able to find some dandelion, white clover, and golden rod for feeding as well as approximately 45 % cleaning flights due to the mild temperatures. Beekeepers reported some mite treatment in July which aided in a larger population of healthy bees. A few beekeepers reported a good honey flow during the summer and early fall as they pulled large amounts of honey from their hives reporting lots more honey for this year than last year. One particular beekeeper laughs as she says the queen bees have shut down for the season and the drones are gone. 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		September 2012	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	9,905	40,270	1,588	8,209
Bahrain	40,230	97,651	0	0
Barbados	11,479	69,853	1,740	10,466
Bermuda	2,396	16,446	0	0
Brazil	21,328	52,736	11,536	28,968
Cayman Islands	2,149	13,418	0	0
China	20,599	50,000	0	0
Germany(*)	6,949	25,222	0	0
Guyana	14,775	61,441	0	0
Honduras	48,308	241,753	838	5,462
Hong Kong	6,615	18,559	0	0
Iceland	3,708	9,000	3,708	9,000
Indonesia	318,976	774,257	36,907	89,586
Ireland	1,285	3,119	0	0
Israel(*)	81,200	411,684	0	0
Japan	328,785	1,376,065	51,740	207,803
Jordan	158,195	693,927	61,916	264,874
Korea, South	241,320	775,235	57,328	139,153
Kuwait	1,883	7,920	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	18,971	52,040	0	0
Malaysia	49,869	121,049	0	0
Mexico	7,614	37,882	871	5,233
Netherlands Antilles(*)	14,425	35,014	2,678	6,500
New Zealand(*)	25,357	61,549	25,357	61,549
Panama	13,064	79,606	871	5,233
Philippines	327,737	817,340	48,622	118,021
Poland	22,944	55,692	0	0
Saudi Arabia	53,341	129,475	0	0
Singapore	27,541	74,424	0	0
Taiwan	61,320	297,227	18,102	87,565
Thailand	12,907	46,767	0	0
United Arab Emirates	214,283	520,136	7,638	18,541
Uruguay	2,966	7,200	0	0

Vietnam	18,967	46,040	0	0
Yemen(*)	542,891	2,247,052	79,819	312,702

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

Australia(*)	2,280	7,038	0	0
Bahamas, The	19,756	90,174	832	4,202
Bahrain	3,674	7,128	0	0
Barbados	10,612	26,370	0	0
Bermuda	16,533	75,785	3,148	17,358
Cambodia	1,527	10,052	0	0
Canada	273,013	1,077,130	12,624	62,577
Cayman Islands	555	3,273	0	0
China	15,892	82,072	680	2,672
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	0	0
Japan	294,440	849,282	41,118	168,281
Kuwait	1,190	2,888	1,190	2,888
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	105	2,627	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	1,201	3,960	0	0
New Zealand(*)	12,432	59,251	0	0
Nigeria	285	3,662	0	0
Panama	1,378	3,345	0	0
Philippines	1,216	7,476	0	0
Saudi Arabia	21,187	151,916	14,652	109,938
Taiwan	36,000	188,539	0	0
Thailand	1,307	8,835	1,307	8,835
United Arab Emirates	2,483	13,260	0	0
United Kingdom	235,079	507,214	0	0
Vietnam	51,090	338,599	625	3,459
Yemen(*)	19,382	40,000	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	4,463,367	15,046,391	487,435	1,759,075

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

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

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	7,009,879	20,320,914	20,906,479	408,161	1,201,226	1,273,146
Brazil	228,206	751,317	791,138	0	0	0
Canada	10,905,363	40,604,550	40,877,939	1,604,447	6,172,822	6,196,627
Chile	96,512	277,000	285,000	0	0	0
Egypt	5,137	11,226	11,867	799	2,550	2,630
France(*)	663	8,500	9,115	0	0	0
Germany(*)	1,072	5,596	5,870	1,072	5,596	5,870
Hungary	614	7,728	8,367	0	0	0
India	1,519,354	4,185,535	4,445,541	0	0	0
Italy(*)	13,799	99,947	102,803	0	0	0
Mexico	537,590	1,938,575	1,951,061	17,600	61,600	62,250
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	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	18,072,535	52,689,070	54,410,815	1,681,331	4,944,169	5,101,062
Australia(*)	38,993	140,375	143,375	0	0	0
Austria	750	5,334	5,680	0	0	0
Brazil	2,272,736	7,497,673	7,761,031	94,594	314,201	327,074
Canada	363,329	1,534,649	1,544,089	44,110	180,786	181,031
Chile	543,810	1,478,291	1,536,170	14,696	35,270	37,770
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	0	0	0
India	6,406,046	16,777,677	17,669,257	359,414	903,823	960,363
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	1,280,166	4,015,548	4,044,041	38,600	114,834	115,834
Pakistan	57,000	142,500	152,000	0	0	0
Switzerland(*)	9,912	30,779	33,188	0	0	0
Thailand	72,560	162,400	170,101	0	0	0
Ukraine	663,284	1,734,375	1,772,786	152,511	387,328	389,719
Uruguay	1,790,440	4,863,626	5,039,942	281,880	758,680	782,737
Vietnam	825,150	2,033,957	2,147,594	0	0	0

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	6,613,403	19,058,860	19,767,364	890,457	2,507,793	2,621,682
Australia(*)	2,858	21,843	22,061	1,640	7,094	7,311
Austria	14,987	138,809	146,261	1,478	13,772	14,598
Brazil	4,342,738	12,443,587	12,919,869	544,342	1,589,084	1,654,529
Canada	53,046	174,241	175,183	1,400	6,859	6,959
Chile	972,054	2,596,544	2,675,959	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	383,992	1,013,169	1,060,379	0	0	0
France(*)	1,119	13,589	14,991	0	0	0
Germany(*)	110,780	453,115	468,543	35,715	113,481	117,481
Greece	1,545	15,627	16,057	0	0	0
Guatemala	67,862	199,335	205,335	0	0	0
Hong Kong	6,840	42,565	43,320	0	0	0
India	9,373,945	23,569,083	24,984,184	908,104	2,295,459	2,422,464
Indonesia	121,996	267,989	288,989	0	0	0
Ireland	292	3,114	3,177	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,939	56,680	60,196	540	7,592	8,092
Japan	4,654	11,403	11,880	0	0	0
Lithuania	768	4,069	4,555	0	0	0
Malaysia	1,809,342	4,402,664	4,564,827	179,800	440,510	440,530
Mexico	2,533,962	7,295,333	7,340,072	592,410	1,695,868	1,695,958
New Zealand(*)	55,602	519,885	527,642	450	7,629	9,967
Pakistan	535	2,120	2,332	0	0	0
Poland	1,231	7,594	8,068	0	0	0

Russia	1,728	9,359	9,888	1,728	9,359	9,888
Spain	10,732	81,991	83,973	1,441	11,125	11,456
Switzerland(*)	4,949	36,451	36,676	0	0	0
Thailand	36,600	86,560	86,924	0	0	0
Turkey	735,453	1,761,540	1,917,543	0	0	0
Ukraine	37,200	100,812	108,812	0	0	0
Uruguay	8,313,421	22,280,857	22,816,584	376,979	1,012,322	1,046,191
Vietnam	11,275,600	27,830,775	29,183,836	2,150,850	5,359,044	5,621,993

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	506,268	1,477,942	1,515,193	111,782	334,788	349,788
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	0	0	0
Canada	246,901	856,636	857,045	60,328	229,977	230,008
Chile	56,265	149,309	153,956	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	230,722	445,319	460,695	38,400	110,592	113,792
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	0	0	0
Greece	2,589	26,960	31,310	0	0	0
Hungary	3,252	16,985	17,985	0	0	0
India	1,684,296	5,259,629	5,516,996	0	0	0
Indonesia	94,540	183,048	195,048	0	0	0
Israel(*)	8,544	68,569	70,924	0	0	0
Italy(*)	9,214	104,732	109,489	0	0	0
Japan	1,958	6,306	6,534	0	0	0
Lithuania	5,372	21,079	23,762	0	0	0
Mexico	332,129	870,990	885,575	22,825	70,413	72,663
Moldova	6,198	19,581	22,286	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	463,719	2,692,490	2,766,812	65,773	383,694	395,506
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	5,755	41,245	43,797	306	2,457	2,841
Taiwan	864,300	2,029,482	2,118,534	57,420	144,124	148,924
Thailand	92,630	203,786	206,841	0	0	0
Ukraine	45,849	126,005	132,682	4,909	11,045	12,150
United Kingdom	10,266	37,318	40,504	0	0	0
Uruguay	245,578	625,516	639,102	0	0	0
Vietnam	1,642,640	3,920,655	4,101,786	39,000	90,480	91,480

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	5,170	63,513	66,322	350	4,934	5,301
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	894	12,026	12,513	0	0	0
Brazil	76,880	244,909	258,290	0	0	0
Bulgaria	97,022	364,160	383,490	13,620	45,569	47,638
Canada	462,242	2,589,899	2,598,852	35,318	202,600	203,600
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(*)	80,120	828,525	869,303	3,934	41,517	43,960
Germany(*)	82,670	454,485	472,713	0	0	0
Greece	32,257	306,432	318,056	6,347	42,258	43,713
Guatemala	2,527	5,506	5,870	1,394	2,753	2,941
Hungary	9,720	59,039	61,719	5,400	38,520	39,673
India	257,283	922,776	958,359	1,642	8,908	9,408
Israel(*)	4,377	20,798	20,877	0	0	0
Italy(*)	14,684	150,124	153,302	4,597	45,383	46,587
Lebanon	5,631	68,925	71,225	0	0	0
Lithuania	10,308	41,213	45,335	0	0	0
Malaysia	59,601	60,935	60,938	0	0	0
Mexico	54,490	171,001	187,960	299	3,011	3,171
Moldova	10,415	43,356	47,798	648	3,479	3,827
New Zealand(*)	110,329	982,894	1,007,198	1,632	37,707	40,059
Poland	68,603	63,872	69,614	49,160	10,812	12,169
Portugal	8,266	56,924	59,060	0	0	0
Russia	432	3,451	3,647	432	3,451	3,647
Saudi Arabia	36,469	237,049	260,571	15,200	108,810	119,691
Serbia	95	3,240	3,340	0	0	0
Slovenia	4,835	35,153	36,949	2,418	18,030	18,926
Spain	700	4,613	4,760	0	0	0
Switzerland(*)	94,800	638,975	659,074	0	0	0
Taiwan	46,658	383,890	400,758	4,939	28,002	29,504
Thailand	102,436	168,245	180,967	2,160	5,800	6,057
Turkey	36,660	81,387	88,080	36,000	78,480	84,980
Ukraine	49,690	275,759	283,624	2,799	11,340	11,794
Uruguay	37,408	130,965	144,051	2,646	10,145	11,153
Uzbekistan, Republic of	38,400	105,216	110,103	0	0	0
Vietnam	2,881	10,083	11,070	0	0	0
Zambia	45,200	118,577	124,205	0	0	0

FLAVORED HONEY –

Australia(*)	11,900	121,633	124,133	0	0	0
Canada	14,204	168,078	169,821	928	51,150	51,401
China	193,614	336,550	371,949	253	17,334	18,078
Egypt	2,400	5,250	5,500	0	0	0
Estonia	1,800	11,509	11,776	1,300	8,149	8,399
France(*)	8,824	42,335	43,970	710	8,120	8,599
Germany(*)	11,450	133,846	139,030	0	0	0
Greece	240	3,815	4,051	0	0	0
India	1,427	6,630	6,955	0	0	0
Israel(*)	453	2,587	2,774	453	2,587	2,774
Italy(*)	4,854	79,680	81,846	0	0	0
Japan	90	17,934	18,034	0	0	0
Korea, South	75,557	1,969,992	2,048,554	11,062	347,985	360,100
Mexico	111,212	1,116,572	1,124,937	14,714	148,956	150,288
Peru	894	45,890	49,390	0	0	0
Poland	1,015	4,470	4,916	0	0	0
Portugal	1,980	11,119	11,419	0	0	0
Spain	6,361	37,281	41,186	0	0	0
Taiwan	23,487	41,860	45,401	1,780	4,890	5,232
Thailand	45,936	201,322	208,941	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(*)	19,218	173,579	184,510	810	16,925	17,198
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Brazil	2,002,746	6,301,217	6,470,795	106,633	349,215	359,341
Canada	256,177	1,192,162	1,202,700	100,929	484,894	487,103
Dominican Republic	50,377	114,217	114,416	0	0	0
Greece	8,368	113,582	116,566	0	0	0
Italy(*)	900	5,832	7,032	900	5,832	7,032
Mexico	9,146	120,201	123,416	755	10,006	10,189
New Zealand(*)	242,305	781,278	785,895	0	0	0
Taiwan	12,597	80,163	82,363	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	112,505,779	331,580,833	342,725,239	11,219,454	33,744,998	34,815,897

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**