



Foreign Agricultural Service

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Market Report

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Germany

Honey

1998 Production

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Report Highlights:

1998 German honey production is estimated at 13,000 MT down from 15,000 MT due to adverse weather conditions in 1998. Shortfalls are likely to be filled by imports from China.

Includes PSD changes: Yes
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
Unscheduled Report
Bonn [GM1], GM

Executive Summary

Estimates for Germany's 1998 honey crop are adjusted downward to 13,000 MT due to adverse weather conditions (low temperatures, rainfall) throughout this year. Higher imports, mainly from China, are expected to compensate for the shortfall.

Imported honey, especially from China, got bad press coverage in recent weeks as there were claims this source was contaminated with pesticides and of poor quality. Although this type of honey cannot be identified as imported honey and is generally mixed with others, no negative impact on overall honey consumption is expected.

Honey imports in 1998 are estimated at 87,000 MT, mainly from China, Mexico and Argentina. Most of the imports arrive in Germany in containers for further processing and refilling. They hold a market share of 87 percent.

The German market provides opportunities for U.S. honey processors, especially if the honey is marketed in new, attractive and practical honey jars (appealing to children, for example) or plastic containers in consumer-friendly sizes.

Within the European Union (EU), imported honey (harmonized tariff code 04090000) is charged a tariff rate of 20.5 percent until June 30, 1999. From July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000, the tariff rate is 18.9 percent. There will be a tariff rate of 17.3 percent beginning July 1, 2000. In Germany, the value added tax on honey is seven percent which is borne by the consumer/end user. Unlike the common EU tariff rates, value added taxes vary among EU member states.

Section: Statistical Tables

The following section includes PSD, price table and trade matrices.

Note: Prices in tables after PSD's are in German Mark and indicate simple average monthly import prices for imported commodities recorded in the PSD's without discriminating between high-priced or low-priced products.

Note: In recent years the U.S. dollar/German mark exchange rate has been as follows:

1991: \$1 = DM 1.66;	1996: \$1 = DM 1.50;
1992: \$1 = DM 1.52;	1997: \$1 = DM 1.70;
1993: \$1 = DM 1.65;	1998: \$1 = DM 1.76,
1994: \$1 = DM 1.61;	1999: \$1 = DM 1.66.
1995: \$1 = DM 1.43;	

Further exchange rates are for: Euro (i) /German mark: i 1 = DM 1.95583,
i /U.S. dollar: i 1 = \$ 1.10 (2/23/1999).

Table 1: PSD for Honey (in MT)

		1996		1997		1998
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/1996		01/1997		01/1998
Commercial Colonies	255	242	260	182	180	180
NonCommercial Colonies	773	786	750	770	760	760
TOTAL Colonies	1,028	1,028	1,010	952	940	940
Beginning Stocks	3,000	3,000	500	500	0	0
Production	14,674	14,674	15,000	15,069	15,000	13,000
Imports	87,976	87,976	90,000	83,288	85,000	87,000
TOTAL SUPPLY	105,650	105,650	105,500	98,857	100,000	100,000
Exports	16,200	16,200	16,000	13,059	12,000	12,000
Domestic Consumption	88,950	88,950	89,000	85,798	88,000	88,000
Ending Stocks	500	500	500	0	0	0
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	105,650	105,650	105,500	98,857	100,000	100,000

Source: Federal Office of Statistics, German Honey Association, FAS/Bonn estimates.

Table 2: Honey Import Prices (in DM per MT)

Year	1996	1997	% Change			1996	1997	% Change
Jan	2,125	2,632	23.9%		Jul	2,315	2,711	17.1%
Feb	2,152	2,617	21.6%		Aug	2,427	2,688	10.8%
Mar	2,127	2,619	23.1%		Sep	2,415	2,777	15.0%
Apr	1,967	2,851	44.9%		Oct	2,627	2,757	4.9%
May	2,103	2,787	32.5%		Nov	2,584	2,782	7.7%
Jun	2,174	2,678	23.2%		Dec	2,737	2,641	-3.5%

Source: Federal Office of Statistics.

Table 3: Export and Import of Honey (in MT)

Imports for	1996		1997		1998
U.S.	322	U.S.	110	U.S.	300
Others		Others		Others	
China	25,497	China	25,448	China	25,000
Argentina	13,918	Mexico	12,171	Mexico	14,000
Mexico	13,198	Argentina	8,841	Argentina	10,000
Hungary	5,687	Turkey	5,514	Turkey	6,000
Turkey	3,952	Romania	5,246	Uruguay	5,000
Uruguay	2,877	Uruguay	4,444	Romania	5,000
Chile	2,517	Hungary	3,417	Hungary	4,000
Romania	2,511	Australia	2,146	Bulgaria	2,000
Czech Republic	2,311	El Salvador	1,910	El Salvador	2,000
France	1,919	Bulgaria	1,896	Australia	2,000
Total for Others	74,387	Total for Others	71,033	Total for Others	75,000
Others not listed	12,746	Others not listed	12,145	Others not listed	12,000
Grand Total	87,455	Grand Total	83,288	Grand Total	87,300

Exports for	1996		1997		1998
U.S.	125	U.S.	101	U.S.	100
Others		Others		Others	
Netherlands	3,970	Netherlands	3,669	Netherlands	4,000
Austria	3,507	Austria	1,978	Austria	1,500
France	1,956	France	1,697	France	1,000
Great Britain	1,315	Saudi Arabia	1,085	Saudi Arabia	1,000
Italy	1,163	Italy	895	Italy	900
Spain	718	Great Britain	634	Belgium/Lux	600
Denmark	707	Belgium/Lux	559	Denmark	500
Saudi Arabia	696	Switzerland	516	Switzerland	500
Switzerland	516	Denmark	457	Greece	400
Belgium/Lux	513	Sweden	168	Sweden	100
Total for Others	15,061	Total for Others	11,658	Total for Others	10,500
Others not listed	1,335	Others not listed	1,300	Others not listed	1,400
Grand Total	16,521	Grand Total	13,059	Grand Total	12,000

Source: FAS/Bonn based on official data from the German Federal Office of Statistics in Wiesbaden.
FAS/Bonn estimate.