



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



**Delta Region Honey Bee Colonies**

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**Cooperating with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture,  
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce**

This report contains the results from the **Quarterly Colony Loss** surveys. These data are also posted in a more detailed report at <https://www.nass.usda.gov>. Thanks to all who responded to these surveys.

**January 1, 2023 Honey Bee Colonies Up 2 Percent for Operations with Five or More Colonies**

Honey bee colonies for operations with five or more colonies in the Delta Region on January 1, 2023 totaled 75,000 colonies. This is 2 percent above from 73,500 colonies on January 1, 2022. On April 1, 2023, honey bee operations in the Delta Region totaled 134,000 colonies. During 2022, honey bee colonies for the Delta Region on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 were 73,500 colonies, 107,000 colonies, 87,000 colonies, and 62,500 colonies, respectively.

Honey bee colonies lost for operations with five or more colonies from January through March 2023 was 9,300 colonies, or 9 percent, in the Delta Region. The number of colonies lost during the quarter of April through June 2023 was 7,900 colonies, or 6 percent.

**Colonies, Maximum, Lost, Percent Lost, Added, Renovated, and Percent Renovated with Five or More Colonies – Delta Region and United States: January 1, 2023, January-March 2023, April 1, 2023, and April-June 2023**

State	January 1 colonies	January-March					
		Maximum colonies <sup>1</sup>	Lost colonies	Percent lost <sup>2</sup>	Added colonies	Renovated colonies <sup>3</sup>	Percent renovated <sup>4</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Arkansas .....	21,000	23,000	2,200	10	1,200	10	(Z)
Louisiana .....	25,000	38,000	4,800	13	6,000	3,700	10
Mississippi .....	29,000	37,000	2,300	6	65,000	4,100	11
United States .....	2,678,250	(X)	373,880	14	384,790	113,440	4
State	April 1 colonies	April-June					
		Maximum colonies <sup>1</sup>	Lost colonies	Percent lost <sup>2</sup>	Added colonies	Renovated colonies <sup>3</sup>	Percent renovated <sup>4</sup>
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(percent)	(number)	(number)	(percent)
Arkansas .....	22,000	24,000	1,900	8	6,000	2,200	9
Louisiana .....	39,000	39,000	2,800	7	4,700	9,000	23
Mississippi .....	73,000	74,000	3,200	4	12,500	8,000	11
United States .....	2,710,070	(X)	237,350	9	596,360	478,440	18

(X) Not applicable.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Number of colonies on the first day of the quarter plus all colonies moved into that state during the quarter.

<sup>2</sup> 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 number of colonies on the first day of the quarter.

<sup>3</sup> Defined as any surviving colony that was requeened or received new honey bees through nuc or package.

<sup>4</sup> 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 number of colonies on the first day of the quarter.

**Colony Health Stressors with Five or More Colonies – Delta Region and United States:  
January-March 2022, April-June 2022, July-September 2022, October-December 2022,  
January-March 2023, and April-June 2023**

State	January-March 2022					
	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites <sup>1</sup>	Diseases <sup>2</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>3</sup>	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas .....	39.8	28.1	(Z)	23.1	1.3	8.9
Louisiana .....	61.1	48.1	-	-	0.6	7.6
Mississippi .....	53.1	12.5	6.1	2.0	1.8	8.9
United States .....	36.0	8.8	2.7	7.7	4.8	4.4
State	April-June 2022					
	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites <sup>1</sup>	Diseases <sup>2</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>3</sup>	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas .....	20.6	12.7	2.0	9.5	6.4	3.9
Louisiana .....	31.9	9.9	4.8	4.8	2.4	2.5
Mississippi .....	21.7	21.0	(Z)	0.7	15.2	5.8
United States .....	47.5	21.8	4.0	6.8	15.9	3.5
State	July-September 2022					
	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites <sup>1</sup>	Diseases <sup>2</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>3</sup>	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas .....	25.1	12.6	(Z)	13.0	7.0	4.8
Louisiana .....	51.9	17.0	0.9	(Z)	1.9	3.9
Mississippi .....	56.1	14.6	0.9	3.6	12.2	9.5
United States .....	37.3	11.4	3.4	10.0	9.3	5.2
State	October-December 2022					
	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites <sup>1</sup>	Diseases <sup>2</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>3</sup>	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas .....	9.9	2.7	(Z)	(Z)	(Z)	0.6
Louisiana .....	18.5	9.1	1.2	2.1	5.2	0.9
Mississippi .....	13.0	1.7	0.5	5.0	5.4	4.7
United States .....	44.3	19.8	10.3	12.4	14.2	4.7
State	January-March 2023					
	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites <sup>1</sup>	Diseases <sup>2</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>3</sup>	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas .....	62.2	51.4	5.3	24.7	2.0	5.9
Louisiana .....	48.2	10.0	2.4	2.0	2.9	6.0
Mississippi .....	19.6	9.6	1.1	7.5	15.4	2.7
United States .....	39.7	13.6	7.4	10.1	14.8	11.2
State	April-June 2023					
	Varroa mites	Other pests and parasites <sup>1</sup>	Diseases <sup>2</sup>	Pesticides	Other <sup>3</sup>	Unknown
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Arkansas .....	22.4	13.1	2.8	7.4	1.9	3.1
Louisiana .....	32.0	3.6	(Z)	17.5	24.7	0.8
Mississippi .....	12.6	3.5	1.0	3.2	9.1	2.4
United States .....	50.9	13.9	6.5	10.5	13.6	6.0

- Represents zero.

(Z) Less than half of the unit shown.

<sup>1</sup> Tracheal mites, nosema, hive beetle, wax moths, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Includes American and European foulbrood, chalkbrood, stonebrood, paralysis (acute and chronic), kashmir, deformed wing, sacbrood, IAPV, Lake Sinai II, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Includes weather, starvation, insufficient forage, queen failure, hive damage/destroyed, etc.