



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 **2021 and 2022 Quarterly Colony Loss Surveys**. Thanks to all who responded.

August 2, 2022

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

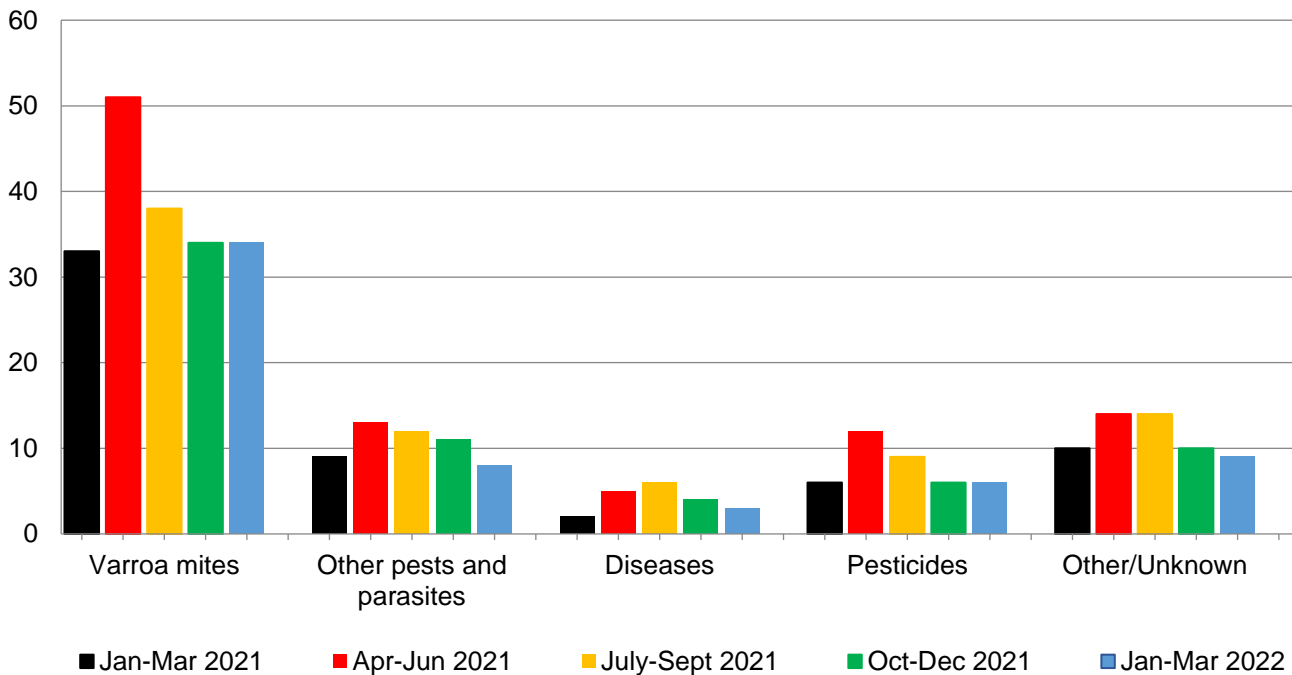
Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2022 totaled 2.88 million colonies, down 1 percent from January 1, 2021. The number of colonies in the United States, on April 1, 2022, was 2.92 million colonies. During 2021, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.90 million, 2.83 million, 3.17 million, and 3.09 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2022, was 331,780 colonies, or 12 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2022, was 282,630 colonies, or 10 percent. During the quarter of January through March 2021, colonies lost totaled 464,640 colonies, or 16 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2021. The quarter surveyed in 2021 with the lowest number of colonies lost was July through September, with 295,660 colonies lost, or 9 percent.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters surveyed in 2021. The period with the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites was April through June 2021 at 50.7 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2022 and April through June 2022 are 33.7 percent and 45.2 percent, respectively.

Colony Health: Percent Affected by Stressor – United States: 2021 and 2022

Percent



Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January 1, 2021 and 2022 and January-March 2021 and 2022

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)
2021							
Alabama.....	10,000	10,000	1,100	11	670	200	2
Florida.....	300,000	305,000	31,000	10	47,000	17,000	6
Georgia.....	120,000	120,000	20,000	17	34,000	14,500	12
South Carolina.....	15,500	18,000	1,200	7	930	190	1
United States.....	2,903,240	(X)	464,640	16	417,490	157,600	5
2022							
Alabama.....	8,000	11,500	1,100	10	1,600	520	5
Florida.....	295,000	295,000	24,000	8	50,000	13,500	5
Georgia.....	118,000	119,000	14,000	12	26,000	18,000	15
South Carolina.....	17,000	20,000	2,500	13	4,500	830	4
United States.....	2,875,770	(X)	331,780	12	367,890	187,180	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 2022

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January-March 2021 and 2022

[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)
2021						
Alabama.....	52.2	30.3	-	(Z)	3.1	4.0
Florida.....	34.6	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.....	33.0	8.9	2.3	6.4	6.7	3.4
2022						
Alabama.....	36.9	17.0	-	3.7	10.8	5.3
Florida.....	39.0	13.1	3.7	9.8	6.4	8.2
Georgia.....	41.2	17.4	0.6	5.1	5.9	3.0
South Carolina.....	38.0	3.8	-	(Z)	4.5	3.1
United States.....	33.7	8.4	2.5	5.8	4.5	4.2

- 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 2022