

COMMODITIES

Virginia Ag Facts



Cash receipts	\$ millions
1. Chickens (broilers)	563.2
2. Beef (cattle and calves)	396.0
3. Milk (wholesale)	371.1
4. Turkeys	271.2
5. Greenhouse/nursery	256.5
6. Corn for grain	152.6
7. Wheat (winter)	135.4
8. Soybeans	134.1
9. Equine*	107.0
10. Tobacco	82.8
11. Chicken eggs	77.1
12. Hogs	61.8
13. Hay	55.8
14. Aquaculture	53.5
15. Tomatoes	50.9
16. Cotton	36.3
17. Apples	30.4
18. Potatoes, summer	22.7
19. Peanuts	13.5
20. Grapes	10.4
21. Snap beans	6.3
22. Sheep and lambs	4.9
23. Sweet corn	4.2
24. Barley	3.7
25. Peaches	3.4

—National Agricultural Statistics Service (Most recent figures, 2008)

*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.

There are about 2.2 million principal U.S. farm operators; more than 300,000 are women. The average farmer is 57 years old.

—2007 Census of Agriculture & FFA.org



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