

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 MAY, 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

Almond	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Orange Blossom	White	\$2.25	

DAKOTAS

Alfalfa	White	\$1.65	
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	
Buckwheat	Light Amber	\$1.75	
Clover	White	\$1.65	- \$1.75
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.77	

FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper	Extra Light Amber	\$1.40	
Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Orange Blossom	Extra Light Amber	\$2.25	
Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$2.25	

MONTANA

Clover	White	\$1.75	
Meltor	Amber	\$1.60	

MICHIGAN

Star Thistle	Light Amber	\$2.00	
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MINNESOTA

Alfalfa	White	\$1.75	
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NEW YORK

Wildflower	Light Amber	\$2.50	
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Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.00	- \$1.18
Organic	White	\$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	\$1.00	-	\$1.65
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$0.92	-	\$1.65
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.07	-	\$1.25

BRAZIL

ORGANIC	White	\$1.76	-	\$1.83
ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.58	-	\$1.79
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.53	-	\$1.81
ORGANIC	Amber	\$1.68	-	\$1.80
ORGANIC	Dark	\$1.58		

INDIA

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.14	-	\$1.32
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$0.94		
Mustard	White	\$1.11		
Mustard	Extra Light	\$0.92	-	\$1.11
Mustard	Light Amber	\$0.90	-	\$1.11

MEXICO

Mesquite	White	\$1.63		
Orange	White	\$1.95	-	\$1.96
Organic	Light Amber	\$1.57	-	\$1.65

MYANMAR

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$0.95		
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VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.07		
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URUGUAY

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.15	-	\$1.57
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COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MAY, 2016

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): Rain, rain and more rain was the story for the first half of May where at BWI airport a new record was set for 17 consecutive days of precipitation in May. The remainder of the month was mostly dry with passing thunderstorms and showers as temperature went from the cool day time highs in the fifties and sixties to temperatures in the upper eighties. Nectar quality and gathering was not the best due to the high precipitation and cool weather, but did pick up at the end of the month when the temperatures warmed. Orchardists are reporting low pollination rates due to the weather conditions. Nectar sources for May were orchards, sourwood, sumac, tulip poplar, clover, strawberries, and various wildflowers.

ALABAMA: In upper Western Alabama, initial reports of the on-going nectar flow seem to be good. Surplus honey crops are being reported with some beekeepers considering a second extracting session. As is now common, other beekeepers in the area are not so fortunate. An experienced beekeeper who has managed as many as 240 colonies is reporting that his bees built up and frequently swarmed. Both the colonies and the swarms only sluggishly recovered. One characteristic is that capped brood seems to be out of proportion to nurse bees (too much brood for the bees). In his operation (45 colonies), mites and other diseases are controlled. Possibly requeening the weaker colonies will introduce new genetic stock.

In Northeast Alabama, there have been abundant swarms and much interest from new beekeepers. There are no unusual colony problems other than new beekeeper issues.

In the Dothan area in the southeastern corner of the state (near Florida and Georgia) again surplus honey crops are on the hives and extracting procedures are ongoing. Record crops are not being stored, but if the season holds up, at least average crops are expected.

In central Alabama, again crops seem average. As is typical in other parts of the State (and around the country), not all bee colonies seem to be thriving. One Birmingham beekeeper was planning to make early spring splits, but the bees were too spotty and weak. Instead, the beekeeper used the queens to requeen the worst of the colonies and the brood was equalized among all the colonies. A below average honey crop is now being produced by these bees but the beekeeper is certain that the disruption to the colonies early in the season is the cause.

An observation that some Alabama beekeepers have made seems odd. Larger honey crops from cotton blooms are obtained from fields on poorer soils than from cotton plantings on richer soils. The reason for such an observation is not readily apparent, but it is widely noted in North Alabama.

Due to significant increased Alabama beekeeper numbers, another part-time inspector has been added to Central Alabama region by the Alabama Department of Agriculture. The inspector has years of bee experience and is qualified to fill the position.

ARIZONA: Temperatures across Arizona were at below normal levels for the first half of May, while they were at normal levels the third week of the month, and closed out May at slightly below normal levels. The range of temperatures for the month were from a high of 105 degrees Fahrenheit in Buckeye and Bullhead City to a low of 23 degrees Fahrenheit at Window Rock. During the weekly reporting periods in May, 31, 31, 10 and 33 of the 50 reporting stations received precipitation, respectively. For 2016 thus far, 4 of the 50 reporting stations are at above normal precipitation levels for the year.

Melons (Watermelons, Cantaloupes and Honeydews), Desert and plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state, with alfalfa also serving as a source. Demand for honey remains good.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received during May were from various field crops, trees and wild flowers. Colonies were in generally good condition at the beginning of the month and improved as the month went on. Weather conditions saw less rainfall than in previous years for this time of the year. Temperatures were about normal. Supply is limited while demand remains good.

CALIFORNIA: A very hot and dry air mass settled over the State and nearly the entire State remained dry through the week. Temperatures were very warm except for high elevations in the mountains and locations along the immediate coast that enjoyed the effects of the Pacific sea breeze. Multiple marine fog/stratus events along the coast helped to moderate afternoon highs. Lows were in the 30s to 50s in the mountains, 40s to 50s along the coast, 50s to 60s in the valley, and 60s to 80s in the desert. Highs were in the 60s to 80s in the mountains, 90s to 100s in the valley, and 90s to 110s in the desert. Snowmelt continued in the mountains, with snow-packs patchy to non-existent in the southern Sierras, 1 to 2 feet above 10,000 feet in the central Sierras, and 2 to 4 feet above 8,000 feet in the northern mountains.

The bees continue to forage on ornamental plants, trees and sage brush as well as cotton blossoms. Due to the continuing drought, some bee keepers are supplement feeding.

FLORIDA: Moderate temperatures prevailed over most of the state until near the end of the month. The last week of May saw above normal temperatures in most areas. Precipitation was about normal for the month. Some beekeepers were still reporting problems controlling varroa mites, but bee health was considered to be fairly good. Mite control during the spring months can be hard to achieve as the bees move from one type of crop to another and then many are relocated to other states for pollination duties or honey production without a break to allow for adequate mite control for several months. Some sources estimated that by the end of the month 70% of Florida bees had been relocated to other states for either pollination purposes or honey production. That number was expected to rise to around 90% by early June. Gallberry and Palmetto were generally ending by the end of the month and Chinese Tallow was just beginning in early June. Gallberry and Palmetto honey production was expected to be normal or slightly less than normal. Prices were reported to be in the \$1.80-\$1.90 range. Wildflowers were about the only other food source by the end of the month. Tupelo honey production was a little better than the earlier projections, but was still far short of normal. Some 640 pound drum sales of Tupelo were reported as high as \$12.50 per pound which is the highest price ever paid in Florida for Tupelo honey. Very little orange blossom honey was unsold by the end of the month. Honey supplies remain light with good demand.

GEORGIA: The Tupelo honey flow was reported as average for volume of honey produced this year as compared to the last two years of below volume production. Quality is good and demand very strong. The Gallberry flow is expected to be good in South Georgia and the Sourwood flow in North Georgia is currently underway. The weather has been cooperative and the beekeepers are preparing the hives for the final honey pull for summer.

The bees are reported to be in very good condition and beekeepers are building up the foundations and increasing the number of hives in preparation for next year. Watermelons and cotton are next up for pollination. Few losses reported so far and little problems with varroa mites and small hive beetles, due to increased controls of management adapted by the beekeepers over the last couple of years.

Raw honey has been in demand and overall the demand for honey is very strong, however competition from other areas including imports has been on the increase. A lot of inquiries about beekeeping from new persons interested in obtaining hives and producing honey is on the upswing, as demand and price has others interested in the hobby business side of production. Prices remain steady, but with a wide range depending upon quality and color with a low of \$3.50 to a high of \$8.00 a pound.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: During the month of May temperatures were generally above normal over Idaho. In Utah, temperatures were very mixed with some reporting locations above normal and other below normal. Colorado generally had below normal temperatures across the State, with the exception of above normal temperature in the Southeastern part of the State during the month of May, according to the National Weather Service. Most parts of the States of Utah and Idaho had below normal precipitation during the month of May. The exception was an area around Vernal, Utah that had above normal precipitation during this period. Most areas of Colorado had slightly above normal during the month of May, except the Southeastern part of the State which was below normal 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 May. Normal moisture conditions are also present in Eastern and Southwest Utah and most of the State of Idaho. There were still several scattered pockets of abnormally dry conditions across the State of Idaho and in the Central part of Utah during the month of May. Recently there has been a vast improvement in drought conditions in Utah, specifically in the Northwest part of the State.

By the end of May commercial beekeepers had the bee colonies sited back in their home States or in their summer locations ready for collecting pollen and nectar from foraging plants. Most first crop alfalfa was looking to be ready by the last part of May or first week in June. Beekeepers stated that the first crop of alfalfa is not usually the best crop since it has been heavily sprayed and usually harvested by farmers before very much nectar can be obtained. According to beekeepers the 2nd crop of alfalfa usually has the most potential from the beekeeper's standpoint. Other minor foraging plants for bees in late May in the Mountain States of Idaho, Colorado and Utah have been dandelions, lilacs, fruit tree blooms, mustard and some clover. With a fairly good supply of new foraging plants, most beekeepers have been able to cut back on supplemental feeding. Only needing to supplement colonies that were in real need of additional feed for supporting early development of strong colonies and brood development.

Overall commercial beekeepers have stated that their bees are looking fairly healthy across the three State area during the month of May even though there was about normal spring loss of bees. The first round of mite treatments have been applied for most beekeepers. However, some beekeepers have applied up to 4 treatments as of late May for control of varroa mites. It seems to be a continual battle for beekeepers to stay ahead of the mites. Varroa mites appear to be under control at this time. Continual monitoring with sticky boards or alcohol washes will continue moving forward. Without a good queen, the colony can fall off in production and size very quickly. Most requeening has been completed, but as the beekeepers go around to their summer sited bee colony locations, they will continue to monitor colonies and replace queens where necessary. It must be noted that according to commercial beekeepers, the overall quality of purchased queen bees seems to be at a lower level this season for some reason. Of course as the spring and summer progresses beekeepers are actively adding supers. This is a very important activity since it provides additional frames for honey production and actually can be very important in providing additional room for a growing colony bee population, thereby reducing the chance for overcrowding and preventing a swarming situation from occurring.

Several commercial beekeepers will provide contract pollination services this summer for carrots, onion and canola growers. This source of additional income for beekeepers, provides needed cash flow at a time of declining prices for domestic honey.

Overall demand remains very good for retail domestic Colorado, Utah and Idaho honey. There are a few commercial beekeepers with some honey left, but this honey is primarily slated for their own retail markets. Beekeepers are ready for a good season of honey production. There is some concern among beekeepers about the lower prices of imported honey coming into the United States. Several beekeepers stated that with the strong U.S. Dollar, the market in the United States is very lucrative to honey producers from outside of our borders. This influx of foreign honey is making it harder for commercial honey producers to make a living in the business as the local prices of honey decline.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the month of May were normal with a lot of rainfall. Beekeepers report that their bees are in good to excellent condition. Beekeepers also report the bees are feeding on wild flowers, such as Sweet Clover and White Dutch Clover. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and slow at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of May were good overall with the first half of the month unseasonably cool. Rainfall in most parts of the state was above average for this time of the year. Beekeepers report that their bees continue to feed on wild flowers. Beekeepers report their bees are mostly in good condition. Some beekeepers report that honey flow has started. 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 were variable as precipitation was above normal across the states. Beekeepers have been very busy adding package bees. Queen egg production has peaked. Brood rearing is good. Swarming has been active as well as splits. Nectar and pollen sources dutch clover, black locust and various ornamentals and wildflowers.

KENTUCKY: Kentucky beekeepers have had a mercurial month during May 2016. Autumn olive produced a bigger-than-expected honey crop in Southeastern KY, but many Northeastern KY beekeepers who had been looking for a black locust and tulip poplar flow were disappointed and found supplemental feeding was necessary. Bluegrass beekeepers did pretty well with black locust, honeysuckle, and yellow clover was just starting to bloom. Western KY beekeepers did well with canola (with some beekeepers in the Edmonson County area averaging over 90-125 lbs), but a sustained unseasonably cold period in the middle of the month impacted nectar flow across the entire state.

In terms of diseases, chalkbrood, European foulbrood, deformed wing virus, snotty brood associated with varroa mites, and queenlessness have been the consistent issues.

As far as 2016 Honey Prices, the KY State Beekeepers Association has posted tentative suggested prices at the KY Dept. of AGR Honey Bee website: http://www.kyagr.com/statevet/documents/OSV_Bee_Honey-Prices-Sheet.pdf. These are merely suggestions and beekeepers who sell at the State Fair keep 70% of the prices with the other 30% going to offset expenses of maintaining a booth at the state fair.

KY is gearing up to host its 2nd KY Pollinator Protection Forum July 13, 2016 and Heartland Apiculture Society conference (both events to be held in Bowling Green from July 14-16, 2016).

LOUISIANA: Louisiana has seen rain most afternoons for 3 to 4 days a week. Stocks are low while prices remain unchanged. Bees and colonies look good with no pest problems noted. Bee keepers are expecting more honey. Food sources are from tallow, mimosa, sumac, and elderberry. Many have reported to be low on inventory with demand up 5%.

MICHIGAN: An erratic weather month for much of Michigan. Fruit growers, in some instances, increased their orders for bees for pollination as much as 50% to ensure a good fruit set. Fortunately, the past 10 days has had nearly "ideal" weather for blueberry pollination. Summer soil moisture for star thistle and other crucial Michigan nectar-producing plants has been adequate going into June. In North Central Michigan, locust has suffered repeated freezes, so there is no chance of locust nectar build up for the summer flow. Autumn Olive, however, looks promising as a good summer source of nectar and pollen with the possibility of some surplus honey for early June. In West and central Michigan, the first half of the month brought cooler and wetter conditions, causing stronger colonies to swarm. The strong build up due to the mild winter and rainy cool temperatures caused the bees to build swarms due to congestion in the hives. The hives that held off swarming with less congestion and younger queens made a great honey crop: a good start to this season's production. However, with the early build up, some beekeepers expect a higher mite count by summer. Main sources of nectar have been fruit trees, Autumn Olive, Black Raspberry bushes and recently Black Locust. In Southern Michigan, Autumn Olive and Black Locust have been prolific and should support a good summer flow. Wholesale prices to date for Michigan honeys (considered premium) have been commanding slightly

better pricing - \$2.00 per pound and higher. Farm markets are getting underway across the state with good demand for local and varietal honey. According to the bee colony inventory released by NASS, honey bee colonies on January 1, 2016 totaled 25,000, a 52% increase from one year earlier (16,500 colonies). During the first quarter of 2016, Michigan beekeepers lost 5,000 colonies, or 14%. This quarter showed the least amount of lost colonies; one year earlier, losses of 11,500 or 19% were reported, the highest honey bee loss of the last 5 quarters. Varroa mites were the primary stressor for operations with five or more colonies during four of the past five quarters. During the first quarter of 2016, only 5.4% of the hives were reported as affected by the varroa mite.

MINNESOTA: During the month of May temperatures were above normal across the entire State according to the National Weather Service. Precipitation was generally below normal across the entire 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 West Central and North Eastern parts of Minnesota.

By the end of May, all commercial beekeepers had returned to Minnesota. Transportation costs incurred when bringing bee colonies back to Minnesota averaged around \$2.60 to \$2.80 a loaded mile for commercial beekeepers. Beekeepers have stated that all of the foraging plants seem to be about one week earlier than normal up in Minnesota this spring. With the dandelion nectar and pollen flow over for the spring season, beekeepers were experiencing a small dearth, as the month of May closed out. During the dearth period beekeepers will monitor colonies and provide supplemental feed when necessary. This will soon be reversed as dutch clover, yellow clover, white sweet clover and finally basswood pollen and nectar becomes available. Commercial beekeepers think most of their bees are looking very healthy for this time of the year with very few spring losses of bees. The first round of mite treatments have been applied and it appears that mite loads seem to be under control at this time. Continual monitoring with sticky boards or alcohol washes will continue moving forward. Most requeening has been completed, but as the beekeepers go around to their summer sited bee colony locations, they will continue to monitor colonies and replace queens where necessary. Without a good queen the colony can fall off in production and size very quickly. Of course as the spring and summer progresses beekeepers are actively adding supers. This is a very important activity since it provides additional frames for honey production and actually can be very important in providing additional room for a growing colony bee population, thereby reducing the chance for overcrowding and preventing a swarming situation from occurring.

Beekeeper are ready for a good season of honey production. With most commercial beekeepers sold out of 2015 crop honey supplies, there is some concern among beekeepers about the lower prices of imported honey coming into the United States. Several beekeepers stated that with the strong U.S. Dollar, the market in the United States is very lucrative to honey producers from outside of our borders. This influx of foreign honey is making it harder for Minnesota commercial honey producers to make a living in the business as the local prices of honey decline.

MISSISSIPPI: The bees and hives are reported to be in good condition and beekeepers are expecting a good honey flow. Demand is strong and the beekeepers have rebuilt the number of hives after having losses over the last few years. Strong management practices have kept the bees healthy and productive.

Currently wildflowers, privet hedge, Chinese tallow and other sources are available keeping the bees busy while weather is cooperating. Prices are around \$2.10 per pound for extra light honey.

MONTANA: No report issued.

NEW ENGLAND: Weather for May featured a pattern that has been mostly seasonal with temperatures a little cooler than normal for most of the month in Southern New England. This month's weather in Northern New England featured a pattern of cooler, unstable temperatures with a mixture of some mild to warm days and some cool to cold temperature days. Precipitation for the month was normal with all regions reporting average moisture levels that helped push ornamental and floral sources for pollen and nectar such as dandelion (*taraxacum officinale*) as well as ornamental Japanese or blood good red maple and crab apple. Dandelion (*taraxacum officinale*), and ground ivy was very productive this year. Its nectar is very tasty and produces golden honey that is strong in flavor and the pollen is orange in color. Additional early sources exhibiting early bloom were chokecherry (*prunus virginiana*), blackberry (*prunus serotina*), pin cherry (*prunus pensylvanica*), peaches (*prunus persica*), plums (*prunus Americana*), apples (*malus*), as well as honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), blueberry (*vaccinium*), black locust, glossy buckthorn, hawkweed (king devil), chive, mustard and lilac. Additional good pollen plants are greater celandine (*chelidonium majus*), autumn olive (*elaeagnus umbellata*), Russian olive (*elaeagnus angustifolia*) and silverberry (*elaeagnus commutata*).

This is that noted time of the year known as the fruit bloom on the beekeepers calendar. Apple pollination was in the forefront with many regional growers reporting a 25-50% possible crop loss due to warm temperatures and wet conditions in February and a killing frost in April. Orchard pollination has been completed and blueberry pollination especially in the state of Maine is now occurring. Reportedly some keepers have addressed fruit grower needs especially apples, by setting up beehives no later than the 2nd week of May. This year pollination fees are set at \$95.00 to \$130.00 mostly \$120.00 per hive with 4- hives per pallet and a 1- pallet minimum. Pollination hives have been deployed to apples, blueberries and other earlier crops but were cut short by cool temperatures. Hopefully growers had enough pollination to set a crop.

Blueberry pollination is an important revenue source for many commercial beekeepers, bringing in rental fees second to the nations almond pollination. Native bees are effective pollinators of wild blueberries but the acreage has grown beyond the capacity of local bees to cover the vast acreage estimated to be 47,000 acres. The average stocking rate is said to be around 2 to 3 colonies per acre but some growers may contract for as many as 8 to 10 colonies per acre to insure optimum fruit set in Maine's less than ideal pollinating weather. This level of colony density requires the beekeeper to continually monitor and feed colonies to prevent starvation. Currently, Colonies are mostly coming from Maine, Massachusetts, and New York, New Jersey and from all corners of the nation to pollinate this crop that is so important to Maine's economy. Because of the immense crop size and the sheer enormity of the fields, bees are essential as they are needed to move the pollen from flowers in one clone group to flowers in a different clone thereby providing cross pollination. When blueberry pollination is complete, many of these same colonies will go to cranberry pollination in Massachusetts.

Regionally, the major portion of spring nectar flow emanates from chestnut and black locust bloom to which most of the black locust got washed away earlier than usual. In full bloom are sources such as apples (*malus*, spp.), apricots (*prunus armeniaca*), plum (*prunus* spp.), pears (*pyrus communis*), red currant (*ribes rubrum*), wild plum (*prunus Americana*), pin cherry (*prunus pensylvanica*), choke cherry

(prunus virginiana), and blueberry. Bees are actively collecting from other pollen and nectar sources such as greater celandine, dogwood, honeysuckle, numerous clovers, mostly sweet clover, lilac, mustard, glossy buckthorn, hawkweed, mint, chive, black cherry, wild flowers and other flowering ornamental trees and shrubs. There was a reported severe killing frost at the end of the first week of April that devastated fruit trees. The apple bloom was literally non-existent, as was the peach and apricot. There was a small amount of cherry and pear bloom but very little. The hazelnut catkins were killed before full pollination hence limiting the usual pollen supply. From that point on, the weather remained sporadically cold and flights were limited until more recently.

Currently, many keepers early on had observed pollen frenzies at the front porches of their hives, mostly cream colored and orange pollens as activity was intense. Purportedly, many hives have had good brood that has been hatching and the congestion is likely to stimulate the swarming impulse as swarms are expected to be prolific when we catch the next series of warm sunny days. Reportedly, health wise, and generally speaking, over wintered hives are doing extremely well with lots of brood building up with full foundation expansion and plenty of forging/worker bees. Honeybees came through the winter in strong condition and this has resulted in an early buildup of varroa mites. Bee associations advise beekeepers to be diligent in preventing swarms and to be watching for varroa mites. The May honeybees' primary objective is to store as much nectar as possible. The urge at this time to swarm becomes secondary but it's still possible if they get crowded.

Beekeepers are monitoring their colonies often, adding supers or making splits and divides when hives become too crowded, especially using the technique of making new colonies with capped brood frames with swarm colonies. A swarm leaves the hive with little brood to boost the population for at least 3 weeks. The hive needs an abundance of foraging bees to bring in a honey crop. Keepers report that bees are primed for comb building and expansion at this time of the year especially regarding reversing hive bodies. Comb renewal is part of ensuring a healthy environment for the bees. The main beekeeper activities at this point in time are: evaluating your queen's productivity, examining brood patterns and how much they are in balance status, along with making sure there are not any laying workers or drone only laying queen. Most nucleus hives currently being purchased have been treated with Fumigellin-B, Terramycin and/or checkmate.

Pesticides continue to be a concern to all beekeepers. There have been many reported instances where beekeepers that provide bees to growers for pollination purposes have complained to their grower employers and their beekeeper associations with the concern of the practice of broadcast spraying of crop fungicides in a timely way that puts their pollination hives in high risk circumstances. There is an ongoing national dialogue concerning the issue of how much pollination services are being negatively affected by particular grower fungicide practices and how much there is a risk causal relationship in this regard.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 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: The winter losses exceeded most beekeepers' expectations. Nuc and packages arrive in early May, though the mild winter was followed by a relative long and cool spring. The end of the month has brought extremely dry conditions, and coupled with the cool spring, has delayed leaf flush on trees and the volume of flow. Colony build-up has been good and early walk-away splits using swarm cells has been possible. Recent warm temperatures (80s) has allowed for flight time, however the extra heat has shortened flowering on species adapted for cooler damp weather typical of a Northeast spring and early summer. We are hoping for moderate warm weather with occasional showers to keep the flowers producing nectar for bees and a good honey yield. Local honeys ales have followed seasonal trends; warmer weather slows sales. However, this time will help beekeepers catch up on yardwork. According to the Honey Bee colony inventory released by NASS, colonies on January 1, 2016 totaled 31,000 in the state, an increase of 15% from one year earlier (27,000). New York beekeepers lost 4,000 colonies of 13% during the first quarter of 2016, down from one year earlier (6,500 colonies or 22%). The state posted losses of due to varroa mites of 27.5%, higher compared to one year earlier (7.6%). of the losses were attributed to the varroa mite. Other losses of 9.5% were tagged as weather, starvation, insufficient forage sources and hive damaged/destroyed, a decrease from one year earlier (12.4%).

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina varied throughout May; while precipitation for the month was mostly normal to above normal. Statewide soil moisture levels were rated 1 percent very short, 7.5 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 18.5 percent surplus the week ending May 28. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 14 counties as being abnormally dry in North Carolina and 4 counties as experiencing moderate drought conditions.

Apiary inspectors reported small hive beetle issues in weaker hives and Varroa mite activity seemingly getting off to an early start; no widespread disease issues were reported. Swarming rates were reported as being above normal with many hives swarming more than once. During the month, bees could be seen working Sumac, Black Gum, Holly, Raspberry, and Tulip Poplar across the state. Dandelion, Black Locust, Persimmon, and Ladino White Clover were available in the Mountain and Piedmont regions. Also, available in the Piedmont region were Clovers (Aslike, Crimson, and Sweet), Vetch, and Privet. Huckleberry, Tupelo Gum, and Gallberry were blooming in the Coastal Plains region. However, rainfall around mid-May did hinder foraging raising concerns about the impact to final honey production. Commercial pollinator hives were spread out across much of the eastern United States working various crops and will soon be headed back to North Carolina to pollinate cucurbits.

Demand for bees remained high as beekeepers continue to replace winter losses. Demand for honey is seasonally moderate. Retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market were: \$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: After a cooler start to the month, bloom has advanced with olive, locust, fruit trees all abloom. There have been instances of swarms and some queenless colonies. Hive health appears to be in good condition overall, but uncertainty in regards to honey production. As the local farm markets get underway for the season, there has been some resistance to honey prices as high as \$10.00 per pound. Pressure from the growing import market with

store-shelf lower prices seems to be affecting the local beekeepers slightly. According to the bee colony inventory released by NASS, honey bee colonies on January 1, 2016 totaled 16,000, an 11% drop below the 18,000 colonies one year earlier. Ohio beekeepers lost 4,200 colonies or 26%, during the first quarter of 2016; the biggest loss occurred one year earlier with 10,500 colonies or 48%. Varroa mites were the number one stressor during the first quarter of 2016 for operations with five or more colonies. Nearly 42% of hives were affected, the highest percentage of the previous five quarters.

OKLAHOMA: It's also relevant to mention here if there were no natural sources and if supplemental feeding was necessary. Plenty of moisture is present from the spring rains. Good food sources have been available. No supplemental feeding has been reported. Conditions are good at this time. A lot of new locations for pollination are opening up. Reported by some that pollination fees need to be higher. Supply is good from canella and starting to make for an early extraction of honey. Bee keepers have commented that it looks like this is going to be a good year.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: Most colonies across the state of Tennessee are strong and producing honey. There were Minor issues with viruses in less than .05% of colonies that were inspected. Drier than normal weather has affected honey production during the tulip poplar flow. Beekeepers are reporting that they are getting an average of \$8.00 per pound retail across the state. At this time there is no supplement feeding needing with there being ample food source from clover, black locust, privet, and tulip poplar. Pollen sources for the upcoming month are expected to be clover and wildflowers.

TEXAS: Hives and queens are working hard. Some were worried last month that some colonies might be queenless, but that is not the case. It is true that some colonies were reported to be weak, and was suspect that at least a couple of those swarmed in late April, despite monitoring. No further evidence of die-off in the colonies that suffered high mortality last month was noted, which is a great relief. Despite all of the good news, little evidence of surplus honey accumulation, and this most likely is due to the continuing wet weather. June can be a critical month, though, some remain optimistic that a crop will appear before harvest in July. Dry, sunny weather is needed to keep the nectar in the blossoms and allow the bees to fly out and get it.

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: Temperatures for the month of May were chilly with just enough rain. They report a normal, healthy population of bees. Beekeepers report wild foliage for their bees includes Leafy Honeysuckle, Black Locust and other wild flowers. Some beekeepers have begun supplemental feeding of the bees with protein patties. Honey flow has started. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

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

	Year to Date		April 2016	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	2,632	8,667	1,347	3,269
Bahrain	32,757	79,512	0	0
Barbados	7,220	33,443	3,198	9,350
Bermuda	2,012	13,048	816	5,308
Cayman Islands	465	2,788	0	0
China	211,520	786,368	58,803	142,732
Guyana	980	8,528	0	0
Hong Kong	553	4,112	553	4,112
Japan	33,743	111,261	8,190	44,640
Korea, South	54,997	267,738	18,115	89,242
Kuwait	112,218	274,663	54,224	131,618
Lebanon	408	3,221	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	306	3,196	306	3,196
Malaysia	353	4,613	353	4,613
Netherlands Antilles(*)	5,664	37,229	897	5,342
Pakistan	18,309	44,442	18,309	44,442
Panama	8,889	37,387	7,094	26,705
Philippines	265,187	643,689	0	0
Saudi Arabia	15,034	65,954	0	0
Singapore	27,839	80,713	821	8,720
United Arab Emirates	187,310	463,840	6,174	14,986
Vietnam	375	4,285	0	0

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

Australia(*)	61,570	199,313	41,340	90,000
Bahamas, The	14,948	95,743	8,326	55,243
Barbados	9,493	46,459	2,207	8,616
Bermuda	7,845	43,526	1,334	10,601
Brazil	19,108	62,622	0	0
Cambodia	1,157	8,716	0	0
Canada	285,014	1,231,174	91,111	373,128
Cayman Islands	2,388	13,284	810	4,620
China	77,313	246,150	24,324	90,246
France(*)	11,923	28,940	0	0
Hong Kong	42,688	256,437	0	0
Indonesia	19,113	50,750	0	0
Jamaica	1,815	5,915	1,815	5,915
Japan	28,162	98,915	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	567	2,510	0	0
Mexico	18,870	85,688	4,355	19,768
Netherlands Antilles(*)	3,215	23,066	387	2,727
Philippines	2,499	15,787	2,499	15,787
Singapore	3,432	25,672	1,473	11,616
Trinidad and Tobago	1,746	5,096	0	0
United Arab Emirates	18,337	73,111	8,099	22,631
Venezuela	18,597	34,410	18,597	34,410
GRAND TOTAL	1,638,571	5,631,981	385,877	1,283,583

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

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

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	2,381,330	6,082,296	6,216,384	697,307	1,581,865	1,629,624
Brazil	273,895	1,003,446	1,030,852	35,935	72,589	73,836
Canada	3,215,693	8,934,280	9,025,647	1,099,022	2,619,154	2,649,473
France(*)	215	2,007	2,132	0	0	0
India	72,509	217,606	225,720	55,680	149,659	156,423
Italy(*)	2,557	30,838	36,030	1,305	19,738	20,960
Mexico	87,950	345,522	347,281	36,300	147,546	149,296
New Zealand(*)	2,699	5,397	5,599	2,699	5,397	5,599
Taiwan	39,680	69,750	73,380	0	0	0
United Kingdom	844	8,582	8,874	0	0	0
Uruguay	19,122	59,089	59,277	0	0	0

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

Argentina	4,527,648	11,770,899	12,052,959	1,385,975	3,317,898	3,399,431
Australia(*)	39,000	161,850	165,410	0	0	0
Brazil	192,348	675,262	711,557	19,652	65,834	68,761
Canada	129,790	462,524	467,015	74,157	210,734	213,884
France(*)	2,193	33,133	36,517	1,291	16,747	19,827
India	2,766,121	6,548,403	6,808,813	1,497,731	3,303,099	3,442,992
Italy(*)	855	12,123	13,805	0	0	0
Mexico	73,841	273,399	278,058	18,974	70,369	71,631

Pakistan	18,519	48,160	48,900	0	0	0
Portugal	2,308	14,637	15,131	0	0	0
Taiwan	543,898	1,087,383	1,088,484	248,713	505,296	505,896
Thailand	607,540	1,469,033	1,498,579	0	0	0
Ukraine	2,324,956	5,875,915	6,063,112	378,475	903,974	938,893
Vietnam	339,600	750,240	798,380	0	0	0

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	1,411,451	3,463,996	3,582,832	480,303	981,998	1,011,241
Armenia	11,032	47,261	52,261	11,032	47,261	52,261
Australia(*)	4,248	64,893	65,390	0	0	0
Austria	23,067	223,901	237,263	5,547	55,044	58,479
Brazil	304,823	958,985	992,335	115,116	374,082	384,154
Bulgaria	990	4,950	5,592	0	0	0
Burma	427,800	914,853	968,343	0	0	0
Canada	258,709	636,148	642,307	188,605	483,541	486,641
Croatia	1,694	7,428	7,543	1,262	3,695	3,696
Dominican Republic	47,219	141,910	146,990	12,170	41,360	42,244
Germany(*)	128,943	693,594	717,591	23,103	118,891	123,891
India	5,062,875	12,615,939	12,931,462	1,123,560	2,256,282	2,312,669
Israel(*)	708	7,280	7,515	0	0	0
Italy(*)	1,700	37,080	37,726	130	2,161	2,205
Malaysia	19,200	48,000	48,001	0	0	0
Mexico	103,130	347,102	349,314	18,238	45,341	46,005
New Zealand(*)	2,716	63,629	65,166	1,657	43,412	43,749
Pakistan	396	2,790	3,069	0	0	0
Poland	996	5,336	6,258	996	5,336	6,258
Romania	1,207	8,187	10,012	0	0	0
Spain	7,369	57,862	59,014	2,796	20,841	21,267
Switzerland(*)	257	3,893	3,894	0	0	0
Thailand	1,310,920	3,196,570	3,360,382	215,600	472,370	496,660
Turkey	1,395,000	4,240,800	4,600,800	186,000	576,600	626,600
Ukraine	316,775	789,915	854,322	19,140	47,850	51,050
Uruguay	504,120	1,252,668	1,267,047	278,171	573,297	580,721
Vietnam	6,405,330	14,317,666	15,098,962	1,671,360	3,394,384	3,570,877

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Albania	275	2,112	2,477	275	2,112	2,477
Argentina	76,053	176,559	183,720	38,245	75,952	77,113
Australia(*)	2,243	18,491	19,391	1,843	12,149	12,249
Brazil	37,585	127,494	135,509	0	0	0
Bulgaria	804	2,088	2,448	0	0	0
Canada	33,513	67,178	68,017	32,006	56,448	57,048
China	55	2,970	3,045	55	2,970	3,045
Dominican Republic	57,788	144,405	148,272	43,540	109,152	111,532
France(*)	1,954	33,784	35,492	19	7,056	7,633
Greece	19,585	137,363	146,268	10,826	79,005	84,468
Hungary	2,956	18,114	19,614	0	0	0
India	90,319	223,616	230,740	15,620	35,254	37,366
Israel(*)	2,764	33,020	33,771	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,431	46,777	48,631	2,511	31,006	32,096
Korea, South	979	8,409	8,661	0	0	0
Mexico	63,439	159,848	164,152	49,146	145,472	149,686
New Zealand(*)	217,629	2,019,412	2,077,484	65,003	391,288	412,182

Pakistan	1,178	7,150	7,360	1,178	7,150	7,360
Poland	9,418	57,548	63,444	3,797	21,962	23,540
Russia	20,723	68,877	74,368	8,227	59,505	63,396
Saudi Arabia	9,353	71,030	73,490	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	58,590	160,230	175,230	0	0	0
Spain	21,238	133,683	139,095	0	0	0
Taiwan	82,227	238,453	249,738	0	0	0
Ukraine	13,474	37,966	41,475	0	0	0
United Kingdom	11,940	109,738	119,373	0	0	0
Vietnam	2,820,386	5,424,116	5,866,774	830,825	1,512,874	1,653,447

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Armenia	4,204	46,381	48,068	752	7,847	7,995
Australia(*)	19,724	162,146	165,221	0	0	0
Austria	2,353	35,217	39,147	0	0	0
Belarus	1,280	7,639	8,564	0	0	0
Brazil	7,116	51,765	52,606	3,133	23,432	23,873
Bulgaria	83,017	287,569	303,796	9,892	42,076	45,155
Canada	75,781	440,319	443,067	2,739	51,394	51,994
Cyprus	1,385	6,459	7,105	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	3,898	32,831	33,576	3,898	32,831	33,576
Dominican Republic	1,647	6,708	7,490	0	0	0
Egypt	8,373	10,792	11,608	6,125	5,700	6,344
France(*)	149,193	882,560	925,279	44,299	293,870	310,288
Germany(*)	66,730	397,135	413,846	18,710	104,860	109,392
Greece	20,988	250,955	254,715	4,721	51,406	51,411
Hungary	53,626	458,548	476,924	17,587	93,147	96,408
India	135,129	445,503	465,952	80,688	261,034	273,034
Italy(*)	6,921	98,357	100,854	485	3,840	4,840
Lithuania	7,380	30,048	33,052	2,892	11,924	13,116
Mexico	19,485	105,152	109,215	750	4,320	4,520
Moldova	1,032	6,067	6,664	480	2,852	3,137
New Zealand(*)	364,368	4,056,885	4,129,503	153,145	1,263,448	1,286,459
Poland	5,766	20,821	22,094	2,664	16,596	17,524
Portugal	7,562	52,464	54,678	555	3,245	3,399
Romania	7,365	33,368	35,912	0	0	0
Russia	57,147	272,739	300,013	23,184	85,369	93,906
Saudi Arabia	3,332	22,042	22,047	3,332	22,042	22,047
Serbia	2,220	12,717	13,624	0	0	0
Spain	78,871	501,867	534,246	14,855	93,545	97,546
Switzerland(*)	3,340	50,085	52,901	0	0	0
Taiwan	51,229	78,992	82,598	8,190	31,231	31,662
Turkey	57,018	393,851	405,963	0	0	0
Ukraine	17,703	55,478	61,026	0	0	0
United Kingdom	3,734	26,664	27,862	725	7,195	7,677

FLAVORED HONEY –

Australia(*)	921	145,098	146,452	0	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	5,586	32,153	34,248	210	22,047	23,547
Canada	4,005	18,039	18,072	0	0	0
China	20,000	61,600	64,007	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	147	2,058	2,059	147	2,058	2,059
Dominican Republic	11,608	121,957	122,941	902	7,141	7,219
France(*)	10,752	19,390	20,961	0	0	0
Greece	3,087	7,658	8,114	0	0	0
India	58,664	144,331	151,483	15,200	31,918	33,695
Ireland	681	6,514	7,069	377	3,879	4,191
Italy(*)	121	7,143	7,548	78	3,699	3,749

Korea, South	115,262	1,369,242	1,391,723	13,129	288,456	292,062
Mexico	53,591	556,766	560,140	20,257	212,391	213,298
Peru	419	2,610	2,756	0	0	0
Taiwan	11,334	26,589	28,359	2,400	4,143	4,470
Thailand	12,915	50,358	51,131	0	0	0
Turkey	915	4,744	4,859	0	0	0
United Kingdom	272	8,089	8,590	0	0	0

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	31,297	150,560	155,172	19,312	63,050	64,534
Australia(*)	17,917	139,967	145,713	9,240	66,214	70,685
Brazil	5,029,023	17,237,535	17,908,427	1,892,275	6,522,147	6,740,093
Canada	186,502	768,855	772,015	156,460	567,050	568,800
Denmark(*)	449	3,598	3,856	0	0	0
Greece	411	11,041	12,837	0	0	0
India	18,731	59,975	61,932	0	0	0
Italy(*)	5,445	59,489	60,586	2,230	20,656	20,894
Mexico	121,823	443,148	457,232	56,613	199,895	208,964
New Zealand(*)	23,226	147,516	159,773	13,590	80,861	86,356
Taiwan	38,280	72,732	72,832	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL	46,189,986	130,643,720	135,427,429	13,617,339	35,691,809	36,941,751
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Notes:

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