



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
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This report contains the results from the **2020 and 2021 Quarterly Colony Loss Surveys**. Thanks to all who responded.

August 3, 2021

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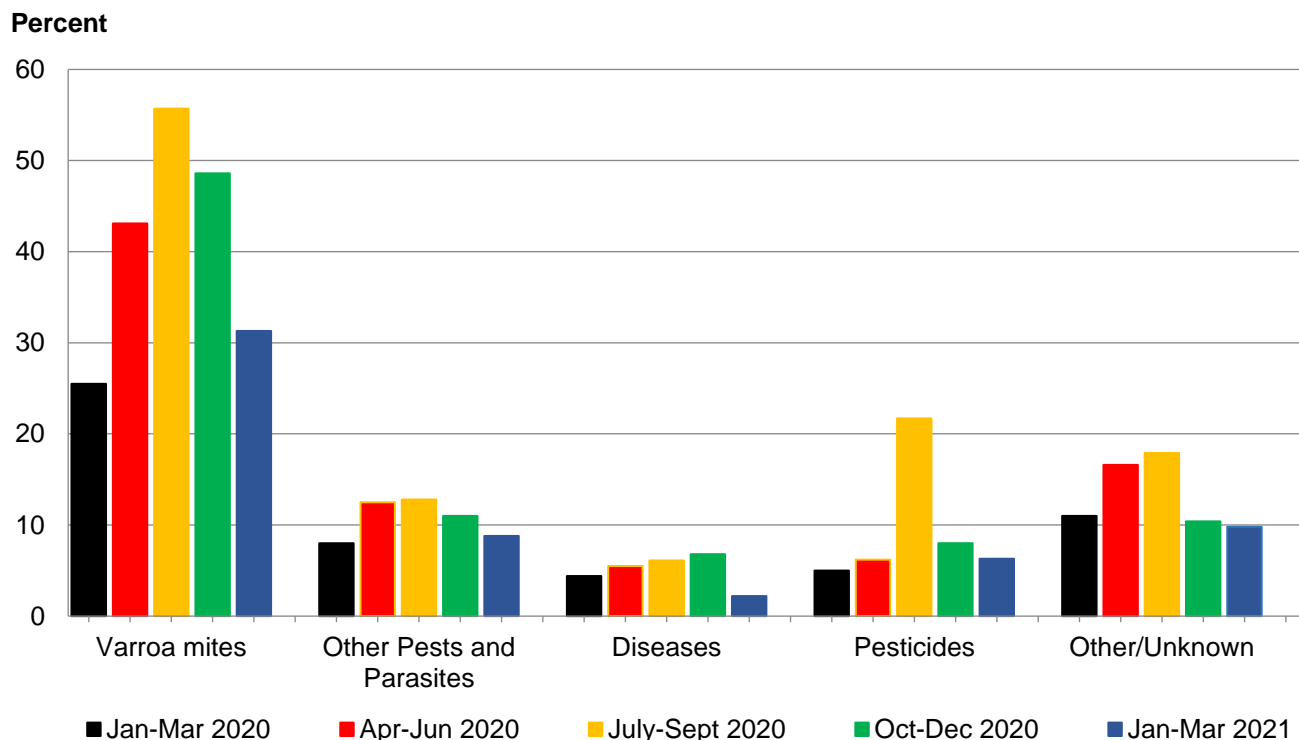
January 1 Honey Bee Colonies Up 2 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2021 totaled 2.92 million colonies, up 2 percent from January 1, 2020. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2021 was 2.86 million colonies. During 2020, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.88 million, 2.97 million, 3.18 million, and 3.14 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2021, was 372,630 colonies, or 13 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2021 was 255,860 colonies, or 9 percent. During the quarter of October through December 2020, colonies lost totaled 484,920 colonies, or 15 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2020. The quarter surveyed in 2020 with the lowest number of colonies lost was April through June, with 300,990 colonies lost, or 10 percent.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters surveyed in 2020. The period with the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites was July through September 2020 at 55.7 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2021 and April through June 2021 are 31.3 percent and 48.7 percent, respectively.

Colony Health: Percent Affected by Stressor – United States: 2020 and 2021



Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January 1, 2020 and 2021 and January-March 2020 and 2021

State	January 1 colonies (number)	January-March					
		Maximum colonies ¹ (number)	Lost colonies (number)	Percent lost ² (percent)	Added colonies (number)	Renovated colonies ³ (number)	Percent Renovated ⁴ (percent)
2020							
Alabama.....	5,500	7,000	410	6	1,900	780	11
Florida.....	295,000	305,000	30,000	10	41,000	8,000	3
Georgia.....	115,000	119,000	14,500	12	41,000	22,000	18
South Carolina.....	13,000	17,000	1,400	8	2,700	1,100	6
United States.....	2,876,100	(X)	415,110	14	511,160	153,390	5
2021							
Alabama.....	10,000	10,000	1,200	12	670	200	2
Florida.....	300,000	305,000	31,000	10	42,000	17,000	6
Georgia.....	120,000	120,000	20,000	17	34,000	14,500	12
South Carolina.....	15,500	18,500	1,200	6	930	190	1
United States.....	2,923,240	(X)	372,630	13	308,530	156,270	5

(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 2021

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January-March 2020 and 2021

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

State	Varroa mites (percent)	Other pests and parasites ¹ (percent)	Diseases ² (percent)	Pesticides (percent)	Other ³ (percent)	Unknown (percent)
2020						
Alabama.....	12.4	3.4	-	0.1	1.7	4.3
Florida.....	28.0	14.2	5.5	5.3	8.7	10.9
Georgia.....	50.9	3.4	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	7.5
South Carolina.....	15.5	11.5	9.6	(Z)	6.4	5.4
United States.....	25.5	8.0	4.4	5.0	5.6	5.4
2021						
Alabama.....	52.2	30.3	-	(Z)	3.1	4.0
Florida.....	34.7	11.9	5.6	6.6	6.3	3.4
Georgia.....	47.9	14.4	8.9	1.5	4.1	4.6
South Carolina.....	48.5	10.1	(Z)	3.2	4.1	0.9
United States.....	31.3	8.8	2.2	6.3	6.5	3.3

- Represents zero.

(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 2021