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 **2022 and 2023 Quarterly Colony Loss Surveys**. Thanks to all who responded.

August 1, 2023 *Media Contact: Anthony Prillaman*

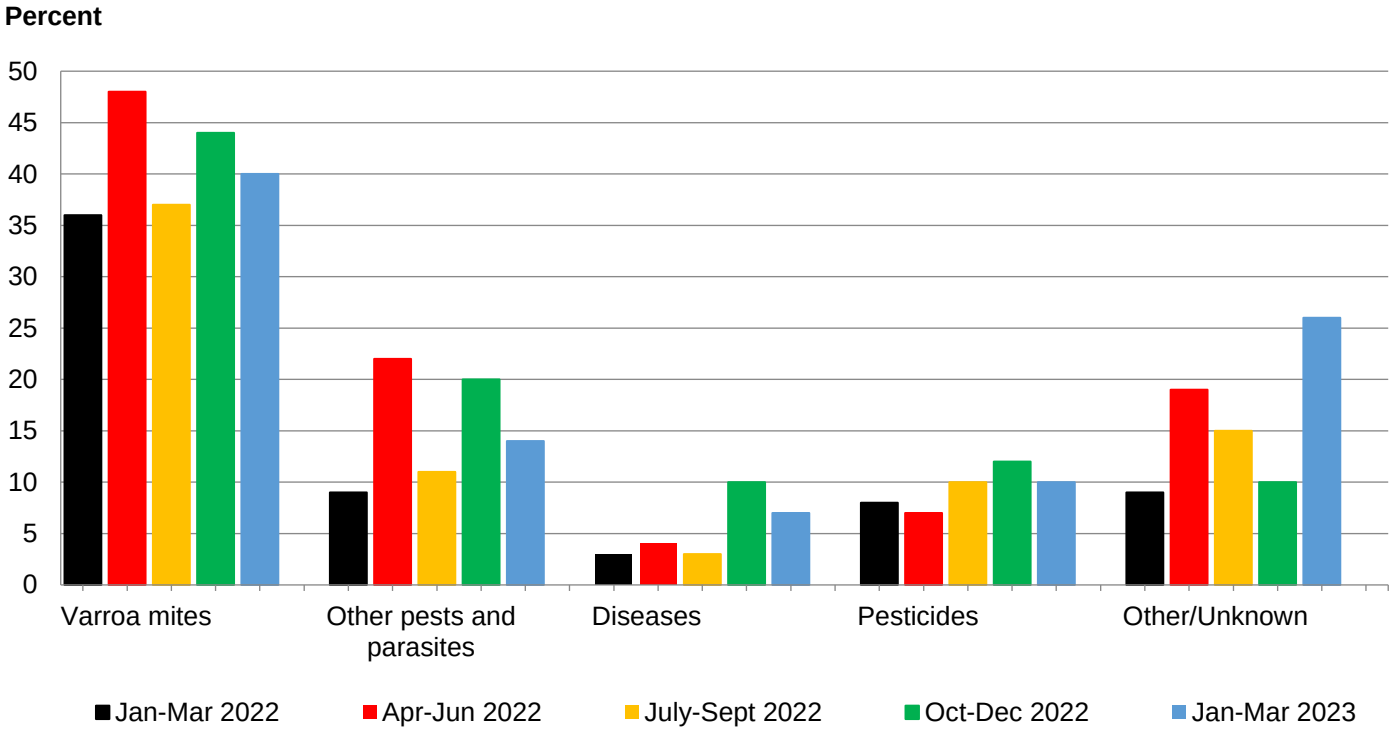
January 1 Honey Bee colonies Down 7 Percent for Operations with Five or More colonies

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the United States on January 1, 2023 totaled 2.68 million colonies, down 7 percent from January 1, 2022. The number of colonies in the United States on April 1, 2023, was 2.71 million colonies. During 2022, honey bee colonies on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 2.88 million, 2.91 million, 3.11 million, and 2.89 million colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023, was 373,880 colonies, or 14 percent. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2023, was 237,350 colonies, or 9 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2022, colonies lost totaled 363,570 colonies, or 13 percent, the highest number lost of any quarter surveyed in 2022. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies lost was January through March, with 331,480 colonies lost, or 12 percent.

Varroa mites were the number one stressor for operations with five or more colonies during all quarters surveyed in 2022. The period with the highest percentage of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites was April through June 2022 at 47.5 percent. The percent of colonies reported to be affected by varroa mites during January through March 2023 and April through June 2023 are 39.7 percent and 50.9 percent, respectively.

Colony Health: Percent Affected by Stressor – United States: 2022 and 2023



Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023 and January-March 2022 and 2023

State	January 1 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)
2022							
Alabama	7,500	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	2,875,670	(X)	331,480	12	368,780	187,380	7
2023							
Alabama	11,000	14,000	1,400	10	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	16,500	1,700	10	2,700	800	5
United States	2,678,250	(X)	373,880	14	384,790	113,440	4

(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 2023

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies – States and United States: January-March 2022 and 2023

[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)
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	36.0	8.8	2.7	7.7	4.8	4.4
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	39.7	13.6	7.4	10.1	14.8	11.2

- 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 2023