

COMMODITIES

Virginia Ag Facts



Cash receipts	\$ millions
1. Broiler chickens	622.8
2. Beef cattle and calves	373.2
3. Milk (wholesale)	331.9
4. Turkeys	284.6
5. Soybeans	164.4
6. Equine*	107.0
7. Corn for grain	93.9
8. Tobacco	78.4
9. Chicken eggs	77.3
10. Hay	71.5
11. Hogs	62.6
12. Aquaculture	52.9
13. Tomatoes	51.5
14. Cotton	51.1
15. Winter wheat	40.0
16. Apples	33.3
17. Summer potatoes	11.7
18. Grapes	11.0
19. Barley	9.5
20. Peanuts	7.3
21. Sheep and lambs	5.6
22. Snap beans	5.5
23. Freestone peaches	3.8
24. Cabbage	3.0
25. Watermelon	2.6
26. Sweet corn	1.2

—National Agricultural Statistics Service (Most recent figures, 2010)

*according to the 2006 Equine Survey conducted by NASS

Percent of income spent on food

Country	% of income
United States	9.8
France	13.7
Japan	14.6
Mexico	24.2
China	34.9
Philippines	37.3
Indonesia	45.7

Of the 9.8 percent of disposable income Americans spend on food, an average of 5.7 percent is spent on food eaten at home and 4.1 percent is spent on goods eaten away from home.

—United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, 2008

Virginia agriculture

Agriculture is Virginia's largest and oldest industry. It's been the backbone of the state economy for nearly four centuries.

The average age of a Virginia farmer is 58 years.

The average farm generates \$61,334 worth of sales.

The average size of a Virginia farm is 171 acres.

The average acre value of farmland and buildings is \$5,000.

Virginia boasts 47,383 farms, which cover approximately 8.1 million acres.

—2007 Census of Agriculture (Most recent Census available) & 2008 NASS figures

U.S. farmers and agriculture

Agriculture is the nation's largest employer, with more than 21 million people working in some phase—from growing food and fiber, to selling it at the supermarket. This represents about 15 percent of the total U.S. workforce.

There are about 2.2 million farms in the United States. Total land in farms was estimated at 922 million acres in 2007, compared to 1.01 billion acres in 1978.

The average size of U.S. farms in 2007 was 418 acres, compared to 441 acres in 2002 and 431 acres in 1997.

More than 922 million acres in the United States are devoted to farming, either as cropland, pasture or timberland or for aquaculture.

About 98 percent of all U.S. farms are owned by individuals, family partnerships or family corporations. Just 1 percent of America's farms and ranches are owned by non-family corporations.

Each U.S. farmer produces food and fiber for 143 people in the United States and abroad.

—2007 Census of Agriculture & FFA.org



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