

# NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



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Agriculture

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## HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, 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

Sage	Extra Light Amber	\$1.60
Sage	Light Amber	\$1.60

#### DAKOTA

Buckwheat	Light Amber	\$1.70
Western	White	\$1.70
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70

#### FLORIDA

Mangrove	Light Amber	\$1.50
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#### TEXAS

Western	White	\$1.70
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Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.56
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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	\$1.63	-	\$1.88
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.63	-	\$1.88
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.55		

#### BRAZIL

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35		
ORGANIC	White	\$1.68	-	\$1.79
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.80	-	\$1.88

#### INDIA

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.43	-	\$1.71
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35	-	\$1.62

#### VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.37	-	\$1.57
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#### UKRAINE

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.60	-	\$1.71
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.55	-	\$1.70

#### URUGUAY

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.73		
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.45	-	\$1.62

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

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): The overall October weather was about average with a hard frost occurring mid-month where temperatures dropped to the low thirties to upper twenties for a couple of nights. At the end of the month temperatures spiked to the upper seventies and lower eighties in some parts of the district. Apple harvest was almost complete by the end of the month. Rainfall was light for most of the month with a two day period of moderate to heavy rainfall depending on location. Beekeepers reported they are continuing to heavily feed colonies and an occasional beekeeper is reporting mite issues. Overall colonies are doing well with the feeding as nectar sources are sporadic and mainly coming from various wildflowers. Honey harvest was fairly good in healthy colonies

ALABAMA: No report issued.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were at or above normal levels every week during the month of October. The range in statewide temperatures for the month was from a high of 107 degrees Fahrenheit in Roll and Bullhead City to a low of 25 degrees Fahrenheit in Springerville and Window Rock. During the month of October, the weekly number of reporting stations across Arizona to receive precipitation (out of 50 stations) were 11, 47, 47, 47 and 29, respectively. Out of the 50 reporting stations, 29 are at above normal precipitation levels for the year, with 21 stations at below normal levels for the year.

The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state during the month of October were desert plant bloom, cantaloupes and honeydews. Demand for honey was good.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of October were from goldenrod and cotton. Conditions of the colonies were good throughout the month. Weather conditions showed normal temperatures with little rainfall. Supply and demand remain good.

CALIFORNIA: Temperatures in October were cool compared to previous weeks. The mountains reached highs from the 30s to 40s. Highs were limited to the 50s to 60s for much of the state except for the southern coast and deserts, which reached the 70s. Lows were chilly for much of the state, with most areas recording minimum temperatures in the 30s as least once during the month. Mountain locations recorded lows in the teens and 20s but as low as the single digits on one or more nights. Lows were in the 30s to 40s along the coast and valley and 30s to 50s in the desert based largely on elevation differences.

The hives are ready for winter. The Queens have reduced or stopped laying eggs and the winter bees are being born. During the warmer part of the days the bees will continue to look for forage. The longer nights and cooler temperatures will keep the bees clustered and quiet. Beekeepers will continue to check the exterior of the hives to insure that the bees are safe and that inclement weather will have a minimal effect on the hives.

FLORIDA: The weather was about average with moderate temperatures and normal rainfall adequate for honey production. Some areas in south Florida did experience higher than normal precipitation. Bee health was reported to vary considerably throughout the state ranging from very good to poor. Brazilian pepper bloom was essentially over by late in the month and some people were expecting the honey production to only be about two-thirds of a normal crop. Too many weak hives appeared to be the reason for the expected decrease in production. Goldenrod and Spanish needle seemed to be available for a far longer period of time this year than normal. They were still available in some areas late in the month along with aster and a few other assorted wildflowers. Supplemental feeding was necessary in almost all areas before the end of the month and many beekeepers were treating for mites. Some of the commercial producers had finished splitting hives by late in the month in preparation for the California almond pollination season early next year. Brazilian pepper prices were reported to be mostly in the \$2.00-\$2.20 range which would be the highest average price ever paid in Florida for that type of honey. Supplies of honey were considered to be fairly light with good demand. The increase in hives and beekeepers continued with nearly 500,000 total hives and almost 4,000 total beekeepers registered in the state by the end of the month.

GEORGIA: Beekeepers are reporting that the bees are in pretty good shape heading into the fall months. Any extra honey from late summer was pulled and the bees are getting prepped for the cooler weather that is just around the corner. Lots of rain in most areas and warm weather produced mixed results for some hives as the available pollen was affected by the weather conditions especially in the north areas. Demand is very strong and sales active for those that have honey available for sale. Supplemental feeding will be provided for those hives that need it for fall and winter.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: Temperatures were much above normal over most areas of Idaho, Utah and Colorado during the month of October, according to the National Weather Service. During the same period, precipitation was below normal over northwest areas of Colorado, the northern Idaho panhandle, and most southern areas of Idaho and northern areas of Utah. Above normal precipitation was recorded in central Idaho, southern Utah and eastern and southern areas of Colorado.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Colorado continued to have normal moisture conditions across most areas of the state in October. The exceptions were a few pockets scattered around the state of Colorado that were abnormally dry. Normal moisture conditions were present in southeastern areas of Utah. The rest of Utah ranged from abnormally dry to severe going from east to west across the state. The worst drought conditions in Utah in October continued to be in the west central area of the state where the severe drought areas seem to have expanded in the past month. Idaho had normal moisture conditions in the southeastern part of the state. The rest of the state of Idaho had drought conditions that ranged from abnormally dry to extreme drought conditions. The worst extreme drought conditions were located in the western and the northern panhandle areas of Idaho. The areas of extreme drought in Idaho continued to grow and intensify during October.

The 2015 honey production season in Idaho ended with around average yields of honey per hive, above average yields in Colorado and below average yields in Utah. As mentioned in the September report, some beekeepers had the best crop of honey in many years in Colorado. This fact was further verified in October.

Although summer and fall bee losses vary a lot from state to state, Idaho and Colorado seem to have lower losses of around 20 percent or below. This figure has been around average for bee losses in recent years. Bee losses in Utah have been another story. There, some beekeepers have experienced bee losses in the range of up to 50 percent. Some beekeepers in Utah attribute their losses to high queen losses that could be traced back to a multitude of factors. The factors which beekeepers feel are the cause for their high losses include: insecticides, fungicides and insect growth regulators. Any commercial beekeeper in Utah that had their hives close to locations where agronomic crops were sprayed seemed to fall into the realm of higher losses. According to beekeepers, more awareness is necessary across a broad spectrum of agricultural and government stakeholders, regarding the detrimental effects these chemicals are having on their bees. Without tighter regulations on chemicals, beekeepers feel that the entire domestic honey industry is in position to collapse.

Even though the honey producing season is over in Idaho, Utah and Colorado, there is no lack of work remaining for beekeepers to finish the 2015 season and start their preparations for the next season. Beekeepers have indicated that by the end of October, there was very little brood still hatching. Around the first part of November, some Idaho beekeepers are planning to place their bees in climate controlled potato sheds until around the first part of February, 2016. At that time, the commercial bees will be moved from the potato sheds onto trucks for a short trip to the almond groves of California. By placing bees in rented controlled environment potato sheds, beekeepers can keep their bees in the best condition possible for the almond pollination period. Potato sheds offer a stable climate which is an improvement over leaving the bees in potential colder temperatures outside. Other beekeepers started shipping their bees directly to California in the last part of October. In addition, there were some beekeepers who shipped their bees to other Southern locations, thereby diverting away from the cold temperatures in the mountain states region.

Many Idaho, Colorado and Utah beekeepers are anticipating higher contract prices for their 2016 almond pollination contracts in California. With a potential shortage of bees for the almond pollination, commercial beekeepers are anticipating some great contract prices. Currently, there seems to be good varroa mite control in the three-state area. With lower tolerable levels, management techniques for control of varroa mites seems to be producing good results. Overall the bees that remain, are looking heavy and healthy at this time. Very little spot supplemental feeding has occurred in Colorado due to the overall great condition of their bees. Most Colorado beekeepers are only feeding on an as-needed basis. In Idaho and Utah beekeepers have been actively feeding corn syrup, sugar syrup or a blend. There has also been some supplemental feeding of pollen patties. Not all beekeepers feel that it is necessary to utilize pollen patties going into the winter months. However, some beekeepers feel that in order to keep new brood in the hive, in preparation for the pollination of almond trees in California, pollen patties are a much needed supplemental feed needed for success of the hive. Between terrible environmental conditions and persistent queen issues all summer in Utah, some beekeepers there have not stopped supplemental feeding for the past year. This situation is an economic drain on the honey business.

Even though demand is still good for honey in the states of Idaho, Utah and Colorado, October prices for wholesale white honey were much lower, when compared to September. According to commercial beekeepers, the current wholesale price for good white domestic honey in Idaho, Colorado and Utah currently averages from \$1.30 to \$1.75 per pound with a mostly price of: \$ 1.70 to \$1.75 pound. Early season prices were as high as \$2.15 for premium lots of wholesale white honey. The trend of wholesale prices is 2015 compared to 2014 is much lower. Prices for light amber honey ranged from \$1.83 to \$1.85. Prices varied widely depending upon quality and quantity.

ILLINOIS: The weather for October has been good overall with slightly cool temperatures, but there is a need for more rain. Central Illinois has been very dry. Treatment for mites has begun. The bees are in good condition as they go out on cleansing flights. Some beekeepers continue feeding their bees with candy board, while others have stopped supplemental feeding. Some foliage still remains, such as white and purple aster and a few dandelions. Production has been good in some parts of the state and poor in other parts of the state. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

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

INDIANA: The weather for October has been poor with frost and many days in the upper 40s. Beekeepers report their bees in poor condition and not well prepared for winter. Beekeepers continued supplemental feeding of their bees. No current production is happening, with a low supply remaining from August extractions. Demand for honey is good and demand exceeded supply at the retail level and demand was fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: No report issued.

LOUISIANA: No report issued.

MICHIGAN: Reports from the north central region indicate a honey crop less than half of last year's. Most fall extracting has been completed, with totals nearly matching the previous month, making for a mediocre year. Honey prices have been stable at 2014 levels: \$2.15 pound to \$2.25 pound for star thistle as well as extra light and light amber honeys from the region. In west central Michigan, the weather has been mild and allowed beekeepers to apply supplemental feeds and treat hives for mites. Some have reported light hives after the fall flow. Summer farmers' markets finished the season with strong demand for local honey. Commercial beekeepers have delivered hives to southern wintering sites, with populations from reports very good at this time. Feeding will be needed to get bees ready for almond pollination in February. Almond contracts are being signed now with pricing at 2014 levels: \$160/unit for 8 frames of bees, \$185-190/unit for 11-12 frame units. Some reports have surfaced that there are cuts in the pollination number due to water shortages and lower than average production this fall. Hopefully, winter rains/snows, especially in the mountains where reservoirs are nearly at all-time lows, will reverse the shrinking trends that have begun in some almond production areas.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were above normal over the entire state during the month of October, according to the National Weather Service. Precipitation was below normal across the entire State during the same period. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the western and central areas of the state are abnormally dry. There is a small area in the northwest part of the state that is now showing a moderate drought. The rest of the state had normal moisture conditions.

The 2015 honey production season in Minnesota ended up being a tale of two different situations. One that saw very good honey production with few losses for some beekeepers and another that saw low to average yields of honey per hive and major bee losses for others. As mentioned in the September report, some beekeepers had the best crop of honey in ten years, while others were average or below average in their yields of honey per hive. During October, when the final tallies of honey were measured, the crop seemed to fall off dramatically for some beekeepers at the end of the season. Some hive losses have been in the range of up to 50 percent. The high loss of bees can be traced back to a multitude of factors. The factors which beekeepers feel are the cause for their high losses include: insecticides, fungicides and insect growth regulators. These chemicals have caused queen problems, which reduced brood and further contributed to reduced honey production. Any commercial beekeeper in Minnesota that had their hives close to corn or soybean fields seemed to fall into the realm of higher losses. According to beekeepers, more awareness is necessary regarding the detrimental effects these chemicals are having on their bees. Without tighter regulations on chemicals, beekeepers feel that the entire domestic honey industry is in position to collapse.

Even though the honey producing season is over in Minnesota, there is no lack of work remaining for beekeepers to finish the 2015 season and start their preparations for the next season. Beekeepers have indicated that by the end of October, there was very little brood still hatching. Additional supplemental feeding has started in earnest with many commercial beekeepers feeding corn or sugar syrup or a blend, to their hives. Many beekeepers have applied 2 rounds of varroa mite control in an effort to keep them in check. Some beekeepers are recombining and experimenting with various treatment combinations to prevent varroa mites from overcoming the hives. After a period of time, old control remedies seem to lose their effectiveness. Some Minnesota beekeepers are planning to ship their bees to Idaho around the first part of November. In Idaho, the bees will be in climate controlled potato sheds until around the first part of February, 2016. At that time, the commercial bees will be moved again from the potato sheds back onto trucks for a short trip to the almond groves of California. By placing bees in rented controlled environment potato sheds, beekeepers have the opportunity to keep their bees in the best condition possible for the almond pollination. The controlled environment potato sheds certainly offer a much warmer climate than cold winter temperatures during the winter months in Minnesota. A second benefit is that Idaho is en route from Minnesota to the California almond groves. In addition, some other beekeepers were planning to ship their bees to southern locations, thereby also diverting away from the cold temperatures in Minnesota. Many Minnesota beekeepers are anticipating higher contract prices for their 2016 almond pollination contracts in California.

One beekeeper explained the current demand for honey in Minnesota as having no logic. By this statement, he was referring to the fact that there seems to be a reduced domestic honey crop in 2015, with good consumer demand, but falling wholesale domestic prices. Beekeepers attribute the falling wholesale prices to increased imports of honey from other countries. This type of market is putting many Minnesota domestic honey producers in an economic bind of increasing input costs and decreasing revenue. Beekeepers stated that they will not be able to continue in business very long with this type of market. According to commercial beekeepers, the current wholesale price for good white domestic honey in Minnesota currently averages from \$1.75 to \$1.80 per pound. In some cases wholesale white honey was selling for more depending quality and quantity. Overall the price listed above is a decrease from the previous month and a lower price than many commercial beekeepers have seen for a couple of years.

**MISSISSIPPI:** The bees are in good shape in most areas of the state. Variable weather conditions have led to mixed results in some areas, particularly in the north part of the state with some central areas in need of rain having an effect on available pollen in those areas. Demand exceeds supplies.

**MONTANA:** No report issued.

**NEW ENGLAND:** October exhibited relatively warm seasonal temperatures, mild conditions, with daytime highs in the 50's-60's and the latter part of the month experienced cooler temperatures with sporadic rainfall. Soil moisture levels were above normal for the year generally in all parts of the region. Cooler and rainy weather will force many nectar and pollen sources to quickly diminish by the end of the month hence the fall bloom has ended. New England fall leaf color bloom proved to be spectacular this year. This month's main nectar and pollen sources have been mustard cover crop, coreopsis, sweet pepper bush, purple loosestrife, fall aster, buckwheat, Indian silk, button bush, globe thistle, especially golden rod and an assortment of wild weeds such as joe-pyeweed, pickereel weed, jewel weed, Japanese knot weed and various fall wildflowers. There has been plenty of pollen available in most areas from goldenrod.

Honey flow and colony populations were advancing significantly early on, with the bees working hard and creating a strong population buildup with most keepers reporting overall that their hives are looking strong for over-wintering. Most beekeepers are now in the process of combining weak colonies to form strong ones and have mouse guards in place. Additionally, keepers see the advantages in over-wintering in 2-deeps for a faster spring buildup. In many cold regions, some honey robbing between hives occurred due to the depleted nectar supplies and food sources. Currently there is heavy egg laying with slightly larger egg patterns. Some keepers reportedly were looking for queens because they thought that their hives were queenless. However, queens will stop laying if there is no nectar coming in. Carniola and Russian bees are very conservative layers during a nectar dearth and all bees will utilize their honey stores when short on nectar being brought in. Hives heavy with honey have exhibited tremendous growth in brood populations. Secondly, this condition will result in lowering the honey inventory. At this point in time, there is not enough time left to replenish the previous level of honey stores. The keepers that have found light reserves, are feeding and placing fondant as something to fall back on as most of the feeding has finished for the season. Keepers are feeding with sugar syrup (2:1) and feeding 2 gallons per hive before clustering. Reportedly, bees are taking sugar syrup at a rate of 5-10lbs per week per hive. Nectar gathering seems to be on a sabbatical in favor of sugar syrup. Keepers warn that the season is almost over for liquid sugar feeding as the cold weather will not allow the bees to be able to convert liquid sugar.

In New England, the daylight hours are getting shorter and the night time hours are getting longer. Many keepers have finished their IPM (Integrated Pest Management) programs in order to have a successful over-winter result. Keepers are administering treatments to combat the various disease killers such as varroa and tracheal mites, wax moth, chalkbrood and American foul brood. The most popular treatments currently being used are mite away strips/pads, formic acid in some form and apiguard. Additionally, keepers are using prescription antibacterials for the prevention of American foul brood. Many keepers claim that this summer's hot and dry weather helped reduce mite loads. In addition to the above mentioned IPM programs there is also the practice formally used that utilizes a propane fogger that administers food grade mineral oil whereby hives are fogged 3 different times about 10 days apart. Purportedly, this method is very safe for the bees and can be done with honey supers on. This season has proved to be a good season with light varroa/tracheal mite populations, and few disease issues. The most mentioned pest issue this year was the strong presence of hive beetles.

Hobbyists reported generally speaking, that their colonies have exhibited a mixed bag in honey production results. Most are reporting very high level honey yields for this season. Yields are connected to weather conditions and nectar sources as it takes 8 to 10lbs of nectar to make 1lb of honey. It is difficult to generalize about success or underachievement on the efforts of beekeepers honey results, as it is the local environment and the work the bees do that determines the quantity, quality and taste. The criterion of moisture content, clarity and taste determines how honey is graded for quality.

Most keepers report colonies to be in good condition and entering the winter with plenty of bees and strong on honey and pollen. Many keepers consider their bees to be well prepared for this winter. Many keepers are reportedly using insulation wrap around their hive bodies and have previously positioned their hives to be sheltered from the north and east winds in anticipation of a winter that is predicted to be colder with more snow than usual, as was the case last year. Most keepers advise to set the hive entrance toward the south so as to receive more sun in the winter months.

Demand for local honey has been phenomenal and prices remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$10.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$18.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$215.00 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 \$2.60 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. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50lbs are \$2.20 to \$3.50 mostly \$3.50 for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Retail white and cleaned beeswax prices reported are \$16.00 to \$20.00 per pound, mostly \$18.00 per pound or \$1.50 per ounce. This season in New England, there has been reported a larger than normal honey crop which points to more wax available on the wholesale and retail market.

**NEW YORK:** Weather varied greatly across the state this season, with different harvest output. The first half of the season was cool and damp, which affected the buildup for packages and nucs; the latter half turned warm and dry. In the Finger Lakes region, the weather worked in a positive way. Production was high for most beekeepers; one source stated second best production in 30 years, averaging 190 pounds per hive. Normally, half of the honey production is collected during the fall harvest of goldenrod; however, this year, reports of the spring harvest are as big as the fall crop. A good residual crop was also left with the colonies to help with overwintering. In other areas across the state, harvest was marginal. Sales have been strong with stable prices currently.

**NORTH CAROLINA:** Temperatures in North Carolina varied throughout October, but were mostly above normal. Precipitation for the month was normal to above normal as most areas experienced 11 to 12 consecutive days of rain leaving statewide soil moisture levels rated 5 percent very short, 13.5 percent short, 73 percent adequate, and 8.5 percent surplus the week ending October 24. According to the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council there were no drought advisories in effect in North Carolina.

Colonies remain in only moderate condition with apiary inspectors reporting low food stores; failed queens; and heavy varroa mite pressure in apiaries that did not adequately manage for the pest. Beekeepers continued supplementing hives in an effort to boost winter stores; and bees were very active, when possible, as steady rains gave way to a higher than normal nectar flow of aster and goldenrod, but made it difficult for the bees to exploit what was available. It was noted that some hives had begun evacuating drones and queens were already reducing egg laying activity.

Commercial pollinator hives and replacement bee operations continued to rest and replenish hives in preparation for the 2016 season. Demand for bees at this time is seasonally light as beekeepers do not want to feed and protect them throughout the winter.

Consumer demand for honey remains high. The North Carolina State Beekeepers Association sold out of 3,000 pounds of honey, at higher than normal prices, while manning a booth at the North Carolina State Fair, October 15-25. Meanwhile, retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market remain steady at \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar.

**NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA:** Despite the rainfall which slowed harvest in some areas later in the month, harvest progressed ahead of last season and the 5 year average for most commodities. Beekeepers finished extractions with mixed results caused by cooler summer weather and the smoke from the fires in Canada. With field work generally completed, beekeepers made preparations for over-wintering their bees, many of which were heading out to their winter homes.

**OHIO:** The honey crop for 2015 had its ups and downs, depending on location and weather patterns across the state. After a late spring and a wet summer, in which yields were down, the fall goldenrod crop had a good flow for the most part. However, with the extended fall flow, there are concerns about an uprising in varroa mite infestations. Materials used to treat the disease were not as effective and the coverage was spotty due to weather conditions. With an average honey crop, prices have recently increased slightly from earlier lows, when a heavy influx of foreign supplies hit the market and pressured prices. Currently prices range from \$1.99-2.20 per pound (in 55 gallon drum). With more hives being shipped from California (due to the drought) and North Dakota to Florida for overwintering, there are industry concerns about spreading disease among healthier hives, which could impact additional losses in colonies if not monitored.

**OKLAHOMA:** Goldenrod fall flowers and late wheat alfalfa had some fields too wet to cut so supplemental feeding continued through October. Weather conditions brought rain off and on in most areas, a few days of rain then a stretch without any rain. Most beekeepers have drawn honey off hives but there may be a small late crop before the first freeze in Oklahoma's central and lower counties. Colonies are in good condition. Hive beetles are not good but manageable with most hives. Demand is very high and supply is low.

**OREGON:** No report issued.

**SOUTH CAROLINA:** No report issued.

**TENNESSEE:** No report issued.

**TEXAS:** Bees are doing well - most colonies are strong and queenright. Keepers have reduced the hives to their winter configuration (a deep super topped by a medium) and switched back to solid bottom boards. Even though the cold is a few months away, it is good to give the bees time to set things up the way they want, with no further manipulations.

Feeding will begin in about two weeks. At the moment, the bees are being treated for varroa mites, so the colonies start the winter season as healthy as possible. Feeding the bees will achieve the dual goals of setting up plentiful stores of food for the winter, as well as encouraging the bees in their last round of brood rearing for the season - raising the new bees that will take the colonies through the winter.

Due to the limited harvest this year, some keepers have more-or-less sold out of honey until next July.

**WASHINGTON:** Fall rains have brought some much needed moisture but the stimulus it might have given to any forage crops was too late to do much good. A substantial portion of the honey from this season was left for the bees to maintain their hives over the winter. Many beekeepers have continued feeding and are preparing their hives for the winter, in the hope that milder conditions might help already stressed hives make through the winter with nominal losses. Fruit harvest is mostly complete.

**WISCONSIN:** The weather has been good for October with mild temperatures and adequate rainfall. Beekeepers continue to test for mites and those showing them present are being treated. Beekeepers report that there is no more wild foliage for their bees. Some beekeepers have finished feeding their bees, while others continue to feed them. Most beekeepers report that their bees are in good condition, but a few report that some hives are completely dead. A few beekeepers report extractions of honey from their hives. Demand for honey is brisk at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

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

	Year to Date		September 2015	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
<b>COMB &amp; NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -</b>				
Afghanistan	1,322	12,310	0	0
Bahamas, The	2,835	10,740	0	0
Bahrain	24,566	59,629	0	0
Bangladesh	1,000	4,435	0	0
Barbados	29,228	93,088	1,794	10,682
Brazil	4,407	10,696	0	0

Cayman Islands	548	3,180	0	0
China	271,457	666,355	31,295	79,227
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0
Guatemala	897	5,341	0	0
Guyana	7,782	31,097	0	0
Hong Kong	4,268	19,679	0	0
India	260,400	910,470	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	0	0
Japan	280,959	943,988	0	0
Korea, South	201,629	1,067,248	34,508	177,900
Kuwait	245,694	600,671	56,198	136,411
Lebanon	780	3,915	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	0	0	0	0
Libya	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	4,692	11,390	0	0
Mexico	0	0	0	0
Mongolia	0	0	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	12,973	78,383	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0
Panama	22,988	121,728	3,588	21,362
Philippines	275,589	672,266	13,430	32,598
Saudi Arabia	449	3,384	0	0
Singapore	40,020	125,378	0	0
Spain	0	0	0	0
Sri Lanka	1,482	3,598	0	0
Suriname	0	0	0	0
Taiwan	8,296	20,136	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	250,410	630,883	422	2,923
Vietnam	1,000	4,901	1,000	4,901
Yemen(*)	186,404	480,660	136,596	343,576

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

Australia(*)	7,145	36,930	7,145	36,930
Bahamas, The	21,948	98,820	0	0
Barbados	6,691	39,498	1,038	2,520
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	2,014	4,889	0	0
Bermuda	35,425	110,940	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	0
Canada	860,685	3,897,092	84,774	338,868
Cayman Islands	1,262	5,291	0	0
Chile	809	12,853	0	0
China	45,380	185,602	4,080	32,400
Dominican Republic	3,331	11,200	0	0
Germany(*)	4,155	13,945	0	0
Guatemala	760	8,814	0	0
Haiti	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	59,614	295,102	20,293	58,732
India	219,540	595,082	0	0
Italy(*)	8,262	22,920	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0
Japan	31,449	121,899	562	7,788
Jordan	646	5,000	0	0
Korea, South	308,770	1,325,217	183,945	853,397
Kuwait	8,506	20,646	5,727	13,900
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,140	2,766	0	0
Mexico	24,665	99,642	0	0
Mongolia	2,366	5,742	0	0

Netherlands	0	0	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	10,618	44,363	1,065	3,200
Pakistan	19,005	135,585	8,244	60,662
Panama	408	3,056	0	0
Philippines	5,590	41,508	374	2,511
Saudi Arabia	55,456	150,922	1,533	3,720
Singapore	13,862	72,066	627	4,248
Taiwan	0	0	0	0
Thailand	3,538	24,235	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	0	0
Turkey	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	10,515	47,139	0	0
United Kingdom	147	2,590	0	0
Vietnam	171,001	461,026	0	0
Yemen(*)	0	0	0	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4,086,778</b>	<b>14,497,929</b>	<b>598,238</b>	<b>2,228,456</b>

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

	Year to Date			September 2015		
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

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

Argentina	4,464,664	17,394,103	17,689,859	322,587	1,184,513	1,209,233
Australia(*)	19,490	79,909	80,909	0	0	0
Brazil	617,653	2,414,262	2,508,575	75,900	235,391	255,391
Canada	6,341,465	26,988,345	27,122,538	444,698	1,643,243	1,660,214
China	802	5,135	5,435	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	6,282	17,612	18,781	0	0	0
France(*)	675	6,272	6,447	0	0	0
Germany(*)	614	2,095	2,162	0	0	0
India	3,539,893	12,154,510	12,474,850	578,480	1,917,624	2,009,525
Italy(*)	5,823	52,358	62,005	0	0	0
Mexico	1,740,234	7,161,826	7,216,472	54,429	204,110	206,860
New Zealand(*)	14,323	28,645	29,383	0	0	0
Portugal	3,341	5,028	5,922	0	0	0
Serbia	1,416	9,183	9,755	0	0	0
Taiwan	152,901	318,788	341,284	0	0	0
Thailand	354,264	945,509	987,009	0	0	0
Ukraine	56,355	178,130	184,634	19,235	62,513	63,759
United Kingdom	3,528	32,265	33,648	0	0	0
Uruguay	604,600	2,198,007	2,217,145	113,726	382,705	385,068

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

Argentina	13,813,664	53,683,917	55,546,465	837,797	2,974,265	3,051,573
Australia(*)	19,500	88,725	89,288	0	0	0
Brazil	563,024	2,059,381	2,147,582	57,045	181,520	193,876
Burma	19,500	59,425	62,689	0	0	0
Canada	311,107	1,490,409	1,497,139	59,910	270,568	271,268
Denmark(*)	3,660	23,620	24,606	1,978	11,326	11,673
France(*)	9,183	49,401	50,881	259	7,430	7,566

India	13,030,739	42,585,045	44,067,512	1,015,725	3,217,044	3,342,036
Indonesia	19,470	64,572	67,495	19,470	64,572	67,495
Italy(*)	20,525	52,996	56,639	318	6,197	6,613
Japan	10	2,790	2,970	0	0	0
Mexico	2,540,511	9,877,297	9,994,408	31,845	118,884	120,032
New Zealand(*)	191,423	427,389	461,755	114,577	211,027	220,570
Pakistan	38,000	106,420	107,010	19,000	53,210	53,600
Portugal	219	2,408	2,608	0	0	0
Taiwan	1,705,160	4,115,402	4,240,602	287,100	682,723	686,723
Thailand	2,375,244	6,294,175	6,467,420	259,860	665,112	693,332
Ukraine	8,319,674	26,983,741	28,411,502	267,960	909,675	944,008
Uruguay	2,552,911	8,807,416	9,050,681	150,809	516,737	530,607
Vietnam	887,345	2,496,269	2,651,424	76,185	217,211	230,791

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

Argentina	2,055,282	7,625,198	7,914,241	574,097	1,906,268	1,982,378
Australia(*)	7,829	105,644	106,884	0	0	0
Austria	70,811	611,036	650,889	1,026	10,185	10,830
Brazil	1,704,471	6,161,557	6,388,117	208,152	710,126	747,486
Bulgaria	19,980	69,972	74,852	0	0	0
Burma	979,500	2,403,174	2,558,068	0	0	0
Canada	1,728	9,540	9,676	0	0	0
Cote d'Ivoire	76,800	220,032	220,034	0	0	0
Croatia	1,296	11,114	11,344	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	12,612	112,560	117,560	2,722	14,742	15,193
Dominican Republic	417,658	1,321,914	1,378,781	9,486	28,050	28,650
Ecuador	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ethiopia(*)	20,880	88,740	91,275	0	0	0
Germany(*)	190,605	968,152	1,016,676	48,696	261,380	272,380
Greece	4,731	27,823	29,446	0	0	0
Hong Kong	13,680	90,326	91,915	6,156	41,040	41,755
India	11,080,581	34,474,850	35,971,640	1,322,191	4,109,608	4,251,028
Israel(*)	1,363	8,225	8,493	0	0	0
Italy(*)	5,388	96,902	99,636	523	8,617	8,768
Jamaica	15,259	145,200	152,700	4,170	72,600	75,100
Kuwait	2,779	24,689	27,196	0	0	0
Mexico	368,789	1,283,482	1,289,448	53,114	193,564	194,070
New Zealand(*)	266	10,431	11,431	196	6,884	7,784
Pakistan	4,886	20,116	22,128	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	1,327	16,992	17,507	0	0	0
Spain	22,553	186,437	192,176	1,858	16,763	17,056
Switzerland(*)	492	2,595	2,596	0	0	0
Taiwan	1,381,959	3,147,888	3,274,008	267,960	599,082	631,582
Thailand	5,937,201	14,945,928	15,805,185	327,460	846,459	888,835
Turkey	3,666,060	10,561,080	11,530,082	93,000	279,000	309,000
Ukraine	685,694	2,186,442	2,271,695	38,672	125,686	128,440
Uruguay	2,993,396	9,714,489	9,885,428	468,189	1,505,376	1,519,768
Vietnam	24,160,840	67,948,464	71,036,557	2,625,900	7,285,465	7,578,731

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

Albania	408	3,600	4,045	408	3,600	4,045
Argentina	206,569	684,645	713,787	58,030	193,048	202,048
Australia(*)	94	2,419	2,539	0	0	0

Belarus	399	2,066	3,466	399	2,066	3,466
Brazil	18,744	63,167	68,167	0	0	0
Canada	43,232	135,325	145,696	2,073	20,081	20,231
Dominican Republic	459,733	1,219,462	1,264,706	21,899	63,840	65,604
Egypt	4,474	21,900	23,366	0	0	0
France(*)	3,601	54,895	56,641	0	0	0
Germany	270	2,443	2,729	270	2,443	2,729
Greece	17,285	136,208	145,175	804	6,815	7,796
India	99,018	338,544	354,798	31,130	88,116	91,944
Indonesia	121,800	328,860	343,860	0	0	0
Israel(*)	5,930	15,764	16,341	5,836	13,064	13,555
Italy(*)	5,513	88,156	91,231	0	0	0
Jamaica	419	4,500	5,951	419	4,500	5,951
Lithuania	3,487	16,781	17,689	0	0	0
Mexico	307,922	1,172,560	1,180,371	21,832	66,156	66,833
Moldova	3,535	6,315	7,354	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	697,786	8,194,000	8,369,002	64,581	510,365	524,715
Pakistan	1,338	6,150	6,960	0	0	0
Poland	21,363	87,198	95,558	0	0	0
Russia	40,422	186,534	197,245	720	2,880	3,422
Saudi Arabia	4,630	49,056	50,541	0	0	0
Spain	5,004	40,715	43,358	0	0	0
Sudan(*)	2,650	11,290	14,176	0	0	0
Taiwan	483,856	1,344,709	1,417,528	77,610	222,106	230,385
Turkey	1,419	7,996	11,749	0	0	0
Ukraine	77,197	239,959	253,118	0	0	0
United Kingdom	10,287	63,987	70,386	10,287	63,987	70,386
Uruguay	17,144	38,574	41,074	0	0	0
Vietnam	2,009,544	5,371,561	5,639,713	335,720	872,867	911,895

**COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –**

Argentina	11,295	49,746	52,445	0	0	0
Australia(*)	30	2,154	3,654	0	0	0
Austria	5,839	70,335	74,954	0	0	0
Brazil	14,502	110,094	112,430	0	0	0
Bulgaria	95,205	341,204	361,252	0	0	0
Canada	57,487	445,019	446,350	7,026	55,477	55,827
Dominican Republic	7,628	35,011	37,875	1,375	4,124	4,924
Egypt	13,249	24,159	25,927	0	0	0
France(*)	304,615	1,464,884	1,530,414	16,608	187,002	195,976
Germany(*)	225,941	1,067,105	1,112,866	12,354	73,682	76,182
Greece	29,603	323,358	336,596	160	2,238	2,332
Guatemala	10,680	36,450	41,030	0	0	0
Hungary	65,411	461,358	483,432	5,389	59,441	60,260
India	619,356	1,896,842	1,980,708	72,558	222,970	233,720
Israel(*)	4,315	24,323	24,900	1,804	8,663	9,140
Italy(*)	16,178	202,984	207,942	2,548	29,861	30,293
Kazakhstan	697	3,483	3,831	0	0	0
Lebanon	2,850	21,060	21,954	0	0	0
Lithuania	8,426	36,055	39,661	0	0	0
Mexico	19,063	80,245	85,072	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	696,910	6,209,607	6,295,223	74,086	1,056,843	1,072,743
Pakistan	2,333	7,494	7,836	0	0	0
Poland	18,983	86,762	92,318	2,394	17,586	18,819
Portugal	30,680	195,063	203,442	3,620	25,228	26,416
Russia	48,442	221,262	243,380	1,644	4,144	4,558

Saudi Arabia	1,553	13,117	13,326	0	0	0
Serbia	5,582	41,264	43,537	0	0	0
Spain	114,726	784,439	815,088	18,729	121,484	125,184
Switzerland(*)	13,578	91,042	95,598	162	2,400	2,474
Taiwan	83,597	154,907	165,061	21,111	20,925	23,282
Turkey	98,160	637,002	659,422	0	0	0
Ukraine	50,554	129,789	141,362	4,780	15,680	17,248
United Arab Emirates	908	5,400	5,607	0	0	0
United Kingdom	171	3,671	3,672	171	3,671	3,672

**FLAVORED HONEY –**

Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	1,959	5,984	6,370	0	0	0
Canada	10,905	133,882	135,073	1,740	22,550	22,800
China	11,223	64,671	66,574	0	0	0
El Salvador	2,309	9,070	10,619	0	0	0
Finland	73	14,130	14,298	0	0	0
France	7,920	286,172	290,242	7,920	286,172	290,242
Germany(*)	10,200	34,082	36,232	0	0	0
India	68,563	151,308	159,169	0	0	0
Ireland	1,109	10,579	12,521	302	2,775	3,339
Italy(*)	2,572	81,287	83,026	823	21,013	21,679
Japan	180	22,877	22,977	0	0	0
Korea, South	195,320	3,329,687	3,408,444	41,309	674,694	688,083
Lebanon	240	3,600	3,744	0	0	0
Mexico	103,620	970,159	978,946	36,603	357,746	360,231
New Zealand(*)	76	12,207	12,454	0	0	0
Pakistan	1,387	3,725	3,887	0	0	0
Poland	880	3,179	3,396	0	0	0
Russia	2,778	8,658	9,612	0	0	0
Spain	739	5,238	6,252	0	0	0
Taiwan	32,433	90,247	95,449	4,285	17,085	17,671
Thailand	116,589	507,561	521,780	42,517	190,938	195,757
Turkey	915	4,744	4,855	0	0	0

**ORGANIC HONEY –**

Argentina	254,066	1,139,920	1,208,319	0	0	0
Australia(*)	18,480	145,825	153,246	9,240	70,815	75,736
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	265	3,494	3,658	265	3,494	3,658
Brazil	8,924,815	34,404,769	35,665,225	777,025	2,820,652	2,937,890
Canada	80,353	575,475	584,384	6,093	44,100	45,600
Cyprus	850	5,469	5,941	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	449	3,648	3,924	449	3,648	3,924
Greece	960	12,681	12,904	0	0	0
India	125,400	359,562	368,005	0	0	0
Italy(*)	9,649	92,644	96,322	421	4,144	4,400
Mexico	65,796	279,782	288,688	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	19,329	212,138	218,278	3,440	20,469	21,532
Spain	190	2,301	2,302	0	0	0
Thailand	18,000	46,045	48,830	18,000	46,045	48,830
Ukraine	334,288	1,090,404	1,144,614	55,513	185,969	187,679
Uruguay	37,270	134,845	141,845	0	0	0

**GRAND TOTAL**

138,071,658 473,341,848 490,514,043 12,746,943 42,578,157 44,047,753

**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