



PRESS RELEASE



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Northwest Regional Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507

Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov

Posted online August 1, 2023

Regional Contacts

Phone: 1-800-435-5883

Email: nassrfonwr@usda.gov

- Washington – Dennis Koong, Regional Director
- Idaho – Ben Johnson, State Statistician
- Oregon – Dave Losh, State Statistician
- Alaska – Andrew Brosier, State Statistician

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.

Honey bee colonies added for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023 was 384,790 colonies. The number of colonies added during the quarter of April through June 2023 was 596,360. During the quarter of April through June 2022, the number of colonies added were 573,160 colonies, the highest number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2022. The quarter of July through September 2022 added 152,640 colonies, the least number of honey bee colonies added for any quarter surveyed in 2022.

Honey bee colonies renovated for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023 was 113,440 colonies, or 4 percent. During the quarter of April through June 2023, the number of colonies renovated were 478,440 colonies, or 18 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the highest number of colonies renovated was April through June 2022 with 494,890 colonies renovated, or 17 percent. The quarter surveyed in 2022 with the lowest number of colonies renovated was October through December 2022, with 147,950, or 5 percent. Renovated colonies are those that were requeened or received new honey bees through a nucleus (nuc) colony or package.

Varroa Mites Top Colony Stressor for Operations with Five or More colonies

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.

Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: January 1, 2022 and January-March 2022

State	January 1 number of 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)
Idaho	194,000	215,000	8,000	4	7,500	1,000	(Z)
Oregon.....	85,000	96,000	5,000	5	2,400	310	(Z)
Washington.....	70,000	102,000	7,500	7	1,400	6,000	6
United States	2,875,670	(X)	331,480	12	368,780	187,380	7

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

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 the 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.

Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: April 1, 2022 and April-June 2022

State	April 1 number of colonies	April-June					
		Maximum colonies ¹	Lost colonies	Percent lost ²	Added colonies	Renovated colonies ³	Percent renovated ⁴
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Idaho	103,000	111,000	19,000	17	35,000	8,500	8
Oregon.....	94,000	96,000	13,000	14	12,500	19,500	20
Washington.....	97,000	109,000	14,000	13	12,500	23,000	21
United States	2,909,290	(X)	363,570	13	573,160	494,890	17

(X) Not applicable.

¹ April 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 the United States, where percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by the April 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 April 1 number of colonies.

Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: July 1, 2022 and July-September 2022

State	July 1 number of colonies	July-September					
		Maximum colonies ¹	Lost colonies	Percent lost ²	Added colonies	Renovated colonies ³	Percent renovated ⁴
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Idaho	104,000	112,000	9,500	8	3,500	12,000	11
Oregon.....	82,000	97,000	10,500	11	2,600	6,500	7
Washington.....	81,000	84,000	3,000	4	2,800	1,100	1
United States	3,107,330	(X)	343,880	11	152,640	222,720	7

(X) Not applicable.

¹ July 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 the United States, where percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by the July 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 July 1 number of colonies.

Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: October 1, 2022 and October-December 2022

State	October 1 number of colonies	October-December					
		Maximum colonies ¹	Lost colonies	Percent lost ²	Added colonies	Renovated colonies ³	Percent renovated ⁴
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Idaho	99,000	154,000	22,000	14	40,000	6,000	4
Oregon	83,000	83,000	15,000	18	10,000	110	(Z)
Washington	84,000	89,000	7,500	8	540	220	(Z)
United States	2,888,130	(X)	353,910	12	170,280	147,950	5

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

¹ October 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 the United States, where percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by the October 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 October 1 number of colonies.

Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: January 1, 2023 and January-March 2023

State	January 1 number of 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)
Idaho	165,000	167,000	12,500	7	4,000	8,000	5
Oregon	77,000	87,000	8,000	9	11,500	500	1
Washington	65,000	81,000	13,500	17	19,000	250	(Z)
United States	2,678,250	(X)	373,880	14	384,790	113,440	4

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

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 the 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.

Number of Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: April 1, 2023 and April-June 2023

State	April 1 number of colonies	April-June					
		Maximum colonies ¹	Lost colonies	Percent lost ²	Added colonies	Renovated colonies ³	Percent renovated ⁴
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Idaho	82,000	132,000	7,000	5	22,000	11,000	8
Oregon	91,000	95,000	17,500	18	29,000	31,000	33
Washington	87,000	123,000	14,000	11	18,500	15,500	13
United States	2,710,070	(X)	237,350	9	596,360	478,440	18

(X) Not applicable.

¹ April 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 the United States, where percent lost is the number of lost colonies divided by the April 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 April 1 number of colonies.

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: January-March 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	Other pests and parasites ¹	Diseases ²	Pesticides	Other ³	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Idaho	57.0	1.1	(Z)	35.5	1.4	1.3
Oregon.....	11.4			1.4	(Z)	1.1
Washington.....	8.3	4.0	3.6	-	2.6	(Z)
United States	36.0	8.8	2.7	7.7	4.8	4.4

- 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 damage/destroyed, etc.

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: April-June 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	Other pests and parasites ¹	Diseases ²	Pesticides	Other ³	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Idaho	32.6	13.1	5.6	13.7	9.5	3.5
Oregon.....	57.3	23.2	9.5	16.1	17.5	(Z)
Washington.....	50.8	7.3	4.3	3.4	14.2	1.6
United States	47.5	21.8	4.0	6.8	15.9	3.5

(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 damage/destroyed, etc.

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: July-September 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	Other pests and parasites ¹	Diseases ²	Pesticides	Other ³	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Idaho	44.0	4.9	5.0	9.8	9.5	3.7
Oregon	32.0	10.0	6.1	4.3	12.7	0.5
Washington	11.1	(Z)	(Z)		(Z)	0.7
United States	37.3	11.4	3.4	10.0	9.3	5.2

(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 damage/destroyed, etc.

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: October-December 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	Other pests and parasites ¹	Diseases ²	Pesticides	Other ³	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Idaho	17.8	2.8	2.2	4.1	2.0	10.8
Oregon	63.4	25.5	19.8	15.8	3.3	1.7
Washington	34.0	6.4		(Z)	4.2	8.2
United States	44.3	19.8	10.3	12.4	14.2	4.7

(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 damage/destroyed, etc.

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: January-March 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)
Idaho	12.1	2.8	(Z)	5.3	1.2	6.0
Oregon.....	28.7	13.1	6.0	(Z)	11.4	2.0
Washington.....	12.1	2.4	2.3	2.5	6.4	4.5
United States	39.7	13.6	7.4	10.1	14.8	11.2

(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 damage/destroyed, etc.

Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies—Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and United States: April-June 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)
Idaho	40.9	6.7	5.9	5.7	1.3	1.4
Oregon.....	27.9	9.3	3.5	14.3	4.3	(Z)
Washington.....	41.6	1.0	6.1	9.2	4.3	(Z)
United States	50.9	13.9	6.5	10.5	13.6	6.0

(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 damage/destroyed, etc.

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. Hover over the “Publications” drop down. Under "Receive reports by Email" section in the lower right corner, select the report(s) you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov