



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Southern Region News Release
Honey Bee Colonies



Cooperating with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and South Carolina Department of Agriculture
Southern Regional Field Office · 355 East Hancock Avenue, Suite 100 · Athens, GA 30601 · (706) 713-5400
www.nass.usda.gov

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Media Contact: Jacqueline Moore

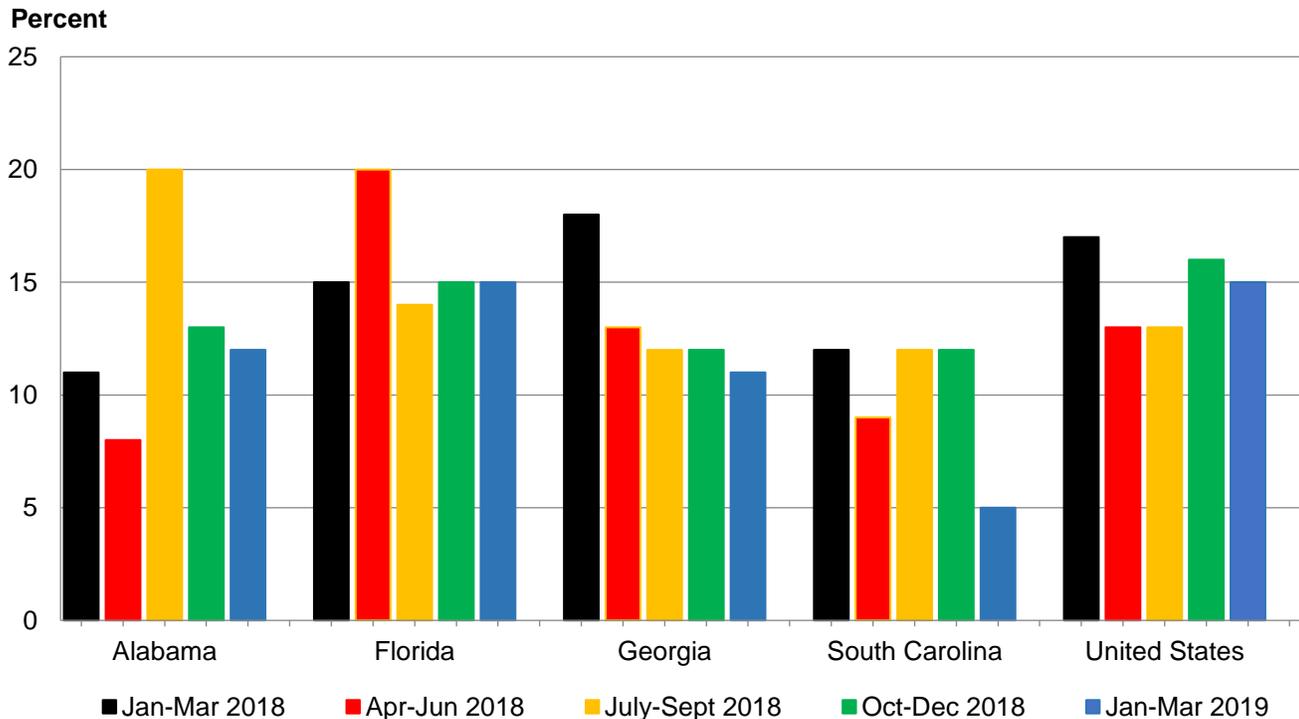
January 1 Honey Bee Colonies Up 1 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2019 totaled 2.67 million colonies, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018. During 2018, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.64 million, 2.67 million, 2.96 million, and 2.87 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2019, was 408 thousand colonies, or 15 percent. During the quarter of October through December 2018, colonies lost totaled 445 thousand colonies, or 16 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter in 2018. The quarter in 2018 with the lowest number of colonies lost was April through June, with 355 thousand colonies lost, or 13 percent.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters of 2018. The quarter of April through June 2018 had the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites at 56.4 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2019 were 45.6 percent.

Southern Region and United States - Percent Colony Loss by Quarter: 2018 and 2019



Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies — States and United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019 and January-March 2018 and 2019

State	January 1 number of colonies	January-March					
		Maximum colonies ¹	Lost colonies	Percent lost ²	Added colonies	Renovated colonies ³	Percent Renovated ⁴
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
2018							
Alabama.....	7,500	7,500	820	11	1,200	1,500	20
Florida.....	245,000	255,000	39,000	15	57,000	38,000	15
Georgia.....	134,000	139,000	25,000	18	29,000	39,000	28
South Carolina.....	13,500	14,500	1,800	12	1,900	2,800	19
United States.....	2,635,220	(X)	438,030	17	511,320	289,200	11
2019							
Alabama.....	5,500	5,500	650	12	800	200	4
Florida.....	300,000	315,000	46,000	15	41,000	16,500	5
Georgia.....	120,000	129,000	14,500	11	19,500	8,000	6
South Carolina.....	12,000	13,000	690	5	2,000	340	3
United States.....	2,671,470	(X)	407,700	15	247,710	179,500	7

(X) Not applicable.

¹ January 1 number of colonies plus all colonies moved into that state during the quarter.

² Percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by maximum colonies except for United States, where percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by the January 1 number of colonies.

³ Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.

⁴ Percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by maximum colonies except for the United States, where percent renovated is the number of renovated colonies divided by the January 1 number of colonies.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - *Honey Bee Colonies*, August 2019

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies — States and United States: January-March 2018 and 2019

[Percent of colonies affected by stressors anytime during the quarter. A colony may be affected by multiple stressors during the quarter]

State	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites ¹	Diseases ²	Pesticides	Other ³	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
2018						
Alabama.....	29.2	30.2	1.9	14.9	8.6	4.5
Florida.....	31.7	15.3	4.5	9.2	5.5	16.0
Georgia.....	39.6	18.7	0.9	14.8	27.1	2.1
South Carolina.....	29.3	15.5	0.7	2.6	13.5	3.0
United States.....	40.7	12.7	4.3	10.3	8.7	7.1
2019						
Alabama.....	27.2	22.7	1.8	0.3	3.1	9.0
Florida.....	46.9	24.8	5.5	22.9	7.4	5.5
Georgia.....	69.6	17.8	7.4	9.6	10.6	4.9
South Carolina.....	18.5	14.5	(Z)	1.7	12.4	1.0
United States.....	45.6	14.8	7.1	13.6	9.0	5.2

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

¹ Tracheal mites, nosema, hive beetle, wax moths, etc.

² Includes American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sacbrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.

³ Includes weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damaged/destroyed, etc.

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - *Honey Bee Colonies*, August 2019