

Scottish Honey Survey Results 2025

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After a successful restart of the Scottish Honey Survey in 2024*, following several years of absence, the same survey was conducted in 2025 to see what changes occurred to yields and pricing of honey across Scotland.

The survey aimed to record information on the yields and prices of honey harvested in 2025 among hobbyist beekeepers in Scotland, not limited to SBA members. The survey was anonymous, only recording the region (postcode area) of the respondent. The questions were divided into 3 broad categories:

- 1. About the beekeeper** – region, number of hives, hive type.
- 2. Prices** – for different types of honey by the jar, and also in bulk.
- 3. Yields** – for different types of honey.

2025 was an unusual year weather-wise, with a cold spring, hot, dry summer (with a noticeable June gap in many areas) and late summer and heather flows for some as well. As such, we might have expected the results to be noticeably different from the previous year.

This year we received 281 responses (2 more than in 2024) with responses from every region except Shetland.

The tables accompanying the article are hopefully self-explanatory – with all results having been standardised to price-per-lb or lbs-per-hive yield, to keep things simple. However, there are some interesting observations to be made:

Postcode Area	Price	Responses
AB Aberdeen	£10.58	17
DD Dundee	£9.78	4
DG Dumfries & Galloway	£9.58	13
EH Edinburgh	£11.82	31
FK Falkirk & Stirling	£10.35	13
G Glasgow	£12.01	13
HS Hebrides		0
IV Inverness	£13.07	25
KA Kilmarnock	£10.49	13
KW Orkney	£12.85	10
KY Kirkcaldy	£10.38	11
ML Motherwell	£15.00	3
PA Paisley	£12.84	13
PH Perth	£9.24	7
TD Scottish Borders	£10.14	5
Average	£11.43	

Table 1: Runny Honey Prices per lb (178 total responses)

Postcode Area	Price	Responses
AB Aberdeen	£10.78	6
DD Dundee	£11.73	3
DG Dumfries & Galloway	£14.09	4
EH Edinburgh	£14.29	9
FK Falkirk & Stirling	£13.00	2
G Glasgow		0
HS Hebrides		0
IV Inverness	£15.32	11
KA Kilmarnock	£10.00	1
KW Orkney	£13.50	3
KY Kirkcaldy	£6.68	1
ML Motherwell		0
PA Paisley	£18.00	3
PH Perth	£11.68	2
TD Scottish Borders	£13.23	3
Average	£13.62	

Table 2: Heather (ling) Honey Prices per lb (48 total responses)

The price for honey remains variable across Scotland, with Perth and Dundee significantly cheaper than other areas. Prices in Edinburgh and Glasgow were higher as you might expect, but there is definitely scope for other areas to review their pricing! The prices for runny and set honeys were comparable, with slight differences (up or down) depending on region. This may reflect more on small sample sizes than any real difference in the market for these products. Heather continues to attract a premium, as expected, though as last year, pound-for-pound jarred heather honey prices were often much lower than cut comb.

Postcode Area	Yield	Responses
AB Aberdeen	26.94	15
DD Dundee	13.72	4
DG Dumfries & Galloway	19.67	12
EH Edinburgh	19.40	34
FK Falkirk & Stirling	25.20	16
G Glasgow	20.60	16
HS Hebrides	2.20	1
IV Inverness	17.56	21
KA Kilmarnock	17.52	12
KW Orkney	36.65	9
KY Kirkcaldy	28.38	10
ML Motherwell	6.25	2
PA Paisley	16.92	11
PH Perth	15.28	9
TD Scottish Borders	28.66	5
Average	21.25	

Table 3: Runny Honey Average Yield (177 total responses)

Postcode Area	Yield	Responses
AB Aberdeen	15.08	3
DD Dundee	10.48	3
DG Dumfries & Galloway	10.91	4
EH Edinburgh	9.13	7
FK Falkirk & Stirling	2.10	2
G Glasgow		0
HS Hebrides		0
IV Inverness	12.74	11
KA Kilmarnock		0
KW Orkney	18.17	2
KY Kirkcaldy		0
ML Motherwell		0
PA Paisley	2.55	3
PH Perth	17.03	4
TD Scottish Borders	1.25	1
Average	11.05	

Table 4: Heather Honey Average Yield (40 responses)

The average yield for runny honey across Scotland was 21.25lbs – almost identical to 2024. This suggests that the unusual season was more of an issue for beekeepers than for bees! Heather honey yields were up 8.4lbs vs 11.05. Baker’s honey yields were slightly down – since most baker’s honey is related to

water content, this too may have been a result of the dry weather. It is worth noting that although many respondents reported having baker's honey, only one reported selling it. Either there is an untapped market here, or there are a lot of bottles of mead in cupboards!

The average number of hives increased slightly, from 5.5 to 6.3; however, the most common number was 2, and most responses were under 10, indicating most producers are very small-scale. A small number of respondents reported 30-60 hives (with one outlier at 150), but these were very much the minority.,

The majority of beekeepers are using National Hives, with around three-quarters using wood versus one-quarter using polystyrene. However, there was no correlation between hive type, hive material or number of hives with overall yield.

The data from this survey has been shared with the Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services Division (RESAS) of the Scottish Government. Their work feeds into the development of Environmental, Agricultural and Economic policies in Scotland and the UK, allowing the contributions and interests of the hobbyist beekeeping sector in Scotland to be considered.

Many thanks to those who responded, and we look forward to repeating the survey for the 2026 honey harvest in the spring of 2027. Please encourage other beekeepers you know to take part, since the more responses we have, the better a picture we can get.

If anyone wishes to provide any feedback on the survey, or would like access to the raw results data for their own analysis, please get in touch at beehealth@scottishbeekeepers.org.uk