

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

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UPDATED REPORT: SEE PRICES BELOW

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2014

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

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

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY -

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

ARKANSAS

Soybean Light Amber \$1.89

CALIFORNIA

Alfalfa Light Amber \$1.70 - \$1.75
Clover White \$2.00
Clover Light Amber \$1.70
Sage Light Amber \$1.95
Orange White \$1.95

DAKOTA

Clover White \$2.00
Clover Extra Light \$1.95
Western White \$2.05 - \$2.06

FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper Light Amber \$1.60
Wildflower Extra Light Amber \$1.95 - \$2.10
Wildflower Light Amber \$1.50

MISSISSIPPI

Soybean Extra Light Amber \$1.96
Soybean Light Amber \$1.93

MONTANA

Clover White \$2.00
Western White \$2.06

NEW JERSEY

Brazilian Pepper Light Amber \$1.63

OHIO

Clover White \$2.07

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

BRAZIL

Mixed Flowers Light Amber \$1.86

INDIA

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

MEXICO

Mixed Flowers White \$1.90
Mixed Flowers Extra Light \$1.80

UKRAINE

Sunflower White \$1.64
Mixed Flowers White \$1.68
Mixed Flowers Extra Light \$1.68

VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers Light Amber \$1.35 - \$1.52

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING DECEMBER, 2014

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): December's weather continued on a colder than normal streak for most of the month with below average temperatures and average amount of precipitation. Colonies are being monitored by beekeepers as best they can during the winter months and monitoring supplemental feeding. Several colonies were shipped to California in late November for the almond crop pollination.

ALABAMA: December 2014 in Alabama was mild for the most part, both North and South. Colonies were active on many days this month, especially in south Alabama. Many beekeepers are having to feed bees at the present time and colder weather is projected for early January. It looks like it may be a "roller coaster" winter as far as temperatures go, which is not that unusual in Alabama, and can cause clustering issues in some areas. Honey demand remains high in local areas, which has been the case for the last several years, and doesn't appear to be going away any time soon. This is a good problem to have, but makes it hard to meet consumer demand at times. If the weather is somewhat consistent for the next couple of months then Alabama beekeepers will hopefully get through this winter with minimal losses.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were at above normal levels for the first half of December, were at normal levels the third week of December, and closed the month out at below normal levels. The range statewide in temperatures for the month was a high of 96 degrees Fahrenheit in Yuma to a low of 2 degrees below zero Fahrenheit at Window Rock.

Arizona received precipitation across the entire state in December, as the weekly totals of reporting stations to receive precipitation were 39/39, 39/39, 47/50 and 21/50 respectively. 12 of the 40 reporting stations were at or over normal precipitation levels for the year.

The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state were desert plant bloom and citrus. Bee activity in the state was limited during the month of December. Beekeepers have been or are continuing to make preparations to move colonies to other locations, primarily California, for pollination of nut and fruit trees. Demand for honey remains good.

ARKANSAS: The weather in Western Arkansas has been milder than the last few years with ample rain and we never had a day of 100 degrees, which is unusual. The honey flow was good. Honey was extracted the first week in July and the fall extraction in October. Some beekeepers say they had whole frames of uncapped honey and it may be due to excessive moisture. Market supply seems to be good.

Colonies and bees have done well. Started fogging with mineral oil and that seems to help on varroa and hive beetles. We had plenty of rain so we had plenty for the bees to forage on; gardens, wild plants, etc. There are no row crops within the vicinity of my bees so they rely on native plants and gardens. Supply is good and demand is good also. The going price for a pint of honey is \$8.00.

CALIFORNIA: Two main weather features dominated the weather across the State this week. The first was cold high pressure centered over the Great Basin. The primary effects were dry weather and bitterly cold temperatures. While the valley saw highs in the 50s and lows in the 30s each day, parts of the mountains dropped below zero, and sub-freezing weather reached as far south as the Joshua Tree National Park area. By mid-week the jet stream had shifted to a pattern that began ushering in relatively warmer, moisture-laden air from the Pacific. This resulted in a moderation of nocturnal lows and an influx of moisture, manifesting itself as marine stratus/fog events, particularly along the coasts.

As a result, coastal temperatures remained in the 50s across the north and 60s across the south. The combination of clear skies in the valley and moisture influx led to the formation of dense radiation fog on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Widespread frost affected the agricultural zones in the valley early this week, with patchy frost continuing through the weekend. Rain fell across the continually parched southern reaches of the State on Thursday, but rain totals were less than half an inch. Portions of the Sierras saw snow showers mainly on Tuesday, but little to no accumulation came of this event. Elsewhere, little to no precipitation fell across the State this week.

Feeding continues through this month and bees are in a waiting mode and are preparing for almond pollination. Beekeepers are waiting to see how their bees fared through the cold weather we experienced this December.

Although some of the bees may be seen flying for a few hours on mild sunny days, they spend most of the time assembled in tight clusters inside the hives at this time of year. Indeed, these shortest days of the year correspond to a period of relatively low activity for the colonies. However, this is actually an important phase of their life cycle. Since most of the queens stopped laying eggs several weeks earlier, there is no brood nest in the hives to offer the varroa mites places where they can reproduce safely. They are all exposed to the adult bees, which can eliminate these parasites by grooming.

COLORADO: Temperatures were much above normal across most of Colorado during December. Precipitation was slightly below normal across most areas of the State during the same period according to the National Weather Service. There were several locations that did have slightly above normal precipitation including areas around Denver, Grand Junction and some Southeast areas of the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, most of the State has normal moisture conditions. This area expanded in size during the month of December. This was primarily due to good moisture in many areas of the State. The far Southern areas of the State continue to be abnormally to moderate in drought conditions. Only the Southeastern area continues to be in a long term severe drought.

Beekeepers have indicated that their bees are still looking good at this point of time.

With commercial bees now in warmer Southern States and California for the winter months, beekeepers are left with winter work to prepare for the 2015 season in Colorado. Some projects that commercial beekeepers are working on include repair of existing supers and construction of new supers.

Beekeepers are hoping that their bees presently in California will be strong and ready to start pollination of the almond trees by the middle of February. It is always hard for beekeepers to guess on how the bees will survive through the winter, even if they have followed all of the best management practices available. With residual effects of mites, viruses or chemical exposure, the winter waiting period can be a very stressful time for beekeepers. Colorado commercial beekeepers plan to treat for mites on hives that were moved to California in January. They also plan to provide some supplemental feed to hives to make sure all hives are ready to provide superior pollination services to the almond growers. Supplemental feeds will be added on a need basis.

Overall supplies of domestic honey have been decreasing a little more each year due to a number of factors beyond the control of beekeepers such as colony collapse disorder. With the consumer demand for honey continuing to be strong in Colorado, the only way many commercial honey processors have been able to keep up with demand, has been to increase the amount of honey obtained from imports. Increasing imported honey is not what Colorado beekeepers want to see moving forward. Imports place downward price pressure on the domestic market. As it currently stands, domestic production of honey simply cannot keep pace with consumer demand in the United States. Collectively we need to start thinking of new ways to improve our domestic honey industry, from disease control to creating a better environment for our honey bees.

Currently, wholesale demand for honey is very good and prices are about steady in Colorado. Current prices reported by commercial beekeepers are as follows: White Honey averages from \$2.01 to \$2.25 per pound. Wholesale light capping wax is averaging from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per pound. Prices vary depending upon quality and quantity.

FLORIDA: The weather for the month was a little warmer than normal with precipitation slightly higher than normal. There was still not very much rain, as December is typically a dry month in Florida. Bee health was considered to be very good. Beekeepers were splitting hives and treating for mites in preparation for the annual trip to California for almond pollination with many hives being relocated shortly after the middle of next month. There were few sources of food, except for scattered wildflowers and some maple. The maple bloom appeared to be about a week earlier than normal. Citrus greening was causing some early premature orange bloom, but no honey was being produced from that source. The next source of food for honey production will be citrus, primarily orange blossom, in March. There was essentially no honey being produced for sale and practically no stored honey available for sale. Demand remains good with supplies very light and prices remaining at or near record levels.

GEORGIA: Beekeepers report that the bees are in good condition. Weather conditions were fairly normal for this time of year with plenty of rain and a few cold nights. 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. Due to the increase in sugar, some beekeepers are using more corn syrup this winter. Dandelions, wild radish and a few other flowering type plants are the main source of food outside of supplemental feeding. Most of the hives are being treated with strips for Varroa Mites and good management practices have kept the bees in better condition than in past years. No major losses reported. The price of honey has too wide of a range to report as honey is in good demand and sources are light.

IDAHO: Temperatures were much above normal over the entire State of Idaho during the month of December, according to the National Weather Service. During the same period, precipitation was below normal over much of the State. The exception was above normal precipitation in the Boise, McCall and Stanley areas of the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, in December all areas of the State except the Southeast and extreme Northern areas of the Panhandle experienced some type of drought conditions that varied from an extreme drought in the Southwest region to moderate and abnormally dry over other areas. There was a slight improvement in overall drought conditions in the Boise, McCall and Stanley areas due to good precipitation in December. The Southeast area and the extreme Northern part of the Panhandle had normal moisture conditions.

Commercial beekeepers have indicated that their bees are still looking good at this point of time. They also noted that their bees are presently still located in controlled environment buildings in Idaho. By the middle of January, commercial beekeepers will start moving their bees by tractor trailer load to warmer conditions in California for the annual almond pollination season. Beekeepers are also busy working on other winter projects including repair of existing supers and construction of new supers. Beekeepers are hoping that when they move their bees to California, that they will be strong and ready to start pollination of the almond trees by the middle of February. It is always hard for beekeepers to guess on how the bees will survive through the winter, even if they have followed all of the best management practices available. With residual effects of mites, viruses or chemical exposure, the winter waiting period can be a very stressful time for beekeepers. Idaho commercial beekeepers plan to treat for mites on hives in January after arriving in California. They also plan to provide some supplemental feed to hives to make sure all hives are ready to provide superior pollination services to the almond growers. Supplemental feeds will be added on a need basis.

Overall supplies of domestic honey have been decreasing a little more each year due to a number of factors beyond the control of beekeepers such as colony collapse disorder. With the consumer demand for honey continuing to be strong in Idaho, the only way many commercial honey processors have been able to keep up with demand, has been to increase the amount of honey obtained from imports. Increasing imported honey is not what Idaho beekeepers want to see moving forward. Imports place downward price pressure on the domestic market. As it currently stands, domestic production of honey simply cannot keep pace with consumer demand in the United States. Collectively we need to start thinking of new ways to improve our domestic honey industry, from disease control to creating a better environment for our honey bees.

Currently, wholesale demand for honey is very good. Prices are about steady in Idaho. Current prices reported by commercial beekeepers in Idaho are as follows: White Honey averages from \$2.06 to \$2.15 per pound. Retail prices range from \$3.00 to \$5.39 per pound. Prices vary depending upon quality and quantity.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the first 2 weeks of December were reported to be mild as well as around the Christmas Holiday; however temperature dropped to the low 20s around the end of the month. Beekeepers report their bees in fairly good to good condition, during the beginning of the month when temperature were 40-50 degree and reported their bees being able to take random cleaning flights as weather permitted. Most beekeepers were able to check on their bees to see if they had enough food within their hives, but the latter part of the month temperatures became too cold. A few beekeepers even reported some supplemental feeding of the bees. Demand for honey is good at the retail and wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Temperatures were above normal as precipitation varied. Much of the warmer temperatures occurred most of the month while cooler conditions rounded out the month. Precipitation averages were above normal in Kansas and Nebraska, while Iowa and Missouri were below normal. Very little activity occurred in the bee yard. Some beekeepers have moved their bees to California for the upcoming almond pollination.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of December were quite mild during the beginning of the month, but changed to the lower 20s and lower by the end of the month. Beekeepers report their bees in good condition as well as them being able to take a few cleaning flights earlier within the month while the weather was mild. Beekeeper reported some supplemental feeding as weather permitted, but later in the month temperatures none reported due to the cold temperatures. Demand for honey is good, while prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: The predictions of a harsh winter in 2015 has meant that some beekeepers have decided to move their bees to South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi, so no major reports of feeding, pathogens, or pesticide kills. No notable blooming plants available. Others are having to feed their colonies during this time.

LOUISIANA: Feeding bees Bee-Pro to build up hives. With the loss of the spring nectar and pollen, sources continue feeding. Due to the location of hives, the food sources available are a complex of wild flowers, a variety of flowering shrubs and trees including pecans. Reports of losses of 24% in hives were reported this year. It did not appear that there was any one major factor. Of the 20 hives going into the spring, all were strong and well fed over the winter and spring but five of them appeared to lose their queens and simply died off or were salvaged and combined with other hives. Splits were made in late spring (June) and some of these failed as well. The weather was cool in the spring and the summer was short-lived, with lots of rain. Varroa has and was managed so it's unlikely that that would be the sole causal agent. The fall and winter weather to date in central Louisiana have been mild and drier than normal. This last summer we had a lot more rain, (some rather intense), such that the fall harvest was put back from September to October. The fall harvest was about ½ what was normal. The spring weather was wet and we had two late freezes. The spring honey flow was lost and the spring honey harvest was delayed one month and taken in July. This late harvest impacted adversely the fall harvest. Supply and demand remain constant.

MICHIGAN: Commercial beekeepers have reported a "warm" winter in south Florida. Willow and soft maple pollens are beginning and honeybee populations are excellent and ramping up. Supplemental feeding is necessary at this time of year, as there is no significant nectar flow at this time. Syrup in lieu of natural honey is as beneficial as honey, provided that bees have good natural pollen available. Bulk honey prices in semi loads sales have been holding steady in the \$2.25 pound range. Purchasing slowed during the holiday season but are picking up with orders and inquiries to supplement their winter honey inventories. Almond growers in California appear to be holding pricing for honeybee colonies at last spring's prices – averaging \$185 per unit.

MINNESOTA: Overall temperatures were much above normal across the entire State in December. There was an extreme cold snap during the last week of the month, but even this cold weather did not diminish the overall average of higher temperatures recorded throughout the month. Precipitation in December was below normal across a majority of the State except slightly above precipitation in the extreme North and Northeast parts of the State,

according to the National Weather Service. 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 December.

Beekeepers have indicated that their bees are still looking good at this point of time.

With commercial bees now in warmer Southern States and California for the winter months, beekeepers are left with winter work to prepare for the 2015 season in Minnesota. Some projects that commercial beekeepers are working on include repair of existing supers and construction of new supers.

Beekeepers are hoping that their bees presently in California will be strong and ready to start pollination of the almond trees by the middle of February. It is always hard for beekeepers to guess on how the bees will survive through the winter, even if they have followed all of the best management practices available. With residual effects of mites, viruses or chemical exposure, the winter waiting period can be a very stressful time for beekeepers. Minnesota commercial beekeepers plan to treat for mites on hives that were moved to California in January. They also plan to provide some supplemental feed to hives to make sure all hives are ready to provide superior pollination services to the almond growers. Supplemental feeds will be added on a need basis.

Overall supplies of domestic honey have been decreasing a little more each year due to a number of factors beyond the control of beekeepers such as colony collapse disorder. With the consumer demand for honey continuing to be strong in Minnesota, the only way many commercial honey processors have been able to keep up with demand, has been to increase the amount of honey obtained from imports. Increasing imported honey is not what Minnesota beekeepers want to see moving forward. Imports place downward price pressure on the domestic market. As it currently stands, domestic production of honey simply cannot keep pace with consumer demand in the United States. Collectively we need to start thinking of new ways to improve our domestic honey industry, from disease control to creating a better environment for our honey bees.

Currently, wholesale demand for honey is very good and prices are slightly lower in Minnesota. Current prices reported by commercial beekeepers are as follows: White Honey averages around \$2.05 per pound. Wholesale light capping wax is averaging from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per pound. Wholesale dark capping wax is averaging from \$3.25 to \$3.45 per pound. Prices vary depending upon quality and quantity.

MISSISSIPPI: The beekeepers have prepped and prepared the hives for the long winter months ahead. The bees are reported to be in good condition. Supplemental feeding is needed as very little food sources were available later in the fall months due to weather related conditions. Lots of rain and cold weather have kept the bees in the hives.

MONTANA: Bee keepers reported migratory colonies wintering in California staging yards to be in generally good condition. Mite problems were generally under control with good management practices. California has had periods of cool, wet weather this winter. Keepers anticipated beginning to move their colonies into early almond orchards later in January with good demand for strong colonies. Rental prices were reported to be similar to last year. Honey demand was good.

NEW ENGLAND: In New England overall, the month of December exhibited mild, seasonal temperatures. This weather pattern offered periodic rain or snowfall with only measureable snowfall in high level terrain. Early December weather was erratic with on and off cold and mild weather, whereby the bees early on had a chance to reorganize themselves, haul out the dead and go on cleansing flights. Bees are pretty much in cluster conditions and flying on warmer days. Nectar and pollen sources have all but ended with just a few late pollen sources, amazingly bringing some bright orange pollen in presumably from fall aster, heath, mum blossoms, perennial bachelor buttons and Johnny jump ups. Rapidly colder conditions have finished all floral food sources for this season. Over wintering procedures entails installing mouse guards, entrance reducers and insulation boards between inner and outer covers and/or boards under the bottom screens to ensure proper ventilation.

In New England, beekeepers have closed up their hives for the winter. Bees are snuggled in their hives but reportedly the clusters are smaller than desired. Keepers report that as much as 70% of colonies are light in stores with just enough to fill the brood chambers. Low stores coupled with the usual cold, harsh weather of winter in the future will surely mean a high mortality rate for the over wintered population. As needed, colonies are being feed with fondant, protein patties, sugar candy, sugar water syrup, high fructose corn syrup and using frame feeders. In order to add to the stored food that was left after surplus honey was drawn off. In New England, the average consumption is 60 to 80 lbs. of honey throughout the winter. Steady cold weather lowers the rate at which honeybees consume honey stores. If the weather pattern stays cold, it won't hurt the bees as long as the hives have good ventilation. In New England, hives normally lose 5 to 10% of their population due to winter related issues. Cold weather will not adversely affect bees as much as condensation will. Colonies should be ventilated to abate this problem. Many keepers report that bees have exhibited the usually late winter pattern of clustering just under the inner cover. However, clusters are tight enough to keep the bees safe. The warm weather exhibited in November and throughout December has created heavy brood rearing beyond normal and will most likely create a need to feed early in January and February. All of New England has experienced mild weather this fall and a very late frost. This New England warming translates to affecting plant nectar levels and whether bees will have enough winter food. Late hatching brood will directly contribute to increased consumption of winter honey reserves. November and December have been very mild so all we have left is January and February as winter months. Consequently, we often see few losses in March. This makes it easy to survive for honeybee colonies that are healthy and well provisioned. Beekeepers can use a winter that is low stress on their bees. Hives with sufficient honey stores, low varroa mite loads, and nosema levels, should do well entering and surviving through a cold winter. It has been reported, throughout New England, that there is a high number of hive dead outs with Beltsville lab results pointing to a high count of varroa and nosema sp.

The most important thing in a healthy hive is nutrition. Hives weaken under the stress of protein deficiency. Limited pollen and nectar means less brood and poor nutrition. This year's honey stores on brood frames are very small although in many cases large quantities of pollen are found. This will likely contribute to creating a greater winter loss as many colonies are light and their winter bees were not developed under the best of conditions. Many keepers are seriously concerned about viral infections in queens coupled with a stronger disease laden varroa mite population that could carry over to next season with another season of queen problems especially underperforming weak queens with additional evidence of nosema sp. December is quiet time for bees and beekeepers. It is too early to predict winter outcomes. We have three more months of winter and bees should be in good shape at this time. So far temperatures have been warm and that means less stress on bees.

Harvesting and extracting honey is virtually completed. This year's honey crop figures have not been finalized, as some locations have exhibited very low production numbers. Reportedly some yields are half what they usually are. Keepers are giving estimates at 30 to 35 lbs. per colony verses estimates from keepers that experienced a good honey fall flow with estimates of 50 lbs. per colony. Honey sales have been excellent going into the holiday season. Keepers have crafted many products from the fruits of their hives to sell for the holiday season primarily as stocking stuffers such as decorative honey decanters, candles, creams, lip balms and many edible holiday treats.

Spring sales of bees are strong with the trend for new beekeepers continuing. The holiday season brings on an increase demand for local honey with the supply a bit lower than normal. Demand at farmers markets and all retail/wholesale outlets are strong. Reportedly, honey sales remains very good and

continues to grow. Supplies of new crop locally produced honey are in some places very short. 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: Warmer weather near the holidays was a great time to check hive activity and evaluate bee health. Bees are still alive in most cases in the insulated and wrapped hives. Beekeepers are encouraged to make key decisions now and place orders for timely spring deliveries. Nuc and package prices appear to be increasing after several seasons of steady pricing. Honey demand has continued to remain steady during the holiday season.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were mostly normal to above normal throughout December; while precipitation for the month varied by region. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 58 counties as being abnormally dry.

Hives were fairly inactive during December as the main task has been to stay warm and allow queens to rest before egg laying resumes. According to apiary inspectors some losses to Varroa mites have been reported in hives that had not been adequately managed earlier in the season. Demand for honey is moderate and prices are about steady. Supply is fairly light, but this is expected for the time of year.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: Winter conditions generally prevail at home, while many bees have been moved to winter homes. The bees and hives are generally looking good as they are moved to various locations. There are still some questions about the size of the upcoming almond season due to drought conditions, but more information should be available in late January and early February.

OHIO: Most bee colonies appear to be faring well at this time. A few warm spells prompted cleansing flights and increased food consumption. However, the December decline has hit an unusually large number of colonies. The decline can be described as the loss of bees by the middle of the month, when you have a previously heavily varroa infested colony absconds, leaving some honey, if any bees and no brood. Some industry contacts have conjectured that the infestation increased the virus load in the colony, and even though treated in late summer, the colony expires due to the viruses. Honey prices are strong at the local farmers' markets, with prices in the \$8-9 pound range. Supplies of local honey are limited and sellers have looked elsewhere for additional supplies. Beginner beekeeping classes are already starting to fill and looks to be a banner year for new beekeepers, equipment and bee suppliers as well.

OKLAHOMA: Daffodils have been seen due to warm up, but froze due to the last week of December. Wind chills were single digits. Bees mostly clustered and no apparent mites or foul brood at this time. Weather was cold but also had several days of warm weather. More rain. Bees clustered. A few losses already due to breaking cluster and cold spell overnight. Large demand and costs around 20-22 dollars 3 lbs. Supply still abundant.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: The weather in December in Tennessee was warmer than normal and wetter than normal for most of the State. There have been few flowering plants during the month. No major bee health issues were reported. Some beekeepers are having to feed the colonies without sufficient winter stores.

TEXAS: Colonies are healthy, queen right, and are reasonably strong. Three of the four had a frame of brood! It's a bit early for the bees to be raising brood, but is attributed to their enthusiasm to the month of warm weather in north Texas, as well as the stimulative effect of continued weekly feedings. One queen right colony even had several dozen drones! They may have been held over from the summer, as there was no other sign of drone production in the brood frame. Honey was selling briskly in advance of the holiday season, and supplies are adequate to meet continuing demand at least through the first few months of 2015.

UTAH: According to the National Weather Service, temperatures were much above normal across the entire State of Utah during the month of December. Precipitation was slightly below normal across most of the State of Utah with the exception of the very Northeast part of the State around Salt Lake City. This area had slightly above normal precipitation during the same period. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, in December, the Northeast and 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 of the Great Salt Lake. Most areas of the State did improve slightly during December.

Beekeepers have indicated that their bees are still looking good at this point of time. With commercial bees now in warmer California for the winter months, beekeepers are left with winter work to prepare for the 2015 season in Utah. Some projects that commercial beekeepers are working on include repair of existing supers and construction of new supers.

Commercial beekeepers are hoping that their bees presently in California will be strong and ready to start pollination of the almond trees by the middle of February. It is always hard for beekeepers to guess on how the bees will survive through the winter, even if they have followed all of the best management practices available. With residual effects of mites, viruses or chemical exposure, the winter waiting period can be a very stressful time for beekeepers. Utah commercial beekeepers plan to treat for mites on hives that were moved to California in January. They also plan to provide some supplemental feed to hives to make sure all hives are ready to provide superior pollination services to the almond growers. Supplemental feeds will be added on a need basis.

Overall supplies of domestic honey have been decreasing a little more each year due to a number of factors beyond the control of beekeepers such as colony collapse disorder. With the consumer demand for honey continuing to be strong in Utah, the only way many commercial honey processors have

been able to keep up with demand, has been to increase the amount of honey obtained from imports. Increasing imported honey is not what Utah beekeepers want to see moving forward. Imports place downward price pressure on the domestic market. As it currently stands, domestic production of honey simply cannot keep pace with consumer demand in the United States. Collectively we need to start thinking of new ways to improve our domestic honey industry, from disease control to creating a better environment for our honey bees.

Currently, wholesale demand for honey is very good at about steady prices in Utah. Current prices reported by commercial beekeepers in Utah are as follows: White Honey averages from \$2.06 to \$2.10 per pound. Wholesale light capping wax is averaging from \$3.85 to \$5.00 per pound. Prices vary depending upon quality and quantity.

WASHINGTON: Beekeepers have their hives stored for winter or have moved them to their winter home. They continue to check hives for adequate food. The weather has been moderate with some inversion. There has been some rain, but snowfall contains to be much lighter than normal.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures for the month of December were reported generally normal around the beginning of the month, but changed around the middle as well as the end of the month as the state was hit with cold weather as well as intermittent snow flurries. However most Beekeepers report their bee hives in good condition. A few beekeepers report some mite treatment as well as some supplemental feeding during the earlier part of the month. 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		November 2014	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Afghanistan	1,195	8,383	0	0
Australia(*)	0	0	0	0
Bahamas, The	6,500	20,760	0	0
Bahrain	29,801	72,336	0	0
Barbados	28,122	97,415	6,683	18,328
Bermuda	0	0	0	0
Brazil	4,271	52,882	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0	0
Cayman Islands	0	0	0	0
China	264,025	704,211	0	0
Costa Rica	457	2,770	0	0
Guatemala	305	3,406	0	0
Guyana	3,101	26,857	0	0
Hong Kong	5,268	26,382	0	0
Indonesia	516,615	1,414,249	0	0
Japan	351,977	1,631,710	0	0
Korea, South	156,559	834,055	0	0
Kuwait	414,338	1,022,166	533	4,430
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	227	2,578	0	0
Libya	10,989	49,365	0	0
Malaysia	6,939	21,457	0	0
Mexico	1,062	5,113	0	0
Mongolia	653	4,349	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	11,028	64,026	1,155	8,238
New Zealand(*)	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	58,639	142,337	0	0
Panama	21,934	132,701	3,591	21,364
Philippines	265,615	659,902	50,674	123,002
Qatar	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	26,237	95,389	0	0
Singapore	55,395	142,067	13,320	32,334
Suriname	12,023	29,184	0	0
Taiwan	123,706	488,165	0	0
Thailand	34,209	83,035	0	0
Ukraine	19,058	51,457	0	0
United Arab Emirates	301,834	761,568	65,018	170,222
United Kingdom	7,401	17,964	0	0
Yemen(*)	378,745	1,368,024	73,035	237,684

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
GRAND TOTAL	4,668,864	15,728,016	368,321	1,262,715

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

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

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	5,145,850	19,786,897	20,234,474	133,007	539,584	546,727
Brazil	899,304	3,600,974	3,715,410	108,756	477,185	495,187
Canada	4,785,459	22,580,794	22,671,005	627,967	2,893,596	2,910,323
Chile	37,689	139,449	143,449	0	0	0
Egypt	3,920	16,581	17,151	0	0	0
France(*)	630	7,375	7,625	0	0	0
Hungary	248	2,123	2,243	0	0	0
India	5,146,566	16,242,595	16,894,351	35,096	125,114	128,964
Israel(*)	1,022	6,677	6,937	0	0	0
Italy(*)	19,282	146,199	155,206	378	5,764	6,187
Mexico	1,253,354	4,926,686	4,976,757	0	0	0

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	97,622	182,914	197,614	19,540	39,948	43,293
Ukraine	19,140	56,965	57,465	0	0	0
United Kingdom	3,809	32,392	34,872	582	6,715	8,268
Uruguay	322,814	1,224,182	1,231,108	0	0	0
Vietnam	116,280	301,158	314,319	57,780	149,058	154,374

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

Argentina	24,791,753	97,742,686	100,826,969	1,236,154	5,175,816	5,324,995
Brazil	2,106,163	7,908,098	8,177,053	60,985	253,150	261,321
Canada	224,132	1,226,970	1,231,294	18,132	114,073	114,252
Denmark(*)	628	5,883	6,785	0	0	0
France(*)	1,078	5,424	5,460	0	0	0
India	10,144,405	30,591,682	31,879,991	481,200	1,460,274	1,553,092
Italy(*)	11,339	51,251	54,731	0	0	0
Japan	10	2,970	3,080	10	2,970	3,080
Mexico	4,069,262	16,206,021	16,372,061	466,043	1,886,681	1,899,974
Pakistan	341,732	930,268	992,768	19,000	53,200	56,700
Poland	840	6,048	6,299	0	0	0
Portugal	867	10,319	11,195	0	0	0
Taiwan	839,840	2,022,029	2,116,913	75,980	174,534	182,411
Thailand	1,040,752	2,569,892	2,596,826	218,620	587,744	604,474
Ukraine	6,136,645	18,547,279	19,258,430	1,287,842	4,224,664	4,393,736
Uruguay	1,749,267	6,549,858	6,644,684	0	0	0
Vietnam	1,877,680	4,662,916	4,951,963	57,000	146,085	156,710

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	5,296,823	21,558,789	22,739,870	93,803	402,949	419,352
Australia(*)	2,157	29,481	29,924	0	0	0
Austria	57,721	432,073	459,190	1,016	9,468	10,072
Brazil	4,988,295	18,436,897	19,201,924	56,832	210,389	215,256
Bulgaria	296,818	943,080	965,034	62,930	243,600	248,600
Burma	201,919	356,509	382,906	55,800	12,550	23,290
Canada	27,131	137,091	138,261	5,443	30,615	30,865
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	397,624	1,115,155	1,147,257	5,378	11,040	11,355
Ecuador	679	3,120	3,729	0	0	0
Germany(*)	50,209	309,917	321,028	1,070	9,196	9,761
Guatemala	3,410	25,841	27,328	0	0	0
Hong Kong	15,048	99,254	101,028	0	0	0
India	3,552,005	10,466,068	10,949,528	89,400	243,146	259,096
Italy(*)	11,330	194,473	200,580	4,729	63,815	65,069
Latvia	76,560	244,992	250,272	0	0	0
Macedonia	805	4,982	5,133	0	0	0
Malaysia	161,820	364,095	381,713	0	0	0
Mexico	790,611	2,949,138	2,983,316	24,164	91,069	91,897
Moldova	3,459	5,718	5,719	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	243,771	2,436,556	2,445,796	0	0	0
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	18,517	172,211	174,975	1,600	16,824	17,108
Taiwan	365,785	843,516	928,520	57,420	136,085	145,085
Thailand	1,864,560	4,650,244	4,870,221	240,483	586,506	620,352
Turkey	2,183,287	5,686,489	6,267,403	279,000	734,700	809,700
Ukraine	669,391	2,004,479	2,098,652	76,500	251,482	262,379
United Kingdom	3,000	14,933	15,544	0	0	0
Uruguay	3,101,423	10,912,008	11,051,162	93,633	337,079	339,367
Vietnam	37,008,126	96,984,297	101,963,092	4,121,160	11,272,265	11,854,472

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	63,652	321,863	322,272	20,372	98,171	98,214
Chile	1,554	15,840	16,290	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	406,648	902,799	936,722	56,059	140,912	144,003
Egypt	888	4,600	4,824	0	0	0
Ethiopia(*)	1,290	3,238	3,555	0	0	0
France(*)	7,266	109,576	112,987	1,130	19,438	19,968
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	4,092	32,166	34,678
Hungary	2,700	18,024	20,724	0	0	0
India	18,082	71,706	74,526	0	0	0
Indonesia	182,714	493,326	515,826	0	0	0
Israel(*)	14,466	118,778	121,730	3,300	35,640	36,521
Italy(*)	14,884	125,879	131,054	599	7,848	8,422
Latvia	727,320	1,528,900	1,528,919	0	0	0
Lithuania	8,119	40,576	42,903	0	0	0
Mexico	369,332	1,348,837	1,351,228	8,390	13,860	13,866
Moldova	5,444	12,606	14,384	3,521	8,513	9,657
New Zealand(*)	834,045	6,496,251	6,621,122	34,046	443,382	449,605
Oman	1,699	4,917	5,882	0	0	0
Poland	19,689	135,963	145,817	2,011	13,684	14,995
Portugal	324	3,576	3,626	0	0	0
Russia	3,612	17,497	19,348	600	2,520	2,988
Saudi Arabia	13,828	66,462	66,607	0	0	0
Serbia	648	3,987	4,219	0	0	0
Spain	1,310	13,637	14,025	0	0	0
Taiwan	866,786	2,034,501	2,125,125	57,420	89,619	99,669
Thailand	1,937	5,200	5,378	0	0	0
Turkey	915	4,081	4,468	0	0	0
Ukraine	59,705	137,317	151,064	20,314	48,690	53,631
Uruguay	94,499	321,736	334,995	0	0	0
Vietnam	3,823,158	9,319,620	9,786,902	317,600	805,739	852,757

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	8,337	102,844	109,004	1,125	8,033	8,420
Brazil	4,546	37,414	39,405	0	0	0
Bulgaria	100,784	389,364	420,457	12,735	47,403	49,903
Canada	28,566	235,085	236,247	33	3,208	3,209
Chile	1,217	11,952	12,102	0	0	0
Costa Rica	572	2,008	2,818	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	1,154	3,456	3,931	0	0	0
Egypt	2,100	6,450	6,720	0	0	0
France(*)	119,423	1,291,510	1,354,375	8,768	99,182	103,434
Germany(*)	260,831	1,520,003	1,582,827	34,019	142,199	147,724
Greece	48,357	613,821	630,987	747	5,495	5,708
Guatemala	21,645	102,020	104,115	0	0	0
Hungary	44,329	322,351	340,415	0	0	0
India	393,914	1,292,867	1,354,531	59,706	182,103	189,603
Ireland	435	3,197	3,448	0	0	0
Israel(*)	6,449	42,286	42,331	0	0	0
Italy(*)	47,069	505,147	519,113	592	14,727	14,976
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	31,567	133,836	136,002	3,578	22,264	22,624
Moldova	15,961	77,281	85,217	5,464	15,110	16,716
New Zealand(*)	409,566	2,967,481	3,000,684	2,365	14,074	15,186
Poland	27,850	83,913	88,083	5,962	24,227	25,190
Portugal	19,049	130,373	135,523	0	0	0
Romania	576	4,814	5,626	0	0	0
Russia	60,392	316,590	348,250	0	0	0
Serbia	10,102	80,193	83,982	0	0	0
Spain	104,826	779,613	803,939	17,442	132,364	134,864
Switzerland(*)	18,293	273,876	285,292	0	0	0
Taiwan	116,069	261,593	275,414	252	2,880	2,994
Turkey	108,524	704,713	728,916	11,165	74,306	76,341
Ukraine	29,326	102,374	112,612	4,734	17,551	19,306
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	3,752	164,638	165,165	508	9,021	9,051
China	116,191	745,699	762,408	113,900	694,958	707,671
France(*)	8,844	308,148	311,218	0	0	0
Germany(*)	527	9,633	9,755	0	0	0
Greece	404	4,562	4,954	0	0	0
India	63,448	140,272	145,672	0	0	0
Ireland	489	5,503	6,061	0	0	0
Italy(*)	5,537	130,571	132,775	235	14,523	14,700
Japan	10,888	98,592	100,601	0	0	0
Korea, South	175,783	2,752,545	2,820,559	13,778	473,776	495,731
Mexico	203,199	2,058,687	2,067,746	55,037	538,641	540,392
Netherlands	26,746	135,326	142,596	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	110	2,968	3,226	110	2,968	3,226
Portugal	8,404	42,971	47,098	0	0	0
Spain	5,173	36,666	43,036	0	0	0
Taiwan	29,304	122,277	127,201	2,700	5,226	5,540
Thailand	79,387	351,067	362,580	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	7,991	14,458	15,035	0	0	0
United Kingdom	626	11,621	11,640	244	4,282	4,287

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	36,259	128,723	131,849	0	0	0
Australia(*)	36,960	281,305	296,677	0	0	0
Brazil	10,569,865	41,302,930	42,726,923	396,957	1,570,653	1,619,058
Bulgaria	3,063	22,160	22,660	0	0	0
Canada	102,305	649,427	653,835	5,977	39,168	39,968
Cyprus	600	11,388	12,536	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	3,051	17,091	18,693	0	0	0
Greece	1,093	12,985	13,219	0	0	0
India	400	2,200	2,404	0	0	0
Italy(*)	32,557	375,170	388,273	4,740	53,762	57,060
Kuwait	4,421	27,851	28,250	0	0	0
Mexico	113,849	451,290	467,444	3,585	14,696	14,732
New Zealand(*)	10,680	190,603	192,273	0	0	0
Romania	3,698	16,075	18,074	3,698	16,075	18,074
Vietnam	186,000	492,900	506,900	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL

154,358,357	528,319,901	547,523,732	11,474,043	38,981,990	40,481,806
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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**