

Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy

Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia, Chair

California Agriculture

California's 76,400 farms and ranches received approximately \$53.4 billion for their output in 2014. This represents an increase of 5.1% over 2013. California remains the leading U.S. state in cash farm receipts with combined commodities representing nearly 13% of the U.S. total.

California's agricultural output includes more than 400 commodities. The state provides over one-third of the country's vegetables and two-thirds of the country's fruits and nuts. The dairy industry, California's leading commodity in cash receipts, generated a record \$9.36 billion for milk production in 2014, up 23% from 2013, and 22% above the record year of 2011.

In 2014, 76,400 farms operated in California (3.7% of the national total) on approximately 25.5 million acres. The number state farm operations were down 1.9%. Nearly 27% of California farms generated commodity sales over \$100,000, which was more than 20% of the national average. Statically, the average farm size increased in 2014 from 327 to 334 acres, which is below the national average of 438 acres.

California's Top 10 Valued Commodities (2014)

1. Milk - \$9.3 billion
2. Almonds - \$5.8 billion
3. Grapes - \$5.2 billion
4. Cattle and Calves - \$3.7 billion
5. Strawberries - \$2.4 billion
6. Lettuce - \$2.0 billion
7. Walnuts - \$1.8 billion
8. Tomatoes - \$1.6 billion
9. Pistachios - \$1.5 billion
10. Hay - \$1.3 billion

Top Agriculture Producing Counties in 2014: Tulare (\$8.0 billion); Kern (\$7.5 billion); Fresno (\$7.0 billion); Monterey (\$4.5 billion); Merced (\$4.4 billion); Stanislaus (\$4.4 billion); San Joaquin (\$3.2 billion); Kings (\$2.4 billion); Madera (\$2.2 billion); and Ventura (\$2.1 billion).

The dominance of California counties is clearly demonstrated by the following selection of county highlights. Tulare leads the state in milk and cream production, providing 27% of total state production. San Diego produces 24% of state nursery products. Fresno produces nearly 50% and Merced 26% of California chickens. Monterey produces 70% of California lettuce, followed by Imperial with nearly 8%. Tulare produces 62% of all California oranges.

National Cash Crop Leader: California has the most productive land in the world and has historically led the nation in crop receipts. In 2014, U.S. crop receipts were \$421.9 billion. Receipts from California crops were \$53.4 billion with other top agricultural production states including Iowa (\$30.9 billion); Nebraska (\$24.9 billion); Texas (\$24.7 billion); and Minnesota (\$18.8 billion).

National Commodity Leader: California led the nation in over 70 crop and livestock commodities in 2014. In 13 areas, California produces 99-100% of these crops: Almonds, artichokes, dates, figs, grapes/raisins, kiwifruit, olives, Clingstone peaches, pistachios, dried plums, pomegranates, sweet rice, Ladino Clover seed, and walnuts.

Notable Changes in the Value of Commodity Production in 2014

Increases in California Value of Production	Decreases in California Value of Production
Onions, Processing..... 117%	Corn for Grain.....-60%
Onions, Summer Storage 104%	Wheat, All-50%
Plums..... 66%	Cherries, Sweet-47%
Raspberries, All..... 65%	Barley.....-49%
Peaches, Freestone 62%	Olives-46%
Peppers, Chile 61%	Celery.....-34%
Nectarines 44%	Asparagus.....-30%
Cabbage, Fresh..... 44%	Potatoes, Spring-29%
Oranges, Navel & Misc..... 34%	Rice, All-28%
Sunflower, Non-Oil..... 30%	Cottonseed.....-27%

Source: CDFA Agricultural Statistical Overview California Agricultural Statistics Review 2014-2015

Drought Impacts: On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a statewide drought emergency. By many indicators, 2014 and 2015 created increasingly harsh conditions for California agriculture. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of December 29, 2015, over 95% of California’s agricultural sector had experienced severe, extreme, or exceptional drought, with the livestock sector more directly exposed to exceptional drought than the crop sectors. The U.S. Drought Monitor, however, only measures drought impacts based on local weather. There are many other factors, such as surface water availability, groundwater access and cost, irrigation technology choice, crop insurance enrollment, livestock feed availability, and water rights, that affect the impact of an ongoing drought. A 2015 U.C. Davis report, based on 2014 and earlier data, estimates that direct costs of the drought on agriculture was \$1.8 million with a total economic impact of \$2.7 million. Direct job losses were estimated to be 10,100, with a total impact of 21,000 jobs.

California Exports: In 2014, California exported \$21.59 billion in agricultural exports, which represents approximately 12% of all exports (\$173.8 billion) in the state by dollar value. As a percentage of the total U.S. agricultural exports, California’s share represents 14.3%—slightly less than the 14.9% reported the previous year. California's top 10 agriculture export destinations include: the European Union (Germany and Spain ranking 1st and 2nd); Canada, China/Hong Kong; Japan, Mexico, Korea; India; United Arab Emirates; Turkey; and Vietnam. These 10 markets accounted for 69% of the 2014 export value. For 2014, India showed the largest growth in total export value compared to the previous year at 19.1%.

California Export Value for Agricultural Commodities				
2014 Rank	Product	Export Value in Million Dollars		Change in Export Value 2013 to 2014 (Percent)
		2013	2014	
1	Almonds	\$4,166	\$4,532	9
2	Dairy and products	2,409	2,425	1
3	Walnuts	1,380	1,448	5
4	Wine	1,453	1,392	-4
5	Pistachios	1,244	1,125	-10
6	Table Grapes	927	890	-4
7	Tomatoes, processed	686	776	13
8	Rice	704	714	1
9	Oranges and Products	676	575	-15
10	Raisins	382	410	7
11	Strawberries	394	408	4
12	Beef and products	436	404	-7
13	Cotton	573	379	-34
14	Lettuce	377	337	-11
15	Seeds	320	324	1
	Total Agricultural Exports in 2014 from all sources (including those above)	\$21,551	\$21,590	0

National Export Leader: California provided more than 90% of total U.S. exports in 2014 in the following commodities: Processed tomatoes (94%); wine (92.7%); table grapes (100%); raisins (100%); dried plums (100%); plums (98.3%); kiwi (100%); dates (100%) olives and olive oil (100%); tangerines and mandarins (90%); figs (100%); almonds (100%); walnuts (100%); pistachios(100%); broccoli (96.4%); garlic (100%); and artichokes (100%).

This document was prepared by the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy and is based on information from the California Department of Food and Agriculture annual statistical report, <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/statistics/> accessed 6/30/16.