

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Specialty Crops Program
Market News Division

Federal Market News Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
STOP 0238

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202-720- 2175 FAX: 202-720-0547

Website: www.marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-home
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2018

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	Light Amber	\$2.20	
Buckwheat	Amber	\$2.00	
Orange	Extra Light Amber	\$2.50	

DAKOTAS

Clover	White	\$2.08	- \$2.10
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$2.10	
Sunflower	White	\$1.85	- \$1.98

FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.70	
Orange	White	\$2.40	- \$2.55
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.80	

HAWAII

Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.80	
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IOWA

Clover	White	\$2.12	
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MISSISSIPPI

Soybean	Light Amber	\$1.75	
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MINNESOTA

Basswood	White	\$2.08	
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MONTANA

Clover	White	\$2.14	
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NEBRASKA

Clover	White	\$2.10	
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$2.10	

OHIO

Basswood	White	\$2.08	
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OREGON

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

Clover	White	\$1.36	- \$1.42
Mixed Flower	White	\$1.35	- \$1.42

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

ARGENTINA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.25	- \$1.84
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.20	- \$1.80
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.18	- \$1.22
Orange	White	\$2.10	

BRAZIL

ORGANIC	White	\$1.95	
ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.92	- \$1.95
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.88	- \$1.92
ORGANIC	Amber	\$1.89	

INDIA

Mixed Flower	White	\$0.93	
Mixed Flower	Extra Light	\$0.97	
Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$0.91	- \$0.97
Mustard	Light Amber	\$0.90	
Mustard	Amber	\$1.07	

VIETNAM

Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$0.88	- \$0.92
Mixed Flower	Amber	\$0.84	- \$1.15

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING MARCH, 2018

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): After the warm trend from mid-late February, March was a reminder that winter was still here. Four northeaster storms hit the area, each a week apart, and each brought its own wintry palette of cold temperatures, strong winds, rain, and/or heavy, wet snow. Daytime highs during early part of the month were 5-10 degrees below normal and lows dropping into the upper twenties with a couple days reaching 21-23 degree low temperatures. Orchards were still in tight bud and some colonies were still in California for almonds. A few beekeepers in lower elevations reported an occasional early swarm. Maple sap was being gathered by mid-month as day time temperatures were 10-20, and occasionally 30 degrees, above normal for about two weeks. By the last week of March, temperatures returned to normal to below normal. Witch hazels and red maples bloomed early in the lower elevations on the Mid-Atlantic region. Local beekeepers kept busy attending local and regional educational and training meetings, sterilizing equipment and waiting for new bee packages for the upcoming season.

ALABAMA: Beginning late last summer into March 2018, some Alabama beekeepers reported colony losses that were numerically higher. Winter colony die offs commonly ranged about 30-40%. During February and March, persistent cold Alabama weather caused late season winter/spring kills. Due to this consistent decline, many Alabama beekeepers have been dividing their surviving colonies and cleaning "dead-outs" in order to restock them - if possible.

One way of restocking colonies is capturing honey bee swarms. However, the recurrence of intermittent cold weather – especially in south Alabama – disrupted swarming colonies. In North Alabama, swarming rates, in general, have been suppressed due to the late season cold spells. Up to this point, swarm collecting has not been a good way to recover colony numbers. These effects have been experienced as far south as Dothan and Mobile.

The Alabama Department of Agriculture, Apiary Division, has reported increased levels of European foulbrood (EFB). Historically, EFB has been a self-limiting disease, but the addition of extra pests such as the Small Hive Beetle (SHB) and parasitic mites could possibly make EFB a greater threat. Additionally, antibiotics are now difficult to get for health application. Indeed, a colony susceptible to EFB should probably not be medicated. Colony susceptibility to EFB will only be propagated within the apiary if such colonies are medicated.

A rare Alabama occurrence, even very rare, has apparently affected some Alabama honey bee colonies. Carolina Jasmine (not a true Jasmine) during March, seemingly enticed bees to the heavy bloom. There were a few reports of bee kills that looked like pesticides but there was no reason for pesticide application at that time. Additionally, the reports came from around the state.

Carolina Jasmine is a common plant that can readily be purchased from plant nurseries and readily survives in Alabama forests. The plant is highly toxic to humans and animals. Deer are known to avoid browsing on it.

Beekeeping literature has long reported toxic effects on bees but scientific data is scant. It has been speculated that bee deaths will only show up if little else is in bloom so that foragers are not able to blend the nectar with other digestible nectars. By the time the reports were made around the state and follow-ups were performed, the blooming period had passed and evidence had faded. Colony kills due to Jasmine nectar collection is not a common Alabama occurrence, but with so many colonies killed during winter and few swarms so far, colony death by Carolina Jasmine is just more hurdle for Alabama beekeepers.

ARIZONA: Some Arizona bee colonies remained out of state during the first part of the month for the purposes of pollinating fruit and nut trees elsewhere, including California. However, towards the end of the month, most colonies began returning to the state. This, coupled with warmer weather, has resulted in an increased level of bee activity in the state. Alfalfa and desert plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state.

Temperatures were at below normal levels during the first week of the month, and were at above normal levels during the remainder of March. The high temperature in Arizona for March was 93 degrees Fahrenheit in Robson Ranch, while the low temperature of 1 degree Fahrenheit was at Window Rock.

During the month of March, the number of stations (out of 50) receiving precipitation during a one week time period were 35, 33, 16 and 11, respectively. For 2018, 12 reporting stations have received above normal levels of precipitation, 35 reporting stations have received below normal precipitation levels, 1 remained the same and 2 had no figures for last year. Much of Arizona is currently affected by drought and near drought like conditions.

According to figures from the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), for 2017 Arizona had 22,000 honey producing colonies (5,000 less than in 2016), 880,000 pounds of honey produced (364,000 pounds under 2016) with a total production value of \$1,725,000 (a decrease of \$747,000 from 2016). The average per pound price for honey in Arizona in 2017 was \$1.96, down from the 2016 average of \$1.99 per pound. The demand for honey in Arizona was good.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

CALIFORNIA: Once almond bloom finished in California in March, bees were ready to move on to other crops, such as cherries, which allowed bees to forage for much needed pollen. As bees began to swarm, beekeepers got the chance to split hives and replenish populations. “Yes, it is now time to restock the mountains of dead bee hives that have accumulated over the winter,” one beekeeper said. “There have been reports of some brood damage from bloom sprays in almonds, but so far it appears that the damage is not as widespread as in some recent years. Queen breeders are backed up with orders, and I understand that many are behind at least a week or so due to the poor mating weather in March.”

Besides cherries, oranges should bloom in early to mid-April. Some California bees also have been shipped to Washington for apple bloom. During almond bloom, pollination rates hovered around \$180-200 per hive, but afterward rates fell back to around \$40.

Rain and cool weather extended some almond blooms and at times prevented beekeepers from removing hives before bees began to swarm. Some almond trees experienced crop failure due to extreme cold. In some cases, bees quickly began eating their gain, which will result in heavier reliance on syrup in the months ahead.

Beekeepers anticipate investing more time and money in the hives this coming fall and again in January. “2018 will likely not be a great year for honey production in California, but we can always hope for more rain soon in order to help spring flowers as well as those plants which can germinate in late spring and bloom in August and September,” a beekeeper said

FLORIDA: The month was characterized by less precipitation and cooler and windier conditions than normal. Bee health was considered to be better than average. Orange blossom season, which had been highly anticipated, lasted only a few days. The shortest season anyone could remember in Florida history. This means very little orange blossom honey was made and the orange crop will probably also be less than expected. Titi began in late February and continued until shortly after the middle of the month. Titi honey production was considered to be about average. Tupelo honey is expected to be much better than the past three seasons and along with Gallberry and palmetto honey, is expected to begin around the middle of April. Gallberry and palmetto began in some areas of south Florida before the end of the month. Some wildflowers such as Goldenrod, Spanish Needle and aster began blooming in Central Florida in late March, much earlier than normal. It is usually May before they bloom in that area. Some people were speculating that the hurricane last year may have deposited seeds from South Florida further north and could account for the earlier wildflower bloom. Almost all Florida bees that had been relocated to California for almond pollination were back in the state before the end of the month or had been relocated to other western states for various pollination duties. Stored supplies of honey were very low by the end of the month with very good demand for any remaining orange blossom honey.

GEORGIA: Beekeepers have been reporting issues with rain and the problems caused by excess water washing away the pollen and keeping the bees in the hives. The southern portion of the state reports that the honey flow is going fairly well while the northern areas report that they are running late due to rain. Some areas are struggling to get the Queens mated and producing and have no packages or Nucs available for sale.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: During the month of March temperatures were generally below normal across Southern Idaho. Far Northern Idaho, Colorado and Utah experienced above normal temperatures during the same period. Precipitation during March was slightly above normal in Idaho and Utah and below normal across Colorado. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the Northern areas of Idaho had near normal soil moisture conditions during March. Southern Idaho was rated as abnormally dry. It continues to be extremely dry across Utah during the same period. All areas in Utah have

some level of drought conditions, ranging from extreme to moderate. The driest area in Utah seems to be in the Central areas of the State. Even some good snows in March have not helped very much towards alleviating the drought conditions in Utah. In Colorado, most areas are also experiencing some type of drought conditions, except some areas in the Northcentral and Northeast parts of the State. Southwest and Southeast areas of Colorado seem to have the most extreme drought conditions present during the month of March. Drought conditions during winter months in Utah and Colorado could limit water available for irrigation during the upcoming summer months.

During the month of March, all commercial beekeepers from Idaho, Utah and Colorado finished up the annual Almond pollination in California. At this point of time, the bee's that remain look healthy. Winter and spring losses have ranged from 10 to 35 percent. Some colony collapses have been unexplained in Utah.

Some beekeepers fed supplements all through the winter and continued this management practice into the spring with good results. There was some nectar gathered by colonies during the almond pollination, so some beekeepers have been able to cut back slightly on supplemental feed. Regardless, if commercial beekeepers stayed in California or moved to southern locations, they were now preparing to make splits and divides. Soon after, beekeepers expect to start checking for mites and will be treating as needed.

Demand for Idaho, Utah and Colorado honey exceeds the supply. There is just not enough local honey to fill the demand with most 2017 commercial honey sold or committed. The only honey left is what was saved back for retail markets.

ILLINOIS: The weather for March has been warming up with lots of rain. Beekeepers report an approximately 50 percent loss of bees over the winter. Beekeepers are trying to rebuild their populations with purchased packages. Beekeepers continue to feed their bees, since there is not enough foliage to maintain the bees alone. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and demand was weak at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

INDIANA: The weather has been slightly colder than average for March with more rain than usual. Most beekeepers report that some of their bees have survived the winter in good condition, while many report some dead hives. Beekeepers say that they have bought new packages to rebuild their hives. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

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

KENTUCKY: March is always a mercurial month for weather in Kentucky. This year did not disappoint. Snow punctuated each week of the month, even as flowers and honey bees persevered in their springtime rituals. Although many beekeepers had some losses, a few inspections of commercial beekeepers indicate that their losses seemed to be average with previous years. There were easily-visible cases of chronic bee paralysis, starvation, and "bald brood," but the USDA Honey Bee Health Survey samples have indicated that many apiaries have healthy hives. The mite samples have been less than 3 mites per 100 honey bees. Unlike last year when the first swarm was reported March 04, 2017, swarm season has not started in KY, although there have been some hives with swarm cells and most hives now have plenty of drone brood. In terms of forage, hen bit, dead nettle, pear trees, dandelions, witch hazel, and red bud have bloomed, with the western part of the state being about a week earlier than the Bluegrass and the eastern montane region. Even as these plants have bloomed, though, the sporadic snows have created a "stop-and-go" effect in the hives. Honey bees are bringing in nectar, but beekeepers are also having to provide supplemental feed.

LOUISIANA: No report issued.

MICHIGAN: Beekeepers have concerns regarding bee starvation with spring around the corner. It was a cold winter and hives are light on honey stores. Many colonies have been fed fondant or sugar to keep them alive when needed. Reports are surfacing with heavy losses in many cases and nuc and package suppliers are running out of supplies. In recent flights, foraging bees have been bringing in pollen from early blooming red maples and other early blooming plants. Packages and nucleus hives will begin arriving later next month for those who need replacements. Local honey supplies are in short supply and prices remain firm.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Michigan honey production for 2017 totaled 3.92 million pounds, down 27% from one year earlier. This estimate included honey from producers with 5 or more colonies. Nationally, Michigan ranked 9th in honey production, down one rank from 2016. Yields from the 87,000 honey producing colonies averaged 45 pounds in 2017, compared with 60 pounds the previous year. The state's honey price averaged \$2.41 per pound, up 4 cents per pound from last year. Value of production totaled \$9.4 million, down 25% from 2016. Honey stocks were 822,000 pounds, down 52% from one year earlier.

MINNESOTA: During the month of March temperatures were variable across the entire State of Minnesota. Locations in Southwest Minnesota had slightly below temperatures during March, whereas the rest of the State had near normal to slightly above normal temperatures during the same period. Temperatures were still not warm enough to cause very much snow melt during the month. Precipitation during the same period was mostly below normal across most of the State. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, soil moisture conditions are normal over most of the State, except for abnormally dry conditions in small areas of North Central and West Central Minnesota.

The almond pollination in California only lasted about 3 weeks for some commercial beekeepers this spring. Damage assessment is still under way to determine the damage done by some very cold conditions in the blooming period this season. It remains to be determined how effective bees were during these cold conditions in California. Some beekeepers have stayed in California despite the almond pollination being completed. The beekeepers who remain in California will continue to work on divides and splits. Other commercial beekeepers headed to other Southern States and will remain there until the end of April or the first part of May. Beekeepers who went to Southern States have also finished out the month of March by finishing successful queen bee grafting. One beekeeper attributed the successful queen grafting to good early cold weather this past winter. Beekeepers in Southern States are also preparing to make their divides and splits. At this point it appears that most commercial beekeepers are reporting positive numbers in their bee colonies for dividing and splitting colonies. The bees look healthy at this point of time with very few winter losses in most cases. However, some winter losses have been quite variable and high in some cases. Treating for mites will not occur until after all splits and divides are completed. Commercial beekeepers that went to Southern States for the balance of the early spring have not needed to add supplemental feed to bee colonies due to an abundant amount of nectar and pollen from wildflowers.

Demand for Minnesota honey exceeds the supply. There is just not enough local honey to fill the demand with most 2017 commercial honey sold or committed. The only honey left is what has been saved back for retail markets.

MISSISSIPPI: The beekeepers are busy getting in the hives and checking the bees. Plenty of rain caused a late start this year and everyone is extra busy working to get the bees in shape for Spring flow and filling orders for late shipments.

MONTANA: As the last week of March ended, Montana continued to wait for spring conditions to arrive. Billings and Townsend recorded highs for the week of 62 degrees, while the weekly low of minus 14 degrees was recorded at Saco. Widespread snowfall was also recorded the last week of March across the state. Topsoil moisture measurements at the end of March measured 2 percent very short, compared to 0 percent last year; 11 percent short, compared to 7 percent last year; 46 percent adequate, 82 percent last year; and 41 percent surplus, compared to 11 percent last year. Subsoil moisture measured 35 percent short and very short, while 65 percent of the subsoil moisture measurements were adequate or surplus.

Home bee keepers continued with home equipment repair and overwintering activities for home colonies. Montana colonies at other locations included Oregon and Washington states where relatively cool, wet, and windy conditions mostly prevailed as the orchard and berry farms across the region started to bud out. By months end, apricots were mostly past bloom, while peach and cherry blooms were beginning.

NEW ENGLAND: In New England, weather for the month of March offered some very cold temperatures which were lower than normal, exhibiting daytime temperatures in the high 20's and low 30's whereby mostly freezing temperatures overnight combined with high winds creating a low temperature wind chill effect. Precipitations in the form of heavy snow fall especially in Northern New England as opposed to a wintery mix in the south. Early spring ornamentals such as pussy willow, hazelnut catkins, skunk cabbage, poison ivy, swamp red maple, winter aconite as well as snow drops (*galanthus nivalis*), snowflakes (*leucocjum vernum*), are beginning to bloom in a limited way.

March is a critical month for feeding. Current cold temperatures requires Northern New England keepers to feed only solids such as protein patties, fondant, sugar candy, or dry granulated sugar around the opening of the inner cover. Most beekeepers have come to realize that due to the lack of natural forage in our urban and agricultural areas, feeding pollen substitute has become necessary to keep bees healthy in most parts of the United States.

Seasoned keepers feed with caution because swarm control is a major tenet of successful beekeeping. In this regard, colonies that show ample capped honey cells might just need light feeding or none at all depending on hive activity and/or floral sources that are blooming around your area.

March losses are not uncommon because bees are aging and the colonies stores have dwindled. As we finally have a break from winter, and warmer temperatures with light rain will proceed to cause snow to melt, and keepers will have the ability to inspect their hives. Deep snow was a help as it provided insulation for hives. Many keepers, both hobbyists and commercial, have expressed a frustration about over wintering because purportedly, their bees going into winter were strong and had plenty of food but experienced losses at 25% after checking. Those hives that died were small in population going into winter and probably lacked the critical mass to maintain temperatures within the cluster. The second reason was starvation, especially in single colonies as they simply ran out of honey. Russian honeybee colonies looked to be the most enduring as they can survive on less honey and get by with smaller populations.

In New England, comprehensively, colonies reported losses were variable. In some cases, there were various reports of big losses and surprisingly a number of bee keepers indicating no losses. The individuals reporting no loss or little loss seemed to have feed bees or left plenty of winter feed honey and treated for mites. Experienced keepers that consistently check and treat for disease and mites claim that if a keeper does not know what is going on in a hive, they are at risk. Most mite/disease treated apiaries, which had gone into over wintering strong, were still in reportedly good condition this spring, while weaker hives will require packages to build up their colonies. In this writer's opinion, most hive losses were due to a combination of varroa mites, nosema, small clusters within the hive, and neglected monitoring for supplemental feeding needs, hence many cases of starvation. The varroa mites took a bigger bite last year due to problems of lack of treatments being administered.

Queen breeders and nuc/package producers have been busy taking orders in anticipation of an early spring demand. This month is traditionally a time for bee association classes, as well as nuc and package bee pick-ups to be scheduled. Reportedly, there has been a strong demand for new equipment, nucs and package bees & queens which means bee production is low and it's hard to come up with enough bees for everyone in the demand cycle.

In New England, bees wax is a valuable commodity and availability fluctuates with honey production. Wax is sold by the pound, by color, and by cleanliness. Additionally, beeswax is sold to candle and musical instrument makers as well as manufactures of cosmetics, furniture polish, leather waterproofing, soaps, dental industry and hundreds of other minor uses. This current New England season has reported a smaller than normal domestic honeys crop which means less wax is available on the wholesale and retail market. Scarcity will drive prices up. Sellers claim that most of the wax has been sold this year and little domestic wax will be available until this summer when honey harvesting resumes.

Current wholesale prices quoted exclusively for white, cleaned beeswax are steady and for 1lb block units at \$5.50 to \$5.75 mostly \$5.75 and for 50lb block units at \$4.50 to \$5.00 mostly \$5.00. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50lbs are \$2.20 to \$3.50 mostly \$3.50 for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Retail white and cleaned beeswax prices reported are \$16.00 to \$20.00 per pound mostly \$18.50. Many beeswax sellers have held their prices steady however, are reportedly very low on supply inventories.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey market prices higher. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$11.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$22.00 mostly \$22.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were steady with 5 gallon units at \$200.00 to \$235.00 mostly \$230.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. Additionally, current prices quoted for 1 Quart bottled units for raw pollen were \$28.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$30.00 and for raw Propolis tincture are \$16.00 to \$18.00 mostly \$18.00 for 2 ounce containers.

NEW YORK: Beekeepers are anxiously awaiting spring weather. March and February have been switched this year; warmer temperatures in February followed by a cold, snowy March. There were a few days during the month that bees got out, which can be a problem for a late winter colony that is either lacking food or is compromised because of mite-vectored disease or noseemia. Colona losses will be up again this year for those beekeepers not prepared for a long winter. Sales of nucs and packages should be brisk later this spring. We are hopeful for some warming and snow melt of late and will be out feeding wherever yards are accessible. Silver Maple should be in bloom shortly if we can get a couple of days in the 60s. Some decorative flowers have popped around the south side of homes and skunk cabbage in protected swampy areas. Honey sales have been steady due to cooler weather and there has been a noted increase in wholesale requests by larger beekeepers. Last year's local supplies still hold a better demand over the blended import honey or darker honey pulled from previously held stocks. Bulk honey prices has remained steady through the fall and winter months.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York honey production for 2017 totaled 3.19 million pounds, a decrease of 12% from one year earlier (3.64 million pounds). This estimate included honey from producers with 5 or more colonies. Yields from the 57,000 honey producing colonies averaged 56 pounds in 2017, compared to 57 pounds the previous year. The state's honey price averaged \$3.01 per pound, down 18 cents from 2016. Value of production totaled \$9.6 million, down 17% from one year earlier. Honey stocks were 766,000 pounds on December 15, 2017, down 34% from the same time frame in 2016.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were below normal for March with a statewide average temperature of 45.5°F. Precipitation was normal with overall statewide soil moisture levels rated 0 percent very short,

5.5 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 39.5 percent surplus the week ending March 24. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 28 counties as being abnormally dry and 3 counties experiencing moderate drought conditions.

Bees are beginning to recover from an unfavorable winter season. Apiary inspectors reported fairly light Varroa mite pressure and very light pressure from small hive beetles. Little to no swarming has been reported as virgin queens are just beginning to emerge from cells. Demand for replacement bees exceeds supply, as predicted.

Commercial pollinators began moving hives back to North Carolina; primarily to the eastern part of the state for blueberry pollination. Bees could also be seen working Blackberry and Dandelion in the Coastal Plains region, as well as Yellow Jasmine, sometimes to their detriment. Red Maple and Sugar Maple were in bloom in the Piedmont and Mountain regions.

Retail prices for honey at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market remained steady and were: \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar. Prices at the Piedmont Triad Farmers' Market in Greensboro were: \$8.00 per 22 ounce jar.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: While winter conditions continued at home, the bees finished with almonds and other crops in California, some were moved North in anticipation of the apple, pear, and soft fruit blossom. Most were moved to the South Central US, primarily Texas Mississippi, and Louisiana. While bees were busy in various locations honey supplies were somewhat limited. Bees were expected to remain at their winter homes through April.

OHIO: Weather is the big player now; cold and wet and cannot get to the hives to check and feed. Winter losses appear to be fairly high in Northern Ohio: reports of 30-100% losses with an average of 40% fairly common. Mite control still is not a primary activity for many beekeepers and losses continue to mount without good practice. Local honey prices have remained steady, with supplies light. Foreign honey continues to dominate many grocery store shelves. New bee packages have not delivered yet, so outlook for a future crop still difficult to forecast.

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Ohio honey production for 2017 totaled 1.10 million pounds, down 8% from one year earlier. Yields from Ohio's 15,000 honey-producing colonies averaged 73 pounds for 2017, compared to 79 pounds in 2016. Ohio honey prices average \$3.12 pound, down 81 cents per pound from last year. The value of production totaled \$3.42 million, down 27% from 2016. Honey stocks were 657,000 pounds, down 1% from one year earlier, on December 15, 2017.

OKLAHOMA: Weather has seen a wide variation with the cool and cold nights making springs splits difficult. Bees are ready to go to Northern OK for canola from southern OK area. Price of local honey is strong with supply getting tight. No treatments at this time was reported, but some hives are feeding on other weaker hives and those being used to make NUCS. Winter loses are standing at 15% looking forward to a possible strong flow and making splits and NUCS to increase numbers.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: Spring is in full swing across most of Tennessee. Beekeepers that had not looked into their colonies earlier this spring are finding on average 80% dead-outs. About 30% of those dead outs that have been inspected are the result of tracheal mites the others appear to be virus related. Tennessee had not seen any significant losses from tracheal mites for about 10 years until this past winter so most beekeepers were not treating for them. Most colonies that survived the winter are building up quickly. Swarms have already been reported in middle and west Tennessee. Drone populations are building quickly. Fruit trees, redbuds, hollies, dandelions, henbit and other wildflowers are in bloom.

TEXAS: Reportedly hives have been growing rapidly, but unfortunately it was reported that some beekeepers cut out several sections of bridge comb full of brood. Those that cut out also reported that it was sad to do so because the queen was laying a very solid brood pattern, with almost no blanks or losses. It was debated to leave the brood to hatch out, but there was enough damage where the combs had torn that a good portion of the losses already were irrecoverable.

Texas seems to be in wild pollen season, with the foragers bringing home baskets of bright orange (traffic safety cone color) pollen. Surprisingly, saw very few hive beetles; less, even, than seen over the winter. Beekeepers are also preparing to treat for varroa, now that the weather's warm enough for thymol.

WASHINGTON: Growers finished winter activities in anticipation of the bloom period coming up, mostly in April. The warm followed by cold spell in February had them watch the trees for signs of damage. The weather was mixed but not abnormally cold. More snow piled up in the mountains helping to assure irrigation water for the summer. By the end of the month moderate temperatures saw some bloom in the earliest regions.

WISCONSIN: The temperatures in March were in line with historical averages with a little less rain than normal. During warmer days, the bees took cleansing flights. Beekeepers have been checking on the bees to see how they are doing. Most beekeepers report that most of their bees have survived the winter in good condition. Beekeepers report going to their club meetings and also participating in classes. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

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

	Year to Date		FEBRUARY 2018	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Austria	3,213	7,800	0	0

Bahrain	8,207	19,922	8,207	19,922
Barbados	2,612	15,660	1,306	7,830
Bermuda	2,711	11,361	0	0
Cayman Islands	1,524	7,708	762	3,854
China	29,652	71,975	0	0
France(*)	49,462	91,500	10,917	26,500
Hong Kong	6,922	18,040	6,922	18,040
Japan	20,364	51,572	0	0
Korea, South	19,462	92,498	19,462	92,498
Kuwait	38,015	351,699	38,015	351,699
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	441	2,876	441	2,876
Malaysia	231	4,589	0	0
Mexico	4,355	14,208	4,355	14,208
Netherlands Antilles(*)	1,306	7,830	653	3,915
Panama	6,530	39,149	2,612	15,659
Philippines	119,272	291,836	59,487	144,394
United Arab Emirates	66,492	166,607	65,893	161,832

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

Australia(*)	17,418	84,960	17,418	84,960
Bahamas, The	14,304	50,447	10,879	28,022
Bermuda	1,378	10,763	1,378	10,763
Canada	156,865	567,825	104,453	313,591
China	300	7,452	0	0
Costa Rica	271	4,370	271	4,370
Guatemala	503	2,964	503	2,964
Guyana	1,629	7,996	1,629	7,996
Japan	701	9,727	321	2,695
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,642	5,328	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	2,367	11,351	272	2,712
Other Pacific Islands, NEC(*)	850	4,316	850	4,316
Philippines	71,206	189,341	10,032	34,453
Poland	3,374	23,552	0	0
Singapore	849	5,357	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	2,554	7,431	2,554	7,431
United Arab Emirates	831	3,102	831	3,102
GRAND TOTAL	657,813	2,263,112	370,423	1,370,602

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

Year to Date			FEBRUARY 2018		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	605,259	1,533,911	1,586,018	358,902	893,223	927,702
Brazil	75,370	348,209	360,943	37,520	179,496	185,246
Canada	2,046,124	6,374,501	6,420,457	1,174,035	3,648,580	3,675,229
France(*)	189	2,182	2,325	0	0	0
Israel(*)	734	2,607	2,657	0	0	0
Italy(*)	7,771	27,775	30,912	7,561	22,759	25,759
Mexico	73,898	292,961	292,973	36,855	146,049	146,055
Taiwan	36,150	84,630	87,780	0	0	0
United Kingdom	4,190	15,124	15,627	666	2,579	2,657

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

Argentina	902,856	2,388,005	2,476,655	435,913	1,159,947	1,193,840
Australia(*)	91,840	165,312	171,312	45,920	82,656	85,656
Brazil	115,993	343,303	350,097	20,031	94,116	97,210
Canada	19,817	56,794	56,844	0	0	0
Egypt	1,520	7,735	7,772	0	0	0
France(*)	240	4,747	4,852	0	0	0
India	422,877	1,055,864	1,109,133	92,120	209,292	219,332
Mexico	18,600	69,750	69,850	0	0	0
Spain	17,948	32,307	33,507	17,948	32,307	33,507
Taiwan	288,676	448,491	450,591	134,990	209,815	211,615
Thailand	75,600	128,520	134,520	0	0	0
Ukraine	1,193,582	2,623,041	2,759,779	379,142	869,706	916,527
Vietnam	294,606	515,890	532,590	58,256	104,860	114,620

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	150,608	336,708	353,335	55,964	126,797	132,708
Armenia	2,053	13,842	14,804	2,053	13,842	14,804
Australia(*)	3,791	73,844	80,307	2,293	38,238	38,477
Austria	12,351	116,430	123,495	8,692	81,938	87,050
Brazil	148,135	636,418	667,164	35,840	152,320	159,380
Burma	36,900	54,981	55,348	18,600	27,714	27,899
Canada	16,408	48,844	49,045	0	0	0
China	98,600	144,190	147,094	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	44,707	130,000	133,513	43,890	126,500	129,838
Germany(*)	52,910	289,327	304,727	21,150	105,288	111,588
Hong Kong	7,524	55,850	56,430	0	0	0
India	2,145,896	3,971,863	4,193,938	1,204,466	2,237,917	2,364,380
Israel(*)	1,636	10,763	11,084	0	0	0
Italy(*)	1,362	36,011	37,028	674	17,619	18,227
New Zealand(*)	22,841	1,186,435	1,191,240	16,210	1,007,552	1,011,052
Pakistan	537	3,160	3,267	0	0	0
Spain	11,347	79,182	82,893	10,001	63,080	66,539
Thailand	1,063,440	2,282,090	2,401,508	318,040	597,157	635,544
Turkey	279,000	569,160	620,280	167,400	340,380	378,830
Ukraine	74,240	132,144	142,344	0	0	0
Uruguay	111,510	278,878	290,746	0	0	0
Vietnam	2,134,210	3,389,725	3,567,571	770,050	1,233,691	1,301,572

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	131,620	281,461	296,112	93,220	202,741	212,998
Bosnia and Herzegovina	260	3,640	4,004	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	40,725	74,500	77,682	21,000	49,000	49,850
France(*)	6,010	68,378	72,692	4,604	53,018	56,470
Greece	26,626	132,175	136,745	25,460	122,746	126,520
India	16,344	36,000	37,500	16,344	36,000	37,500
Italy(*)	1,921	23,941	24,436	444	4,241	4,342
Kuwait	6,795	54,124	56,035	6,795	54,124	56,035
Mexico	28,613	88,200	88,627	26,723	85,950	86,277
New Zealand(*)	284,811	4,973,600	5,049,751	132,330	1,885,846	1,929,211
Poland	4,310	28,081	30,164	2,810	19,778	21,207
Serbia	2,405	22,841	25,169	0	0	0
Singapore	90	2,700	2,790	0	0	0
Spain	600	6,240	6,556	600	6,240	6,556
Taiwan	2,114	21,646	22,237	0	0	0

Turkey	5,400	22,800	22,801	0	0	0
Ukraine	3,235	17,354	20,393	3,235	17,354	20,393
United Kingdom	1,400	39,114	39,981	1,400	39,114	39,981
Vietnam	1,334,825	1,916,954	2,096,155	490,790	651,314	708,111

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Armenia	2,602	13,729	14,362	2,602	13,729	14,362
Australia(*)	17,429	157,182	169,324	1,749	19,643	22,283
Austria	1,665	17,160	17,885	939	11,149	11,643
Belarus	13,040	43,988	48,387	13,040	43,988	48,387
Bolivia	1,214	27,953	30,975	1,214	27,953	30,975
Brazil	1,976	17,029	17,081	0	0	0
Bulgaria	13,073	52,355	57,269	0	0	0
Canada	26,802	144,291	144,671	9,261	51,818	52,018
Chile	910	6,365	7,365	910	6,365	7,365
France(*)	96,114	590,907	613,352	60,906	372,696	380,933
Germany(*)	5,682	12,119	12,452	4,833	7,020	7,207
Greece	11,851	150,941	154,895	9,038	122,821	125,246
Hungary	20,618	244,989	254,034	17,618	211,087	216,132
India	45,600	144,131	155,579	11,210	31,949	34,449
Italy(*)	1,940	23,679	24,187	1,254	15,247	15,639
Kazakhstan	110	4,505	4,955	110	4,505	4,955
Korea, South	120	2,946	3,113	0	0	0
Malaysia	375	4,500	6,500	0	0	0
Mexico	10,454	43,792	45,138	9,504	40,800	42,143
Moldova	1,457	7,205	7,926	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	142,831	3,388,293	3,462,605	58,530	1,357,200	1,387,864
Poland	10,535	40,461	43,674	0	0	0
Portugal	6,411	39,692	41,815	0	0	0
Romania	495	3,074	3,741	495	3,074	3,741
Russia	5,449	28,844	31,316	796	5,848	6,020
Spain	101,290	751,835	772,325	56,091	425,339	437,328
Switzerland(*)	196	3,355	3,507	196	3,355	3,507
Taiwan	32,559	54,175	56,566	14,301	13,125	14,521
Turkey	164,627	1,128,110	1,163,013	53,575	364,948	375,484
Ukraine	6,931	19,972	21,341	0	0	0
United Kingdom	1,327	8,868	9,166	1,327	8,868	9,166

FLAVORED HONEY –

Australia(*)	686	15,531	16,820	56	2,150	2,208
Bulgaria	9,409	11,616	11,966	0	0	0
Canada	16,039	44,211	44,420	279	6,168	6,176
China	5,500	45,046	46,375	500	2,650	2,979
Dominican Republic	5,077	12,513	14,051	0	0	0
India	17,536	74,528	75,528	17,536	74,528	75,528
Ireland	181	2,616	2,768	181	2,616	2,768
Italy(*)	902	7,339	8,789	0	0	0
Jordan	100	5,350	5,515	0	0	0
Korea, South	37,172	178,273	183,956	11,629	86,866	89,417
New Zealand(*)	243	10,943	12,130	243	10,943	12,130
Peru	931	4,198	4,306	0	0	0
Thailand	6,222	29,022	29,599	0	0	0

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	49,836	216,650	221,149	37,150	141,170	144,170
Australia(*)	19,207	125,714	132,718	16,168	103,412	106,243
Brazil	3,009,780	12,290,341	12,742,808	1,619,791	6,688,924	6,907,554
Canada	48,785	226,647	230,384	27,729	108,074	110,772

Greece	6,566	40,563	42,905	6,566	40,563	42,905
Italy(*)	2,396	34,628	34,890	2,242	32,340	32,445
Mexico	130,323	605,580	617,383	38,209	152,315	154,418
New Zealand(*)	14,895	199,854	209,177	0	0	0
Poland	1,577	9,543	9,861	0	0	0
Romania	840	6,604	8,494	0	0	0
Uruguay	55,755	198,828	204,771	37,170	132,552	136,514
Zambia	1,482	10,075	10,375	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL

18,799,073	59,757,911	61,913,842	8,445,885	27,800,682	28,745,889
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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**