

# Honey

## Production

Virginia had 6,000 producing colonies in 2009, which is no change from 2008. Honey price increased from \$2.42 per pound in 2008 to \$3.28 per pound in 2009. Honey production (from producers with at least 5 colonies) totaled 234,000 pounds in 2009, down 18,000 pounds from the previous year. Yield per colony was 39 pounds in 2009, down from 42 pounds per colony in 2008. Stocks in 2009 equaled about 24 percent of production, up from 18 percent last year.

## U.S.

U.S. honey production in 2009 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 144 million pounds, down 12 percent from 2008. There were 2.46 million colonies producing honey in 2009, up 5 percent from 2008. Yield per colony averaged 58.5 pounds, down 16 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2008. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 37.2 million pounds on December 15, 2009, down 27 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

### HONEY , PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE <sup>1/</sup>, 2008 <sup>2/</sup> – 2009

State	Honey Producing Colonies <sup>3/</sup>		Yield Per Colony		Production		Stocks Dec. 15 <sup>4/</sup>		Average Price Per Pound <sup>5/</sup>		Value of Production <sup>6/</sup>	
	2008 -1,000-	2009	2008 -lbs.-	2009	2008 -1,000 lbs.-	2009	2008 -1,000 lbs.-	2009	2008 -cents-	2009	2008 -1,000 dollars-	2009
Maryland	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
North Carolina	12	11	52	45	624	495	137	84	218	252	1,360	1,247
<b>Virginia</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>768</b>
West Virginia	6	5	43	37	258	185	49	33	216	267	557	494
<b>U.S. <sup>8/</sup></b>	<b>2,342</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>163,789</b>	<b>144,108</b>	<b>51,159</b>	<b>37,153</b>	<b>142.1</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>232,744</b>	<b>208,236</b>

1/ For producers with 5 or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State. 2/ Revised. 3/ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

4/ Stocks held by producers. 5/ Average price per pound based on expanded sales. 6/ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

7/ Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. 8/ Due to rounding, total colonies multiplied by total yield may not exactly equal production.