

# Bee & Honey Annual PDI

## Extra Information

### Overview:

- Project Code: **196** – Bee and Honey Survey
- Release: *Honey Report* – March 14, 2025.
- To compare conditions of the honey industry from year to year. We will be looking at quantity, production, inventory, sales, revenues, and expenses for honey production.
- Will also be looking at the different classes of honey produced. Those classes are:
  - Water white, extra white, white, extra light amber, light amber, amber, dark amber, and area specialties.
    - Area specialties are often produced from a specific crop such as sourwood, tupelo, and buckwheat.
- This information provides important statistics to beekeepers and agricultural pollination services.
- 2023 State averages ranged from: 23-95 pounds per colony. (US avg. 47)
- 2023 State averages ranged from \$2.57-\$7.94 per pound (US avg \$3.01)

### Terms & Definitions:

- **Apiary:** A place where bees are kept; a collection of hives of colonies kept for their honey
  - May also be referred to as a “bee yard”
- **Colony:** A group of worker bees, drones, queen, and developing brood living together in a hive
  - **Brood:** Immature/developing bees: egg, larvae or pupae
- **Super:** A box with frames in which bees store honey
  - **Frame:** Rectangular structure designed to hold honey comb, usually spaced a bee-space apart in the super
- **Queen:** A female bee with a fully developed reproductive system that is responsible for all the egg laying of a colony
  - **Re-Queening:** Replacing an existing queen by removing her and introducing a new queen
- **Drone:** male bees which are the product of an unfertilized egg, primary role is to mate with a queen
  - Drones do not have stingers or participate in nectar and pollen gathering
- **Worker Bee:** is any female that lacks the full reproductive capacity of the queen bee
  - Collect nectar and pollen for hive honey and food source
- **Nuc** (short for nucleus): A small hive of bees which consists of fewer frames than a typical hive and used primarily for starting new colonies or rearing or storing queens
- **Package:** A quantity of adult bees (2 to 5 pounds), with or without a queen, contained in a screened shipping cage with a food source

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- **Varroa Mites:** A very common, external parasitic mite that attacks honey bees
  - The disease caused by the mites is called varroosis
- **Capped Honey:** A cell of honey with a layer of wax covering it.
- **Foundation:** Inserts of a thin sheet of plastic or wax molded into the hexagonal pattern of comb. The inserts are placed in the center of each frame. These inserts give a foundation to encourage the bees to build straight comb which keeps the hive organized and easy to extract.
- **Comb:** A mass of hexagonal wax cells built by honeybees in their nests to contain their larvae and stores of honey and pollen.
- **Hive:** An enclosed structure in which honeybees live and raise their young.
- **Winter Colonies:** A process to pass through or wait out the winter season. Activity almost completely ceases until conditions become more favorable.
- **Beeswax:** A natural wax produced by honey bees, used to form cells for honey-storage and larval and pupal protection within the beehive.
- **Propolis:** Also known as bee glue, is a resinous mixture that honey bees produce by mixing saliva and beeswax with exudate gathered from tree buds, sap flows, or other botanical sources. It is used as sealant for unwanted open spaces in the hive.
- **Royal Jelly:** Is a honey bee secretion that is used in the nutrition of larvae, as well as adult queens. It is secreted from the glands in the hypopharynx of worker bees, and fed to all larvae in the colony, regardless of sex or caste.