

# NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States  
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Agriculture

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## HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF March, 2011

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

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

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

(# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

ARKANSAS			
Soybean	light amber	\$1.40	
DAKOTAS			
Alfalfa	white	\$1.50	
Clover	white	\$1.60	- \$1.70
FLORIDA			
Orange	white	\$1.60	- \$1.65
Wildflower	extra light amber	\$1.45	- \$1.60
LOUISIANA			
Wildflower	light amber	\$1.50	
MONTANA			
Clover	white	\$1.60	

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	\$1.50	- \$1.62
Mixed Flowers	extra light amber	\$1.49	- \$1.62
Mixed Flowers	light amber	\$1.40	- \$1.60
Brazil			
Mixed Flowers	light amber	\$1.35	- \$1.42
India			
Mixed Flowers	light amber	\$1.34	
Uruguay			
Mixed Flowers	white	\$1.59	- \$1.61
Vietnam			
Mixed Flowers	light amber	\$1.23	- \$1.26

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	\$1.65
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## COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MARCH, 2011

**APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV):** March temperatures were about normal. There was adequate rainfall and soil moisture levels were reported as good. Colonies were strong and were collecting nectar from early blooming plants. Cherry orchards in the southern part of the district were at full bloom and peach blooms were just beginning to pop open with the onset of warmer, sunnier days. Brood rearing was active. Nectar sources included spring flowering trees, dandelion, and yellow rocket in the south and red maples and other flowering trees in the northern part of the district. Packaged bees continued to arrive to replace winter losses which were about normal.

**ALABAMA:** The nectar flow has started and some beekeepers reported exceptional nectar collection for this early in the year – possibly from maple. But, the cool weather is slowing bees down. Swarming has begun in southern Alabama but not in the northern part of the state. Beekeepers reported light losses. Beekeepers have split many hives. Bee populations in Alabama have expanded due to the increase in new beekeepers. Small hive beetles are light. Although mite populations are low, some apiaries have heavy enough populations for concern as the season progresses. Most larger beekeepers still have honey to sell.

**ARIZONA:** Temperatures were below normal levels in Arizona the first week of March, but were generally above normal levels for the remainder of the month. Temperatures ranged from a high of 101°F in Yuma to a low of -7°F at the Grand Canyon. Precipitation was reported at all 22 reporting stations across the state during the month, except there were reports at no stations during the final week of March. For the year, 21 of 22 stations were reporting below normal precipitation levels in Arizona, with Kingman being the only exception. Most Arizona bee colonies have returned to the state after spending the past few months out of state for the purposes of pollinating fruit and nut trees elsewhere. Desert and plant bloom, as well as various citrus were the main sources for nectar and pollen. There was also some alfalfa. Demand for honey remained good.

**ARKANSAS:** Maple trees, fruit trees, and wildflowers provided pollen and nectar. Colonies were in good condition. Temperatures were normal and rainfall was adequate. Supply was adequate and demand was good.

**CALIFORNIA:** The month began with rain and snow levels down to 1,000 feet in the mountains. Rain continued off and on throughout the month, causing some localized flooding in the northern and southern parts of the state. This weather pattern brought heavy snowfall to the mountainous areas of California. The California Department of Water Resources conducted the second Sierra snowpack survey of the season in early April, showing that the Northern Sierra is at 108 percent; the Central which includes Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties, is 126 percent; and the Southern Sierra is 176 percent.

As the month concluded, the last organized storm systems moved out of California, resulting in sunny and warmer weather conditions throughout the state. The almond bloom wrapped up in the San Joaquin Valley and bee colonies were moved into blueberries, cherries and apple and stone fruit orchards. A few colonies continued to be positioned in late blooming almond orchards. Cool temperatures limited bee activity, although bee activity increased as the weather turned favorable late in the month. Beekeepers were treating their bees for Varroa. Mite levels were not too bad and treatment will begin after the expected spring honey flows. In addition to being fed sugar and pollen substitutes, the main sources of food this month were sage and other wildflowers, wild mustard, rosemary, borage, willows (good pollen source), dandelions, eucalyptus, cotoneaster, some early fruit trees and many spring bulbs. Cherry pollination is in the \$30.00 range and apple pollination is \$45.00.

**COLORADO:** There was an unseasonal lack of moisture from snow during March which has caused a severe drought in the eastern front range of Colorado. In many eastern Colorado locations, precipitation has been up to 60 percent less than normal during the past 2 months. If these drought conditions continue, it may impact the upcoming growing season and confine placement of hives to irrigated alfalfa areas. There was also a growing concern that land may be used for corn instead of alfalfa due to high commodity prices. The western part of Colorado has not been impacted by the severe drought on the east side of the state. Growing degree days varied widely. For the 2011 season up to the end of March, growing degree days varied from 111 to 304 in the east part of Colorado and from 4 to 121 in western Colorado. Temperatures have been very moderate across the entire state; although, southeastern Colorado has been unseasonably warm in the past month. Most of the Colorado beekeepers in California for the almond pollination have completed their work. Very little supplemental feeding has been needed as most beekeepers used the natural honey produced by the bees. Most bees looked healthy. In fact, many of the traveling bees that were in California actually gained weight through the winter. Losses have been minimal. In most cases, losses were less than ten percent and beekeepers suspect some losses while in California can be attributed to fungicides applied to the almond trees. Many beekeepers were working their colonies, making increases, treating for mites and moving to other temporary locations. By the middle of May most beekeepers expected to be actively working in Colorado. Demand was very good. However, honey supplies were very light and prices were expected to rise. Wholesale prices for white honey averaged \$1.65 to \$1.70 per pound; light amber averaged \$1.40 to 1.50 per pound; and extra light amber averaged \$1.55 per pound. For information regarding workshops, or other beekeeping information across Colorado, contact the Colorado Beekeepers Association or John Hartley at 719-495-1251 or email: [Info@ColoradoBeekeepers.org](mailto:Info@ColoradoBeekeepers.org).

**FLORIDA:** Variable weather conditions alternating between dry, hot weather and wet, cool weather pushed back bloom seasons for many sources of nectar including citrus and tupelo. It does not appear to be as drastic as last year when most bloom seasons were two to three weeks later than normal. Most of the bees used for almond pollination in California returned to the state in good condition. Many beekeepers were splitting hives and attempting to rebuild their numbers after the long trip. Some supplemental feeding was needed to strengthen those hives as quickly as possible. Many sources of pollen and nectar were becoming available including gallberry, tupelo, citrus, and in late March, palmetto. Overall, bee health was good with some producers treating for mites and the return of the small hive beetle after the winter. Small hive beetles are generally not a problem in Florida during the winter, but return as the weather becomes warmer and wetter. However, no major health problems were being reported. Honey production, primarily from citrus, tupelo, and gallberry, was beginning to increase by late March. Suppliers were still depending mainly on stored stocks to meet demand. Some producers reported the price of light amber to be in the \$1.10-1.30 per pound range, slightly higher than last month.

**GEORGIA:** Beekeepers all over the state have now been able to assess the losses over the winter. Percentages ranged from fifteen to as high as fifty percent total loss. Supplemental feeding was still necessary in some areas. By the end of March, the weather started warming up and clover, red maple and wildflower blossoms kept the bees busy building up the broods. Blackberries were coming in southern Georgia. Gallberry and tupelo seemed to be on track for April. Prices remained steady with a slight increase expected as many beekeepers were sold out or have just enough to fill orders for regular returning business.

**IDAHO:** The past month has been cool and moist in Idaho. Winter snows and early rains created good moisture conditions across the state. Growing degree days varied widely. For the 2011 season up to the end of March, growing degree days in the west part of Idaho varied from 0 to 68 and in eastern Idaho from 3 to 8, depending upon the location. Beekeepers have completed the almond pollination season in California. Prices this season for almond pollination services in California ranged from \$135.00 to \$150.00 per colony. Although it was unseasonably wet and cool during this year's almond pollination, many beekeepers thought their pollination services were very successful. Travelling Idaho bees were looking very healthy and heavy going into the early spring season. Reports indicated that some bees were able to generate some almond honey, contributing to their own diet and cutting down on the need for supplemental feeding. Due to increasing costs of supplemental food sources, this honey production from the almond pollination has been a welcome economic benefit. Some beekeepers were planning to stay in California for the pollination of the cherry crop. Others planned to bring back some of their bees to Idaho; still others planned to move to Washington to pollinate the late areas of blooming apple trees. Although beekeepers noticed losses, losses were minimal – less than ten percent in most cases. Beekeepers were working their colonies, making increases and treating for pests and disease. Demand was very good. Honey supplies were very light. Many beekeepers indicated there has been panic buying which may lead to higher prices. White honey averaged \$1.60 to \$1.70 per pound with a few beekeepers reporting prices as high as \$1.85. Anyone interested in learning more about the honey industry in Idaho, should contact the Idaho Honey Industry Association at 208-888-0988. The Idaho Honey Industry Association will hold their Annual Conference November 30 to December 2, 2011. More details will be provided as they become available.

**ILLINOIS:** Weather conditions across the state were very wet due to frequent storms and an abundance of rainfall. The Wabash River was at flood stage from Hudsonville, Illinois to Vincennes, Indiana which caused flooding and forced beekeepers that overwinter in low lying areas to move their hives. Due to the cold conditions some beekeepers were not able to check the condition of their hives. Some keepers found supplemental feeding necessary. Others, however, reported hives had plenty of stores from the fall flow. Honey prices remained steady.

**IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA:** Statewide temperatures in Iowa were below normal as was precipitation. Kansas and Nebraska enjoyed warmer temperatures and precipitation was below normal. Missouri temperatures and precipitation were near normal. Above normal temperatures initiated some growth in early spring vegetation. Spring tillage was running behind due to wet and cool weather in reported locations. Quick weather transition contributed to some freeze injury on vulnerable plants, where locations reported temperatures in the mid twenties. Many beekeepers reported that hives came through the winter looking good and strong. Others reported some weakness which will inhibit splitting. Beekeepers were busy attending classes, meetings, conferences, and workshops. Package bees were still available for April deliveries. Spring management was underway.

**INDIANA:** Frequent rainfall and numerous fronts created very wet conditions during the month. The rising Wabash River caused flooding in local low lying agricultural areas. The White River from Jasper south was reported over flood stage and many local roads were impassable. Many beekeepers had to move their hives out of the affected areas. Most beekeepers reported the need for supplemental feeding of the hives due to low levels of stores. Honey movement was very slow and was attributed to weather conditions restricting movement. Prices remained steady. However, due to rising fuel prices many local beekeepers expected prices to begin rising very rapidly.

**KENTUCKY:** Spring seemed to arrive in March with plenty of brood and lots of bees flying and bringing in pollen. Then, a cold snap came through and slowed things down. Several keepers reported colony loss. Though, the losses were not as heavy as many had feared after the poor fall nectar flow in much of the state last year. There are also reports of live colonies with too much stored food in them. Unfortunately, this normally comes about, especially this time of year, from overfeeding by the beekeeper during the winter. Overall, this is expected to be a good year for beekeeping.

**LOUISIANA:** Various trees and wildflowers provided pollen and nectar. Colonies were in generally good condition. Temperatures have been hotter than normal and much of the state was suffering from extremely dry conditions. Supply was adequate and demand was fair.

**MICHIGAN:** Cooler than normal temperatures during the month left little opportunity for cleansing flights across the state. Beekeepers who had not been supplemented feed lost additional hives due to starvation. Losses were about 40-50 percent across the region. Small clusters and CCD type symptoms have been observed in some of the dead with very few bees left in the hives. Many suppliers have sold out of packages currently, as beekeepers await their orders from Western suppliers. In the extreme southern parts of the state, a few cleansing flights were observed with bees feeding on limited pollen from maples and willows. The Southeastern Michigan Beekeepers Association conducted a survey with 85 beekeepers at their annual meeting and found that:

*September 2010 there were 574 hives alive and in mid-March 2011, 233 hives remained alive, which tallied to 40.6 percent of the hives surviving and 59.4 percent were lost. These winter losses revealed that losses were greater during this time than in any other year in the past ten years. There were a number of stressors that occurred late summer and fall that contributed to the high colony deaths in addition to mites, Nosema ceranae and other diseases. Late summer brought drought conditions in some areas around the state, hurting the early fall nectar yields. Some colonies depleted stores very early in the fall because of no available nectar. Thus, when honey was extracted from hives, the bees were unable to replace adequate honey stores for winter. Very cold conditions began in November and continued uninterrupted for a long time. Topping off the dilemma was a lack of a "January thaw" so bees were unable to break their winter clusters to move to new honey stores, with little or no opportunity for cleansing flights.*

**MINNESOTA:** March brought unseasonal cold and wet weather to most of Minnesota. The exception was a small area in northern Minnesota along the Canadian border that was extremely dry. Many rivers across the state were extremely swollen and in some cases flooded from the backup of ice and the continued melting of the snow pack. Rochester, Minnesota received 2.20 inches of rain on March 22, 2011. This broke a previous record as the wettest March day established on March 14, 1918, when 1.90 inches of rain was recorded. All beekeepers in California for almond pollination have completed their work. Some beekeepers planned to stay in California for cherry pollination and expected to return to Minnesota near the end of April. There was some lingering concern that winter colony losses of 40 percent or more may be attributed to the systemic and residual effect of insecticides that bees were around this past summer in Minnesota. Many beekeepers that were in California indicated that their bees were coming off the almond bloom heavy. This allowed beekeepers to limit, and in some cases, eliminate the need for supplemental feeding. As spring starts, beekeepers were preparing to work their colonies, making increases and treating for mites. Overall, demand exceeded supply. Honey supplies from 2010 were very light for some, but were entirely exhausted for most. Most keepers also expected prices to be very strong during the upcoming season. The University of Minnesota will be conducting a, "Successful Queen Rearing Short Course" on July 22-24, 2011 at the St. Paul, Minnesota campus. For more information regarding these courses contact: Gary Reuter at 612-624-6740 or email: [reute001@umn.edu](mailto:reute001@umn.edu). Anyone interested in learning more about the honey industry in Minnesota should contact the Minnesota Honey Producers Association at the following website: [www.minnesotahoneyproducers.org/](http://www.minnesotahoneyproducers.org/).

**MISSISSIPPI:** March was rainy and still too cold for the bees to get around and forage early in the month. Toward the end of March, some areas had blossoms show up two weeks early. White clover, vetch, willow, and wildflowers were coming in strong for the bees to start gathering in pollen. Bees have been brooding well. Supplemental feeding was not necessary in most areas. Beekeepers expected to begin splitting hives soon. Prices remained steady and demand was good.

**MONTANA:** During March, temperatures were below normal for most of the state. Precipitation across the state was mixed; 56 percent of the state received below average amounts in March, while 27 percent of the state received at least 150 percent of normal. Montana mountain snowpack measurements on the March 4, 2011 NRCS report statewide were 113 percent of the 30-year average and 165 percent of the same time last year. Topsoil moisture measurements at the end of March measured 0 percent very short, compared to 5 percent last year; 3 percent short, compared to 19 percent last year; 68 percent adequate, compared to 68 percent last year; and 29 percent surplus, compared to 8 percent last year. Subsoil moisture measured 9 percent short and very short, while 91 percent of subsoil moisture measurements were adequate or surplus. Bee keepers were busy with equipment repair. With the continued cool weather, bee activity and colony inspections of overwintering colonies in home yards were very limited. No natural sources of pollen or nectar were available. North sloped hillsides were still covered with melting snow banks. And with rising river levels from the abundance of moisture, keepers were concerned about river flooding in low lying areas. Many Montana colonies were at other locations, mostly California or warmer storage sites, for the pollination of the nut, stone fruit, or blueberry crops. Almond pollination period weather was reported to have been fairly good. Losses due to spray drift were reported. The health of migratory colonies was mixed but generally in good shape. Honey demand was good.

**NEW ENGLAND:** In New England, weather for the month of March offered some very cold temperatures which were lower than normal. Daytime high temperatures were in the high 20's and low 30's and mostly freezing temperatures overnight combined with high winds to create a low wind chill effect. Precipitation was in the form of heavy snow falls in northern New England as opposed to heavy rain with a wintry mix in the south. The resulting high moisture levels should provide conditions for abundant pollen and nectar sources. Early spring ornamentals such as pussy willow, hazelnut catkins, skunk cabbage, poison ivy, swamp red maple, winter aconite as well as snow drops, and snowflakes were beginning to bloom in a limited way. Recently, bees have been returning to their hives with their pollen sacks brimming with orange, yellow and cream colored pollen from crocus, daffodils, and witch hazel. Despite the pollen being brought in, most keepers started supplemental feeding to stimulate egg laying and to increase early populations and prepare for apple and fruit pollination in April/May. March losses were not uncommon because bees were aging and stores have dwindled. As the

weather warms, keepers will have the ability to inspect their hives. Early reports were encouraging, as many beekeepers reported strong colonies coming out of another long, cold winter. Deep snow was a help as it provided insulation for hives. Many keepers, both hobbyists and commercial, have expressed a frustration about over wintering because purportedly, their bees going into winter were strong and had plenty of food but experienced losses at 25% after checking. Those hives that died were small in population going into winter and probably lacked the critical mass to maintain temperatures within the cluster. The second reason was starvation, especially in single colonies as they simply ran out of honey. Russian honeybee colonies looked to be the most enduring as they can survive on less honey and get by with smaller populations. In New England, reported losses were variable and ranged from major losses to none. Most mite/disease treated apiaries, which had gone into over wintering strong, were still in reportedly good condition this spring. Weaker hives will require packages to build up their colonies. Hive losses could be attributed to a combination of varroa mites, nosema, small clusters within the hive, and starvation. The varroa mites took a bigger bite last year due to problems of treatment. Additionally, some of the weak hives were showing very few dead bees which indicates a problem due to tracheal mites. Queen breeders and nuc/package producers have been busy taking orders in anticipation of an early spring demand. Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remained good and honey sales remained firm. Prices quoted for 1 lb bottle units were steady at \$6.00-\$9.00, mostly \$8.50, occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were steady with wholesale 5 gallon units at \$150-\$200, mostly \$175, occasionally lower for light, dark, raw and natural honey depending on the variety and quality.

**NEW YORK:** Beekeepers who had transported hives to southern locations during the winter months have enjoyed very good honey flows and very good frames for splitting. Keepers were busy extracting honey and finishing splits and queens have arrived for new swarms. There has been an extended period of favorable weather conditions with only a few incidents of severe or threatening situations in March in Florida. Within the state of New York, particularly in the Snow Belt regions, beekeepers have been assessing winter losses, which were staggering (up to 75 percent) in many cases. Incidents of hive thefts have been reported by some industry contacts also. Those bees that had been sent to California to pollinate the almond crop have not fared as well as those sent south. Cooler and rainy weather within the state left bees not as virile, with lower honey flows, and weaker frames than anticipated. Beekeepers were preparing hives for transport back to New York now, where bees will need to rejuvenate in the upcoming apricot bloom.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** For the month of March, the average temperature range for western North Carolina was 58 degrees for the high and 36 degrees for the low. The average high for eastern North Carolina was 61 degrees and the average low was 40 degrees. There were several nights that temperatures dropped below freezing throughout the state, but did not linger for long. There has been much precipitation received in the western part of the state where there were 1.18 inches above normal. Precipitation was slightly lower than normal in the eastern part. According to the North Carolina Drought Council, 31 counties were in moderate drought and 36 counties were classified in abnormally dry drought. There has been a good spring honey flow so far this season which started earlier than normal due to warm weather. Even though the state had some very cold weather during the winter, the overall condition of the hives was very good. With all the beekeeping schools offered throughout the state, many new beekeepers were getting started. Also, many experienced people were going back into the business. This was causing a delay in getting packaged bees and queens. This is the time to be checking for mites or beetles and treating as necessary. Bees have almost finished the red maple in the mountains and were working dandelions, clover, and sumac in the eastern part of the state. Beekeepers have moved hives to pollinate blueberries and strawberries in the east and apples in the west. Honey sales were excellent. Demand exceeded supply.

**NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA:** The temperatures were warming somewhat and things were starting to dry out. Planting has begun but snow melt was delaying some field access and activity. Preparations were being made to bring bees back into the area from their overwinter locations as the weather continued to improve and they are no longer needed in other areas.

**OHIO:** Many beekeepers reported more losses than were expected and attributed the losses to the continued cold month. Losses in the northeastern region of the state generally range from 40-60 percent, with statewide losses reported from as low as 20 percent to as high as 100 percent from a few beekeepers. At month's end, bees were able to get a few cleansing flights in. However, some bees were weak and unable to return to the hives. The month was costly as late supplemental feedings were not very effective and younger bees were unable to sustain themselves. Packages being shipped from California and Georgia were running 4-7 days later than usual also, compounding the shortages facing many commercial beekeepers.

**OKLAHOMA:** In northern Oklahoma, wildflowers provided pollen and nectar. Colonies were in good condition. Temperatures were cooler than normal and there was no rain. Supply was adequate and demand was good. Clover, alfalfa, and flowering canola provided pollen and nectar in southern Oklahoma. Colonies were strong with early swarming. Weather conditions were cool and dry. Supply was medium while demand was very high. There were large amounts of local swarming of second laying hives.

**OREGON:** March was very wet and cool with a few days of warmer wet weather late in the month. Topsoil moisture measurements at the end of March measured 0 percent very short, 1 percent short, 49 percent adequate, and 50 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measured 1 percent short and very short, while 99 percent of subsoil moisture measurements were adequate or surplus. Despite the cooler spring, blooming season was upon the state by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Keepers were busy with their late winter chores, maintaining and repairing equipment, spot checking and adding supplemental feed where necessary to colonies. Colony health was generally good. No natural sources of pollen or nectar were available. During March, migratory colonies finished up almond pollination duties in California and were staged or trucked back to Oregon over snowy mountain passes. Keepers reported the California pollination period went well, although periods of rain and flooding occurred late. Rental fees were reported to be similar to last year. In early April, colonies were being placed in early blueberry fields. The blueberries were starting to show an open bloom here and there despite the cold temperatures and some spotty snow flurries and hail showers. Colonies were also being readied for the Oregon Hood River cherry and tree fruit bloom, which was running slightly late. Honey demand was good.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** Not available at time of release.

**TENNESSEE:** The bees in Tennessee have, for the most part, come through the winter in excellent shape. Most beekeepers reported losses at about 5% to 10 % which is an acceptable level. A few reported 40% to 60% losses and most commonly associated these heavy losses with starvation. There were a few cases of entire yards being lost to tracheal mites, where the beekeepers have not treated for tracheal mites for several years. There were also a few mild cases of European Foulbrood in western Tennessee due to the cool wet weather this spring. Most colonies were strong and ready to split. Swarm cells were present in about 20% of the colonies that have been inspected this month. There was an excellent red maple nectar and pollen flow early in

March that gave the colonies a good jump start. Henbit, wild mustard, and other wildflowers were providing a good steady nectar and pollen flow. Willow, redbud, elm and fruit trees were blooming. Beekeepers reported that the nectar flow was strong enough that the colonies will not take feed.

**TEXAS:** Numerous wildflowers and various trees provided pollen and nectar. Colonies were in good to very good condition. Temperatures were below normal and much of the state suffered from extremely dry conditions. Supply was adequate and demand remained good.

**UTAH:** March was very dry in the southeastern part of Utah and wetter over most of the west side of the state with the exception of a dry pocket in the northwestern corner. Temperatures were very cool in the northeast part of the state and somewhat warmer in the rest of Utah. Growing degree days varied widely. For the 2011 season up to the end of March, growing degree days varied from 0 to 62 in the north and from 3 to 250 in the south. Beekeepers completed a successful almond pollination season in California and reported receiving fees ranging from \$135.00 to \$150.00 per colony. Travelling Utah bees looked healthy going into the early spring season. Some beekeepers have been utilizing their own honey for feeding. Others have resorted to limited supplemental feeding to keep the bees looking good. Some keepers planned to stay in California for awhile longer and others were heading back to Utah for the upcoming 2011 season. There was some concern among beekeepers in Utah, that many agricultural fields are going to be used for field corn instead alfalfa. This could severely impact available places where beekeepers can set their colonies. Although beekeepers noticed losses including scattered pockets of heavier winter losses, in most cases the losses have been minimal. Beekeepers were working their colonies, making increases and treating pests and disease. Overall, demand exceeded supply. Supplies of honey from 2010 were very light for most and in some cases entirely exhausted. Keepers expected prices to be very strong during the upcoming season. Wholesale honey prices for white honey averaged \$1.65 per pound. For more information about the Utah Honey Association, contact: 435-673-5340.

**WASHINGTON:** Spring was slowly coming to the Pacific Northwest. Fruit trees were blooming although it has been a bit slow getting underway. There was quite a range in growing degree day totals and nearly all areas were behind. Northern districts were 5-7 days behind while Southern growing areas were as much as to 15-18 days behind. Weather for bee activity has been mixed with some cloudy days and some shower activity. The cool weather was expected to continue into April. Highs were in the 50s and lows were in the 30s.

**WISCONSIN:** Numerous snowstorms and cold temperatures restricted beekeepers from working with their hives with the exception of supplemental feeding. There were no reports on general honeybee and hive conditions. It was reported that in 2009 Wisconsin had 64,000 hives; in 2010, the number of hives jumped to 68,000; and this year early estimates indicate the number of hives could be as high as 70,000. Honey production averaged 64 pounds per colony in 2010 in Wisconsin. Estimates for 2011 indicate the average could surpass 67 pounds per colony. Honey prices remained generally steady. No bulk honey movement was reported.

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

	Year to Date		February 2011	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
<b>COMB &amp; NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -</b>				
Bahamas, The	2,327	7,855	1,245	3,781
Barbados	1,335	3,240	1,335	3,240
Bermuda	9,247	22,444	9,247	22,444
China	42,498	154,255	40,015	142,645
Guyana	490	3,842	490	3,842
Honduras	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	2,483	11,610	2,483	11,610
Iceland	1,587	7,992	1,587	7,992
India	35,624	83,467	1,050	5,707
Indonesia	5,577	13,538	0	0
Israel(*)	103,600	407,182	0	0
Japan	43,302	195,504	14,298	65,168
Jordan	6,543	35,571	0	0
Korea, South	23,291	86,476	23,291	86,476
Kuwait	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	6,242	18,572	1,550	7,182
Netherlands	0	0	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	5,980	26,445	3,204	11,323
Philippines	40,038	97,185	0	0
Singapore	1,140	8,976	1,140	8,976
Taiwan	2,709	9,891	903	3,297
United Arab Emirates	1,740	8,275	0	0
Yemen(*)	117,962	463,400	30,487	74,000

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

Australia(*)	0	0	0	0
Bahamas, The	8,689	46,793	5,814	32,657
Barbados	1,914	10,584	0	0
Bermuda	1,200	4,861	1,200	4,861
Brazil	19,422	47,141	0	0
Cambodia	1,327	7,451	1,327	7,451
Canada	52,681	209,041	7,783	35,168
Cayman Islands	291	6,420	0	0
China	1,388	6,060	0	0
Costa Rica	1,651	4,008	0	0
Guatemala	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	17,623	60,725	17,623	60,725
India	36,000	95,400	0	0
Indonesia	17,382	90,878	8,912	51,661
Israel(*)	213,200	794,745	0	0
Jamaica	4,831	20,100	0	0
Japan	5,945	41,285	5,945	41,285
Jordan	4,492	16,223	4,492	16,223
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,632	3,960	0	0
Malaysia	0	0	0	0
Mexico	10,507	25,502	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	2,979	15,563	1,384	7,901
Panama	1,681	9,114	0	0
Philippines	1,451	8,479	680	3,634
Saudi Arabia	18,000	84,319	18,000	84,319
Singapore	1,002	8,519	1,002	8,519
Thailand	17,354	44,396	6,379	17,758
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>896,357</b>	<b>3,327,287</b>	<b>212,866</b>	<b>829,845</b>

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

Year to Date			February 2011		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

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

Argentina	654,928	2,021,092	2,059,545	321,916	997,798	1,020,151
Brazil	94,234	325,046	338,059	75,058	273,740	284,286
Canada	1,014,969	3,802,109	3,824,740	554,579	2,091,875	2,104,129
China	352,640	1,121,399	1,185,399	259,840	826,294	875,294
India	284,793	747,866	768,606	80,193	240,932	251,362
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy(*)	513	6,351	6,445	0	0	0
Japan	5,236	10,471	10,498	5,236	10,471	10,498
Thailand	38,400	113,280	119,280	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	467,550	1,479,044	1,496,539	448,298	1,418,400	1,433,895
Vietnam	38,400	86,400	92,238	0	0	0

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

Argentina	606,119	1,953,690	1,999,468	454,040	1,452,588	1,486,141
Brazil	420,382	1,478,811	1,520,329	174,852	644,983	667,040
Canada	157,425	654,890	656,975	98,836	404,983	406,397
India	91,293	229,935	241,475	0	0	0
Italy(*)	284	4,705	6,205	0	0	0
Malaysia	370,220	678,792	752,399	74,400	142,900	156,240
Mexico	16,502	46,206	46,706	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	12,843	22,651	23,400	0	0	0
Taiwan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	147,600	273,060	292,510	0	0	0
Ukraine	76,140	223,656	231,656	38,140	111,556	115,556
Uruguay	96,314	314,758	323,458	76,960	253,793	260,493

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

Argentina	926,179	2,920,473	2,994,057	834,095	2,634,369	2,699,167
Armenia	6,581	20,249	20,250	0	0	0
Brazil	860,437	2,609,358	2,716,103	380,756	1,173,349	1,221,919
Canada	74,825	251,848	252,648	37,683	126,835	127,235
China	259,840	811,812	855,812	74,240	232,742	246,742
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	111,254	272,460	278,960	92,654	232,410	236,910
Italy(*)	6,220	14,866	15,553	6,058	10,685	11,242
Malaysia	18,560	31,552	34,732	18,560	31,552	34,732
Mexico	58,011	149,877	156,677	19,337	49,959	51,609
New Zealand(*)	28,034	119,602	132,341	24,854	79,806	91,598
Spain	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	143,840	268,980	287,812	143,840	268,980	287,812
Taiwan	153,120	325,380	338,180	38,280	84,216	87,416
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uruguay	157,802	469,164	482,364	157,802	469,164	482,364
Vietnam	3,714,890	8,533,885	9,010,534	1,263,220	2,871,245	3,014,320

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

Australia(*)	9,240	73,272	77,925	0	0	0
Brazil	173,440	686,701	706,312	80,640	261,676	267,872
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	34,167	52,493	56,014	9,417	23,293	24,354
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany(*)	12,096	56,781	58,881	0	0	0
Greece	1,122	10,980	11,928	1,122	10,980	11,928
India	13,200	51,840	54,740	0	0	0
Italy(*)	689	8,753	9,370	378	4,294	4,640
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mexico	15,707	45,360	46,997	10,707	27,360	27,389
New Zealand(*)	22,123	71,235	72,735	22,123	71,235	72,735
Russia	16,200	116,594	121,269	16,200	116,594	121,269
Taiwan	900	7,713	8,023	0	0	0
United Kingdom	137	2,105	2,206	137	2,105	2,206
Uruguay	38,418	119,096	120,096	38,418	119,096	120,096

**COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –**

Armenia	9,425	77,850	80,058	9,425	77,850	80,058
Australia(*)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Austria	5,327	50,071	52,561	220	3,311	3,528
Brazil	43	4,327	4,433	0	0	0
Bulgaria	1,995	2,075	2,283	0	0	0
Canada	173,880	859,916	863,482	96,693	486,542	488,847
China	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egypt	2,507	10,809	12,141	917	4,200	4,293
France(*)	5,769	50,693	53,634	2,800	31,892	33,565
Georgia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germany(*)	25,313	118,298	123,485	397	3,841	4,028
Greece	9,590	100,107	104,619	2,322	19,027	20,506
Hong Kong	259	5,214	5,594	259	5,214	5,594
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	376,813	851,065	895,565	180,000	382,500	402,500
Israel(*)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy(*)	2,473	28,906	30,193	1,553	18,213	19,210
Jordan	5,526	32,880	33,304	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	21,738	34,712	36,203	21,738	34,712	36,203
Moldova	924	5,006	5,507	924	5,006	5,507
New Zealand(*)	35,128	329,741	341,847	13,882	152,052	159,460
Poland	2,400	11,195	12,526	2,400	11,195	12,526
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	941	5,597	6,157	0	0	0
Spain	59,850	353,624	369,614	23,850	148,120	156,110
Switzerland(*)	885	10,128	10,448	665	7,316	7,573
Taiwan	38,177	53,867	58,608	20,615	25,575	27,862
Turkey	12,075	82,931	84,973	1,296	8,424	8,624
Ukraine	12,897	46,533	51,186	0	0	0
United Kingdom	951	7,625	7,723	0	0	0
Vietnam	34,612	82,892	88,843	0	0	0

**FLAVORED HONEY –**

Canada	140	2,149	2,150	140	2,149	2,150
China	24,711	42,808	45,936	24,438	28,608	31,507
France(*)	3,907	14,329	15,217	3,553	9,949	10,602
Greece	416	6,059	6,326	0	0	0
India	3,000	22,500	24,600	0	0	0
Indonesia	1,214	3,099	3,108	0	0	0
Italy(*)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Korea, South	3,400	108,200	109,191	0	0	0
Mexico	14,420	142,020	142,734	14,420	142,020	142,734
New Zealand(*)	147	11,149	12,065	147	11,149	12,065
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	3,588	10,920	11,639	3,588	10,920	11,639
Taiwan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	1,498	6,323	6,510	0	0	0

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>25,343,071</b>	<b>74,194,962</b>	<b>38,632,912</b>	<b>12,671,936</b>	<b>38,599,291</b>	<b>20,003,728</b>
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**Notes:**

1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics

2. (\*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.

3. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure. Commodity

groups on a value report will reflect a total of all statistics for each commodity in the group in DOLLARS, whereas a QUANTITY line item will show statistics on the greatest number of like units of measure for grouped commodities.

4. Product Group : Harmonized