

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Specialty Crops Program
Market News Division

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2016

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

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

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY - (# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

CALIFORNIA

Orange Blossom	Extra Light Amber	\$2.25	
Valley	Extra Light Amber	\$1.60	

DAKOTAS

Basswood	White	\$1.75	
Clover	White	\$1.70	- \$1.77
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	- \$1.77
Clover	Light Amber	\$1.77	
Mint	Amber	\$1.75	
Sunflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.77	

FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Orange Blossom	Extra Light Amber	\$2.25	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$2.10	

IDAHO

Wildflower	Amber	\$1.60	
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MICHIGAN

Star Thistle	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00	
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MONTANA

Clover	White	\$1.75	
Wildflower	White	\$1.75	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	

NEBRASKA

Clover	White	\$1.77	
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OREGON

Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.60	
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WASHINGTON

Buckwheat	Dark	\$1.60	- \$1.75
Wildflower	Dark	\$1.60	

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	\$1.32	
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.05	- \$1.12
ORGANIC	White	\$1.00	- \$1.75

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	\$1.15	- \$1.65
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.15	- \$1.65
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.15	- \$1.38

BRAZIL

ORGANIC	White	\$1.83	- \$1.88
ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.75	- \$1.85
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.58	- \$1.75
ORGANIC	Amber	\$1.71	- \$1.81

INDIA

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.14	- \$1.17
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$0.94	- \$1.57
Mustard	Extra Light	\$1.06	- \$1.11
Mustard	Light Amber	\$0.92	- \$1.06

MYANMAR

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$0.95	
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URUGUAY

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.15	- \$1.38
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VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.01	- \$1.38
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COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING APRIL, 2016

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): April started with several days of cold, freezing weather. Orchards were in various stages of bloom with peaches out in full as they were running about two weeks earlier than normal. Many blooms were frozen, but growers are stating although they were hit, they must still hand thin the stone fruits and apples. Temperatures for the remainder of April were generally slightly above average to near-average with variations occurring on a day to day basis. Several growers were concerned about pollination prior to the freeze, but bee activity increased during the later part of the month as the weather improved and was drier. Local agencies were reporting pollen counts at their highest levels in years. A few beekeepers reported their colonies were brood building after suffering winter losses. Nectar gathering was from apples, plums, red bud, strawberries, spring bulbs, and various wildflowers.

ALABAMA: Abundant rain periods were punctuated with periods of clear skies and warm weather. Consequently, water availability has not been an issue. Bees were generally able to forage during the month of April.

Alabama beekeepers have reported the same predictable issues. The Small Hive Beetle (SHB) causes issues for many beekeepers and Varroa is a perpetual issue. For the month of April, there have not been any unusual pest and disease outbreaks.

Typical treatments were applied for mites and SHBs. Since there have not been any notable outbreaks of pest/diseases, there have not been any particular treatments.

Alabama beekeepers are interested in using Oxalic Acid (OA) as a Varroa mite control product. While only a few beekeepers are using the product, there is much interest and many questions about how and when to use OA.

In general, it appears that the weather has been favorable for both bees and honey production. Central Alabama beekeepers have reported bees actively swarming and have discussed both successes and failures in capturing these bees. If bees can swarm, they had to have honey supplies to perform the behavior.

Honey production seems to be a bit promising based on information from Central Alabama beekeepers. Of course, weather and bee biology related events might cause bees to need more of the crop later season. For now many beekeepers seem happy with the honey crops so far.

As a side note, one Central Alabama beekeeper reported several successes using bait hives to attract swarms from the surrounding area.

While beekeepers are always interested in supplemental foodstuffs, this season has not required beekeepers to consciously provide the extra food. The mild winter, no doubt, contributed to this outcome.

Basswood flowering is just ending on South Alabama. Though controversial nectar source in some areas, Privet is in full bloom throughout South and Central Alabama. Other under shrubs are also in full bloom.

Dothan, in the southeast corner of Alabama, due to the increased number of beehives in the urban/suburban area, recently worked with the local beekeeping group to enact city regulations that were agreeable to both local beekeepers and the city officials.

This was a positive outcome that followed several meetings and the development of a proposal (that was accepted by the city) that was developed by both local beekeepers and with support from the Alabama Beekeepers Association.

ARIZONA: Temperatures across Arizona fluctuated greatly from week to week compared to normal levels. During the four weeks of April, temperatures were below normal, above normal, at normal levels, and slightly above normal, respectively. The range of temperatures for the month were from a high of 98 degrees Fahrenheit in Buckeye, Bullhead City, Maricopa Paloma, Robson Ranch and Roll to a low of 12 degrees Fahrenheit at Grand Canyon. During the four weeks in April, 7, 48, 35 and 2 of the 50 reporting stations received precipitation, respectively. For 2016 thus far, 2 of the 50 reporting stations are at above normal precipitation levels for the year.

Desert and plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state, with alfalfa also serving as a source. Melons are anticipated to become more available for pollination during the upcoming months.

Demand for honey remains good.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

CALIFORNIA: Hot and dry weather dominated the State this week as a ridge of high pressure built over the western US. The ridge broke down by the weekend, allowing for cooler temperatures and showers across the northern part of the State. Conditions were dry until the weekend, when the ridge began to break down and moisture percolated through the northern parts of the State. There were isolated showers across the northern quarter of the State, with most locations receiving less than a quarter of an inch. Some snow mixed in at elevations above 7,500 feet, but there was no accumulation.

Temperatures reached their warmest of the year due to the upper-level ridge. Highs were typically in the 60s-70s along the coast and in the mountains; 70s-90s in the Central Valley; and 80s-100s in the desert. These temperatures cooled by 10 degrees as the ridge broke down. Lows were frequently in the 20s-40s in the mountains; 40s-50s along the coast; 50s-60s in the Central Valley, with 40s after the ridge broke down; and 50s-70s in the desert, with a few isolated 40s. A few mountain locations dropped into the upper teens on Monday night.

Marine fog/stratus affected some of the more prone areas along the coast and helped to keep afternoon highs significantly cooler than locations a few miles inland. Snowmelt continues on schedule as we head into late spring, with 1 foot patchy snow fields still visible at the highest elevations in the southern Sierras. Snowpack is estimated to be above 7,500 feet in the central Sierras, with highest cover around 2-4 feet. In the northern mountains, snowpack is approximately above 5,500 feet, with max depth around 4-6 feet.

The bees continue to be used for pollination mostly for Kiwi and late stone fruit and will next begin to be moved into the seed alfalfa fields the being of June. Some bees have been moved into the mountains and are foraging on wild flowers and sage and are finishing up on manzanita bloom. Beekeepers are making divides and are requeening new colonies. It has been reported that this year has been a big swarming year.

FLORIDA: Temperatures were a little above normal with normal precipitation for most of the state during the month. There were some very windy days followed by rain that adversely affected the production of nectar and honey in both orange blossom and Tupelo. Bee health ranged from poor to excellent with most producers reporting fairly good to good health. Honey production was disappointing from several sources. Tupelo honey production was widely reported to be very low. Orange blossom honey production was probably only 30-40% of what would have been considered normal only a few years ago. Citrus greening has severely cut back the number of acres of orange trees suitable for honey production. Wind and rain also played a role in lowering orange blossom honey production. Honey production from Gallberry and palmetto was a hit or miss situation over most of the state with a wide range of yields from nearly nothing to very good being reported. Orange blossom honey production ended early in the month with palmetto being nearly finished late in the month and Gallberry slowing down by the end of the month. Supplemental feeding was not necessary for most bees. Nearly 95% of the bees in Florida are owned by commercial beekeepers and nearly 85% of commercial bees were being relocated to Northern or Northwestern states by the end of the month for pollination work or honey production in a wide variety of crops. Smaller beekeepers are still being registered in Florida at a high rate. Honey demand continues to be good for light supplies.

GEORGIA: Central and South Georgia beekeepers are reporting a good Tupelo flow and are expecting a fair amount of honey to be produced and pulled in May. Weather conditions throughout the state were fair and a good amount of rain and warm weather produced early blooms and feeding. The bees are in pretty good shape heading into the warmer months ahead and are feeding off of Tupelo, TyTy, Privet hedge, Tulip poplar, melons, Blackberry and China berries as well as a host of wild flowers and clover. The areas in North Georgia may be a little behind due to cooler weather and rains and are now picking up the pace as blooms were rampant in late April.

Demand for bees, especially queens is very strong as more people are making new hives and new beekeepers are getting into the business. Prices remain steady and quality is reported to be very good. Some of the beekeepers are having to rush to catch up with the excess honey and make more hive boxes to expand before the harvest of honey starts soon.

Some losses have been reported from the hives coming back from the West coast for the almond and tree fruit blooms. Few losses reported from the local hives for this spring so far.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: During the month of April temperatures were above normal over Colorado, Idaho and Utah, according to the National Weather Service. The States of Utah and Idaho had below normal precipitation during April. Most areas of Colorado were slightly above normal, to near normal on precipitation during the same period according to the National Weather Service.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Colorado continues to have near normal moisture conditions across most areas of the State in April with the exception of abnormally dry conditions in primarily the Southeastern and parts of the Southwestern area of the State. Normal moisture conditions are present in Southeastern and East Central Utah and most of the State of Idaho. There are still several scattered pockets of abnormally dry conditions across the State of Idaho in April. The rest of Utah ranges from abnormally dry to severe going from east to west across the State. The worst drought conditions in Utah during April continues to be in the Northwest part of the State. This area West and Southwest of the Great Salt Lake continues to be considered a severe drought. This area has continued to grow in area during the month of April.

Some commercial beekeepers have still not returned to Colorado and Utah as of late April, instead opting for some warmer weather in California and Texas before returning in early June. However, other beekeepers from Colorado and Utah have returned and have placed their bee colonies in position for the summer honey flow months. In Idaho, commercial beekeepers have all returned back to Idaho and other surrounding States for the summer months. One of the big tasks at the moment for many commercial beekeepers is final placement of colonies for the very busy summer months. Some Idaho beekeepers will divert in May and June to carrot and onion fields to provide pollination services and to help the cash flow of the business. Some beekeepers have finished working on requeening, splits and new nucs as of late April. Whereas others are still working on these tasks. One commercial beekeeper stated that they never are done requeening as it is a continual process. With their frequent checks of bee colonies, many of the beekeepers are ready to take corrective action and place in a new queen if and when necessary. Some beekeepers indicated that there were some colonies which were so robust coming out of the almond fields earlier this spring that they were able to have 3 workable colonies after doing a double split.

Many of the commercial beekeepers have indicated that their bees that remain are looking very healthy with good quality bees. Losses of bees from commercial beekeepers vary widely from a low of 10 to 15 percent in Idaho, 30 to 35 percent in Colorado and up to 75 percent in some commercial beekeeper colonies in Utah. These losses could not be traced to any one particular event or cause. Some possible causes for losses according to beekeepers range from growth regulators and fungicides, to other unknown factors. Losses by some hobbyist beekeepers were up to 100 percent over this past winter. Some beekeepers treated for varroa and tracheal mite's right after the almond pollination. Others are still treating for mites at this time. Mite loads seem to be under control and at fairly low numbers at this time. Some active supplemental feeding has occurred with commercial beekeepers adding supplemental sugar syrup, corn syrup, or blends along with pollen substitutes on an as needed basis. Honey stores are also being utilized in many cases. There seems to be a good pollen and honey flow from dandelions across Idaho, Utah and Colorado at this time, thereby limiting the extra supplemental feeding needed.

Overall demand remains very good for retail domestic Colorado and Idaho honey. Demand for retail honey in Utah is fairly light. There are no wholesale supplies of 2015 honey from commercial beekeepers that remain at this time. With honey production at lower levels the past few years and recent sliding wholesale prices, several beekeepers have stated that the cash flow of money generated by pollination services has become a very important aspect of the commercial beekeepers ability to keep their business as a going concern.

ILLINOIS: The weather for April was good with a lot of rain. Beekeepers have received their packages and the bees are trying to build up their population. The bees are feeding on dandelions and wild cherry. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and demand was fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

INDIANA: Indiana had good weather in April, with temperatures on some days in the 80s. Indiana had a good amount of rain. Beekeepers report that their bees are in good condition and are trying to increase their population. The bees are drawing nectar from dandelions and wild flowers. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Temperatures and precipitation were above normal overall, as some areas varied below normal. Beekeepers were busy preparing hives for the introduction of package bees and queens. Some colonies have begun and built up nicely. Supplemental food is still being given until the flow increase. Some bee producers have already ran out of package bees due to high demand, especially for locally produced bees and queens. Package bees and queens prices will remain high through May. Bees were working fruit trees, dandelion, alfalfa and other various tree and bush sources.

Honey demand and sales are projected to remain strong this season. Beekeepers and processors are reporting a continual demand for domestic local raw honey at the retail level.

KENTUCKY: Perhaps it because KY had unseasonably cold temperatures the first week of April, but our state seems to be experiencing an explosion of swarms. Two different clubs have reported to have caught over 50 swarms each, and that is not even including the ones that got away. There has been an abundance of nectar and pollen production plants.

The bush honeysuckle and apple orchard trees (pear trees had already bloomed in March) escaped a major freeze. Furthermore, black locust, redbuds, dogwoods, and willows are producing copious amounts of nectar, the tulip poplar is beginning, and wildflowers such as mints, salvias, ragworts, wild garlic, and the ever-dependable dandelion provide plenty of backup. KY is approximately two weeks earlier than many of these bloom times than last year. The honey bees seem to be responding to the temperature variations reasonably well, although there were losses reported about the time of the April 9th freeze.

Chalkbrood has been reported in Eastern KY and the Bluegrass, there are signs of varroa mite damage beginning to appear and a few cases of deformed wing virus. Adult small hive beetles are visible, but thus far, no major outbreaks of larvae.

With the black locust flow being so copious, some hives are honeybound. A few beekeepers are starting to take honey. The 2016 honey prices for the KY State Fair are posted on the www.kyagr.com "honey bee" website.

LOUISIANA: The weather has been up and down with temperatures and rainfall. The cool nights have kept the bees clustered up and the flowers from producing nectar. Now that the nights are warming the bees have built up enough to start storing extra honey above the brood nest. Supply from this area will be down a touch due to the loss of production colonies but prices have been falling on the wholesale side. Demand seems stronger than ever. The bees that survived the flood are doing great. Plenty of winter stores have helped them through the cool nights but enough to allow them to brood up nicely. The rain seems to be coming at night which has allowed queens to be mated. At this time disease and pest do not seem like a problem. The mite counts that have been conducted have given low numbers. Early feed was required for nucs and weak colonies. Pollen has been available for some time just the lack of sugars have delayed their growth. Demand for locally produced honey seems strong with sales higher than last year. Price though seems to be falling. Beekeepers are not sure if it can be tied to a stronger dollar which can encourage foreign suppliers to flood our market. Even with lower prices, retail price seems to be strong.

MICHIGAN: Hives have come alive with activity during the month, as cherries, peaches, flowering ornamentals and dandelions are blooming across the state. In Central Michigan, many beekeepers are reporting strong hives and even some surplus honey already. Winter losses in the area have been reported at a 24% loss; beekeepers report that hives look better than they have in several years. With the early build-up, it could also be an early varroa mite build-up in the hives by summer. Local honey demand has remained strong and local prices have remained steady at this time. Large commercial beekeepers have reported honey on hand, although the smaller suppliers are nearly depleted. Bees that overwintered in the South are being shipped to tree fruit and blueberry fields across the state. A challenge for the commercial honeybee pollinators in the state: the lower rates for pollination rental and the increasing costs to sustain colonies coupled with the drop in honey prices is squeezing the large honeybee pollination service industry. The Michigan honey production forecast for the spring and summer months appear to be good. Commercial hives returned from the California almond pollination heavy and the populations were in great health with additional feedings kept to a minimum.

MINNESOTA: During the month of April, temperatures were above normal across the Southern part of the State and below normal in Northern areas of the State according to the National Weather Service. Precipitation was also below normal in Southern areas and above normal in Northern areas of the State during the same period. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, moisture conditions are normal over most of the State with the exception of abnormally dry conditions in the Central Western part of Minnesota. With an overall warmer spring, beekeepers are anticipating some early blooming flowers to produce some pollen and a little nectar near term.

Some commercial beekeepers have still not returned to Minnesota as of late April. Instead some commercial beekeepers wanted to wait until the corn planting was completed, fearing the neonicotinoids from the seed treatments could harm their bee colonies. Beekeepers are still working on requeening, splits and new nucs as of late April. Commercial beepers indicated that some colonies were so robust coming out of the almond fields earlier this spring that they were able to have 3 workable colonies after doing a double split.

Many of the commercial beekeepers have indicated that their bees are looking very healthy with good quality bees and very few losses. While others are still noticing the fall out of bees from growth regulators and fungicides from the almond fields, heading into the early spring. Some beekeepers are now treating for varroa mites. Mite loads seem to be under control and at fairly low numbers at this time. A new trend seems to be treating commercial bees with probiotics. Probiotics according to beekeepers help ward off negative pathogens and bacteria. Beekeepers who utilized this practice last fall noticed healthier bees going into the almonds fields earlier this spring in California. Another round of probiotics will be applied to bee colonies of some Minnesota Commercial Beekeepers in early June. Some active supplemental feeding has occurred with commercial beekeepers adding supplemental sugar syrup, corn syrup, or blends along with pollen substitutes on an as needed basis. Honey stores are also being utilized in many cases. Most commercial beekeepers were preparing in many cases to site bees to their locations for the summer months ahead. Overall demand remains very good for domestic Minnesota honey, despite the limited supply that is confined to retail level availability. There are no wholesale supplies of 2015 honey from commercial beekeepers that remain at this time. With honey production at lower levels the past few years and recent sliding wholesale prices, several beekeepers have stated that the cash flow of money generated by pollination services has become a very important aspect of the commercial beekeepers ability to keep their business as a going concern.

MISSISSIPPI: Most of the beekeepers report the bees and hives are in good condition and are expecting a good strong honey flow this spring. Lots of feed and nectar available in late April after plenty of rain and cooler temperatures earlier. Bees are in demand and queen orders are backed up. Prices remain steady.

MONTANA: No report issued.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather for the month of April has featured a pattern of cooler, unstable temperatures with daytime temperatures in the high 40's with nighttime temperatures in the low 30's and 40's. This month's moisture levels for the entire region have been lower than normal. In New England, despite the cold snaps, we are about 2 weeks ahead of normal. Sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) and dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) started early on blooming thus causing the flooding of brood nests with light yellow pollen. The primary forging ornamental and floral sources for pollen and nectar are; skunk cabbage, sumac, dandelion, crocus, and *Salix* spp. i.e. willows such as *Salix caprea* (goat), *Salix discolor* (pussy), *Salix Alba* (white) and *Salix nigra* (black), along with silver maple. Bees across New England were gathering pollen and nectar from; glory of the snow- snow drop (*chionodoxa luciliae*), witch hazel, jasmine, Siberian squill (*scilla siberica*), American elm (*ulmus Americana*), quaking aspen, alder, spice bush, sassafras, leather leaf, pin cherry, plum, blueberry and crab apple. Additional local sources currently are ground ivy (*glechoma hederacea*) and chickweed (*stellaria media*). Red Maple can create occasional big yields when in bloom around Easter/Passover holidays. The Easter and Passover holidays coincided with the usual advent of regional pollen and nectar sources such as black and weeping willow, plums, blueberry and many varieties of apple blooms.

Orchardists were very concerned that a heavy late March cold spell could have destroyed a good portion of this season's apple and peach crops because buds had progressed because of earlier warmer weather. Bees are getting pollen and nectar when they can but it seems like it stays consistently cool. Bees need warmer temperatures to actively increase foraging. Cooler temperatures in higher elevations have created a problem with chill brood whereby the queen's activity has been restricted. Reportedly some keepers lost hives to a continuance of cooler weather, preventing bees from foraging and because there were no surplus honey stores. Additionally, nectar

sources were not fully available. Northwestern New England shows mixed reports on losses of around 30%, mainly due to starvation or queen loss. In this region, bees reportedly came through winter somewhat strong in populations, however winter losses were rather high but not as bad as last year. Queen cells are already in progress.

In Northern New England, wintered over colonies reportedly are now fairly static in brood rearing and there are problems with clusters remaining small. Surviving weak colonies have been combined and hive bodies are being rotated with most over wintered queens beginning to lay normally. Northern keepers will keep their entrance reducers in place until the end of May as cold snaps are quite common with changing New England weather. In Southern New England, colonies have rapidly strengthened. The weather started to cooperate by mid-April and bees started to forage in force. Reportedly, most of the hives are stronger than normal for this time of year and early swarming is expected. There have been reported instances where by superseded queens have appeared in early March with no drones to mate with. Queens have started to strongly lay with nucleus colonies building so fast that divides and splits are necessary to prevent swarming.

Reportedly all keepers are active in checking food sources weekly, are reversing hive bodies every two weeks to keep the brood in the bottom and will add a super before the bees get crowded. Queens are now laying larger patterns of brood; colonies are expanding brood nests and bringing in good amounts of pollen and nectar when they are not experiencing cold weather. Feeding is always very heavy and important to monitor for this time of year. Beekeepers continue to administer pollen supports and supplemental feedings on a need basis and will make sure that syrup 1:1 is available on the hive until combs are drawn out. In regard to established colonies, seasoned keepers try to make sure that they have ample room to expand and that honey supers are timely ready or already in place. Seasoned beekeepers have noted that we are facing a pervasive swarming problem this spring with reported swarming occurring in late March.

Spurts of really warm weather have created for many keepers, fast fills of medium supers of honey this spring already, and we will soon have honeysuckle and black locust to push a good honey flow. Most keepers have recently received package bees/nucs or are about to, so they are just setting up in anticipation and are hopeful for a strong summer production season.

Purportedly, Prices range from \$100.00 to \$145.00 mostly \$135.00 for a 3 lb. package with queen. Reportedly, 3 to 5 frame nuclei colonies average \$135.00. Beekeepers are currently using formic acid treatments, Mite Away, Apistan and Terramycin mix early to the top frames, in response to addressing possible fast developing varroa mite infestation. The varroa mite pest feeds on the honeybee hemolymph or bee blood and can be seen feeding on the developing larvae as well as on adult bees. Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 1lb bottled units were strong and quoted at \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$10.00 and occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were strong with 5 gallon units selling at \$200.00 to \$245.00 mostly \$220.00 occasionally higher for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

NEW YORK: A mild winter has provided spring challenges due to an extended warm period in February and March, followed by an unseasonably cool and dry April. There has been an early timing of flowering, frost damage to the early budded trees and a period of dearth following these early flowering trees. The lack of showers have not provided the moisture needed for spring flowers. Packages are beginning to arrive from the south as beekeepers hope a hearty dandelion crop sustain colonies until other forage sources become available. The results from winter loss surveys are being compiled as industry officials hope the mild winter will not show the losses that the two previous years of harsh cold winters. Honey sales have been good, although prices seem to be leveling off and consumers shift to larger container buying at retail (2 lb.). There has also been strong demand for semi-bulk sales (60 lb.).

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina varied throughout April, but were mostly above normal; while precipitation for the month was mostly normal. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated 2 percent very short, 13 percent short, 76 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus the week ending April 30. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 88 counties as being abnormally dry in North Carolina.

Most colonies that came through the winter were in good condition and filling up quickly; according to apiary inspectors there was also a lot of swarming noted in April. A reported concern, however, has been the apparent symptoms of European Foulbrood; further testing was being done to determine if it is indeed the bacterial disease or a viral situation that mimics the disease.

Sumac became an available nectar source across the State. In the Piedmont region Dandelion, Clover (Alsike, Crimson, and Ladino white clover), Blackberry, Tulip Poplar, Black Gum, Black Locust, Vetch, Holly, and Raspberry began to bloom around mid to late April. Dandelion, Blackberry, Tulip Poplar, Black Gum, Holly, Raspberry, Huckleberry, and Tupelo Gum began blooming in the Coastal Plains region. Commercial pollinator hives were back in North Carolina for blueberry pollination and by the end of the month began preparing to move up the East Coast to New Jersey, and later Maine, for blueberry and cranberry pollination.

Demand for honey remained high; while retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market remained steady at \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: Cold weather continued earlier in the month warming some as Spring moved on. Some areas were still experiencing freezing temperatures late in the month. Rainfall was mixed in the region and heavy at times setting records in some locations. Sunflower planting was ahead of schedule. Alfalfa cutting was starting in the warmer areas.

OHIO: Weather has been a roller coaster – with up and down temperatures and snow, rain and wind during the month. Maple and willow bloom has ended and dandelion bloom has been excellent. At month's end, apples are just beginning their bloom cycle in the Northern region, although temperatures have moderated and shortened the bees flying time. There is continued downward pressure on wholesale honey prices, primarily due to imports. Currently, wholesale prices of \$2.21 per pound have been reported nationally, down from \$2.24 per pound last month. Packages have arrived and are doing well.

OKLAHOMA: Bees are strong and are feeding well, swarming and getting larger. Canola is doing well this year with moisture off and on all month. April weather has been very nice with no freezes. Alfalfa and all things blooming from on the farms to gardens including flowers, and trees. Pollen is

abundant. April was a good month for moisture and food nectar. Swarms are being caught. Demand for honey high. Research states that Oklahoma has lost about 60 percent of their hives over the winter from last year.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: In the state of Tennessee, colonies built up rapidly during the month of April. Overall colonies across the state are doing very well. There are currently minimal pest or disease issues, with no treatments being needed at this time. Predominantly warmer and dryer than normal weather conditions provided a great nectar flow. Food sources in the month of April were predominately tulip poplar, black locust, blackberry, clover, willow, mint, dandelion, Fruit trees, wild cherry and many wildflowers.

TEXAS: HOUSTON AREA: Privet bushes are blooming. Bees love the invasive bushes. Chinese tallow trees are getting ready to bloom. Beekeepers have fed some in late winter, noting that to leave hives with strong carryover honey. It has been a nice long spring. Plants are lush and beekeepers report good honey flow is expected. We are expecting an overall good harvest. Bees are holding their own. Few hives swarmed, but beekeepers are hoping to save them. Reports seem to be generally good. Still not pollination fees due to a lack of agriculture needing these services.

SAN ANTONIO AREA: No honey this spring, but hives are reported to be really strong. Some are quite large and made queen cells, but keepers have managed to scrape off and add a super, hopefully preventing a swarm. Some do not feed their bees in the spring or ever-maybe with the rain keeping them in.

DALLAS AREA: Beekeepers report they are currently re-evaluating bees. To judge by the swath of dead bees around the hive, at least one colony has suffered a 50%+ mortality (of unknown origin) in the last week. Another hive appears to be queen less, but found residual signs of swarm cells - it may be that a new queen will become apparent in the next week or two. Other colonies appear to be okay, but a residual nucleus hive of some may be too weak to continue much longer. All colonies have their honey supers in place, but none of them have been needed so far, with the continuing wet weather. This isn't unusual for north Texas, but beekeepers are hoping the nectar flow in May will produce a decent honey crop.

WASHINGTON: Spring bloom generally finished early in May and the season generally went well although the timing was a bit compressed. Frost protection has been light as the weather has generally been moderate since late March. Early warmer weather pushed most crops a bit, but cooler weather and some precipitation has prevailed later in the month slowing the crops and wildflower activity.

WISCONSIN: The weather for April has been good, with many warm temperature days and an adequate supply of rain. Beekeepers have received their packages and the bees are building their population. The bees are feeding on dandelions, fruit trees, Willows and Norway Maple. Demand for honey is gold at the retail level and was fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

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

	Year to Date		March 2016	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	1,285	5,398	285	2,675
Bahrain	32,757	79,512	32,757	79,512
Barbados	4,022	24,093	1,795	10,682
Bermuda	1,196	7,740	1,196	7,740
Cayman Islands	465	2,788	465	2,788
China	152,717	643,636	111,148	522,055
Guyana	980	8,528	980	8,528
Japan	25,553	66,621	0	0
Korea, South	36,882	178,496	0	0
Kuwait	57,994	143,045	0	0
Lebanon	408	3,221	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	4,767	31,887	1,459	11,291
Panama	1,795	10,682	898	5,341
Philippines	265,187	643,689	158,955	385,831
Saudi Arabia	15,034	65,954	0	0
Singapore	27,018	71,993	26,296	63,829
United Arab Emirates	181,136	448,854	115,005	281,083
Vietnam	375	4,285	0	0

NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -

Australia(*)	20,230	109,313	0	0
Bahamas, The	6,622	40,500	2,914	20,264
Barbados	7,286	37,843	0	0
Bermuda	6,511	32,925	1,205	3,538
Brazil	19,108	62,622	19,108	62,622

Cambodia	1,157	8,716	0	0
Canada	193,903	858,046	67,717	265,869
Cayman Islands	1,578	8,664	0	0
China	52,989	155,904	10,168	47,879
France(*)	11,923	28,940	0	0
Hong Kong	42,688	256,437	20,157	118,240
Indonesia	19,113	50,750	0	0
Japan	28,162	98,915	400	3,305
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	567	2,510	567	2,510
Mexico	14,515	65,920	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	2,828	20,339	1,274	7,912
Singapore	1,959	14,056	1,306	9,534
Trinidad and Tobago	1,746	5,096	1,746	5,096
United Arab Emirates	10,238	50,480	4,707	12,693
GRAND TOTAL	1,252,694	4,348,398	582,508	1,940,817

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

Year to Date			March 2016		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	1,684,023	4,500,431	4,586,760	779,709	1,917,427	1,955,287
Brazil	237,960	930,857	957,016	0	0	0
Canada	2,116,671	6,315,126	6,376,174	688,129	1,867,163	1,885,745
France(*)	215	2,007	2,132	0	0	0
India	16,829	67,947	69,297	0	0	0
Italy(*)	1,252	11,100	15,070	1,252	11,100	15,070
Mexico	51,650	197,976	197,985	0	0	0
Taiwan	39,680	69,750	73,380	20,150	34,875	37,040
United Kingdom	844	8,582	8,874	281	2,777	2,860
Uruguay	19,122	59,089	59,277	0	0	0

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

Argentina	3,141,673	8,453,001	8,653,528	1,312,598	3,043,232	3,104,044
Australia(*)	39,000	161,850	165,410	0	0	0
Brazil	172,696	609,428	642,796	38,230	135,236	140,225
Canada	55,633	251,790	253,131	21,011	92,379	92,729
France(*)	902	16,386	16,690	419	6,909	7,090
India	1,268,390	3,245,304	3,365,821	491,690	1,238,872	1,291,904
Italy(*)	855	12,123	13,805	855	12,123	13,805
Mexico	54,867	203,030	206,427	36,431	132,973	135,263
Pakistan	18,519	48,160	48,900	0	0	0
Portugal	2,308	14,637	15,131	0	0	0
Taiwan	295,185	582,087	582,588	95,700	180,873	180,974
Thailand	607,540	1,469,033	1,498,579	129,920	335,008	348,452
Ukraine	1,946,481	4,971,941	5,124,219	718,339	1,758,701	1,815,782
Vietnam	339,600	750,240	798,380	0	0	0

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	931,148	2,481,998	2,571,591	400,481	947,282	969,551
Australia(*)	4,248	64,893	65,390	4,248	64,893	65,390
Austria	17,520	168,857	178,784	9,091	86,882	91,953
Brazil	189,707	584,903	608,181	37,595	120,304	123,202
Bulgaria	990	4,950	5,592	0	0	0
Burma	427,800	914,853	968,343	0	0	0
Canada	70,104	152,607	155,666	38,320	91,373	91,873
Croatia	432	3,733	3,847	432	3,733	3,847
Dominican Republic	35,049	100,550	104,746	21,933	65,090	67,308
Germany(*)	105,840	574,703	593,700	68,040	369,752	382,750
India	3,939,315	10,359,657	10,618,793	1,266,330	3,252,638	3,348,534
Israel(*)	708	7,280	7,515	0	0	0
Italy(*)	1,570	34,919	35,521	711	16,309	16,619
Malaysia	19,200	48,000	48,001	0	0	0
Mexico	84,892	301,761	303,309	4,282	11,340	11,382
New Zealand(*)	1,059	20,217	21,417	0	0	0
Pakistan	396	2,790	3,069	0	0	0
Romania	1,207	8,187	10,012	0	0	0
Spain	4,573	37,021	37,747	2,606	21,532	22,012
Switzerland(*)	257	3,893	3,894	0	0	0
Thailand	1,095,320	2,724,200	2,863,722	140,080	355,674	371,805
Turkey	1,209,000	3,664,200	3,974,200	279,000	837,000	912,000
Ukraine	297,635	742,065	803,272	201,355	487,630	528,587
Uruguay	225,949	679,371	686,326	56,778	161,931	163,803
Vietnam	4,733,970	10,923,282	11,528,085	1,314,060	2,860,744	3,012,955

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	37,808	100,607	106,607	0	0	0
Australia(*)	400	6,342	7,142	0	0	0
Brazil	37,585	127,494	135,509	50	2,385	2,748
Bulgaria	804	2,088	2,448	0	0	0
Canada	1,507	10,730	10,969	1,306	5,450	5,650
Dominican Republic	14,248	35,253	36,740	11,000	28,000	29,200
France(*)	1,935	26,728	27,859	455	7,488	7,690
Greece	8,759	58,358	61,800	6,003	40,271	41,900
Hungary	2,956	18,114	19,614	0	0	0
India	74,699	188,362	193,374	53,499	105,999	106,440
Israel(*)	2,764	33,020	33,771	0	0	0
Italy(*)	920	15,771	16,535	103	2,364	2,388
Korea, South	979	8,409	8,661	0	0	0
Mexico	14,293	14,376	14,466	2,808	4,320	4,339
New Zealand(*)	152,626	1,628,124	1,665,302	40,148	396,841	407,629
Poland	5,621	35,586	39,904	2,400	17,201	20,229
Russia	12,496	9,372	10,972	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	9,353	71,030	73,490	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	58,590	160,230	175,230	19,530	53,820	58,820
Spain	21,238	133,683	139,095	19,020	113,059	117,011
Taiwan	82,227	238,453	249,738	987	9,407	9,623
Ukraine	13,474	37,966	41,475	0	0	0
United Kingdom	11,940	109,738	119,373	8,620	37,152	40,867
Vietnam	1,989,561	3,911,242	4,213,327	1,040,880	1,981,223	2,161,534

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Armenia	3,452	38,534	40,073	0	0	0
Australia(*)	19,724	162,146	165,221	0	0	0
Austria	2,353	35,217	39,147	336	3,910	4,134
Belarus	1,280	7,639	8,564	1,280	7,639	8,564
Brazil	3,983	28,333	28,733	3,983	28,333	28,733
Bulgaria	73,125	245,493	258,641	12,735	41,095	43,226
Canada	73,042	388,925	391,073	30,840	100,013	100,556
Cyprus	1,385	6,459	7,105	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	1,647	6,708	7,490	1,461	4,672	5,250
Egypt	2,248	5,092	5,264	0	0	0
France(*)	104,894	588,690	614,991	52,785	323,961	336,426
Germany(*)	48,020	292,275	304,454	13,001	84,541	87,137
Greece	16,267	199,549	203,304	1,034	12,001	12,101
Hungary	36,039	365,401	380,516	6,550	78,595	83,095
India	54,441	184,469	192,918	0	0	0
Italy(*)	6,436	94,517	96,014	5,162	75,385	76,543
Lithuania	4,488	18,124	19,936	0	0	0
Mexico	18,735	100,832	104,695	13,726	44,969	48,292
Moldova	552	3,215	3,527	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	211,223	2,793,437	2,843,044	113,771	1,832,350	1,854,754
Poland	3,102	4,225	4,570	0	0	0
Portugal	7,007	49,219	51,279	3,515	27,414	28,696
Romania	7,365	33,368	35,912	2,784	16,684	18,264
Russia	33,963	187,370	206,107	1,224	2,621	2,883
Serbia	2,220	12,717	13,624	2,220	12,717	13,624
Spain	64,016	408,322	436,700	27,437	172,779	186,157
Switzerland(*)	3,340	50,085	52,901	1,890	26,273	27,834
Taiwan	43,039	47,761	50,936	21,947	26,836	28,734
Turkey	57,018	393,851	405,963	20,838	140,847	145,771
Ukraine	17,703	55,478	61,026	17,703	55,478	61,026
United Kingdom	3,009	19,469	20,185	2,747	14,840	15,541

FLAVORED HONEY –

Australia(*)	921	145,098	146,452	0	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	5,376	10,106	10,701	0	0	0
Canada	4,005	18,039	18,072	0	0	0
China	20,000	61,600	64,007	20,000	61,600	64,007
Dominican Republic	10,706	114,816	115,722	2,477	34,160	34,443
France(*)	10,752	19,390	20,961	0	0	0
Greece	3,087	7,658	8,114	0	0	0
India	43,464	112,413	117,788	15,200	30,690	32,467
Ireland	304	2,635	2,878	0	0	0
Italy(*)	43	3,444	3,799	0	0	0
Korea, South	102,133	1,080,786	1,099,661	30,223	349,290	355,190
Mexico	33,334	344,375	346,842	15,993	166,231	166,980
Peru	419	2,610	2,756	419	2,610	2,756
Taiwan	8,934	22,446	23,889	0	0	0
Thailand	12,915	50,358	51,131	12,915	50,358	51,131
Turkey	915	4,744	4,859	0	0	0
United Kingdom	272	8,089	8,590	0	0	0

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	11,985	87,510	90,638	0	0	0
Australia(*)	8,677	73,753	75,028	0	0	0
Brazil	3,136,748	10,715,388	11,168,334	1,039,634	3,599,244	3,747,194
Canada	30,042	201,805	203,215	2,143	15,753	15,964
Denmark(*)	449	3,598	3,856	0	0	0

Greece	411	11,041	12,837	310	4,356	5,756	
India	18,731	59,975	61,932	0	0	0	
Italy(*)	3,215	38,833	39,692	1,946	24,599	24,833	
Mexico	65,210	243,253	248,268	21,134	71,552	71,561	
New Zealand(*)	9,636	66,655	73,417	3,469	20,643	22,752	
Taiwan	38,280	72,732	72,832	38,280	72,732	72,832	
GRAND TOTAL		32,572,647	94,951,911	98,485,678	10,949,977	30,966,506	32,111,116

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