



Beekeeping in Bulgaria 2025

The number of bee colonies on October the 1, 2025 is 808 thousand, which is 3.5% less than in 2024. The bee colonies, used for the production of honey in 2025 decrease by 5.0% and amount to 660 thousand. The largest decrease in the bee colonies is in the Yugoiztochen region – 6.6%, the smallest in the Severen tsentralen region – 0.5%. The honey production is 9 649 tons, or 7.6% less compared to 2024. The average production from one bee colony is 14.6 kg.

46.7 tons beewax and over 48.4 tons bee pollen are produced in the year of observation.

Over 60 thousand bee colonies are destroyed in 2025 due to various reasons (malnutrition, diseases, "empty hive syndrome" or colony collapse disorder, poisoning, etc.). Just over 797 thousand bee colonies are treated against varroaosis. The average cost per treatment/bee colony in 2025 is 6.88 BGN. 121 farms practice mobile apiculture, which is 37.3% less than in 2024.

For 2025, 6 052 tons honey are sold to processors, 2 238 tons are sold directly, 479 tons to retailers, 593 tons to the industry, and 1 285 tons are for own consumption.

Table 1

Beekeeping holdings, bee colonies and honey production by statistical region in 2025						
Statistical zones (NUTS 1) and statistical regions (NUTS 2)	Beekeeping holdings	Bee colonies	Bee colonies, used for the production of honey	Average number of bee colonies	Honey production	Average honey production per bee colony
	01.10.2025	01.10.2025				
	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(number)	(kg)
Bulgaria	8 416	808 851	660 713	96.1	9 649	14.6
<i>Severna and Yugoiztochna</i>						
Bulgaria	6 412	673 401	555 138	105.0	8 549	15.4
Severozapaden	1 319	123 295	108 521	93.5	1 912	17.6
Severen tsentralen	1 745	193 087	163 279	110.6	2 449	15.0
Severoiztochen	1 680	186 857	145 265	111.2	2 164	14.9
Yugoiztochen	1 668	170 162	138 073	102.0	2 024	14.7
<i>Yugozapadna and Yuzhna tsentralna</i>						
Bulgaria	2 004	135 450	105 575	67.6	1 100	10.4
Yugozapaden	685	38 756	30 644	56.6	306	10.0
Yuzhen tsentralen	1 319	96 694	74 931	73.3	794	10.6

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF), Agrostatics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Table 2

Destroyed bee colonies and losses caused by various factors in 2025 by statistical region						
Statistical zones (NUTS 1) and statistical regions (NUTS 2)	Destroyed bee colonies	Of which			Other reasons	Change 2025/2024
		By poisoning	By diseases	By hunger		
		(number)	(number)	(number)		
Bulgaria	60 832	5 795	6 381	5 834	42 822	75.8%
<i>Severna and Yugoiztochna</i>						
Bulgaria	47 585	4 704	4 219	4 807	33 855	75.3%
Severozapaden	7 327	535	1 158	1 660	3 974	132.5%
Severen tsentralen	11 870	1 447	901	1 555	7 967	141.9%
Severoiztochen	8 771	1 214	1 094	1 034	5 429	18.0%
Yugoiztochen	19 617	1 508	1 066	558	16 485	68.3%
<i>Yugozapadna and Yuzhna tsentralna</i>						
Bulgaria	13 247	1 091	2 162	1 027	8 967	77.7%
Yugozapaden	4 219	486	1 525	416	1 792	228.1%
Yuzhen tsentralen	9 028	605	637	611	7 175	46.4%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF), Agrostatics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Results and analyses

Table 3

Beekeeping holdings by statistical region in 2024 and 2025						
Statistical zones (NUTS 1) and statistical regions (NUTS 2)	Beekeeping colonies at 1.10.2024	Beekeeping colonies at 1.10.2025	Change 2025/2024	Bee colonies, used for the production of honey in 2024	Bee colonies, used for the production of honey in 2025	Change 2025/2024
	(number)	(number)	(%)	(number)	(number)	%
Bulgaria	838 038	808 851	-3.5%	695 244	660 713	-5.0%
Severna and Yugoiztochna Bulgaria	699 185	673 401	-3.7%	585 690	555 138	-5.2%
Severozapaden	130 316	123 295	-5.4%	113 771	108 521	-4.6%
Severen tsentralen	193 981	193 087	-0.5%	165 774	163 279	-1.5%
Severoiztochen	192 792	186 857	-3.1%	159 183	145 265	-8.7%
Yugoiztochen	182 096	170 162	-6.6%	146 962	138 073	-6.0%
Yugozapadna and Yuzhna tsentralna Bulgaria	138 853	135 450	-2.5%	109 554	105 575	-3.6%
Yugozapaden	40 593	38 756	-4.5%	32 911	30 644	-6.9%
Yuzhen tsentralen	98 260	96 694	-1.6%	76 643	74 931	-2.2%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF), Agrostatistics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Figure 1. Bee colonies (number)

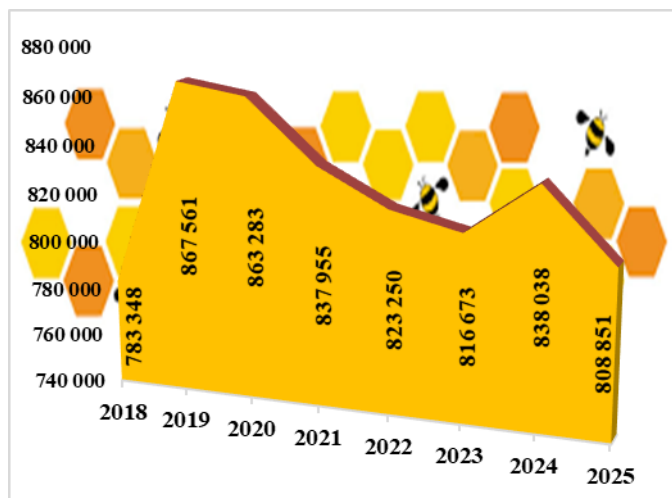
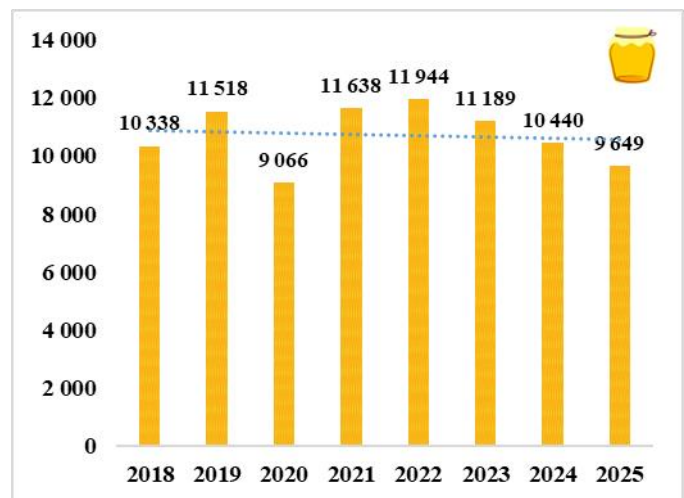


Figure 2. Honey production (tones) in Bulgaria



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatistics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Table 4

Number of bee colonies per holding	Holdings by number of bee colonies								
	Holdings at 1 st October			Bee colonies at 1 st October			Average number of bee colonies		
	2024	2025	Change 2025/2024	2024	2025	Change 2025/2024	2024	2025	Change 2025/2024
	(number)	(number)	(%)	(number)	(number)	(%)	(number)	(number)	(%)
1 to 9	804	741	-7.8%	3 526	3 207	-9.1%	4.4	4.3	-2.3%
10 to 49	2 595	2 329	-10.3%	61 404	56 355	-8.2%	23.7	24.2	2.1%
50 to 149	3 261	3 099	-4.9%	296 921	276 317	-6.9%	91.1	89.1	-2.2%
150 and more	2 263	2 247	-0.7%	476 187	472 972	-0.7%	210.4	210.5	0.0%
Total	8 923	8 416	-5.7%	838 038	808 851	-3.5%	93.9	96.1	2.3%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatistics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Table 5

Distribution of honey and average selling prices (ASP)					
Market distribution	Bee honey sold in 2024	Average price* 2024	Bee honey sold in 2025	Average price* 2025	Average price change 2025/2024
	(tonnes)	(BGN/kg)	(tonnes)	(BGN/kg)	(%)
Direct sales to end users	2 248	8.90	2 238	9.46	6.3%
Direct sales to retailers	470	7.78	479	8.91	14.5%
Sales to processors	6 992	4.40	6 052	4.92	11.8%
Sales to the industry	744	4.23	593	4.85	14.7%
Total sales	10 454	5.51	9 362	6.20	12.5%
For own consumption and bee feeding	1 410	-	1 285	-	-

*VAT excl.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Figure 3. Bee colonies holdings (number)

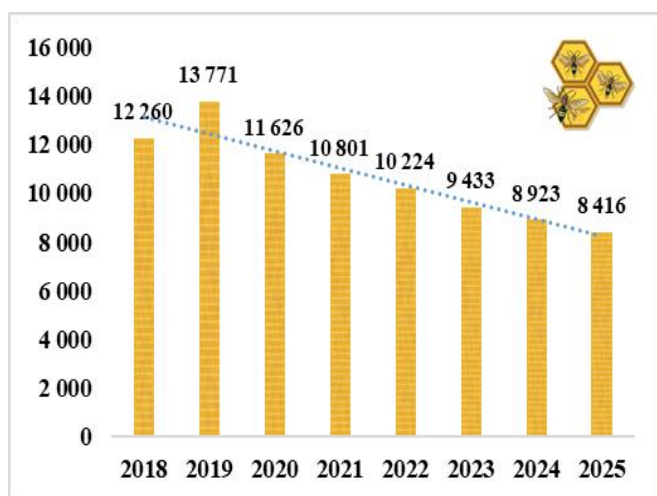
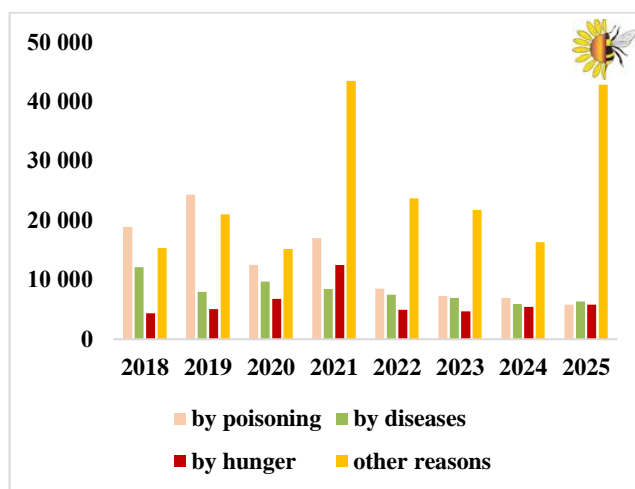


Figure 4. Destroyed bee colonies (number)



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Table 6

Preventive measures and bee colonies feeding in 2024 and 2025						
Measures	2024		2025		Change 2025/2024	
	Bee colonies	Average costs per bee colony	Bee colonies	Average costs per bee colony	Bee colonies	Average costs per bee colony
	(number)	(BGN)	(number)	(BGN)	(%)	(%)
Treatment against varroaosis	820 793	6.26	797 925	6.88	-2.8%	9.9%
Autumn feeding	545 594	8.99	447 105	8.70	-18.1%	-3.2%
Winter feeding	499 191	8.74	416 319	8.47	-16.6%	-3.1%
Spring feeding	555 350	9.13	466 650	8.79	-16.0%	-3.7%
Other costs	723 767	16.37	668 257	17.00	-7.7%	3.8%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Table 7

Storage of honey and storage value (including transport and storage costs)					
Type of storage container	Storage value			Relative share of holdings using storage containers by type	
	2024	2025	Change 2025/2024	2024	2025
	(BGN/kg)	(BGN/kg)	(%)	(%)	(%)
In tins	0.48	0.51	6.25%	75.52%	76.89%
Glass jars	1.20	0.85	-29.17%	51.60%	51.03%
In plastic packaging	0.82	0.80	-2.44%	3.90%	3.98%
Other packaging	0.64	0.82	-28.13%	1.20%	0.87%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostatics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

Table 8

Mobile beekeeping				
Characteristics	(units)	2024	2025	Change 2025/2024 (%)
Bee colonies, involved in mobile beekeeping	(number)	19 323	11 718	-39.4%
Holdings, practicing mobile beekeeping	(number)	193	121	-37.3%
Value of transport costs and veterinary certificates	(BGN/bee colony)	14.00	16.00	14.3%

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department, Survey Beekeeping in Bulgaria

In 2025, 13 holdings with 3 908 bee colonies indicate that they had 27 agreements (written or verbal) with farmers for crop pollination. Based on survey results in 2025 regarding the main issues in beekeeping, 1 018 (28%) from 3 671 surveyed farms identified the health of bee colonies as their primary concern in beekeeping, followed by the honey price (25%).

Methodological notes

The survey purpose is to determine the number of bee colonies on 1st October 2025, the honey production in 2025, the sale and average prices (VAT excl.) of the sold honey, the main costs of the production and storage of bee honey, the number of destroyed bee colonies in 2025 and the reasons for their destruction. The survey data is used for analyses and programs for the sector, as well as to make management decisions in the agrarian policy implementation in beekeeping. The legal basis for the statistical survey is the National Statistical Program for 2025. The results of the conducted survey are in accordance with the requirements of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1475 for determining detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding the assessment of CAP strategic plans and the submission of information on monitoring and evaluation. The used definitions in the survey are those specified in the cited regulations.

Surveyed statistical indicators:

1. Holdings raising bee colonies, bee honey production and sale - holdings with bee colonies; number of bee colonies; honey production- tons; average honey production - kg from 1 bee colony; sold honey - tons; prices of sold honey - BGN per kilogram.
2. Distribution of honey production - direct sales to end users, sales to retailers, to processors, to the industry, own consumption by the farmer's household.
3. Indicators for the prevention, production and other costs, related to the bee colonies - value of preventive treatments against varroaosis, costs of bee feeding, number of destroyed bee colonies, mobile beekeeping and honey storage.

The questionnaire consists of 22 questions and covers administrative information about the holding, legal status, registration number of the apiary according to Ordinance No. 10 of April 1, 2015 on the conditions for registration and the procedure for bee colonies identification, number of bee colonies, quantity and sale of honey production, production costs and costs related to the storage of honey.

Scope, model and volume of the sample - the sample (stratified and random) is prepared using a list of holdings breeding bee colonies from the Census of agricultural holdings in Bulgaria in 2020 and new holdings created after 2020, information, obtained from the farmers' register under Ordinance No. 3/1999. 3 671 holdings breeding bee colonies are surveyed. The organization and control of the survey is carried out by the Agrostistics Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Confidentiality – the national confidentiality rules are defined in the Statistics Act. According to Art. 25 individual statistical data as well as statistical information that summarizes data for less than three statistical units or for an aggregate, in which the relative share of the value of a studied parameter of one unit is over 85 percent of the total value of this parameter for all units of the population, cannot be disclosed or provided.

Accessibility and transparency - the data on the number of bee colonies, destroyed bee colonies during the year, on the amount of bee honey production and the honey sales are available to users on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food: <https://www.mzh.government.bg/bg/statistika-i-analizi/izsledvane-zhivotnovdstvo/danni/>, in accordance with the deadline established in the National Statistical Program and in the Calendar for the dissemination of the results of the statistical surveys conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Distribution of administrative districts by statistical region (NUTS 2) – Severozapaden: Vidin, Vratsa, Montana, Lovech, Pleven; **Severen tsentralen:** Veliko Tarnovo, Gabrovo, Ruse, Silistra, Razgrad; **Severoiztochen:** Varna, Dobrich, Targovishte, Shumen; **Yugoiztochen:** Burgas, Sliven, Stara Zagora, Yambol; **Yugozapaden:** Blagoevgrad, Kyustendil, Pernik, Sofia-cap., Sofia region; **Yuzhen tsentralen:** Kardzhali, Pazardzhik, Plovdiv, Smolyan, Haskovo.

The publication is editorially completed on 26 February 2026

Composition and printing: Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Contacts: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Agrostistics Department

E-mail: agrostat@mzh.government.bg

Ministry of Agriculture and Food website:

<http://www.mzh.government.bg>