

# NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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**UPDATED REPORT: SEE PRICES BELOW**

## HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2015

### 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

Alfalfa Light Amber \$1.85

#### FLORIDA

Wildflowers Extra Light Amber \$1.95

#### HIWAI

Wildflowers Extra Light Amber \$1.95

Wildflowers Light Amber \$1.85

#### MINNESOTA

Clover White \$2.00

Clover Light Amber \$1.85

#### DAKOTA

Clover White \$2.00

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.

Clover White \$1.92 - \$1.95

Mixed Flower White \$2.05

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 \$1.99 - \$2.13

Mixed Flowers Extra Light \$1.99 - \$2.13

Mixed Flowers Light Amber \$2.12

#### BRAZIL

ORGANIC Light Amber \$1.95

#### INDIA

Mixed Flowers Extra Light \$1.45 - \$1.69

Mixed Flowers Light Amber \$1.34 - \$1.76

#### MAYANMAR

Mixed Flower Light Amber \$1.44

#### MEXICO

Mixed Flower Extra Light \$1.80

#### UKRAINE

Mixed Flowers White \$1.66 - \$1.68

Mixed Flowers Extra Light \$1.66 - \$1.68

Mixed Flowers Light Amber \$1.69

#### VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers Light Amber \$1.35 - \$1.52

## COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING JANUARY, 2015

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): January temperatures began slightly above average, but after the first week fell to an average temperature pattern. The end of the month brought precipitation in the form of measurable snow and freezing rain with storms Iola and Juno. Daytime temperatures were generally in the forties and lows were in the upper twenties to lower thirties. Colony activity is very minimal during these cold temperatures; however, beekeepers continue to monitor colonies and provide supplemental feeding sources.

ALABAMA: January 2015 wasn't too bad temperature-wise throughout Alabama. We still had our share of cold weather, but not nearly as bad as last year. Rainfall remains below to well below average in most parts of the state. Overall colony health is good since many beekeepers treated last fall for varroa and nosema. We don't anticipate as many losses coming out of winter as we had last year. Nectar and pollen sources are not plentiful but are around. Wild mustard is a great source of pollen during January and February. Tag alder and henbit are also some good sources of pollen as well as nectar. Seems about half of the beekeepers are feeding and/or adding supplements to their colonies, which is about normal. Honey demand is high with prices fairly stable. If the semi-drought breaks it could be a good honey crop year for beekeepers in Alabama.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were at slightly above normal levels for the month of January. Temperatures ranged from a high of 82°F in Mesa to a low of 4°F at Window Rock.

There was precipitation in from 11 to 40 of the 50 reporting stations during the weekly reporting periods in the month. Backyard and desert plant bloom, alfalfa, and various citrus were the main source of nectar and pollen in Arizona during the month of January. Bee activity was limited due to a large number of Arizona hives currently being at other locations, mainly California, for pollination of nut and fruit trees, especially almond. Demand for honey remained good.

**ARKANSAS:** Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of January were none. Beekeepers have continued to feed. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather has seen above normal temperatures with adequate moisture. Demand is high and supply is moderate.

**CALIFORNIA:** The early week weather was dominated by Pacific flow invading the State, leading to mild temperatures and fog along the coast and in the valley. As Pacific flow weakened by mid-week, temperatures climbed slightly. Calm weather was the norm for this week as high pressure controlled the Pacific Coast. Although temperatures this week were fairly unchanged from Monday to the weekend, the usual variability within the State was ever-present. Highs in the valley reached the 50s and 60s most days, although by the weekend, a few locations saw lower 70s. The coasts were generally in the 50s for the north early in the week, to 70s and even 80s for the south over the weekend. The mountains were cooler, with highs most days in the 40s for most locations. Morning lows were consistently in the upper 30s and lower 40s for the valley. Coastal locations saw 40s and 50s from north to south, while the mountains were consistently cooler, 20s being widespread. A few of the coldest locations dropped as low as the upper single digits on Saturday morning. Rainfall was sporadic and spotty this week, with the far northwestern corner of the State from Eureka northward saw moderate rainfall. The southern parts of the State received precipitation on Monday, with several locations reporting in excess of half an inch. For the rest of the week, spotty hit-or-miss showers dotted the southern parts of the State, with precipitation amounts generally very light. Little to no new snowfall accumulated in the mountains, although a few locations reported snow flurries or a light dusting throughout the week.

The bees are currently in route to the Central Valley for the almond pollination. The bees appear to be in good condition. The warm January that California has seen has provided an early burst of pollen for the bees. Because of the mild temperatures the almond trees are showing early buds. Pollination prices are generally in the 150.00-180.00 price range per colony. Demand for bees and queens is very strong.

**COLORADO:** Temperatures were above normal across most of Colorado during the month of January. Precipitation was below normal across most areas of the State during the same period according to the National Weather Service. There were however, several locations that did have slightly above normal precipitation including areas around Durango and Colorado Springs. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, most of the State has normal moisture conditions. The exception is the far Southern areas of the State that continue to be abnormal to moderate in drought conditions. Only the Southeastern area continues to be in a long term severe drought. Most commercial beekeepers have their bees in position in California for the upcoming annual almond pollination season. Commercial beekeepers indicated that it can be a real challenge to move bees from Colorado to California. According to beekeepers, it is better to ship during the night time hours when possible. If the weather is warm, the trucks need to keep moving so the bees do not fly away during transit. Depending upon the beekeepers final location in California, it is anticipated that bees will be pollinating almond trees by no later than the middle of February. Rains during late December and early January have helped reduce the effects of the long term drought experienced in California, but by no means is the drought over. Most almond growers are in better shape this year when compared to 2014.

Beekeepers have come to depend upon this annual migration of bees to California because of the economic needs of their business. With contracts in the same dollar range as 2014 Colorado beekeepers are anticipating that they will receive around \$185.00 per 8 frame hive and in some cases even more than in 2014. Beekeepers are excited to get started. Commercial beekeepers have indicated that colonies are either looking good or bad, with not much in between at the end of January. Some beekeepers have had problems with queen bee retention. This adverse problem is deeply troubling to beekeepers, as the problem can severely affect the viability and survival of the colony. There has not been any indication as to the root cause of these queen retention problems at this time. Some losses have been over 20 percent since August, 2014. Some beekeepers applied their mite controls in the fall, while other beekeepers will go through their hives and treat for mites after arriving in California. Current mite levels seem to be higher at this point in some commercial bees from Colorado. Controlling mites is a critical management practice to have completed before the honey flow starts. They will also provide a little more supplemental feed to ensure that the colonies are in top form and ready to start the pollination process. Supplemental feeds utilized vary from beekeeper to beekeeper, but include corn syrup or blends of sucrose and fructose. Many beekeepers also add pollen patties to spur growth of the new brood. Some beekeepers rely on their honey stores and provide very little other supplemental feed for their bees. Beekeepers indicated that they would be leaving their bees in California until the end of March before coming back to Colorado. Their departure date relies heavily upon weather conditions in California and how the pollination process proceeds. In January many beekeepers were still busy working on building pollen traps, new super frames and other top and bottom super components. Currently, wholesale demand for honey exceeds supply. Very little wholesale honey remains on the open market. Current retail prices ranged from \$5.85 to \$7.50 per pound. Prices vary depending upon quality, quantity and honey type. Wholesale light capping wax is averaging around \$5.00 per pound.

**FLORIDA:** The weather in south Florida was considered mild for the month, while north Florida had several cold spells with some lows reported near 30F. Bee health was considered to be very good. There were few sources of food resulting in virtually no honey being produced for sale. Supplemental feeding was necessary. There were willow, maple and Spanish Needle available in some areas. Small amounts of stored gallberry and palmetto honey were reported sold in the \$2.25-\$2.85 price range. Supplies continue to be very light with prices moving higher than last years' prices. Production of orange blossom honey is expected to begin in late February to early March.

By late in the month approximately 30-40% of Florida bees had been relocated to California for almond pollination. Pollination fees were reported to be in the \$175-\$225 range, depending mainly on whether the beekeeper was using a broker to place his bees. It is estimated California will need around 1.6 million hives for almond pollination. Florida is expected to send about 125,000-150,000 hives out of the estimated 400,000+ hives currently located in Florida. The almond pollination season appears to be a little earlier than normal this year. It has been reported that some almond growers are purchasing enough hives to pollinate their crop and hiring beekeepers to manage the bees during the entire year. This appears to be an effort to lower the cost of almond production.

**GEORGIA:** Beekeepers report that the bees are in good condition in most areas of the state. Most of the hives are being treated for Varroa Mites and good management practices have kept the bees in good condition. Some beekeepers have had losses and are planning to treat the hives and gain better control to keep losses at a minimal percent.

Weather conditions were variable with some extreme cold nights, wind, rain and a few light snow flurries in the northern parts of the state. About half of the bees are feeding off of leftover honey from the fall and the rest are being fed supplemental food of various types. Dandelions, Red Maple, Winter Jasmine, Quince and a few other flowering type plants are the main source of food outside of supplemental feeding.

Some beekeepers in the Southeast have had problems getting orders from Hawaii filled for queens to rebuild hives in January and February and are getting cells out of Florida for now. They are hoping orders in March will be met. Prices for Wildflower are as follow: pints 22 oz: wholesale: \$8.40 and retail: \$12.00. Retail: \$8.50 lb. Quarts 44 oz: wholesale \$14.70, retail: \$20.00-21.00 and wholesale: \$70 case.

IDAHO: Temperatures were above normal over the entire State of Idaho during the month of January, according to the National Weather Service. During the same period, precipitation was below normal over much of the State. The exception was slightly above normal precipitation in the McCall and Stanley areas of the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, a majority of the Panhandle and Central section of Idaho had normal moisture conditions during January despite a dry month. The rest of the State was still experiencing drought conditions that ranged from an extreme drought in the Southwest region to severe and abnormally dry conditions in the remainder of the State.

Commercial beekeepers have indicated that their bees are still looking good at the end of January. So far beekeepers from Idaho have not seen many losses in the new season. Most commercial bees have been moved to California by the end of January for the upcoming annual almond pollination season. Commercial beekeepers indicated that it can be a real challenge to move bees from Idaho to California. According to beekeepers, it is better to ship during the night time hours when possible. If the weather is warm, the trucks need to keep moving so the bees do not fly away during transit. Depending upon the beekeepers final location in California, it is anticipated that bees will be pollinating almond trees by no later than the middle of February. Rains during late December and early January have helped reduce the effects of the long term drought experienced in California, but by no means is the drought over. Most almond growers are in better shape this year when compared to 2014.

Beekeepers have come to depend upon this annual migration of bees to California because of the economic needs of their business. With contracts in the same dollar range as 2014, from \$155.00 to \$180.00 per 8 frame hive, beekeepers are excited to get started. In some cases contracts may be a little higher than in 2014. Many beekeepers will go through their hives and will treat for mites after arriving in California. This is a critical management practice to have completed before the honey flow starts. Many beekeepers are also planning to provide a little more supplemental feed. This will ensure that the colonies are in top form and ready to start the pollination process. Supplemental feeds utilized vary from beekeeper to beekeeper, but include corn syrup or blends of sucrose and fructose. Many beekeepers also add pollen patties to spur growth of the new brood. Some beekeepers rely on their honey stores and provide very little other supplemental feed for their bees.

Beekeepers indicated that they would be leaving their bees in California until the end of March before coming back to Idaho. Their departure date relies heavily upon weather conditions in California and how the pollination process proceeds. In January many beekeepers were still busy working on building pollen traps, new super frames and other top and bottom super components. Currently, wholesale demand for honey exceeds supply. Prices are slightly lower in Idaho. Current prices reported by commercial beekeepers in Idaho are as follows: White Honey averages from \$2.00 to \$2.15 per pound. Prices vary depending upon quality and quantity.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the month of January were above normal to normal the first 2-3 weeks, but became tolerable the middle and close to the end of the month. Beekeepers report temperatures in the high 40s whereas their bees took multiple cleansing flights as weather permitted. A few beekeepers report their hive in fairly good to good condition, while others have lost a few hives due to starvation. A few of the beekeepers reported some supplemental feeding in order for their hives survival. Demand for honey is good at the retail and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: No report issued.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of January were quite cold and windy during the beginning of the month, but changed by the middle of the month as the bees were able to have cleansing flight as weather permitted. Beekeepers report bees to be in good condition, but has also reported a few hives not being able to survive the cold winter temperatures. Beekeeper reported some supplemental feeding as that led to the survival of their hives. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: January 2015 was, on average three degrees warmer than January 2014 in Kentucky. Although hives seem to be very strong this month, Kentucky beekeepers are starting to report deadouts from across the Commonwealth, primarily due to starvation, but may also be related to smaller clusters going into winter. Many of the beekeepers are feeding due to lack of nectar sources at this time of the year.

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of January were from various trees. Colonies were in generally good condition. Weather has seen above normal temperatures with adequate moisture. Supply and demand are steady.

MICHIGAN: reports are mixed as to losses at this time, although many beekeepers have commented that bees are running through their honey and would need supplemental feeding. The stronger hives are brooding up and using more of the honey stores. Losses are expected to mount as warmer weather is still a few months away. The early bee losses thus far have been from starvation, although there is great apprehension that losses will mount from here until spring in hives where bees are sick from viruses and mites. Packages are selling fast and a shortage of bees is expected again this spring. Most beekeepers have a good supply of honey in Central Michigan and the price appears to be holding.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were above normal across most of Minnesota during the month of January. Precipitation was below normal across most areas of the State during the same period according the National Weather Service. The area around International Falls did however have slightly above normal precipitation. The U.S. Drought Monitor continues to indicate abnormally dry conditions over a good portion of the State. Only the Southeastern and East Central areas continue to show normal moisture conditions in January.

Most commercial beekeepers have their bees in position in California for the upcoming annual almond pollination season. Commercial beekeepers indicated that it can be a real challenge to move bees from Minnesota to California. According to beekeepers, it is better to ship during the night time hours when possible. If the weather is warm, the trucks need to keep moving so the bees do not fly away during transit. Depending upon the beekeepers final location in California, it is anticipated that bees will be pollinating almond trees by no later than the middle of February. Rains during late

December and early January have helped reduce the effects of the long term drought experienced in California, but by no means is the drought over. Most almond growers are in better shape this year when compared to 2014. Beekeepers have come to depend upon this annual migration of bees to California because of the economic needs of their business. With contracts in the same dollar range as 2014, Minnesota beekeepers expect to receive around \$175.00 per 8 frame hive and in some cases more. Beekeepers are excited to get started. Commercial beekeepers have indicated that most of their bees are still looking good at the end of January. However, some Minnesota beekeepers that overwinter in the State have had problems with winter survival. The up and down weather has been a real problem for beekeepers. The weather is out of the control of most beekeepers unless they move their bees to warmer locations. Losses have varied greatly among beekeepers across Minnesota. Commercial beekeepers who supply nucs have noticed a surge in new requests in January. This further indicates poor survival of overwintering bees in Minnesota.

Some beekeepers applied their mite controls in the fall, while other beekeepers will go through their hives and treat for mites in California. Controlling mites is a critical management practice to have completed before the honey flow starts. They will also provide a little more supplemental feed to ensure that the colonies are in top form and ready to start the pollination process. Supplemental feeds utilized vary from beekeeper to beekeeper, but include corn syrup or blends of sucrose and fructose. Many beekeepers also add pollen patties to spur growth of the new brood. Other beekeepers rely on their honey stores and provide very little other supplemental feed for their bees. Beekeepers indicated that they would be leaving their bees in California until around the end of March before coming back to Minnesota or travelling to other Southern States. Their departure date relies heavily upon weather conditions in California and how the pollination process proceeds. In January many beekeepers were still busy working on building pollen traps, new super frames and other top and bottom super components. Currently, wholesale demand for honey exceeds supply. Wholesale prices are slightly lower in Minnesota. Very little wholesale honey remains on the open market. Current prices reported by commercial beekeepers are as follows: White Honey averages from \$1.95 to \$1.99 per pound. Extra Light Amber averages from \$1.91 to \$1.94 and Light Amber averages from \$1.85 to \$1.89 per pound. Prices vary depending upon quality and quantity.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The beekeepers have prepared the hives for winter months. No major losses reported. Supplemental feeding is keeping the bees in good condition as well as strong management practices implemented to control mites and keep other possible problems in check. Lots of rain and freezing cold weather have kept the bees in the hives.

**MONTANA:** Most areas of Montana State experienced average normal temperatures with moderate amounts of precipitation during the month of January. Bee keepers were busy with equipment repair, and winter inspections of colonies overwintering in home yards. These colonies were reported to be in generally good security. Keepers also were busy trucking colonies from Montana or warmer staging areas to California for the upcoming almond and soft fruit pollination season. Bee drop out or losses were noted to generally as expected. Keepers worked colonies, dividing strong colonies to build new ones, and adding supplemental sugar syrup feed where needed. As January drew to a close, keepers were moving their strong colonies into the first Almond, citrus, blueberry, plum, orchards for the early February bloom. Honey demand was said to be good.

**NEW ENGLAND:** In New England, seasonal winter weather has been the norm with the usual deep freeze and heavy but sporadic periods snow fall throughout January. Precipitation in the form of significant snowfall affords the entire region with high moisture levels which should provide ideal conditions in the spring for abundant pollen and nectar sources. During this month, Nor'easter storms have been constantly bombarding New England with heavy snowfall. Keepers have been checking colonies for ample supplies of honey for overwintering.

This particular winter has offered a prolonged spell of very cold temperatures and plenty of snow storms that have been substantially loaded with high levels of snow. The reported dead out of hive losses has been around 50% per beekeeper with many hives just being too cold for too long. It is actually an encouraging sign to see some dead bees on top of the snow in front of a hive because that means that the colony is still alive and those bees died of attrition, which is a natural course of events. The colonies with no dead bees on the snow in front of them, - are dead colonies, - no bees alive inside to come out and die naturally. Mother Nature was kind to bees early on in this winter with intermittent mild spells but the follow time frame of this winter has been brutal. This year there will be many beekeepers looking to replace dead colonies and packages replacements will be hard to find if they wait too long. Therefore, it would be prudent and wise for beekeepers to order replacement packages or nucleus hives early.

In New England, experienced beekeepers during fall preparations have made sure that each hive has 60 to 80 lbs. of food stores before cold weather. As needed, colonies are being fed with fondant, protein patties, and sugar candy, in order to add to any stored food that remained after surplus honey was drawn off. Many keepers are reluctant to open hives and chance chilling the bees as most leave enough food in regard to hives showing light stores. In a timely way, keepers will remove the top cover and inner cover in order to locate clusters.

Many beekeepers report that bees have exhibited the usual late winter pattern of clustering just under the inner cover. Additionally, many keepers have found bees on the top frames of the upper hive body. The clusters are tight enough to keep the bees safe. As the temperature drops below 55 degrees F and gets progressively colder, they cluster closer together and generate heat by vibrating their wing muscles without moving their wings, as they move to center themselves on the brood. In a strong hive, there will be two inches of bees around the cluster that serves as insulation. This keeps the heat within the cluster so it is not lost, as bees inside the cluster continually replace those on the outside so that none of them freeze to death. Even when it is freezing outside, the bees keep the temperature around the brood nest at 92 degrees F.

In New England, keepers advise checking the brood areas and replace empty frames with capped honey ones but never physically disturb the cluster. The current mindset is-, feed while you can. In this inspection process, check the hives for the weight of the stores. Light weight store conditions require adding granulated sugar or fondant on the inner cover and monitor to see if the bees are utilizing it. In the event that the current temperature consistently stays above freezing; feeding 2:1 sugar water, with the necessary accessibility above the hive, is standard procedure. Keepers report a high feeding success rate when spacers (3/8 inch x 1 inch x 6 inches) are utilized. The spacers allow the bees, access to the holes in the jar cover. Many New England beekeepers are currently using hive protection methods such as wrapping hives with tar paper and/or adding a top insulation board; which will help keep the hive warm and reduce wind infiltration. Additionally, tilting hives to assist drainage is accomplished by tilting the back end of the hive up and the front end down in order to assist drainage of the bottom board. Condensation from poor ventilation will more adversely affect bees than cold weather. Colonies need to be well ventilated to abate this problem. In New England, hives normally lose 5 to 10% of their population due to normal winter ventilation issues. The increase in daylight hours will signal the queen to begin laying eggs hence a food source is necessary and timely needed.

Many keepers are occupied in building, repairing and maintenance of equipment as this is the "down" season for beekeeping. This is the time to plan for the coming year. New England keepers will be seeking answers to the following questions: How many hives would you like to have? How much equipment will you need? When you have made these decisions you will need to order the bees, queens and equipment. Overall colonies were reported to be in moderate to fairly good condition whereby the reported colonies experiencing good health were reportedly the ones that received regular and aggressive applications of mite treatments. The New England honey crop this past year showed an average of 30 to 50 pounds per colony.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remains firm. Supplies of new crop locally produced honey are continuing to be made available. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$12.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$20.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$230.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around \$2.50 to \$2.80 per pound, mostly \$2.80 per pound, occasionally higher, by the 55 gallon barrel. Propolis reportedly is \$14.00 to \$17.00 mostly \$16.00 for 2 ounces tincture and pollen is \$26.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$28.00 per quart. Current wholesale prices quoted exclusively for white, cleaned beeswax are steady and for 1lb block units at \$5.50 to \$5.75 mostly \$5.50 and for 50lb block units at \$4.50 to \$5.00 mostly \$4.75 per lb. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50lbs are \$2.20 to \$3.50 mostly \$3.50 per lb. for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Honey sales are strong for locally domestic honey, with the highest prices historically being paid for premium honey.

**NEW YORK:** Another cold winter, although better than last year, has loss reports already mounting. Colonies that make it to February usually make it until March, when the second set of losses will occur as colonies become stressed to build up for another year. The good news that the fall was much better than previous years due to warmer temperatures that provided hives with adequate nutrition to help with overwintering. There has been an occasional warm-up in the Finger Lakes regions that have allowed bees to reorganize the cluster, feed and defecate periodically which has helped survival to date. Additional feeding will probably be necessary to protect the hives as we near the end of winter. Losses have been less to date. Honey sales seem to be comparable to last year at this point, although sales have slowed since the Holidays.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Temperatures and precipitation in North Carolina were mostly normal throughout January. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 15 counties as being abnormally dry.

Mild days allowed for light foraging with possible pollen sources including ornamental evergreen shrubs and Red Maple in the Coastal Plains. Beekeepers were able to begin inspecting hives for losses with widespread accounts of deaths due to Varroa mite infestations and/or queen failure reported.

Commercial pollinators prepared to move hives to California for fruit and tree nut pollination; while replacement bee operations are preparing for a season of high demand as veteran beekeepers will need to replace winter losses and the trend of new beekeepers entering the field continues. Demand for honey is moderate and prices remained about steady. Supply continues to be light, but this is expected for the time of year.

**NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA:** At home growers had generally average temperatures and precipitation. With bees moved into winter homes, many were heading to or in California in preparation for the upcoming almond bloom. The bees and hives generally arrived in various winter destinations in good condition. While dry in California, generally good weather is being forecast for almond bloom.

**OHIO:** Winter has been a mixed bag, certainly better than one year ago, but cold! With a late honey flow, some miticides were put on later than normal, which could have allowed a large mite population to build going into winter. There are always lots of questions at this time of the season, as beekeepers begin plans for the new season and await the verdict on how many bees survived the winter. Honey demand and prices remain strong. In other honey news, Kim Flottum, of Bee Culture magazine, sent out an article from the Houston Chronicle entitled “\$2.5 Million Dollars Falsely-labeled Chinese Honey Seized in Houston” in which for the second time in two years, U.S. Immigrations and Custom Enforcement confiscated falsely-labeled Chinese honey from the Port of Houston. You can view the article by clicking on the url below: <http://www.chron.com/houston/article/Feds-confiscate-2-5-worth-of-Chinese-honey-from-6046057.php>.

**OKLAHOMA:** Pollen and nectar sources received during January for were pine winter roses, *Fursintia* already in bloom, and winter cover crops. Colonies and bees are in good condition with no signs of pests. Still dry conditions remain; saw only 5 days below freezing with many days of sunshine where bees were gathering plenty of pollen. Supply normal with demand on the rise due to a health kick thought out the state. A note on the weather, with weeklong warm spells in the 60s and 70s bees are breaking cluster.

**OREGON:** During January, moderate amounts of precipitation fell on the valley floors and over the mountains ranges of Oregon. Temperatures were generally mild west of the Cascade Mountains with periods of cold to the east.

During January, bee keepers were busy with their winter chores, maintaining and repairing equipment, and spot checking wintering colonies in home yards. Migratory colonies in California were inspected and later in January, moved into the early blooming Almond groves. Colony health was said to be generally good, although some losses were noted among keepers. Handlers also reported there seemed to be an adequate supply of pollination colonies for the upcoming season. Honey demand was good.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** No report issued.

**TENNESSEE:** The weather in January in Tennessee was average for most of the State. There have been a few flowering plants during the month. No major bee health issues were reported. Some beekeepers have to feed colonies without sufficient winter stores.

**TEXAS:** Colonies are doing very well - strong and queen right. Weekly feeding program continued more or less straight through September and October, slowed during the cold spells of November and December, and then picked up again in January, continuing up to the present. The steady feeding, combined with the relatively mild winter, has paid off, as all hives have multiple frames of sealed brood, and the build-up for spring is well under way.

Actually, concerns for February-March will be to keep colonies from swarming. New queens coming in April, and plans to split all colonies (assuming they remain strong) to make nucleus hives. In addition to replacing the old queens, splitting has the advantage of forcing beekeepers to rotate new frames into hives, as old frames are removed to make the nucleus hives. Rotating out old frames avoids any problems caused by the accumulation of toxins in the wax, but - up to now - have not been very conscientious about it. Making and selling nucleus hives may be a new source of revenue for some.

**UTAH:** According to the National Weather Service, temperatures were above normal across the entire State of Utah during the month of January. Precipitation was slightly below normal across most of the State of Utah during the same period. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor in January, the

Northeast and most Eastern areas of the State continued to have normal moisture conditions. The rest of the State has drought conditions that ranged from abnormally dry to severe. The worst severe drought conditions continue to be confined to an area located west and southwest of the Great Salt Lake.

Most commercial beekeepers have their bees in position in California for the upcoming annual almond pollination season. Commercial beekeepers indicated that it can be a real challenge to move bees from Utah to California. According to beekeepers, it is better to ship during the night time hours when possible. If the weather is warm, the trucks need to keep moving so the bees do not fly away during transit. Depending upon the beekeepers final location in California, it is anticipated that bees will be pollinating almond trees by no later than the middle of February. Rains during late December and early January have helped reduce the effects of the long term drought experienced in California, but by no means is the drought over. Most almond growers are in better shape this year when compared to 2014. Beekeepers have come to depend upon this annual migration of bees to California because of the economic needs of their business. With contracts in the same dollar range as 2014 from \$180.00 per 8 frame hive and 6 or 7 frames around \$170.00; beekeepers are excited to get started. In some cases contracts may be a little higher than in 2014. Commercial beekeepers have indicated that colonies are either looking good or bad, with not much in between at the end of January.

Some beekeepers have had problems with queen bee retention. This adverse problem is deeply troubling to beekeepers, as the problem can severely affect the viability and survival of the colony. There has not been any indication as to the root cause of these queen retention problems at this time. Some losses have been over 20 percent since August, 2014.

Some beekeepers applied their mite controls in the fall, while other beekeepers will go through their hives and treat for mites after arriving in California. This is a critical management practice to have completed before the honey flow starts. They will also provide a little more supplemental feed to ensure that the colonies are in top form and ready to start the pollination process. Supplemental feeds utilized vary from beekeeper to beekeeper, but include corn syrup or blends of sucrose and fructose. Many beekeepers also add pollen patties to spur growth of the new brood. Some beekeepers rely on their honey stores and provide very little other supplemental feed for their bees.

Beekeepers indicated that they would be leaving their bees in California until the end of March before coming back to Utah. Their departure date relies heavily upon weather conditions in California and how the pollination process proceeds. In January many beekeepers were still busy working on building pollen traps, new super frames and other top and bottom super components. Currently, wholesale demand for honey exceeds supply. Prices are about steady to slightly lower in Utah. Current prices reported by commercial beekeepers in Utah are as follows: White Honey averages from \$2.00 to \$2.05 per pound. Extra Light Amber averages from \$2.00 to \$2.03 per pound and Light Amber averages from \$1.85 to \$1.90 per pound. Prices vary depending upon quality and quantity.

WASHINGTON: The weather is the story this season. Some rain, but very little snow and warmer than normal temperatures. Bees have been more active than normal with many 50F days. This means feeding has also started earlier than normal. Some concerns have been expressed about losses to starvation as bees are much more active than normal. Beekeepers continue to monitor their hives and feed as needed. The warmer weather is expected to continue at least for the short term. Concerns about irrigation later in the season are being raised as the snowpack is almost non-existent.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures for the month of January were above normal to normal around the beginning of the month, but changed around the middle as well as temperatures rose in the high to middle 40s and the bees were able to take multiple cleansing flights, while the beekeepers were able to check on the survival of their hives. A few beekeepers report a loss of hives due to not enough food within the supers, but were generally pleased with the survival of the hives that were left to survive. Beekeepers also report the amazement of all the classes that beekeepers are participating in, but report most of the people in the classes are hobbyist. However most Beekeepers report the hives that have survived were in fairly good to good condition. Demand for honey is good at both retail and wholesale levels. Prices are generally unchanged.

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

	Year to Date		December 2014	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
<b>COMB &amp; NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -</b>				
Afghanistan	1,195	8,383	0	0
Bahamas, The	6,500	20,760	0	0
Bahrain	29,801	72,336	0	0
Barbados	30,520	110,871	2,398	13,456
Brazil	4,271	52,882	0	0
China	285,448	756,211	21,423	52,000
Costa Rica	457	2,770	0	0
Guatemala	305	3,406	0	0
Guyana	4,081	35,433	980	8,576
Hong Kong	5,268	26,382	0	0
Indonesia	516,615	1,414,249	0	0
Japan	364,845	1,700,297	12,868	68,587
Korea, South	156,559	834,055	0	0
Kuwait	414,338	1,022,166	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	227	2,578	0	0
Libya	10,989	49,365	0	0

Malaysia	11,631	32,847	4,692	11,390
Mexico	1,062	5,113	0	0
Mongolia	653	4,349	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	12,496	75,264	1,468	11,238
Pakistan	58,639	142,337	0	0
Panama	21,934	132,701	0	0
Philippines	265,615	659,902	0	0
Saudi Arabia	26,237	95,389	0	0
Singapore	55,395	142,067	0	0
Suriname	12,023	29,184	0	0
Taiwan	153,918	571,064	30,212	82,899
Thailand	34,209	83,035	0	0
Ukraine	19,058	51,457	0	0
United Arab Emirates	352,083	885,892	50,249	124,324
United Kingdom	7,401	17,964	0	0
Yemen(*)	418,617	1,476,820	39,872	108,796

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

Australia(*)	20,349	98,070	0	0
Bahamas, The	33,931	155,965	887	2,953
Barbados	7,762	42,107	0	0
Bermuda	30,677	128,294	1,326	9,648
Brazil	38,624	209,134	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0	0
Canada	834,854	3,213,414	92,510	381,975
Cayman Islands	1,339	6,562	0	0
Chile	3,382	21,570	0	0
China	15,756	43,165	0	0
El Salvador	0	0	0	0
Germany(*)	9,587	25,022	0	0
Guatemala	595	6,643	0	0
Haiti	1,422	8,866	0	0
Hong Kong	53,789	263,709	0	0
India	33,266	100,005	0	0
Israel(*)	0	0	0	0
Jamaica	5,443	23,969	0	0
Japan	146,378	366,192	6,370	43,758
Korea, South	56,610	189,151	9,354	67,328
Kuwait	639	3,452	0	0
Malaysia	0	0	0	0
Mongolia	435	3,995	0	0
Netherlands	3,622	5,980	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	13,138	59,251	562	2,999
Panama	3,304	22,330	0	0
Philippines	3,671	24,874	388	2,648
Saudi Arabia	8,938	34,638	0	0
Singapore	8,714	68,853	4,821	33,699
Taiwan	69,035	137,758	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	136	3,000	0	0
Turkey	78,848	230,144	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	2,490	16,461	1,094	2,655
United Kingdom	2,423	17,783	0	0
Venezuela	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	59,213	148,896	37,000	99,450
Yemen(*)	2,266	12,500	0	0

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4,959,543</b>	<b>16,747,312</b>	<b>290,679</b>	<b>1,019,296</b>
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## U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

Year to Date			December 2014		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

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

Argentina	5,242,363	20,162,181	20,615,869	96,513	375,284	381,395
Brazil	1,008,744	4,089,992	4,221,519	109,440	489,018	506,109
Canada	5,154,738	24,262,483	24,359,495	369,279	1,681,689	1,688,490
Chile	37,689	139,449	143,449	0	0	0
Egypt	3,920	16,581	17,151	0	0	0
France(*)	839	10,603	11,326	209	3,228	3,701
Hungary	248	2,123	2,243	0	0	0
India	5,164,266	16,306,315	16,960,571	17,700	63,720	66,220
Israel(*)	1,022	6,677	6,937	0	0	0
Italy(*)	19,282	146,199	155,206	0	0	0
Mexico	1,280,866	5,032,628	5,083,049	27,512	105,942	106,292
New Zealand(*)	150	4,687	5,711	0	0	0
Pakistan	274	2,297	2,658	0	0	0
Switzerland(*)	21,488	94,469	97,626	0	0	0
Taiwan	114,255	222,666	240,891	16,633	39,752	43,277
Thailand	127,120	281,800	299,300	127,120	281,800	299,300
Ukraine	19,140	56,965	57,465	0	0	0
United Kingdom	4,091	35,459	37,988	282	3,067	3,116
Uruguay	322,814	1,224,182	1,231,108	0	0	0
Vietnam	116,280	301,158	314,319	0	0	0

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

Argentina	26,106,818	103,235,105	106,459,567	1,315,065	5,492,419	5,632,598
Brazil	2,163,555	8,135,762	8,412,192	57,392	227,664	235,139
Burma	54,000	132,300	145,890	54,000	132,300	145,890
Canada	225,438	1,233,415	1,237,939	1,306	6,445	6,645
Denmark(*)	628	5,883	6,785	0	0	0
France(*)	1,078	5,424	5,460	0	0	0
India	10,565,785	31,835,410	33,197,179	421,380	1,243,728	1,317,188
Italy(*)	19,268	65,235	70,215	7,929	13,984	15,484
Japan	20	5,869	6,050	10	2,899	2,970
Mexico	4,582,162	18,253,641	18,448,886	512,900	2,047,620	2,076,825
Pakistan	398,732	1,089,868	1,162,868	57,000	159,600	170,100
Poland	840	6,048	6,299	0	0	0
Portugal	867	10,319	11,195	0	0	0
Taiwan	954,680	2,305,109	2,416,793	114,840	283,080	299,880
Thailand	1,150,552	2,833,412	2,861,258	109,800	263,520	264,432
Ukraine	7,879,583	24,244,867	25,255,341	1,742,938	5,697,588	5,996,911
Uruguay	1,749,267	6,549,858	6,644,684	0	0	0
Vietnam	1,935,880	4,822,317	5,121,441	58,200	159,401	169,478

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

Argentina	5,374,610	21,890,279	23,075,278	77,787	331,490	335,408
Australia(*)	3,932	49,043	49,789	1,775	19,562	19,865
Austria	67,440	521,851	553,819	9,719	89,778	94,629

Brazil	4,988,295	18,436,897	19,201,924	0	0	0
Bulgaria	296,818	943,080	965,034	0	0	0
Burma	404,719	825,869	881,658	202,800	469,360	498,752
Canada	27,131	137,091	138,261	0	0	0
Cote d'Ivoire	36,900	105,719	105,720	0	0	0
Croatia	1,296	11,166	11,523	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	734	3,888	4,486	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	419,944	1,177,155	1,210,616	22,320	62,000	63,359
Ecuador	679	3,120	3,729	0	0	0
Germany(*)	50,209	309,917	321,028	0	0	0
Guatemala	3,410	25,841	27,328	0	0	0
Hong Kong	15,048	99,254	101,028	0	0	0
India	4,028,835	11,978,680	12,532,644	476,830	1,512,612	1,583,116
Italy(*)	11,745	201,640	207,850	415	7,167	7,270
Latvia	76,560	244,992	250,272	0	0	0
Macedonia	2,893	9,637	10,094	2,088	4,655	4,961
Malaysia	161,820	364,095	381,713	0	0	0
Mexico	860,717	3,222,244	3,268,725	70,106	273,106	285,409
Moldova	3,459	5,718	5,719	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	252,974	2,459,104	2,468,844	9,203	22,548	23,048
Pakistan	26,211	76,853	82,983	0	0	0
Poland	9,386	39,163	42,265	0	0	0
Romania	3,392	18,075	20,884	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	2,060	2,800	3,193	0	0	0
Spain	20,573	195,130	198,235	2,056	22,919	23,260
Taiwan	404,065	932,326	1,023,330	38,280	88,810	94,810
Thailand	2,178,363	5,411,104	5,679,025	313,803	760,860	808,804
Turkey	2,462,287	6,421,189	7,077,103	279,000	734,700	809,700
Ukraine	880,111	2,732,475	2,848,979	210,720	727,996	750,327
United Kingdom	3,000	14,933	15,544	0	0	0
Uruguay	3,195,649	11,251,222	11,392,664	94,226	339,214	341,502
Vietnam	40,511,306	106,701,941	112,149,403	3,503,180	9,717,644	10,186,311

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

Albania	289	2,640	2,965	0	0	0
Argentina	96,142	327,088	332,751	0	0	0
Australia(*)	1,436	19,429	19,929	0	0	0
Brazil	23,064	97,527	106,164	0	0	0
Cameroon	18,840	41,448	43,948	0	0	0
Canada	75,131	347,169	352,578	11,479	25,306	30,306
Chile	1,554	15,840	16,290	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	474,180	1,060,757	1,101,292	67,532	157,958	164,570
Ecuador	854	2,610	5,015	854	2,610	5,015
Egypt	888	4,600	4,824	0	0	0
Ethiopia(*)	1,290	3,238	3,555	0	0	0
France(*)	7,670	118,489	122,053	404	8,913	9,066
Germany(*)	7,854	68,832	73,807	0	0	0
Ghana	1,865	10,402	12,609	0	0	0
Greece	15,087	96,172	103,289	0	0	0
Hungary	2,700	18,024	20,724	0	0	0
India	56,482	166,466	175,286	38,400	94,760	100,760
Indonesia	223,314	596,446	625,446	40,600	103,120	109,620
Israel(*)	14,466	118,778	121,730	0	0	0
Italy(*)	14,884	125,879	131,054	0	0	0
Latvia	727,320	1,528,900	1,528,919	0	0	0
Lithuania	8,119	40,576	42,903	0	0	0

Mexico	377,626	1,372,350	1,376,107	8,294	23,513	24,879
Moldova	5,444	12,606	14,384	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	869,313	6,860,914	6,998,117	35,268	364,663	376,995
Oman	1,699	4,917	5,882	0	0	0
Poland	26,067	146,702	156,560	6,378	10,739	10,743
Portugal	324	3,576	3,626	0	0	0
Russia	4,037	19,537	21,612	425	2,040	2,264
Saudi Arabia	17,290	75,202	75,408	3,462	8,740	8,801
Serbia	648	3,987	4,219	0	0	0
Spain	19,575	118,966	119,454	18,265	105,329	105,429
Taiwan	907,606	2,150,850	2,248,357	40,820	116,349	123,232
Thailand	1,937	5,200	5,378	0	0	0
Turkey	915	4,081	4,468	0	0	0
Ukraine	60,865	141,377	155,530	1,160	4,060	4,466
Uruguay	94,499	321,736	334,995	0	0	0
Vietnam	4,259,917	10,431,117	10,959,886	436,759	1,111,497	1,172,984

**COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –**

Albania	1,402	12,676	13,876	0	0	0
Argentina	8,457	51,325	56,429	0	0	0
Australia(*)	23,383	139,130	139,374	0	0	0
Austria	9,858	124,203	131,905	1,521	21,359	22,901
Brazil	5,775	44,726	46,843	1,229	7,312	7,438
Bulgaria	111,243	438,864	472,457	10,459	49,500	52,000
Canada	28,723	240,538	241,776	157	5,453	5,529
Chile	1,217	11,952	12,102	0	0	0
Costa Rica	572	2,008	2,818	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	2,242	7,848	8,433	1,088	4,392	4,502
Egypt	2,100	6,450	6,720	0	0	0
France(*)	136,504	1,455,322	1,524,535	17,081	163,812	170,160
Germany(*)	290,337	1,661,824	1,728,673	29,506	141,821	145,846
Greece	63,408	811,428	833,986	15,051	197,607	202,999
Guatemala	22,462	105,720	108,128	817	3,700	4,013
Hungary	44,329	322,351	340,415	0	0	0
India	474,206	1,543,298	1,615,098	80,292	250,431	260,567
Ireland	435	3,197	3,448	0	0	0
Israel(*)	6,449	42,286	42,331	0	0	0
Italy(*)	48,390	523,193	538,519	1,321	18,046	19,406
Jordan	7,929	16,324	18,111	0	0	0
Kuwait	439	4,440	6,840	0	0	0
Lebanon	6,750	78,210	80,214	0	0	0
Lithuania	7,136	31,855	35,041	0	0	0
Macedonia	1,016	4,083	4,270	0	0	0
Mexico	34,815	150,888	153,060	3,248	17,052	17,058
Moldova	16,886	82,727	91,208	925	5,446	5,991
New Zealand(*)	416,562	3,013,914	3,049,420	6,996	46,433	48,736
Poland	27,850	83,913	88,083	0	0	0
Portugal	21,992	152,827	158,967	2,943	22,454	23,444
Romania	576	4,814	5,626	0	0	0
Russia	79,122	412,882	454,171	18,730	96,292	105,921
Saudi Arabia	611	5,419	5,524	611	5,419	5,524
Serbia	10,102	80,193	83,982	0	0	0
Spain	105,710	787,763	812,575	884	8,150	8,636
Switzerland(*)	19,083	285,767	297,719	790	11,891	12,427
Taiwan	142,195	293,517	310,269	26,126	31,924	34,855
Turkey	118,107	767,915	793,489	9,583	63,202	64,573
Ukraine	36,574	127,684	140,453	7,248	25,310	27,841

United Kingdom	394	7,002	7,030	0	0	0
Uzbekistan, Republic of	4,954	56,929	62,622	0	0	0

**FLAVORED HONEY –**

Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	8,416	22,291	23,597	0	0	0
Canada	5,270	214,052	214,597	1,518	49,414	49,432
China	139,086	934,361	953,853	22,895	188,662	191,445
France(*)	8,844	308,148	311,218	0	0	0
Germany(*)	1,877	20,728	25,061	1,350	11,095	15,306
Greece	404	4,562	4,954	0	0	0
India	84,758	194,546	202,250	21,310	54,274	56,578
Ireland	611	8,445	9,105	122	2,942	3,044
Italy(*)	5,729	136,867	139,668	192	6,296	6,893
Japan	10,888	98,592	100,601	0	0	0
Korea, South	234,603	3,619,925	3,714,965	58,820	867,380	894,406
Mexico	212,704	2,129,641	2,139,557	9,505	70,954	71,811
Netherlands	26,746	135,326	142,596	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	110	2,968	3,226	0	0	0
Portugal	8,404	42,971	47,098	0	0	0
Spain	5,912	41,904	48,795	739	5,238	5,759
Taiwan	37,906	141,876	148,516	8,602	19,599	21,315
Thailand	79,387	351,067	362,580	0	0	0
Turkey	915	5,947	6,076	915	5,947	6,076
United Arab Emirates	7,991	14,458	15,035	0	0	0
United Kingdom	626	11,621	11,640	0	0	0

**ORGANIC HONEY –**

Argentina	58,541	229,355	240,408	22,282	100,632	108,559
Australia(*)	36,960	281,305	296,677	0	0	0
Brazil	11,040,367	43,178,813	44,675,523	470,502	1,875,883	1,948,600
Bulgaria	3,063	22,160	22,660	0	0	0
Canada	102,305	649,427	653,835	0	0	0
Cyprus	600	11,388	12,536	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	2,321	34,188	36,930	2,321	34,188	36,930
Dominican Republic	3,051	17,091	18,693	0	0	0
Greece	1,993	18,068	18,810	900	5,083	5,591
India	400	2,200	2,404	0	0	0
Italy(*)	34,286	394,173	408,544	1,729	19,003	20,271
Kuwait	4,421	27,851	28,250	0	0	0
Mexico	118,049	467,493	484,809	4,200	16,203	17,365
New Zealand(*)	10,680	190,603	192,273	0	0	0
Romania	3,698	16,075	18,074	0	0	0
Vietnam	186,000	492,900	506,900	0	0	0

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	166,464,721	568,947,466	589,844,581	12,106,364	40,627,565	42,320,849
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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