

Honey

Virginia had 7,000 producing colonies in 2002, down 2,000 from 2001. However, prices saw an increase from 126 cents in 2001 to 186 cents per pound in 2002. Honey production (from producers with at least 5 colonies) totaled 266,000 pounds in 2002, down 202,000 pounds from the previous year. Yield per colony was 38 pounds, down from the 2001 estimate of 52 pounds per colony. Stocks in 2002 were 26 percent of the production, increasing from last year.



U.S. honey prices increased to a record high 128.6 cents during 2002, up 83 percent from 70.4 cents in 2001. Production in 2002 (from

producers with at least 5 colonies) totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2001.

There were 2.52 million colonies producing honey in 2002, up less than a percent from 2001. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, down 6.2 pounds from the 74 pounds in 2001. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 39 million pounds on December 15, 2002, down 65 percent from a year earlier.

HONEY PRODUCTION, STOCKS, AND VALUE, 2001-2002 ^{1/}

	Producing Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks Dec 15 ^{1/}		Average Price Per Pound ^{2/}		Value of Production	
	-thousands-		-pounds-		-000 pounds-		-000 pounds-		-cents-		-000 dollars-	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
Maryland	4	3	46	46	184	138	55	21	160	175	294	242
North Carolina	13	14	44	51	572	714	172	86	148	136	847	971
VIRGINIA	9	7	52	38	468	266	94	69	126	186	590	495
West Virginia	7	9	65	51	455	459	410	151	142	137	646	629
United States ^{4/}	2,506	2,524	74.0	67.8	185,461	171,140	64,556	39,047	70.4	128.6	132,225	221,638

^{1/} For producers with five or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state.

^{2/} Does not include stocks under loan.

^{3/} Price weighted by sales.

^{4/} U.S. colonies multiplied by U.S. yield may not exactly equal U.S. Production due to rounding.