

Honey Price Index [No. 1]

The appended schedules detail the STANDARD SELLING PRICES for average-grade honeys and apply following the release of honey sales from Government Price Fixation:—

DEFINITIONS.

“Bulk Honey” means honey sold in containers of not less than 20lbs. net weight and includes honey supplied in customers’ own containers:

“Packer” means a wholesaler who sells to another wholesaler honey packed in retail containers, and includes a producer who sells to a wholesaler honey packed in retail containers as aforesaid:

“Producer” means a beekeeper whose apiary is registered pursuant to the Apairies Act, 1927:

“Retail container” means a jar, carton, or tin supplied by the vendor of the honey and containing not more than 10lb. net weight of honey.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

BULK HONEY PRICES

1. Sold by a Producer to a Consumer —
 - (a) In lots of over 60lbs. 1/3d. per lb.
 - (b) In lots of 60lbs. or less
but more than 20lbs. 1/4d. per lb.
 - (c) In lots of 20lbs. or less 1/6d. per lb.
2. Sold by a Producer to a Packer,
Wholesaler or Retailer — 1/3d. per lb.
3. Sold by a Wholesaler (not including
a Producer) to a Retailer — ... 1/4d per lb.
4. Sold by a Retailer — 1/6d. per lb.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

PRICES OF HONEY PACKED IN RETAIL CONTAINERS

Size and Kind of Container	Packers’ Price to Wholesaler	Wholesalers’ (including Packers’) Price to Retailer	Retailers’ (including Packers’) Price to Consumer
	per dozen. s. d.	per dozen. s. d.	s. d.
½lb. Cartons	12 3	13 6	1 4 per carton
12oz. Glass Jars	21 6	23 9	2 4 per jar
1lb. Glass Jars	25 6	28 0	2 9 per jar
1lb. Cartons	21 6	23 9	2 4½ per carton
20oz. Glass Jars	29 0	32 0	3 2 per jar
24oz. Glass Jars	35 0	38 9	3 10 per jar
2lb. Glass Jars	45 3	49 9	4 11 per jar

A Return to Free Marketing— Its Advantages and Obligations.

(A special article by John McFadzien—Editor N.Z. Beekeeper.)

The announcement that price control on honey has been lifted opens up a new prospect for the beekeeping industry in New Zealand. It is a prospect which brings both opportunities and responsibilities and will not only benefit producers themselves but also improve the service they can give to the community.

For some years the Price Order has imposed an irksome restriction on the marketing of honey and its removal follows a pressing application to the Minister of Industries and Commerce from the National Beekeepers' Association and the Honey Marketing Authority. There have been persistent anomalies in the Price Schedule which have seriously impeded the flow of honey through certain channels of distribution and the fixed price level has been unfair to producers owing to the difficulties and delays in having it adjusted to meet rising costs. The controls may have had some justification in a war-time economy but there is surely no necessity now for a system which provided only a ceiling price with no guarantee of stability to the producer.

With the return to a free market producers will have the opportunity of securing a return sufficient to give them a fair standard of living and to enable them to employ labour at current wage rates. In addition they will be encouraged to supply honey through all the different avenues of trade and enjoy freedom to develop particular lines according to the needs of the market.

The desirable goal of price stability is something that can be achieved by beekeepers themselves. To this end we now have a well established Marketing Authority with the regulating factor of the Seal Levy, and this provides both a permanent outlet for those who produce bulk honey and a means of removing surplus honey from a delicate market. For the guidance of those who choose to market their own honey, a Price Index will be published from time to time in which due allowance will be made for fluctuations in production, packing and distribution costs in order to allow a fair and reasonable reward to the producer. Beekeeping, we hope, is now a responsible primary industry and it behoves producers to support their organisation by adhering to these recognised price levels and by maintaining a reliable and consistent quality in their honey.

The prospect for the future is one which should be welcomed by any healthy and vigorous industry. Our production methods have reached a good standard of efficiency and if producers will adopt a responsible and co-operative attitude to marketing, their economic welfare should be reasonably secure.