



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 **2023 and 2024 Quarterly Colony Loss Surveys**. Thanks to all who responded.

August 1, 2024

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January 1 Honey Bee colonies Down 1 Percent for Operations with Five or More colonies

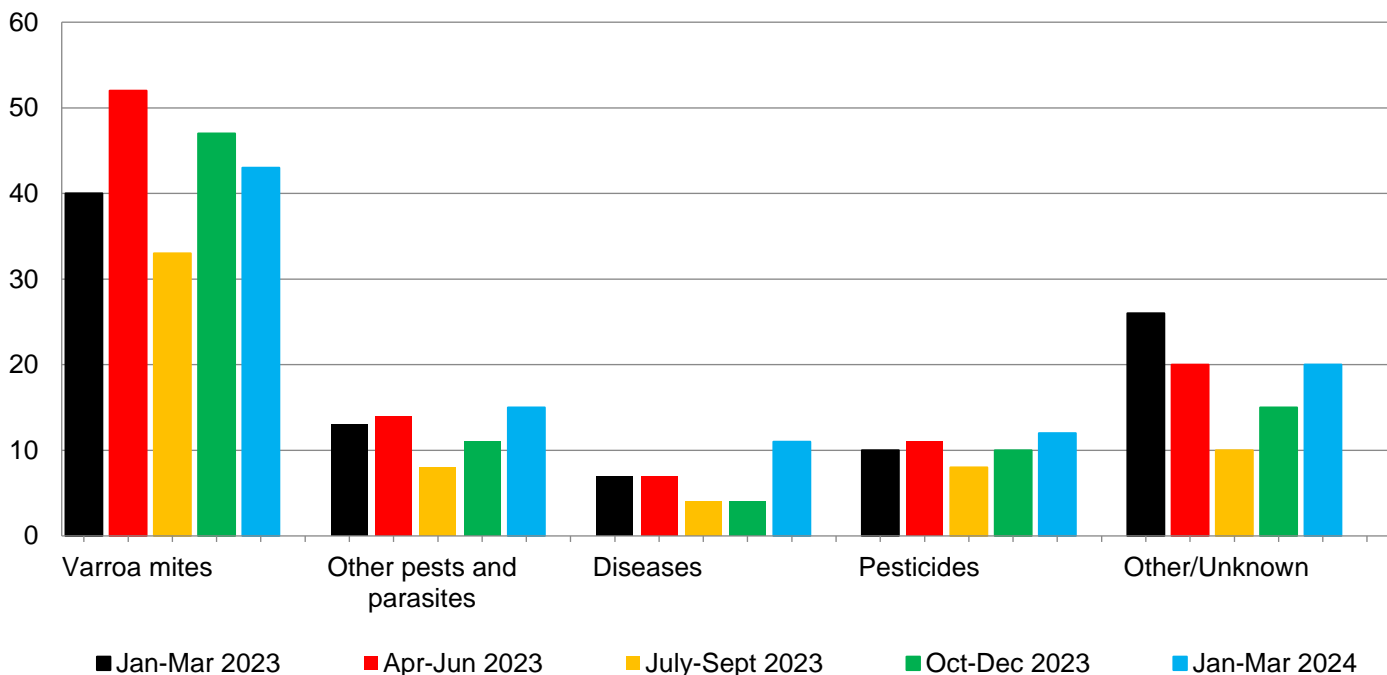
Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2024 totaled 2.71 million colonies, down 1 percent from January 1, 2023. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2024, was also 2.71 million colonies. During 2023, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.73 million, 2.71 million, 2.92 million, and 2.82 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2024, was 396,820 colonies, or 15 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2024, was 288,190 colonies, or 11 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2023, colonies lost totaled 378,190 colonies, or 14 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2023. The quarter surveyed in 2023 with the lowest number of colonies lost was October through December, with 254,520 colonies lost, or 9 percent.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters surveyed in 2023. The period with the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites was April through June 2023 at 52.0 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2024 and April through June 2024 are 43.3 percent and 54.8 percent, respectively.

Colony Health: Percent Affected by Stressor – United States: 2023 and 2024

Percent



Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024 and January-March 2023 and 2024

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)
2023							
Alabama.....	11,000	15,500	1,400	9	2,000	880	6
Florida.....	270,000	305,000	34,000	11	51,000	18,500	6
Georgia.....	121,000	121,000	13,000	11	18,500	8,000	7
South Carolina.....	14,500	16,000	1,700	11	2,700	800	5
United States.....	2,729,750	(X)	373,880	14	324,400	113,440	4
2024							
Alabama.....	9,500	11,500	1,600	14	2,400	860	7
Florida.....	310,000	310,000	24,000	8	28,000	10,500	3
Georgia.....	117,000	125,000	28,000	22	34,000	2,000	2
South Carolina.....	14,000	14,000	870	6	2,800	820	6
United States.....	2,705,350	(X)	396,820	15	404,100	215,070	8

(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 2024

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January-March 2023 and 2024

[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)
2023						
Alabama.....	31.9	18.3	0.7	1.5	9.9	8.3
Florida.....	28.1	11.1	3.5	5.6	4.2	8.5
Georgia.....	31.2	1.3	(Z)	7.7	1.7	7.4
South Carolina.....	32.2	7.3	-	(Z)	10.4	7.4
United States.....	39.9	13.4	7.3	9.9	14.7	11.1
2024						
Alabama.....	24.0	18.8	6.3	1.9	2.9	4.5
Florida.....	28.2	10.5	2.5	9.8	4.2	3.3
Georgia.....	18.5	8.9	0.5	1.1	3.6	5.7
South Carolina.....	36.1	7.4	(Z)	1.8	3.3	3.5
United States.....	43.3	15.0	10.9	12.4	10.6	9.1

- 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 2024