

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
Market News Division

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2012

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

Avocado	Amber	\$1.34		
Orange	White	\$1.85	-	\$1.94

DAKOTAS

Alfalfa	White	\$1.95		
Clover	White	\$1.80	-	\$1.95
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.82	-	\$1.90
Sunflower	White	\$1.95		
Western	White	\$1.70	-	\$1.75

FLORIDA

Gallberry	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80		
Gallberry	Light Amber	\$1.70		
Orange	White	\$1.90	-	\$1.95
Palmetto	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	-	\$1.95
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	-	\$1.80

LOUISIANA

Clover	Light Amber	\$1.65		
Gallberry	Light Amber	\$1.75		
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.50		
Wildflower	Amber	\$1.50		

MISSISSIPPI

Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75		
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.60		

TEXAS

Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.45	-	\$1.55
Tallow	Extra Light Amber	\$1.48	-	\$1.50

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	\$1.72	-	\$1.85
Clover	White	\$1.56	-	\$1.67

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

Argentina				
Citrus	White	\$1.85		
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.39	-	\$1.52
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.39	-	\$1.52
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.29	-	\$1.35
Brazil				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.32	-	\$1.34
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$1.87		
ORGANIC	White	\$1.76	-	\$1.79
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.49	-	\$1.56
India				
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light Amber	\$1.21	-	\$1.35
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.10	-	\$1.35
MEXICO				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.36	-	\$1.40
Uruguay				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.33	-	\$1.38
Vietnam				
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.31	-	\$1.36

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING JULY, 2012

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): Appalachian District (MD,PA,VA,WV): The District continued to experience hot, dry weather with a few intermittent and sporadic heavy thunderstorms. The area is very dry and what water the storms bring little relief to dry plants with very little nectar. Colonies are healthy and in good shape overall; however, beekeepers are providing sugar water to colonies to sustain them. Between the lack of nectar from dry condition and hotter than normal temperatures, there has been very little foraging or brood rearing occurring. A few are gathering a little honey off hives for local fair entries and to supply local roadside stands. There has been no change in local retail prices for honey at farm markets.

ALABAMA: Rain delayed some taking harvesting honey in July. After the rainy spell more honey was able to be removed from bee hives. Honey production is reported as good. The rain stimulated plant bloom and bees seem to be fairing well. A few beekeepers are feeding. Cotton, soybeans, kudzu and sumac are beginning to bloom. Varroa mites are at uncomfortable levels in some apiaries and treatment may be prudent as many apiaries in Alabama over the last couple of years were not so bad. Small hive beetle problems are spotty and seem to not be much of a problem in general. High temperatures and the drought has subsided. Bees are not stressed due to good rainfall and should make it through the summer without consuming much of their stored honey.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were mostly above normal levels for the month of July. The statewide range in temperatures for the month was a high of 115 degrees Fahrenheit in Yuma to a low of 41 degrees Fahrenheit at Grand Canyon. All reporting stations are still at below normal precipitation levels for the year, but the recent drought like conditions experienced by Arizona appear to be starting to subside. During the four weeks of July, a range of 17 to 21 of the 21 reporting stations received precipitation during the reported one week periods. The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state during the first half of the month were Cantaloupes, honeydews and miscellaneous melons; while for the entire month leading sources were watermelons and desert plant bloom. Demand for honey remains good.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received during July were from tomato plants, trees and wild flowers. Bees are in generally good condition. Supplemental feeding has occurred due to the extreme high temperatures with little to no rainfall. Supply is low while demand stays strong.

CALIFORNIA: The month of July in the Golden State began with below or slightly below normal temperatures. The exceptions were the Imperial Valley and southeast desert regions where temperatures averaged slightly above normal. Precipitation associated with the Pacific low pressure trough occurred from time to time on the far North Coast and northern mountain areas. Isolated heavier showers, up to a third of an inch, also affected the far northern Sacramento Valley. Elsewhere, dry conditions continued across the central and southern regions of California. As the month progressed, near normal weather conditions prevailed, with clear skies overall. The only unusual weather element was in Southern California, which developed thunderstorms in Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Monica and Santa Barbara Counties with rain, hail, lightning and gusty winds. Precipitation totals ranged from 0.01 inches to 0.07 inches. Rain is very rare in the summer in the urban regions of Southern California. Toward the month's close, unusual early morning showers and thunderstorms occurred across the Sierra Nevada Mountains, its foothills, and up the Central Valley, as well as isolated showers across Southern mountains; all the result of monsoonal moisture which had spread up from Mexico. However, temperatures began to warm back up and conditions remained dry. Bees were pollinating seed onion, vine seed, melon, squash and sunflower fields. Beekeepers are really busy moving bees out of alfalfa seed pollination. Dry conditions are prevailing across the state and due to the lack of available feed, some beekeepers are opting to move their bees out-of-state to better pasture. Where available, bees are feeding on pumpkin seeds, sunflowers, roses, wild mustard, California poppies, wild radish, marigolds, agastache, borage, pennyroyal, dandelions, thyme and peppers. Some beekeepers are already feeding sugar syrup and pollen substitutes. Honey production is 25% to 50% of normal crop and honey prices are \$1.90 to \$2.00 and may go up more. The colonies are gradually winding down. Both their brood nests and their populations are decreasing. Preparations for winter are now well under way.

COLORADO: Weather has been the major story for beekeepers in Colorado. It has been another very hot and dry period across a majority of the State. It is so dry that beekeepers have been forced to haul water to keep their bees supplied. One beekeeper stated that he had been in the bee business since 1965 and this is the driest he had ever seen. Rainfall was below normal on the eastern side of the state and near normal to above normal in the western part of Colorado. Even though rainfall was about normal to above normal out west, it was not enough to stay ahead of the excessive heat wave except in the higher mountain elevations. Lamar in the southeastern part of Colorado recorded 29 days above 90 degrees, while Rifle in the west recorded 20 days above 90 degrees. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire state of Colorado is in a severe to extreme drought. All locations in Colorado are reporting growing degree days (GDD), accumulated from March 1 to July 31, as ahead of normal. All Colorado beekeepers have been actively working their hives in the state as well as Texas. Beekeepers are still optimistic about the possible production of honey in the State if they receive rain and temperatures are reduced, but time for a good late flow of honey is slipping away by the day. During July, the dry conditions vastly changed the availability of good foraging plants for bees. About the only good foraging left for bees at lower elevations is on irrigated alfalfa land. The only area in the state that has been able to stay ahead of the excessive heat wave has been the higher mountain elevations. More rains have been falling at the higher elevations creating an abundance of wild flowers and good foraging in alfalfa fields. If the current hot and dry trend continues, beekeepers are anticipating a worse honey crop than last year. Last year was a very poor crop, so the decrease in yields this year will be an even larger stress on the bees and beekeepers. No supplemental feeding has been necessary yet this summer. According to beekeepers, if the dry trend persists, it will be necessary to immediately start feeding corn syrup, or sucrose, and pollen patties for bees to make it through the winter. There is also a major concern among Colorado beekeepers that the drought in the Midwest will vastly increase the cost of their operating expense for corn syrup. Currently, beekeepers have reported that their bees continue to be healthy. Beekeepers stated that it has been so hot and with the lack of good forage producing pollen plants in the state, that the queen bees are not laying as many eggs as possible. It will be hard to keep hive numbers up with the reduced egg production. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Colorado. At the present, supplies of old and new honey are very low in the state. There have been limited amounts of honey extracted during July. It is anticipated that major extraction of honey by commercial beekeepers will occur in the first half of August. Colorado beekeepers have received wholesale prices for white honey at \$2.00 per pound. Beekeepers indicated that if the drought persists, higher prices will be possible.

FLORIDA: Weather varied from area to area. Many places, primarily Northern Florida, had substantial rainfall during July. Coupled with high temperatures and few sources of nectar or pollen meant honey production was very low. Hives located along the coasts did make some palm honey, which the hive uses. Interior areas needed supplemental feeding to maintain the hive. It is estimated that 75% of Florida bees were located in other states. A few were involved in pollinating crops, while most were producing honey, primarily clover. These hives were located in the Northeastern and Northwestern states. It has been reported that many hives in the Northwestern states, including the Dakotas, experienced high temperatures and drought conditions resulting in about a half a crop of honey. There will be few food sources in Florida until late September. Sources such as Brazilian Pepper, Melaleuca (Paper Bark Tea Tree), and aster will then become available beginning on the West Coast and gradually working east, becoming available on the East Coast by mid to late October. Most beekeepers will return to Florida in late October into early November for the fall honey season. Prices are steady, stored stocks are low, and demand exceeds supply.

GEORGIA: In the northern part of the state the bees were feeding primarily off of wildflowers. Most flowers bloomed early this year starting with mild weather conditions from the winter and through the summer months. Some areas, particularly in the southern regions, had drought conditions most of the month with rains coming in late July. Overall, the bees are reported to be in fair to good shape and supplemental feeding is not needed at this time. The total volume of honey is expected to be less than in most years, especially the Sourwood honey. No major reporting of the hive beetle causing problems. Beekeepers are treating for mites as usual. The honey flow for the fall has started in the southern areas and bees are feeding off of cotton fields and what is left of the wildflowers. Prices remain strong and are expected to rise when demand exceeds supply due to a lighter volume of honey.

IDAHO: July was hot and dry in Idaho. Even though rainfall was about normal across the state, it was not enough to stay ahead of the excessive heat wave. Idaho Falls recorded 19 days above 90 degrees on the east side of Idaho, while Boise recorded 27 days above 90 degrees on the west side. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the southern areas of Idaho are listed as being abnormally dry in the short term. The northern areas of Idaho are still listed as being in a normal precipitation pattern. All locations in Idaho are reporting growing degree days (GDD), accumulated from March 1 to July 31, as ahead of normal. All Idaho beekeepers have been actively working their hives in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming. Beekeepers are still optimistic about the possible production of honey in the state if they receive more rain. At the moment, the dry conditions have vastly changed the availability of good foraging plants for Idaho bees from earlier in the season. About the only good foraging left for bees is some clover and irrigated alfalfa. If the current hot and dry trend continues, beekeepers are anticipating only about 50 percent of a normal honey crop. No supplemental feeding has been necessary yet this summer. There is a major concern among Idaho beekeepers that the drought in the Midwest will vastly increase the cost of their operating expense for corn syrup. Right now, beekeepers from Idaho have reported that their bees are looking fairly light. There have been some bee losses in the hives. Beekeepers have noted that some hives are looking weak even after re-queening. Beekeepers attribute these weak hives and bee losses with hot dry conditions. There have been reports of some mites. However, most commercial beekeepers have this issue under control. There have also been some reports of deformed wing and black queen cell viruses affecting bees. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent as beekeepers await the harvest of their 2012 crop. At the present, supplies of old and new honey are very low in the State. It is anticipated that major extraction of honey by commercial beekeepers will occur the first half of August. Idaho beekeepers have been offered wholesale prices for white honey ranging from \$1.95 to 2.00 per pound.

ILLINOIS: Weather conditions over the state followed the patterns of most states in the Midwest. Above average temperatures combined with many areas reporting record high temperatures have put heavy strains on hives state wide. Most areas had below average rainfall, which affected the collection activities for the bees. Most corn and soybean crops had produced very little pollen which seriously affected the hives buildup of stores. Generally spring planting had record setting records for early finish, however with the extreme heat and low moisture levels honeybee activity had been slow. Bulk honey movement was generally slower than normal. Most beekeepers reported that price of honey was not a factor as was the available of honey for sale. Very little roadside honey sales have been reported as a result. Honey quality has been reported as mostly poor.

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

INDIANA: Most of the state reported little hive activity due to the extreme high temperatures reported over the state. Most Beekeepers reported very little rainfall overall; however, spotty showers had been reported over a wide area of the state. Temperatures of 100 – 105 were reported, setting records in many locations. The extreme heat and humid conditions kept beekeeper activities limited to early morning hours or late evenings. Few wild flowers and floral sources had been available for the bees to collect pollen making building stores noticeably shorter than normal. A few areas in the southern area east of Evansville had received barely adequate rainfall. Collection activity had been improved over most of the state. Beekeepers reported very few honey sales.

KENTUCKY: The hot dry conditions persisted for most of the month of July in Kentucky. Some areas received moderate rainfall while the western part of the state experienced the worst of the drought. Most beekeepers harvested their honey in late June and early July. As in any year, beekeeper reports varied due to weather, strength of colonies and available forage. Grayson County had a record harvest due to perfect spring conditions and abundant forage. Due to the mild winter the colonies had come through very strong. Supplemental feeding has been necessary in many areas to maintain colony strength. Some of those that have not been feeding have experienced queen shutdown leading to weakened colonies and pressure from Small Hive Beetles and Wax Moth. Bees in areas with improved rainfall are finding nectar and pollen opportunities from dandelion, periwinkle, hairy vetch, sumac, red, white & yellow clover and other wild flowers.

LOUISIANA: Pollen and nectar sources received during July were from various trees and wild flowers. Colonies were in generally poor condition at the beginning of the month, and by month's end they were in good condition. Weather conditions have been above normal for this time of year, little to no rainfall with much warmer temperatures. Supply is low while demand remains good.

MICHIGAN: The hot and dry conditions across the southern half of the Lower Peninsula slowed the honey flow during much of the month. Although there were ample nectar producing flowers in bloom, nectar was light due to the dry weather, with the exception of Purple Loosetrife, often located in wet areas, or near stream and creek beds. Some beekeepers have been providing hives with sugar supplements to sustain the colonies. Due to the warm, dry weather, alfalfa has not grown as tall; farmers have delayed cutting which afforded bees to work the flowers longer which resulted in a good crop of alfalfa honey. Yellow and white clovers have also done well and red clover, though normally not a good plant source for bees due to the longer florets, have provided good nectar sources for bees due to the smaller flowers. North of Lansing, nectar flows seemed to improve as a result of better moisture, and beekeepers expect a moderate to fairly good honey flow. The northern region of the Lower Peninsula has reported a slight shortage of supers. Some beekeepers have extracted honey and removed supers for use in other hives. In Central to North-Central Michigan, beekeepers were optimistic as they entered the prime production month. The primary nectar source was star thistle for many of the large commercial beekeeping operations in the region. The early part of the month, bees were in "high gear"; however, during the next three most crucial weeks of the flow, there was virtually no rain, and foraging came to a standstill. Some beekeepers have projected a sharp decrease in summer honey production of what had been anticipated at the beginning of the month. Some good rains came at the end of July, and prospects increased for a good fall goldenrod honey flow in late August. Other sources of nectar across the state during the month included mints, herbs, nettle, milkweed and knapweed. Demand for raw honey has been strong at the many farmers' markets across the state as the trend in health-consciousness continues. Bulk honey prices quoted from a large Michigan honey packer at the end of July were: Light Amber \$1.50 pound; White to Water White \$1.90-1.95 pound.

MINNESOTA: July was hot and relatively dry in many parts of Minnesota. However, there have been some locations in the State around International Falls and St. Paul that have seen more rain than normal for the month. One beekeeper stated that rain has been hit and miss this summer. Even though rainfall was spotty, it was not enough to stay ahead of the excessive heat wave in many areas. Many locations in Minnesota recorded 14 to 19 days above 90 degrees during July. All reporting locations were above the normal July average on temperatures. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the northwest area of Minnesota was listed as being severe short term drought. The southwestern of Minnesota was listed as abnormally dry, while the

eastern area of Minnesota was still listed as being in a normal precipitation pattern. All locations in Minnesota are reporting growing degree days (GDD), accumulated from March 1 to July 31, as ahead of normal. Minnesota beekeepers have been actively working their hives in state. Beekeepers are optimistic about the increased production of honey in the Minnesota when compared to the reduced crop of 2011. With the availability of good foraging plants consisting of alfalfa and clover, a good supply of pollen and nectar have been available for the bees to collect. No supplemental feeding has been necessary yet this summer due to the mainly good growing conditions. There is however a major concern among Minnesota beekeepers that the drought in the corn belt of the Midwest will vastly increase the cost of their operating expense for corn syrup. Right now, beekeepers from Minnesota have reported that their bees are looking healthy with very few losses this summer. There also seems to be good egg production from queen bees. There have been reports of some mites in Minnesota, but at the present time most commercial beekeepers have this issue under control and have not needed to treat for mite problems. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Minnesota as beekeepers await the 2012 harvest. It is anticipated that major extraction of honey by commercial beekeepers will occur in the first half of August. Minnesota beekeepers anticipate wholesale prices for white honey to range from \$1.95 to 2.00 per pound. One of the major concerns being discussed involved the destruction of good bee foraging plants in road side ditches by state and county entities. Beekeepers in the state of Minnesota would prefer that the road crews stop spraying and cutting good foraging plants during the honey producing season. There are a lot of good plants being prematurely destroyed, before any benefit can be obtained according to the Minnesota Beekeepers.

MISSISSIPPI: Most beekeepers are reporting an average volume of honey for this year. Quality is reported to be good to very good. High temperatures have continued throughout the state, but the hives are handling it well. Normal losses have been reported in the hives due to the heat. Beekeepers have treated for mites as needed. No major problems reported from the hive beetles. Most of the bees are feeding off of purple verbane, wildflowers and honey in the hives. Supplemental feeding is not expected to be needed until the fall months. Prices are steady and demand is increasing.

MONTANA: In July, a pattern of hot days and below normal precipitation prevailed across the state. On July 30th topsoil moisture measurements measured 34 percent very short, 47 percent short, 19 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measured 78percent short and very short, and 22 percent adequate or surplus. During July colony health was said to be variable, but generally good. Difficulties were reported because of the continued heat and lack of sufficient precipitation to maintain wild honey sources while irrigated alfalfa was available. Honey extraction had begun by late July with lighter than average yields. Honey demand was reported to be good to very good.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather in July, had average temperatures generally well above normal combined with high humidity throughout the month. Precipitation and soil moisture levels was average and holding steady with ample pollen sources and many nectar sources starting to slow and end quickly. New England has experienced hot daytime temperatures in the high 80s to mid-90s. There seems to be a pattern where bees are bringing in little nectar and pollen early in the day and robbing is a problem later in the day with many bees feeding. Keepers report that many bees are hanging outside the hives in order to escape the heat while others line up with their backs toward the entrance and fan their wings to create a cooling air flow through the hive. Many hives have bees clustered on the front of the hive with many hives bearding. This indicates that the bees are not out foraging and are opportunistic to any easy nectar source because of their tendency to swarm to the nearest nectar source. Regionally we are in a nectar dearth, so keepers reportedly are watching for syrup feedings if necessary. The bees are finding it hard to find nectar with so much heat and humidity. Additionally, many bees are by water sources as well which is customary for this time of season and weather pattern. Bees are putting what they are bringing inside the hive into brood production. It currently appears that this season's main honey flow is over. It was an interesting honey flow progression this year for New England. This seasons main foraging sources started with honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrow*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), black locust (*Robinia pseudo acacia*), blackberry (*Rebus spp.*) Followed by multiflora rose, which produces a golden brown pollen, shag horn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), linden-basswood, *Tilia cordata*, *T. Americana*, smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and with much of the region being dominated by white clover. Bees were working black locust, swamp thistle, button bush, purple loosestrife, wild radish, American basswood/linden (*Tilia Americana*), milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), winded sumac, staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), buckwheat, sweet pepper bush (*Chethora*), meadow sweet (produces a light olive pollen color) as well as vegetable crops and a variety of flowering trees and wild flowers. Some excellent pollen and nectar sources for bees are the legumes such as alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*), purple vetch (*Vicia sativa*), birds foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), and clovers such as white sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) and yellow sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) are all in full bloom at this point in time. Additionally with many unanticipated feeding sources available, this could be one of the best honey crop years in New England. The honey flow will dramatically slow as nectar becomes scarce, brood rearing slows down but there's still a large population of bees. Keepers advise to extract honey as soon as possible and leave enough honey for the bees during July and August when nectar is scarce. Honey flows have been good in strong colonies with keepers reportedly extracting 3 times before starting their mite treatments. Early commercial crop pollination services involved cranberries with pollination fees ranging from \$75.00 to \$100.00 mostly \$80.00 per hive colony (depending on transportation cost requirements). Early harvested honey reportedly was some of the highest quality and lightly colored ever. Harvested honey has been averaging 35 lbs. per colony. Beekeepers have been busy concentrating on extracting honey. The Italian and Russian honeybees have reportedly been the best honey producers with keepers that have been successful with huge honey production numbers. For the most part, colonies were reported to be good condition with few disease or mite problems. However, there have been many reported wax moth problems. Tracheal and varroa mites are typically a problem in July and August. Prices quoted for retail 1lb bottled units were strong and quoted at \$7.00 to \$10.00 mostly \$9.00 and occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were strong with 5 gallon units selling at \$175.00 to \$215.00 mostly \$200.00 occasionally higher for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

NEW YORK: The weather in Western and Central New York has been hot and dry during the month and beekeepers have reported very good honey flows. One beekeeper commented "supers are filling in 7-10 days". Major foraging sources in the area have been alfalfa, soybeans, along with a great crop of basswood, which initiated a good steady honey flow last month. Bees appear to be in very good health, better than previous years. One honey wholesaler commented he received \$2.15 pound (barrel) recently. In the northern St. Lawrence River Valley, dry conditions have affected honey production during the month, producing light honey flows. In the region, Joe Pye weed and Purple Loosestrife provided some foraging sources for hives. More than one beekeeper commented he had not seen such dry conditions in over 50 years. Many are hoping that the advent of goldenrod and vetch brings heavier flows for the fall honey crop. In the Catskills region, honey flows were light due to the drought. Normal forage bloom sources such as wildflowers, locust, milkweed and sumac were scarce. Some thyme and buckwheat were early sources, while other beekeepers are hopeful for the advent of goldenrod in August to increase flows. The area has seen showers over the past few weeks.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were mostly above normal for July. Precipitation varied leaving statewide soil moisture levels rated at 7 percent very short, 18 percent short, 66 percent adequate, and 9 percent surplus by the week ending July 29. The North Carolina Drought Council reported 24 counties as abnormally dry and 2 counties as experiencing moderate drought conditions. Bees appear to be healthy and doing extremely well. The Sourwood flow in North Carolina has been spotty at best leaving honey supplies fairly light and demand very good. Possible plants the bees have been working included Sumac, Heartsease, Smartweed, Goldenrod and Pepperbush. Due to the time of year and the overall lack of nectar this summer it may be necessary for beekeepers to inspect hives and determine if supplemental feeding is necessary.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: The weather was hot and dry, although some recent rains have helped in localized areas. Bees have been working sunflowers and other various floral sources. The honey is flowing good in most areas and extracting continues. Hive condition were fairly good.

OHIO: Honey flows in northern Ohio have been very good, with some comments of “better than the last 20 years”. Forage plants seem to have enough sugar, with wild and sweet clover and soybean fields being the primary sources of nectar. Along with the temperate weather, an increase in mites has been observed; thus, treatments have begun. Beekeepers are hopeful the fall honey flow will also be good, as goldenrod is nearing bloom.

OKLAHOMA: Pollen and nectar sources received during July for Northern Oklahoma were very limited due to extreme heat. The condition of bees was good. Weather conditions have seen above normal temperatures with little to no rain fall. Weather has been too hot to produce any honey. Supply and demand was good. Pollen and nectar sources received during July for Southern Oklahoma were very limited from the extreme heat only finding vixen broom straw and wheat. It is relevant to mention here if there were no natural sources supplemental feeding was necessary. Condition of the bees and hives seem to be strong with no onset of mites in standard hives. Weather conditions have brought record high temperatures for over 30 days with an average temperature last week of the month 107. Bees fly out early and bring in water rest of the day. Bees have not started consuming stores so far. Prices are still high, but are average for the rest of the U.S. Extreme heat and no rain fall have caused a drought. Supply meeting demand but starting to get low. Pollination is going strong.

OREGON: In July most areas reported normal summer temperatures with little measureable precipitation across the state. At the month's end, topsoil moisture measured 17 percent very short, 41 percent short, 42 percent adequate, and 0 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture measurements measured 52 percent very short and short, while 48 percent of moisture measurements measured adequate and zero percent surplus. Colonies were reported to be of generally good strength. Wild flowers, white and yellow sweet clover, blackberries and alfalfa were available as nectar and pollen sources in July. Beekeepers reported honey demand to be good.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: A variety of weather conditions have occurred this past month in Tennessee. Some areas have been in a drought while others have been getting too much rain. The Sourwood nectar flow is over in most areas. Some beekeepers had a record honey production season; while others are in drought and have been feeding all month. Iron weed and fall asters are beginning to bloom across the state.

TEXAS: Texas weather was extremely negative for the month. Nearly every day had digits with no rain. Hot, dry conditions have stressed bees. The bees have no natural forage. Beekeepers are feeding the bees. Poor rainfall and extreme temperatures conditions have cut honey production by 50%. Supply is short, demand continues to grow, and prices creep up but are hampered by demand. Even the trash wildflowers that normally bloom in July and August looked stressed and probably will be in short supply. Demand continues to be strong for Texas varietal honey.

UTAH: July has been very hot with near normal precipitation in Utah. Even though rainfall was about normal across the State, it was not enough to stay ahead of the excessive heat wave. Salt Lake City recorded 25 days above 90 degrees with 6 of those days being above 100 degrees. The excessive heat combined with precipitation created some very humid days. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the eastern part and northwest part of Utah are in an extreme drought. Most other areas of the State are in a moderate to severe drought. All locations in Utah are reporting growing degree days (GDD), accumulated from March 1 to July 31, as ahead of normal. All Utah beekeepers have been actively working their hives in the state as well as in Wyoming and Nevada. Beekeepers are still optimistic about the possible production of honey in the state if they receive more rain and temperatures are reduced. At the moment, dry conditions have vastly changed the availability of good foraging plants for the bees from earlier in the season. About the only good foraging left for bees is some irrigated alfalfa. Even the wild flowers seem to be absent this summer. Even if the current hot and dry trend continues, beekeepers are still anticipating a better honey crop than last year. Last year was a very poor honey crop, so the improvement in yields this year will be welcomed. No supplemental feeding has been necessary yet, but if the continued dry trend persists, it will become necessary according to beekeepers. Also a major concern among the Utah beekeepers is that the drought in the Midwest will vastly increase the cost of their operating expense for corn syrup. Right now, beekeepers from Utah have reported that their bees continue to be healthy. There have been reports of some mites building up in hives. However, at the present, most commercial beekeepers have this issue under control. Wholesale and retail demand for honey continues to be excellent in Utah as beekeepers await the harvest of their 2012 crop. Supplies of old and new honey are very low in the state. It is anticipated that major extraction of honey by commercial beekeepers will occur in the first half of August. Utah beekeepers have been offered wholesale prices for white honey ranging from \$1.85 to 1.95 per pound.

WASHINGTON: Summer weather continues in the Northwest with temperatures in the 90Fs and near 100F. Most areas are dry, but irrigation supplies are adequate. Row crops are active with bees currently looking good and working various floral sources. Higher elevation wildflowers are in bloom. Cherry harvest continues and peach and nectarine harvest is picking up. New crop apples and pears are expected to get underway in late August.

WISCONSIN: Wisconsin followed along with many of the Midwestern states with a weather pattern of excessive heat and a shortage of rainfall. The average temperatures reported as much as 20 degrees above normal for this time of year. Rainfall amount for the month varied over the state with most areas reporting 2 inches or less. The beekeepers had been checking their hives for signs of stress due to the abnormal conditions. Most beekeepers reported little collection activities. Honey sales were extremely slow with little activity due to the weather.

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

	Year to Date		June 2012	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	8,317	32,061	922	4,573
Bahrain	40,230	97,651	16,085	39,043
Barbados	8,868	54,150	1,742	10,688
Bermuda	1,630	10,847	0	0
Brazil	4,896	11,884	0	0
Cayman Islands	1,155	6,934	0	0
Germany(*)	6,949	25,222	0	0
Guyana	7,836	44,597	816	6,737
Hong Kong	43,756	215,285	12,573	60,000
Iceland	6,615	18,559	0	0
Indonesia	190,403	462,167	43,307	105,122
Ireland	1,285	3,119	0	0
Israel(*)	81,200	411,684	0	0
Japan	172,892	734,794	23,985	93,421
Korea, South	4,074	14,140	150	3,124
Kuwait	183,992	636,082	56,454	137,032
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	726	3,960	0	0
Malaysia	18,747	49,115	17,052	41,525
Mexico	49,869	121,049	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	5,192	24,061	871	5,344
Panama	8,710	53,440	1,742	10,688
Philippines	184,049	455,414	0	0
Poland	22,944	55,692	0	0
Saudi Arabia	53,341	129,475	0	0
Singapore	20,786	58,028	0	0
Taiwan	15,832	77,064	15,832	77,064
Thailand	7,097	32,665	0	0
United Arab Emirates	150,013	364,131	0	0
Vietnam	18,967	46,040	18,967	46,040
Yemen(*)	361,331	1,591,350	57,904	260,980

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

Australia(*)	2,280	7,038	0	0
Bahamas, The	16,858	76,018	2,487	9,933
Bahrain	3,674	7,128	0	0
Barbados	9,514	19,415	682	4,625
Bermuda	10,263	41,779	3,264	15,152
Cambodia	1,527	10,052	1,527	10,052
Canada	191,921	700,249	37,876	153,707
Cayman Islands	555	3,273	0	0
China	851	5,637	0	0
Colombia	2,085	5,060	2,085	5,060
Hong Kong	14,579	66,735	8,128	35,163
India	356,655	834,600	0	0
Israel(*)	225,400	871,855	0	0
Jamaica	8,491	33,700	0	0
Japan	136,312	392,626	35,303	118,017
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,201	3,960	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	11,859	55,346	1,070	7,206
Panama	1,216	7,476	544	2,866
Philippines	5,555	35,775	4,013	23,636
Saudi Arabia	18,000	92,606	0	0
Taiwan	2,483	13,260	2,483	13,260
Thailand	7,316	17,758	0	0
United Arab Emirates	33,259	215,886	15,820	97,172

United Kingdom	19,382	40,000	19,382	40,000
Vietnam	79,780	188,316	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	2,842,718	9,586,208	403,066	1,437,230

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

	Year to Date			June 2012		
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars
WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -						
Argentina	5,777,527	16,743,250	17,161,297	1,087,277	3,129,269	3,188,621
Brazil	228,206	751,317	791,138	75,880	220,298	233,798
Canada	6,937,719	25,456,908	25,654,878	1,317,551	5,076,231	5,118,347
Chile	96,512	277,000	285,000	0	0	0
Egypt	4,338	8,676	9,237	0	0	0
France(*)	393	4,967	5,424	0	0	0
Hungary	614	7,728	8,367	0	0	0
India	977,054	2,670,575	2,813,261	409,200	1,135,530	1,219,530
Italy(*)	13,799	99,947	102,803	0	0	0
Mexico	312,434	1,133,994	1,140,171	235,962	849,929	852,356
New Zealand(*)	23,164	46,328	46,599	0	0	0
Poland	2,650	20,442	21,057	2,650	20,442	21,057
Spain	14,960	82,910	87,326	8,708	46,849	50,349
Switzerland(*)	3,191	21,516	21,924	163	2,358	2,359
United Kingdom	5,143	37,791	39,904	553	4,361	4,797
Uruguay	113,987	343,381	352,005	0	0	0

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

Argentina	12,312,295	35,757,654	36,961,556	2,940,902	8,603,600	8,865,509
Australia(*)	38,993	140,375	143,375	19,492	70,171	71,171
Austria	750	5,334	5,680	750	5,334	5,680
Brazil	1,779,878	5,909,902	6,102,733	321,590	1,009,290	1,036,682
Canada	254,592	1,099,100	1,105,831	25,278	107,377	108,336
Chile	493,210	1,346,080	1,400,459	39,124	109,547	115,547
China	18,734	56,449	59,949	0	0	0
France(*)	2,734	27,967	30,785	694	6,532	8,615
India	4,596,569	12,194,933	12,820,834	629,134	1,630,145	1,718,521
Indonesia	241,280	524,320	547,721	0	0	0
Italy(*)	663	3,189	3,387	0	0	0
Japan	10	2,871	2,970	0	0	0
Malaysia	89,900	220,255	220,265	0	0	0
Mexico	893,072	2,725,731	2,749,930	234,418	728,537	730,561
Pakistan	19,000	47,500	50,000	0	0	0
Thailand	56,360	125,464	130,965	0	0	0
Ukraine	415,859	1,101,134	1,135,060	113,279	298,379	302,667
Uruguay	1,110,363	3,010,401	3,129,956	113,706	319,789	327,289
Vietnam	556,350	1,391,141	1,462,219	38,400	96,000	102,040

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	3,965,253	11,399,679	11,743,206	1,078,375	3,133,933	3,242,995
Australia(*)	1,218	14,749	14,750	0	0	0
Austria	12,391	114,630	120,660	0	0	0
Brazil	2,820,812	8,088,574	8,408,597	789,023	2,186,438	2,274,303
Canada	38,322	119,278	120,079	0	0	0
Chile	743,607	1,978,281	2,042,751	187,729	515,271	534,351
Dominican Republic	258,712	675,198	710,073	55,143	159,259	167,131
France(*)	975	11,196	11,462	0	0	0
Germany(*)	75,065	339,634	351,062	24,148	126,774	129,774
Greece	1,545	15,627	16,057	0	0	0
Hong Kong	3,420	21,321	21,660	0	0	0
India	6,103,436	15,378,084	16,300,039	1,625,266	4,089,651	4,358,959
Indonesia	121,996	267,989	288,989	0	0	0
Ireland	292	3,114	3,177	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,114	44,558	47,321	259	4,114	4,303
Japan	4,654	11,403	11,880	0	0	0
Lithuania	768	4,069	4,555	768	4,069	4,555
Malaysia	1,629,542	3,962,154	4,124,297	89,900	220,255	220,265
Mexico	807,052	2,306,181	2,349,909	315,652	958,821	958,869
New Zealand(*)	51,759	371,071	374,690	3,784	133,509	135,027
Poland	1,231	7,594	8,068	0	0	0
Russia	2,360	38,638	42,188	0	0	0
Spain	6,693	53,971	55,141	2,041	15,130	15,461
Switzerland(*)	302	2,817	2,994	0	0	0
Thailand	36,600	86,560	86,924	0	0	0
Turkey	523,413	1,270,500	1,382,503	392	4,851	4,852
Ukraine	37,200	100,812	108,812	0	0	0
Uruguay	5,557,447	14,821,175	15,161,043	1,383,362	3,741,923	3,830,364
Vietnam	5,182,560	12,753,960	13,399,038	1,353,040	3,296,622	3,454,640

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	226,212	624,363	634,661	73,762	210,222	217,571
Armenia	452	3,510	4,123	0	0	0
Australia(*)	1,050	16,194	16,444	1,050	16,194	16,444
Brazil	135,420	356,085	368,750	38,080	95,934	96,340
Canada	145,950	473,299	473,650	0	0	0
Chile	56,265	149,309	153,956	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	138,333	245,722	254,038	42,804	52,600	54,450
Egypt	1,500	3,560	4,056	1,500	3,560	4,056
France(*)	1,255	17,270	19,974	0	0	0
Germany(*)	595	5,850	6,099	0	0	0
Greece	1,209	16,323	18,323	0	0	0
Hungary	3,252	16,985	17,985	0	0	0
India	1,533,360	4,814,296	5,050,661	1,384,965	4,403,962	4,615,327
Indonesia	53,940	91,698	97,698	53,940	91,698	97,698
Israel(*)	1,968	29,084	30,076	1,968	29,084	30,076
Italy(*)	7,212	86,248	90,092	699	9,677	10,022
Japan	1,958	6,306	6,534	0	0	0
Lithuania	5,372	21,079	23,762	1,168	5,719	6,402
Mexico	184,792	506,419	514,168	73,825	208,732	210,394
Moldova	2,058	11,516	13,217	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	371,515	2,003,553	2,056,336	29,895	180,063	190,307

Poland	5,321	43,914	49,613	932	7,075	8,624
Russia	504	5,785	6,287	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	6,000	5,400	6,132	0	0	0
Spain	3,637	25,647	27,223	798	4,990	5,202
Taiwan	498,540	1,167,131	1,217,296	229,680	569,607	588,807
Thailand	92,630	203,786	206,841	37,200	81,840	83,849
Ukraine	1,800	3,910	4,285	0	0	0
United Kingdom	10,235	32,957	35,707	0	0	0
Uruguay	226,726	573,673	586,238	18,885	47,779	49,519
Vietnam	922,940	2,176,086	2,237,496	35,840	85,632	86,014

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Argentina	6,001	28,710	31,210	0	0	0
Armenia	9,362	79,074	81,505	743	5,986	6,270
Austria	4,130	49,123	51,176	486	4,792	4,988
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	894	12,026	12,513	0	0	0
Brazil	58,070	186,222	197,103	18,810	66,964	69,720
Bulgaria	55,088	220,381	232,893	4,080	24,850	25,851
Canada	324,691	1,846,520	1,852,223	37,228	219,607	220,182
Chile	294	3,828	3,831	0	0	0
Croatia	3,645	29,738	30,386	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	4,217	6,812	7,877	0	0	0
Egypt	711	3,060	3,122	711	3,060	3,122
France(*)	63,177	659,366	690,936	3,334	41,616	41,978
Germany(*)	80,797	435,850	452,788	0	0	0
Greece	17,506	159,563	166,622	8,274	85,392	87,431
Guatemala	1,133	2,753	2,929	0	0	0
Hungary	4,320	20,519	22,046	0	0	0
India	159,159	564,009	588,195	19,800	64,548	67,048
Israel(*)	4,377	20,798	20,877	266	2,198	2,248
Italy(*)	8,876	89,262	90,924	138	2,328	2,503
Lebanon	2,565	28,875	30,675	0	0	0
Lithuania	5,148	24,167	26,584	0	0	0
Malaysia	59,601	60,935	60,938	0	0	0
Mexico	18,582	57,601	63,361	0	0	0
Moldova	8,532	33,180	36,655	517	3,417	3,722
New Zealand(*)	61,413	621,400	639,564	1,080	8,386	9,384
Poland	19,443	53,060	57,445	0	0	0
Portugal	4,416	30,646	31,858	0	0	0
Russia	18,755	111,661	122,883	15,200	82,026	90,229
Saudi Arabia	95	3,240	3,340	0	0	0
Serbia	2,417	17,123	18,023	0	0	0
Slovenia	700	4,613	4,760	0	0	0
Spain	94,800	638,975	659,074	18,000	119,414	123,414
Switzerland(*)	35,998	292,090	303,976	9,886	80,938	83,058
Taiwan	70,737	121,327	130,567	14,535	20,912	22,517
Turkey	33,384	185,112	190,448	3,495	16,519	17,256
Ukraine	34,246	117,278	129,006	0	0	0
Uruguay	38,400	105,216	110,103	0	0	0
Uzbekistan, Republic of	2,881	10,083	11,070	2,881	10,083	11,070
Vietnam	26,000	75,377	79,077	0	0	0
Zambia	2,985	44,145	44,386	0	0	0

FLAVORED HONEY –

Canada	13,097	110,217	111,706	2,961	15,725	15,789
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China	193,361	319,216	353,871	91,800	136,800	151,898
Egypt	2,400	5,250	5,500	0	0	0
France(*)	4,253	20,920	21,587	0	0	0
Germany(*)	2,000	19,540	20,140	2,000	19,540	20,140
Greece	240	3,815	4,051	0	0	0
India	520	3,432	3,518	0	0	0
Indonesia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Italy(*)	3,235	51,874	53,602	1,359	18,469	19,462
Japan	90	17,934	18,034	0	0	0
Korea, South	48,474	1,115,526	1,155,406	8,338	285,880	298,968
Mexico	82,515	836,634	842,615	8,299	85,694	86,368
New Zealand(*)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	1,015	4,470	4,916	0	0	0
Portugal	274	2,435	2,473	0	0	0
Spain	2,956	18,296	20,332	0	0	0
Taiwan	13,274	24,825	26,510	3,600	5,794	6,165
Thailand	26,718	115,170	119,347	558	2,548	2,617
United Kingdom	264	3,454	3,461	0	0	0
Vietnam	4,608	26,300	26,963	0	0	0

ORGANIC HONEY –

Australia(*)	18,408	156,654	167,312	0	0	0
Brazil	1,444,826	4,420,694	4,529,605	337,942	1,047,822	1,079,775
Canada	135,240	625,626	633,805	58,887	226,518	230,218
Dominican Republic	49,481	111,647	111,650	13,840	30,448	30,449
Greece	8,368	113,582	116,566	0	0	0
Italy(*)	5,112	70,315	72,029	674	6,058	6,242
Mexico	166,564	554,013	554,923	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	12,597	80,163	82,363	12,355	73,510	74,210
Taiwan	3,150	12,390	12,743	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL	73,616,629	217,294,415	224,515,689	17,252,661	50,982,798	52,705,075
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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**