

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Specialty Crops Program
Market News Division

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2020

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

Buckwheat	Amber	\$1.60
Clover	White	\$1.68
Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$1.60
Orange Blossom	Amber	\$1.60
Star Thistle	Amber	\$1.60
Valley	Amber	\$1.60

DAKOTAS

Canola	White	\$1.40
Clover	White	\$1.40 - \$1.65
Clover	Light Amber	\$1.40

FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.50
Mixed Flower	Amber	\$1.60
Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$2.25

MICHIGAN

Mixed Flower	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00
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MISSISSIPPI

Mixed Flower	White	\$1.40
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TEXAS

Clover	White	\$1.65
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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.

Canola	White	1.47
Clover	White	1.17

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	\$1.14 - \$1.24
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.11 - \$1.24
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.15 - \$1.19
Mixed Flowers	Amber	\$1.15

BRAZIL

ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$.98
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$.91 - \$1.02
ORGANIC	Amber	\$.93 - \$.94
Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$.84 - \$.98
Mixed Flower	Amber	\$.84

INDIA

Mixed Flower	Extra Light	\$.77 - \$.82
Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$.70 - \$.77
Mustard	Light Amber	\$.84

MEXICO

Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$1.32
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UKRAINE

Sunflower	White	\$.89 - \$.96
Sunflower	Extra Light	\$.89 - \$.96

URUGUAY

Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$.81 - \$.84
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VIETNAM

Mixed Flower	Light Amber	\$.69 - \$.79
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COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING APRIL 2020

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): April's weather was overall around average for the month with the normal warm and cool roller coaster pattern depending on day of the week. It began cool, warmed up, cooled off again mid-month, warmed up and ended on the last day with cool weather. Colonies were very active on the warmer days, but some orchardists were worried how effective pollination was due to many cool, cloudy, and wet days. Several Beekeepers reported active brood rearing and a lot of swarming. Most were optimistic about colony health despite many areas reporting higher than normal winter losses. Early brooding as a result of the mild winter, increased Varroa in hives and beekeepers are having to be more diligent with monitoring for mites. Pollen sources were peaches, apricots, nectarines, cherries, dandelion, and various other wildflowers and ephemerals. Beekeepers are working through the covid pandemic by embracing technology to host board and membership meetings. There were also mixed reports of the condition of ordered packaged bees from other states. Delivery delays in some southern mailing areas resulted in a few problems with the condition of the arrival bees; however, other areas mostly Mid-Atlantic to Tennessee Valley reported no issues.

ALABAMA: A flurry of packages were delivered to beekeepers across the state for the entire month of April. Reports from some regional clubs suggest that physical distancing measures put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in some new beekeepers not receiving mentorship and instruction like in previous years. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and Auburn University, now in partnership with four other regional land-

grant institutions (University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Tennessee, and Texas A&M University) delivered 4 episodes of their online Stay at Home Beekeeping Series for beekeeping clubs. Over 3,500 individuals participated during these live events, with many more tuning into the recordings. Cooler temperatures coupled with dry spells that were interrupted by brief periods of very heavy rain resulted in inconsistent nectar flow. A variety of plants were in bloom, including clovers, blackberry, and privet. In many cases, foraging honeybees were not observed on these flowers. Levels of the varroa mite appeared to be normal, yet some beekeepers reported observing higher than usual numbers of small hive beetles.

ARIZONA: Most Arizona bee colonies returned to the state by the end of April. After below normal temperatures across the state in March, Arizona saw above normal temperatures during the month of April. The northern part of Arizona has experienced a much greater than normal number of wildflowers and other desert plant bloom. These factors have led to an increased level of bee activity in the state. Arizona is also preparing for the start of melon season (cantaloupes, honeydews, watermelons, mixed melons) during the month of May. Alfalfa and desert and plant bloom were the main sources for nectar and pollen in the state. The demand for honey in Arizona was good.

ARKANSAS: During the month of April temperatures were normal to below normal. Precipitation was normal to above normal for the month with normal soil moisture.

Spring was late arriving this year with temperatures staying below normal most of the month. Temperatures went from below normal to above normal in a couple of weeks. The wildflower bloom was still very good across the region. With the good precipitation this past winter beekeepers are seeing good foraging options for the bees this spring and into summer.

Commercial beekeepers are reporting that their bees are looking heavy and healthy. Commercial beekeepers have completed dividing colonies. The nucs and queens seem to be looking good at this time. According to beekeepers, there have been only minimal colony losses this spring so far. In addition, varroa mites seem to be under control. Most beekeepers feel that the varroa mites are still present. In order to keep varroa mites under control most commercial beekeepers plan to treat prior to the main honey flow.

Few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey. Beekeepers are seeing a spike in prices caused by increased retail sales due to the Corona virus pandemic. Pricing for single load and immediate delivered honey has jumped to \$1.80-\$1.90 with a few loads at \$2.00 as packers try to meet the retail demand. No one knows how long this will last but at this point most beekeepers are happy to get it.

CALIFORNIA: No report issued.

FLORIDA: The month was a little dryer than normal with about average temperatures for the month. Bee health was considered to be good. Gallberry, palmetto and tupelo which should have started blooming around the 15th to the 20th of the month all bloomed a week or ten days later than normal. This delay until near the end of the month meant more supplemental feeding than usual was needed. Other sources of food were American holly, blackberries, clover, Spanish Needle and other assorted wildflowers. Production of orange blossom honey last month was probably on the low side of the normal range. Prices for this honey appeared to be lower than it was last year. Reduced demand on the retail side and from institutions because of the coronavirus probably played some part in the lower prices. More small beekeepers were marketing their own products in roadside stands as consumer demand was very good for purchasing honey directly from them. Most of this honey was orange blossom or wildflower honey and was selling for about \$6-\$8 per pound. Supplies of stored orange blossom honey were very light to nearly zero by the end of April. Gallberry, palmetto and tupelo honey will be available starting in early May.

GEORGIA: The honeybees are reported to be in good shape for the upcoming honey flow. Some beekeepers in the North part of the state are not getting much honey due to rain and cold weather intermittently coming and going this Spring. In the Southern areas the honey flow was considered good and the honey is light in color. There are plenty of wildflowers available and the Tupelo flow is gathering steam. Prices have gone up slightly and there are more online and direct home sales being taken, while large volumes are slow as foodservice industries are just now coming back to the marketplace.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: During the month of April temperatures were normal to above normal across most of Utah and Southern Idaho. Northern and Southeastern Idaho had below average temperatures. Colorado experienced normal to below normal temperatures for the month. Precipitation was normal to below normal across most of three states. This caused abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions across much of the area according to the U.S. Drought monitor website. Some areas of extreme drought were seen along the Southern border of Colorado and Utah and a small area in Central Idaho.

Commercial beekeepers are now finished with the almond pollination in California. Some stayed for the sage bloom and other early bloomers, while others went to the Southern states to wait for the weather to improve in their home state. A truck shortage early in the month, caused by the Corona virus pandemic slowed movement early in the month. Trucks are being used in the delivery of much needed supplies during the pandemic and not available for transport. Truckers are also experiencing problems with interstate travel due to travel restrictions caused by the virus. By the end of the month things had improved with trucks becoming available and fuel prices dropping.

Beekeepers are reporting that their bees are looking heavy and healthy. Commercial beekeepers have completed most of the dividing of colonies. The nucs and queens seem to be looking good. According to beekeepers, there have been minimal colony losses this spring. In addition, varroa mites seem to be under control. Beekeepers overall report that bees are coming into the spring in really good shape. While in California, the moderate, dry weather helped put weight on bees. An abundance of fly time was a major contributor to this issue. Most beekeepers are not reporting many varroa mites. However, as part of ongoing good management practices, beekeepers plan to keep testing for any mites present and treat when necessary. Beekeepers are utilizing supplemental feeding where necessary to keep the hives healthy prior to spring pollen and nectar availability.

Demand for Idaho, Utah and Colorado honey is good for locally sourced honey. Much of the commercial honey has been committed to packers, except for small amounts saved back for retail sales. Few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the month of April were cooler than average with lots of rainfall and a few snowy days. Beekeepers report that their bees are in good condition. Beekeepers report that the following foliage is in bloom: Pussy willow, soft maple as sources of pollen; and maples, and a little dandelion for nectar. Demand for honey is very good at the retail level and good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of April were good overall and slightly cooler than average in the middle of the month. Rainfall in most parts of the state was lower than average for this time of the year. Beekeepers report that maple and willow are in bloom. Most beekeepers report their bees are in good condition, while some are rebuilding. 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: Adding to the unusual cultural changes created by the Covid-19 pandemic, April in Kentucky was one of the cooler months since weather patterns began to be tracked in this state. The flowering plants do not seem to mind, with black locusts in robust bloom in Western Kentucky in mid-April while ragworts, dogwoods, and apple orchards were in bloom in the Bluegrass. Tulip poplar was starting to bloom at the end of April. This year has been a prolific swarm season, perhaps because many beekeepers are able to be home when their hives swarm and in better position to retrieve them. Honey sales continue to be strong in the state. In terms of diseases, there have been a smattering of cases such as European foulbrood (south central KY), sacbrood (EKY), and 1 case of American foulbrood in EKY, in which the hive and its equipment was destroyed. Other beekeepers are beginning to consider honey harvest in the next couple of weeks. Many hope that farmers markets will re-open, as it seems beekeepers have more time to consider expanding product lines and customer base. Beekeeping associations have been working diligently to expand their efforts to have online meetings, and stay in touch with members while observing social distance protocols.

LOUISIANA: No report issued.

MICHIGAN: Beekeepers are busy receiving bee packages. Due to COVID-19, delivery was done through safety and proper separation guidelines. The pandemic has reduced the amount of hands-on training and education; however, some educators and local clubs are presenting online educational webinars and training. Many beekeepers in mid-Michigan have reported good survival rates. The industry awaits the results of the Bee Informed Partnership annual survey taken earlier in the month. The survey not only tracks survival rates but also captures best practices and problem area in the industry. Most of the nectar brought in this month was used in the brood nest as the nest expanded. Honey and pollen were brought in from Sugar Maples, Red Maples, Skunk Cabbage, Dead Nettles, Dandelions, and ornamental fruit trees. Local honey in stores is selling well, with local supplies dwindling. A few beekeepers have reported online sales have increased.

MINNESOTA: During the month of April temperatures were below normal across most of the state. Precipitation in April was below normal across much of the state. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, most of the State of Minnesota had normal soil moisture conditions in April with the exception of West Central Minnesota where it was abnormally dry.

Commercial beekeepers are now finished with the almond pollination in California. This pollination season in California was said to be the best in recent memory. Moderate temperatures and dry conditions were almost perfect for the bees. Good almond bloom, abundant fly time, and very minimal tree spraying made conditions very good for the overall health of the hives. Some beekeepers have opted to stay in California or go to other Southern states to make sure that conditions are good at home weather wise. While other commercial beekeepers are in the process of returning to Minnesota.

Movement early in the month was slowed due to a trucking shortage caused by the Corona virus pandemic. By the end of the month things returned to near normal and even saw fuel prices drop. Trucks are being utilized in the delivery of food and supplies needed for pandemic response that would normally be available to transport hives. Truckers are also experiencing difficulties with interstate travel due to the virus.

Most commercial beekeepers are now finished with the division of hives. With some of the various losses of bees last year, beekeepers are hoping to catch back up on overall colony numbers with these divides. Dividing colonies was a major project this year.

Demand for Minnesota honey continues to be very good for locally sourced honey. Most of the commercial honey has been committed to packers except for small amounts for retail sales. With this said, few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey.

MISSISSIPPI: The honey flow got a little late start but is now coming together. Lots of rain and cooler temps had the bees inside the hives more than usual and towards the end of the month plenty of wildflowers, blackberries, clover and more have them gathering up for a good flow in May. Prices have remained steady.

MONTANA: As the last week of April ended in Montana, the overnight temperatures were warming after a month of reoccurring spring storms, lower temperatures, and widespread rain, hail, and wind across the state. The snow coverage had melted by months end, improving the soil moisture content for planting and grazing operations. Topsoil moisture measurements at the end of April measured 2 percent very short, compared to 1 percent last year; 12 percent short, compared to 12 percent last year; 81 percent adequate, 77 percent last year; and 5 percent surplus, compared to 10 percent last year. Subsoil moisture measured 9 percent short and very short, while 91 percent of the subsoil moisture measurements were adequate or surplus. According to the May 5, 2020 Drought Monitor survey, abnormally dry conditions existed in areas of northwestern, southeastern, and far northeastern Montana.

Home beekeepers continued with home equipment repair and overwintering activities for home colonies with early native plants available to pollen and nectar. Traveling Montana colonies at other locations included Oregon and Washington State 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, most orchard crops and blueberries were finished with bloom and pollination with good crop load potential noted.

According to figures from the Annual National Honey Report released March 19, 2020 by the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS), Montana had 173,000 honey producing colonies in 2019, (down 13,000 colonies) from the 160,000 colonies from 2018. 14,878,00 pounds of honey were produced in 2019, (158,000 pounds above 2018), with a total production value of \$22,019,000 (a decrease of \$5,949,000 from 2018). The average per pound price for honey in Montana in 2019 was \$1.48, down from the 2018 average of \$1.90 per pound.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather for the month of April has been intermittently wet and cooler with unstable temperatures and a mixture of some mild to warm days sporadically placed along the month. This year's spring has finally arrived. All regions reported high moisture levels, and this should help push earlier than normal ornamental and floral sources for pollen an. The Easter and Passover Holidays are over, which brings on the usual advent of regional pollen and nectar sources such as ground ivy, chickweed, snow drop, glory of the snow, snowflakes, Siberian squill, American elm, winter aconite, jasmine, witch hazel, dandelions and willows. And in mid-April we will see red maple, silver maple providing both nectar/pollen and the American elm which is strong in pollen. Bees are getting pollen and nectar when they can, but it has stayed consistently cool. Bees need warmer temperatures to actively increase foraging. Cooler temperatures in higher elevations have created a problem with chill brood whereby the queen's activity has been restricted. Reportedly some keepers lost hives to a continuance of cooler weather, preventing bees from foraging and because there were no surplus honey stores. Additionally, nectar sources have not been fully available. Hives will normally consume 1.2 lbs. of honey per day with full colonies ranging from 40,000-50,000 bees.

Northwestern New England shows mixed reports on losses of up to 30%, mainly due to starvation or queen loss. In this region, bees reportedly came through winter somewhat weak in populations and winter losses were high. In Northern New England, wintered over colonies reportedly are

showing problems with clusters remaining small. Surviving weak colonies have been combined and hive bodies are being rotated with most overwintered queens beginning to lay normally. In Southern New England, colonies have strengthened, and the weather started to cooperate by mid-April and bees have just recently started to forage.

Reportedly all keepers are active in checking food sources weekly and are reversing hive bodies to keep the brood in the bottom and will add a super before the bees get too crowded. Queens are just now laying larger patterns of brood; colonies are expanding brood nests and bringing in just small amounts of pollen and nectar when they are not experiencing cold weather. Feeding is always very heavy and important to monitor for this time of year. Beekeepers continue to administer pollen supports and supplemental feedings on a need basis.

Overall in New England and especially in Massachusetts, demand for startup and replacement bees has been strong. Massachusetts State bee inspectors report up to 20% or more of hive winter losses. Keepers that have recently received package bees/nucs or are about to, are just setting up in anticipation and are hopeful for a strong summer production season. Purportedly, prices for package bees range from \$120.00 to \$140.00 mostly \$130.00 for a 3 lb. package with queen with many regional beekeeping associations offering this price scheme lineup.

Beekeepers are currently using formic acid treatments, Mite Away, Apistan and Terramycin mix early to the top frames, in response to addressing possible fast developing varroa mite infestation.

Comprehensively for all New England, the 2020 season will be a rebuilding year for many Northeast beekeepers as they replace lost colonies and produce smaller honey crops as starter hives historically are not great honey producers for their first year. This past summer and fall's track record of new hives just never materializing due to dead outs combined with the determinants of pesticides, varroa mites and viruses; contributed to many hives losses, as we saw too many hives that should have survived, just not make it successfully into this winter and spring.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey market prices are slightly higher. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$14.00 mostly \$12.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$24.00 mostly \$22.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; Additionally, current prices quoted for 1 Quart bottled units for raw pollen were \$28.00 to \$32.00 mostly \$30.00 and for raw Propolis tincture are \$16.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$18.00 for 2-ounce containers.

NEW YORK: It has been one of the coldest Aprils' in many years, following a fairly mild winter. Fortunately, the mild winter allowed more marginal hives to survive with many looking healthy and strong regardless of the delay in spring flowering. With colder temperatures and drier conditions during the month, beekeepers must formulate a model plan to proceed. The past few Aprils' have been dry, followed by a wet May and June. Bees in the yard look good, although there have been winter losses. Hopefully, nucs and packages will arrive from the South without delay from state border shutdowns or lack of drivers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Honey sales have plummeted with restaurant and store sales at low levels and people out of work; honey is not on the list of essentials now. Farmer markets have also had low foot traffic and consequently lower honey sales. Most local honey is selling at nearly \$7.00 per pound, with varieties nearly \$9.00 per pound. These are good prices if they hold up under a weak consumer dollar.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were generally normal for April with a statewide average temperature of 57.5°F. Precipitation was above normal. Overall statewide soil moisture levels were rated 0 percent very short, 3.5 percent short, 79 percent adequate, and 17.5 percent surplus the week ending May 02. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported zero counties as having outstanding drought or dryness.

Sumac became an available nectar source across the State. In the Piedmont region Dandelion, Clover (Alsike, Crimson, and Ladino white clover), Blackberry, Tulip Poplar, Black Gum, Black Locust, Vetch, Holly, and Raspberry began to bloom around mid to late April. Dandelion, Blackberry, Tulip Poplar, Black Gum, Holly, Raspberry, Huckleberry, and Tupelo Gum began blooming in the Coastal Plains region.

Commercial pollinator hives were back in North Carolina. Strawberry pollination was active in early April; then hives progressed into blueberries; and by the end of the month began preparing to move up the East Coast to New Jersey, and later Maine, for blueberry and cranberry pollination.

Honey supplies were seasonally low as harvest of the 2020 crop is not yet underway. Retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market were unchanged: \$7.00-\$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$12.00-\$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 also unchanged at: \$8.00-\$12.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$12.00-\$18.00 per 22 ounce jar, and \$20.00 per 32 ounce jar.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: Weather at home was generally poor through the first half of the month, limiting field work. Growers finally began planting late in the month, ahead of last season, but well behind the average. While bee activity was a bit slower in March things picked up in various regions around the country in April. The Northwest fruit crop came into full bloom with generally good weather except for a few cold nights requiring frost protection.

OHIO: Temperatures have been cool with above normal rainfall. Overwintering losses have been high in some areas with few losses in other parts of the state. Some of the higher losses were due to queen failure, other appeared to suffer from a gradual loss of worker bees, which resulted in a smaller cluster and starvation. High varroa mite populations and the potential introduction of secondary infections and viruses were noted in some colonies based on postmortem inspections. Managed colonies with proper nutrition seem very strong with drone populations. Swarming has begun over much of the state. Forage sources during the limited fly time has been dandelion, purple deadnettle, spring wildflowers and some flowering trees. In the southwest region, nectar flow has been in full swing enjoying the bloom of Chokecherry, while central regions have saucer Magnolia and Flowering Quince earlier in the month with Koreanspice Viburnum flowering now. In the northwest region, Eastern Redbud has been attracting bees, while Blackhaw Viburnum is now in bloom. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected beekeepers in several ways. All local, state and national Beekeeping meetings were cancelled with some being replaced with virtual meetings. The Ohio State Beekeeping Association began hosting educational Zoom webinars twice a month and will continue for much of the season. Although honeybees and beekeeping are defined by the ORC as an agricultural pursuit and essential for agriculture, shipping bees across state borders has been challenging as well as finding healthy drivers and workers for transport. Due to consumer demand for cleaning supplies and personal protection supplies, the latest challenge has been locating alcohol, bleach, cleaners and gloves to maintain sanitation in the bee yard and to clean bee equipment.

OKLAHOMA: During the month of April temperatures normal to below normal. Precipitation during April was below normal. According to the U.S. Drought had normal soil moisture for the month.

Spring was late arriving with temperatures staying below normal most of the month. Temperatures went from below normal to above normal in a couple of weeks. The wildflower bloom was still very good across the region. With the good precipitation this past winter, in most areas, beekeepers are seeing good foraging options for the bees this spring and into summer.

At the moment, commercial beekeepers are reporting that their bees are looking heavy and healthy. Commercial beekeepers have completed dividing colonies. The nucs and queens seem to be looking good at this time. According to beekeepers, there have been only minimal colony losses this spring so far. In addition, varroa mites seem to be under control. Most beekeepers feel that the varroa mites are still present. So, in order to keep varroa mites under control most commercial beekeepers plan to treat prior to the main honey flow.

Few prices exist to establish a current market price for wholesale white honey. Beekeepers are seeing a spike in prices caused by increased retail sales due to the Corona virus pandemic. Pricing for single load and immediate delivered honey has jumped to \$1.80-\$1.90 with a few loads at \$2.00 as packers try to meet the retail demand. No one knows how long this will last but at this point most beekeepers are happy to get it.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: In South Carolina early spring has continued to provide bee colonies throughout the state with plenty of forage. Colony conditions varied by management practices. Vapor treatments against mites seemed effective. Overall Keeping colonies dry during periods of excess moisture was somewhat of a concern for beekeepers. Swarms are starting to appear statewide. Bees are in high gear growing populations, seeking opportunities to swarm, and storing excess nectar. Weather in the Midlands typically stabilizes with few surprises and the bees are actively flying longer and longer hours each day. Beekeepers are uniting weak colonies with strong colonies unless disease was expected. Inside the hives, some indicate that incoming nectar is exceeding consumption will be indicated by new, clean, white wax as the bees initiate adding more comb for storage. Replacement bee operations are continuously preparing for the season. The warm days have encouraged forage on dogwood, chickweed, dandelion, red maple, daffodils, camellias, azaleas, blueberries, strawberries, wild mustard, tea olive, yellow Jessamine, Sassafras, Tulip Poplar, wild berries, pears, peach, and other fruit trees. Allergy season is in full effect and demand is fairly good for local honey but supply is still fairly light. Many Beekeeper group meetings have been cancelled, however Zoom meetings are in effect and newsletter updates are available on state beekeeper websites. Bees are considered an agricultural activity. Hugh Weathers, the South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture, has provided documents to allow those involved in agricultural efforts to be able to provide evidence that they are essential and may need to travel to care for their agricultural interests. Honey bees are specifically mentioned in the letter: "(5) the production and keeping of the honeybees, the production of honeybee products, and honeybee processing facilities." If restrictions on travel are imposed, as they are already in certain localities, it is recommended that you keep copies of both of these documents in your car or truck when travelling to care for your bees.

On the SC State Farmers Market located in West Columbia honey is selling at the following prices. 12-1 Pt \$70.00, 12-1 Qt \$130.00, 12 ct. Honey Bears \$50.00, 4-1 Gallon \$180.00, 1-Gallon \$52.00.

TENNESSEE: The Covid-19 Pandemic has not impacted commercial beekeeping or the sale or movement of bees into, through or out of Tennessee. It has not impacted inspections for loss, pest or disease issues. It has halted the inspection of hobbyist beekeepers that simply want an inspection. The weather in TN has been interesting this spring. It has either been below 40 degrees and sunny or above 50 degrees and raining. The nectar flow has been good when the bees can get out and fly. Black Locust, Tulip poplar, privet and wildflowers have been the main sources during April. Some beekeepers have needed to feed to the weather patterns in the state to keep their bees from starving since they are raising so much brood and can not get out of the hive due to the weather.

TEXAS: During the month of April temperatures normal to below normal. Precipitation was below normal. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor website, South Texas had normal to severe drought conditions for the month.

Spring was late arriving with temperatures staying below normal most of the month. Temperatures went from below normal to above normal in a couple of weeks. The wildflower bloom was still very good across the region even with the crazy temperatures.

At the moment, commercial beekeepers are reporting that their bees are looking heavy and healthy. Commercial beekeepers have completed dividing colonies. The nucs and queens seem to be looking good at this time. According to beekeepers, there have been only minimal colony losses this spring so far. In addition, varroa mites seem to be under control. Most beekeepers feel that the varroa mites are still present. So, in order to keep varroa mites under control most commercial beekeepers plan to treat prior to the main honey flow.

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WASHINGTON: The cold in March was followed by somewhat warmer conditions in April. Frost protection was required several nights, especially in colder locations. Also some wind and some rain limited bee activity on some days, but overall pollination went well for most areas. Bees were moved throughout the region as the bloom moved North and to higher elevations later in the month.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures for the month of April were cooler with very little rain. Most Beekeepers report a normal, healthy population of bees, while others say they are starting over with new packages. Beekeepers report wild foliage for their bees includes Scilla, willows, daffodils and maples. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

Census Bureau revised reported statistics of honey imports. Corrections posted on their website <https://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/statistics/corrections/index.html> will be applied to USA Trade Online with the next Annual Revision published June 2020.

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

	Year to Date		March 2020	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	393	3,430	0	0
Barbados	11,461	49,651	1,078	4,033
Bermuda	630	3,403	630	3,403
China	15,703	38,114	4,701	11,410
France(*)	2,931	7,114	2,931	7,114
Ghana	1,360	3,000	0	0
Hong Kong	5,247	23,612	3,035	13,470
Japan	46,601	192,711	15,019	61,723
Korea, South	93,516	462,424	75,401	372,568
Kuwait	61,465	149,195	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	644	5,284	0	0
Mexico	8,425	20,450	8,425	20,450
Netherlands Antilles(*)	6,462	39,863	1,163	8,435
Panama	17,157	102,356	4,742	28,055
Philippines	77,682	207,532	69,042	173,966
Singapore	870	3,867	870	3,867
Taiwan	6,658	25,145	0	0
United Arab Emirates	15,414	37,415	0	0
Vietnam	3,657	19,042	0	0
Yemen(*)	35,339	56,576	0	0
NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -				
Bahamas, The	8,368	64,564	3,330	25,141
Barbados	6,212	36,490	1,969	13,668
Bermuda	5,966	37,485	1,445	7,875
Canada	186,863	601,308	46,889	151,888
Hong Kong	346	5,094	0	0
Jamaica	3,629	17,680	0	0
Japan	966	8,397	234	2,547
Korea, South	156,971	567,179	85,404	239,924
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	1,587	8,438	0	0
Mongolia	716	3,344	0	0
Nigeria	2,739	12,300	0	0
Singapore	1,267	10,805	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	12,710	48,109	3,968	16,650
Vietnam	676	3,920	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	800,631	2,875,297	330,276	1,166,187

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

	Year to Date			March 2020		
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	2,604,184	5,727,057	5,947,918	1,177,300	2,636,120	2,735,080
Brazil	150,259	504,589	521,535	0	0	0

Canada	981,106	2,936,011	2,952,783	398,262	1,201,184	1,207,464
Germany(*)	1,939	17,369	18,424	1,939	17,369	18,424
Greece	3,240	19,189	20,647	3,240	19,189	20,647
India	148,800	218,736	234,736	0	0	0
Italy(*)	2,272	29,375	31,991	319	6,261	6,451
Korea, South	228	3,808	3,813	0	0	0
Kyrgyzstan	1,264	7,084	13,166	765	4,590	8,302
Mexico	167,056	539,196	539,223	73,960	246,800	246,812
New Zealand(*)	32,147	83,107	88,642	8,232	25,959	28,281
Pakistan	600	3,000	3,190	0	0	0
Taiwan	40,300	69,750	74,325	0	0	0
Ukraine	37,920	65,602	68,602	0	0	0
United Kingdom	15,721	45,625	47,409	9,292	24,058	25,225
Uruguay	94,432	183,886	188,964	0	0	0

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

Argentina	4,582,472	10,047,276	10,422,946	1,663,527	3,727,892	3,865,439
Brazil	300,870	512,728	542,333	19,470	32,634	33,614
Canada	26,071	98,176	99,026	24,634	88,582	88,932
France(*)	680	11,054	11,444	0	0	0
Germany(*)	65,880	281,931	299,631	65,880	281,931	299,631
Greece	3,136	11,561	12,256	3,136	11,561	12,256
India	3,618,243	6,411,831	6,911,056	1,178,598	2,090,626	2,257,639
Italy(*)	871	16,465	17,065	475	8,914	9,414
Mexico	43,900	135,629	137,391	18,885	67,694	68,244
Spain	10,567	41,742	44,706	10,567	41,742	44,706
Taiwan	303,899	547,020	547,920	106,758	192,165	192,465
Thailand	216,571	353,160	374,405	126,571	200,160	212,805
Ukraine	1,562,734	2,657,611	2,829,927	438,938	755,656	800,514
Uruguay	56,929	94,378	97,348	0	0	0
Vietnam	245,017	441,030	471,411	127,850	230,130	252,406
Yemen(*)	65	4,542	4,543	0	0	0

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	910,139	1,602,052	1,680,898	280,920	505,052	533,268
Austria	35,946	125,215	133,295	5,122	17,420	18,217
Brazil	490,355	925,400	957,354	263,814	522,401	537,088
Burma	153,120	198,197	219,117	76,560	98,613	110,973
Canada	376	5,478	5,548	376	5,478	5,548
Colombia	1,980	13,550	14,905	0	0	0
Egypt	955	2,546	2,750	0	0	0
France(*)	484	5,811	9,985	0	0	0
Germany(*)	113,276	532,752	561,393	28,176	129,355	137,597
Greece	30,284	109,064	116,459	0	0	0
India	5,476,949	7,650,343	8,119,609	1,252,632	1,675,865	1,793,632
Indonesia	520	8,190	8,254	0	0	0
Israel(*)	1,894	8,943	9,192	0	0	0
Italy(*)	2,892	68,524	70,134	1,222	28,853	29,560
Lithuania	1,344	8,067	9,619	0	0	0
Mexico	122,758	307,774	314,134	15,900	39,750	39,850
New Zealand(*)	5,076	205,345	209,082	1,638	87,591	88,590
Pakistan	4,231	20,279	21,440	0	0	0
Poland	810	3,859	4,793	0	0	0
Spain	24,055	93,985	96,707	1,549	16,452	16,868

Thailand	217,260	289,123	315,227	98,700	132,624	144,472
Turkey	34,282	82,897	86,307	17,708	41,391	43,096
Ukraine	76,560	126,944	137,082	0	0	0
Uruguay	500,110	731,990	771,968	221,335	342,997	355,797
Vietnam	5,832,774	6,754,089	7,356,394	862,285	1,049,574	1,122,199

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Argentina	37,680	72,644	75,996	18,850	32,348	33,700
Armenia	2,570	12,178	13,155	2,070	9,240	9,890
Australia(*)	6,258	90,701	92,628	15	3,201	3,251
Brazil	4,560	12,768	16,768	0	0	0
Bulgaria	1,819	12,108	12,676	0	0	0
Canada	5,919	28,994	29,844	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	43,490	123,600	133,200	20,330	59,600	65,400
France(*)	1,265	18,971	19,110	496	8,213	8,276
Georgia	212	2,450	3,365	0	0	0
Germany(*)	3,465	18,649	19,653	3,465	18,649	19,653
Greece	22,609	228,262	243,498	12,533	109,983	117,982
Hungary	14,934	59,029	62,029	0	0	0
India	25,296	37,976	41,976	12,648	19,065	21,065
Indonesia	22	4,920	5,070	0	0	0
Israel(*)	1,320	14,256	14,671	1,320	14,256	14,671
Italy(*)	651	8,840	9,373	0	0	0
Mexico	16,230	32,681	32,905	8,262	15,290	15,394
New Zealand(*)	190,170	5,533,891	5,669,723	84,404	2,529,136	2,625,400
Poland	6,614	39,339	42,994	3,620	19,723	22,012
Serbia	10,236	38,904	40,933	10,236	38,904	40,933
Taiwan	269	3,613	3,716	0	0	0
Turkey	16,229	79,301	79,303	0	0	0
Ukraine	254,393	507,862	538,562	58,769	116,797	118,753
United Kingdom	5,000	125,061	126,241	1,700	43,175	43,831
Vietnam	3,000,544	3,362,206	3,838,983	696,615	773,027	880,833
Yemen(*)	1,822	19,527	20,097	1,822	19,527	20,097

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY --

Argentina	10,835	39,482	43,168	1,105	3,100	3,600
Australia(*)	92,682	964,306	1,061,674	22,407	211,173	238,371
Austria	2,101	29,541	30,982	928	15,668	16,534
Brazil	2,788	17,547	17,633	0	0	0
Bulgaria	17,061	103,616	107,384	17,061	103,616	107,384
Canada	32,548	235,153	237,589	14,844	82,986	83,323
Dominican Republic	1,473	5,962	5,963	0	0	0
France(*)	76,824	790,160	825,831	31,280	343,016	351,033
Germany(*)	36,718	252,928	266,292	5,040	35,961	37,825
Greece	40,674	303,656	312,643	27,899	137,744	143,829
Guatemala	816	3,000	3,345	816	3,000	3,345
Hungary	64,800	658,036	679,418	13,422	167,428	170,584
India	3,264	9,872	11,262	3,264	9,872	11,262
Indonesia	11	2,493	2,568	0	0	0
Israel(*)	3,146	21,204	23,126	1,907	9,835	10,258
Italy(*)	11,815	114,839	120,488	7,258	40,848	42,622
Kyrgyzstan	310	3,090	5,091	0	0	0
Malaysia	20	2,178	2,178	0	0	0
Mexico	59,676	182,189	184,609	21,497	87,717	89,888
Moldova	2,982	15,450	15,455	1,200	6,100	6,102
New Zealand(*)	244,831	5,433,047	5,577,409	126,733	2,657,391	2,753,251

Pakistan	1,920	10,520	11,025	0	0	0
Poland	13,140	49,129	52,778	5,915	40,191	42,898
Portugal	5,298	44,685	44,829	5,298	44,685	44,829
Romania	2,963	20,183	20,186	522	4,046	4,047
Russia	30,899	135,040	135,046	21,537	89,924	89,926
Serbia	778	7,255	7,256	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	2,774	3,358	4,498	0	0	0
Spain	94,400	591,076	613,276	52,437	330,259	342,359
Taiwan	31,093	61,594	64,309	28,519	36,778	38,868
Turkey	82,748	533,912	550,677	22,216	115,105	119,828
Ukraine	23,304	76,516	76,519	0	0	0
United Kingdom	813	15,945	16,538	0	0	0
Uzbekistan, Republic of	8,026	18,058	18,059	8,026	18,058	18,059
Vietnam	975	3,100	3,522	975	3,100	3,522

FLAVORED HONEY –

Australia(*)	2,744	40,026	41,754	0	0	0
Canada	2,226	21,540	21,707	215	3,228	3,232
Ireland	869	6,141	6,851	248	2,747	3,102
Italy(*)	454	12,355	12,568	0	0	0
Japan	2,608	5,970	6,141	0	0	0
Jordan	121	3,240	3,241	0	0	0
Korea, South	80,723	321,242	335,466	19,845	72,887	75,632
New Zealand(*)	707	12,185	12,473	133	3,917	4,064
Taiwan	48,737	70,426	78,531	7,373	17,890	18,563
Turkey	1,579	19,906	20,867	1,579	19,906	20,867

ORGANIC -

Argentina	61,403	167,940	176,834	61,403	167,940	176,834
Armenia	900	7,560	7,812	0	0	0
Australia(*)	80,663	504,512	521,498	47,774	297,195	303,610
Brazil	5,634,126	10,538,050	11,061,312	2,685,256	4,969,806	5,187,258
Bulgaria	2,451	16,979	18,963	2,451	16,979	18,963
Canada	46,324	148,456	150,765	26,391	59,439	61,096
Dominican Republic	32,111	98,235	103,783	17,684	67,500	70,448
Greece	21,509	89,476	95,808	1,822	18,214	19,305
India	142,788	227,766	246,047	55,800	75,888	85,638
Italy(*)	1,465	18,363	18,745	0	0	0
Mexico	55,834	131,816	135,666	15,061	71,539	71,889
New Zealand(*)	240	4,188	4,688	240	4,188	4,688
Uruguay	74,340	164,115	173,927	0	0	0
Zambia	584	4,507	4,707	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL

40,331,392	85,881,780	90,409,671	12,909,071	30,901,631	32,371,383
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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**