Fast Facts on California's Agricultural Economy<br>Compiled by: Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy Jose Medina, Chair

California is one of only five agricultural regions in the world that has a Mediterranean growing climate, producing over 400 commodities, more than any other state in the nation. ${ }^{1}$ California agricultural production was valued at $\$ 46.7$ billion in 2013, ${ }^{2}$ accounting for $17.3 \%$ of total U.S. agricultural output. ${ }^{3}$

## California Agriculture

- The agriculture sector of the U.S. economy grew more rapidly than any other sector in 2013 and accounted for $1.6 \%$ of the country's GDP. ${ }^{5}$
- California is the country's largest agricultural producer and exporter.
Agricultural products were one of California's top 5 exports in 2013, totaling $\$ 13.7$ billion in exports, a $\$ 1.8$ billion $(15 \%)$ increase from the previous year. ${ }^{6}$

| Cash Income by Commodity Groups <br> $(2012)^{4}$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Source of Income |  |  |  | Total | \% of Cash Income |
| Fruits and Nut Crops | $\$ 17.2$ million | $35.9 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Livestock, Poultry and Products | $\$ 12.1$ million | $25.4 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Vegetable Crops | $\$ 6.7$ million | $14.2 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Field Crops | $\$ 5.02$ million | $10.5 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Nursery, Greenhouse and Floriculture | $\$ 3.5$ million | $7.4 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Farm Related Income | $\$ 3.2$ million | $6.7 \%$ |  |  |  |
|  | Source: USDA National Ag Statistics |  |  |  |  |

- California's value of agricultural output was $\$ 46.7$ billion in $2013,{ }^{7}$ with total U.S. output valued at $\$ 269.1$ billion. ${ }^{8}$
- California accounted for $15 \%$ of national cash receipts for crops in 2012 and $7.1 \%$ of the U.S. revenue for livestock and livestock products. ${ }^{9}$
- The top 5 counties for agricultural sales in 2012 were: Fresno County ( $\$ 4.9$ million); Tulare County ( $\$ 4$ million); Kern County ( $\$ 3.9$ million); Monterey County ( $\$ 2.97$ million); and Merced County ( $\$ 2.96$ million). ${ }^{10}$


## Job Creation

- California agriculture employed an estimated 348,900 people in 2013. ${ }^{11}$
- The agriculture value chain accounts for nearly 3 million jobs in California. ${ }^{12}$
- In 2011, agriculture support was the largest component of the value chain with 1.4 million jobs. This includes activities related to agriculture including farming, veterinary services, implement manufacturing, irrigation, and technical consulting. Other agriculture employers by sector were: Agriculture Distribution ( 585,014 jobs); Agriculture Processing (226,216 jobs); and Agriculture Production (206,303 jobs). ${ }^{13}$
- In 2011, there was an estimated combined five-year growth of 181,740 total new jobs for California's economy, with an average of 36,348 new jobs in agriculture annually. ${ }^{14}$
- The San Joaquin Valley supports more agricultural jobs than any other sector in California, providing 183,700 jobs in 2013. Agricultural employment by region includes: Sacramento Valley (22,200 jobs); Desert Valley (28,400 jobs); South Coast ( 59,900 ); Central Coast ( 43,400 jobs); and the North Coast $(11,300) .{ }^{15}$


## California Drought

- California's three-year drought is expected to result in a 6.6 million acre-foot reduction in surface water. ${ }^{16}$
- The statewide economic cost of the 2014 drought is estimated at $\$ 2.2$ billion, with a total loss of 17,100 seasonal and part-time jobs. ${ }^{17}$
- The Central Valley, where many of the nation's fruits and nuts are grown, is the area expected to be most severely affected by net water shortages. ${ }^{18}$
- As many as 410,000 acres of row and feed crops will not be planted due to loss of water. ${ }^{19}$
- The resulting net water shortage of 1.6 million acre-feet is anticipated to cause losses of $\$ 810$ million in crop revenue and $\$ 203$ million in dairy and other livestock value, with additional groundwater pumping costing up to $\$ 454$ million. ${ }^{20}$


## California Farms

- In 2012, 80,500 farms operated in California, 3.7\% of the national total. ${ }^{21}$
- During 2012, California devoted 25.4 million acres to farming and ranching, ${ }^{22}$ producing nearly two-thirds of U.S. grown fruits and nuts and over a third of U.S. grown vegetables. ${ }^{23}$
- California remained the number one state in cash farm receipts in 2012 , representing $11 \%$ of the U.S. total. ${ }^{24}$


## Agricultural Commodities

- California's agricultural production includes more than 400 commodities, primarily comprised of specialty crops including almonds, grapes, and strawberries. ${ }^{25}$
- California's top 20 crop and livestock commodities accounted for more than $\$ 36.4$ billion in 2012 and 11 commodities exceeded $\$ 1$ billion in value that same year. ${ }^{26}$
- In 2012, the cash receipts of 13 of the top 20 commodities increased in value from the previous year, including milk and cream, grapes, almonds, and cattle. ${ }^{27}$
- California's top-ten valued commodities for 2012 were: Milk ( $\$ 6.9$ billion); Grapes ( $\$ 4.4$ billion); Almonds ( $\$ 4.3$ billion); Nursery plants ( $\$ 3.5$ billion); Cattle, Calves ( $\$ 3.2$ billion); Strawberries ( $\$ 1.9$ billion); Lettuce ( $\$ 1.4$ billion); Walnuts ( $\$ 1.3$ billion); Hay ( $\$ 1.2$ billion); and Tomatoes ( $\$ 1.17$ billion). ${ }^{28}$


## Livestock and Dairy

- California's total livestock and livestock products cash receipts were $\$ 12.2$ billion in 2012, with livestock and poultry accounting for $27 \%$ of the state's gross cash receipts. ${ }^{29}$
- California accounts for $7.1 \%$ for total U.S. livestock cash receipts, ranking third behind Iowa and Texas. ${ }^{30}$
- California leads the nation in milk production, with dairies from California producing 41.2 billion pounds of milk in 2013, a $1.3 \%$ decrease from the previous year. ${ }^{31}$
- California accounts for nearly $21 \%$ of the
 nation's milk supply. ${ }^{32}$
- California ranked number one in the U.S. in the production of fluid milk, butter and nonfat dry milk and was second in total cheese production in 2012. ${ }^{33}$
- California's dairy sector received $\$ 6.9$ billion for their milk production, a $10 \%$ decrease from the previous year ( 7.68 billion). ${ }^{34}$
- In 2013, 33 counties contributed to California's milk production. The top five milk-producing counties were: Tulare (27.5\%); Merced (15\%); Stanislaus (10.5\%); Kings (10.3\%); and Kern (9.9\%). ${ }^{35}$
- California places $5^{\text {th }}$ among top egg producing states in the country that represent more than half of all U.S. hens, producing 425 million eggs in 2013. ${ }^{36}$
- Top producing counties of eggs include San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, and Kern counties. ${ }^{37}$


## Fruit and Nut Crops

- In 2012, the total U.S. export value of fruit products totaled $\$ 7.9$ billion, with California accounting for $59.9 \%$ of U.S. total exports. ${ }^{38}$
- The nation's largest fruit producing states are California, Florida, and Washington, with California accounting for over half of the harvested fruit acreage in the country. ${ }^{39}$
- California's total value of all fruits and nuts was $\$ 18.7$ billion in 2012 , up $20 \%$ from the previous year. ${ }^{40}$
- California accounts for $65 \%$ of the U.S. non-citrus fruit and nut production and $73 \%$ of the national value. ${ }^{41}$
- The state produced 16.7 million tons of fruits and nuts in $2012,52 \%$ of the national total. ${ }^{42}$
- California's increase in its sales value of products for 2012 was led by the grape industry which generated $\$ 4.45$ billion in cash receipts, up $15 \%$ from the previous year. ${ }^{43}$
- California grapes accounted for over $90 \%$ of utilized grape production for the U.S. in 2012. ${ }^{44}$
- California is the number one producer of almonds and pistachios in the world, producing over $80 \%$ of the world's almonds and around $40 \%$ of the world's pistachios in 2012. ${ }^{45}$


## Vegetable Production

- In 2012, the total U.S. export value of vegetables totaled $\$ 1.6$ billion, with California accounting for $63.3 \%$ of exports. ${ }^{46}$
- California accounted for $44 \%$ of the U.S harvested area in 2012, continuing as the leading fresh market vegetable producing state. ${ }^{47}$
- California led the nation in processing vegetable production in 2012, with $25 \%$ of the U.S harvested acreage, $70 \%$ of the national production and $51 \%$ of the total value. ${ }^{48}$
- Total value of California's 2012 fresh and processing vegetable and melon production was $\$ 6.8$ billion, down $0.4 \%$ from the previous year ( $\$ 7.2$ billion). ${ }^{49}$
- Crops that had notable value increases were: Chile peppers (39\%); artichokes (13\%); broccoli (13\%); pumpkins ( $12 \%$ ); and bell peppers ( $11 \%$ ). ${ }^{50}$


## Field Crops

- In 2012, the total U.S. export value of field crops totaled $\$ 28.4$ billion, with California accounting for $10.2 \%$ of exports. ${ }^{51}$
- The total value of California field crop production in 2012 was $\$ 5.43$ billion, down $7.95 \%$ from the previous year. ${ }^{52}$
- Field crops are any crops other than fruits or vegetables that are grown for agricultural purposes. These include cotton, corn, hay, rice, and grain.
- California produced approximately 6.65 million tons of alfalfa hay in 2012, valued at $\$ 1.38$ billion. ${ }^{53}$
- The total value of rice production in California was $\$ 771$ million in 2012 , declining $14 \%$ from the previous year. ${ }^{54}$
- Corn for grain production in California totaled $\$ 235$ million for 2012, a $32 \%$ increase from $2011 .{ }^{55}$


## Floriculture

- In 2012, California's floriculture crops led the nation in sales with a total value of $\$ 974$ million, comprising $24.4 \%$ of the U.S. total wholesale value in 2012. ${ }^{56}$
- Floriculture is the cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants. California leads the country in potted flowering plant value, with a total value of $\$ 245$ million wholesale. ${ }^{57}$
- California was the leader in cut flower production, with a value of $\$ 261$ million for 2012. ${ }^{58}$


## Exports and Imports

- In 2013, the total amount of agriculture and livestock products exported from California to the world totaled $\$ 13.7$ billion. ${ }^{59}$
- Tree nuts were the number one agricultural export for California in 2012 with a total value of $\$ 5.5$ billion. ${ }^{60}$
- Almond exports were the top commodity from California in 2012, with a value of $\$ 3.39$ billion in foreign sales. ${ }^{61}$
- Dairy and dairy products ranked second in California exports with a value of $\$ 1.31$ billion. ${ }^{62}$
- Fruit and nut exports accounted for over $50 \%$ of the value of all California agricultural products in 2013. ${ }^{63}$
- In 2013, the top countries to receive agriculture exports from California were: Canada ( $\$ 2.6$ billion); Hong Kong ( $\$ 1.29$ billion); China ( $\$ 1.21$ billion); Japan ( $\$ 1.02$ billion); South Korea ( $\$ 694$ million); and Mexico ( $\$ 647$ million). ${ }^{64}$
- In 2013, California imported $\$ 10.8$ billion agriculture and livestock products. The top import countries to California were: Mexico ( $\$ 3.2$ billion); China ( $\$ 877$ million); Vietnam ( $\$ 719$ million); Chile ( $\$ 702$ million); and Ecuador (\$557 million). ${ }^{65}$

| California Agricultural <br> Export Values |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Year | Export Value <br> (\$Billions) |
| 2013 | $\$ 13.7$ |
| 2012 | $\$ 18.18$ |
| 2011 | $\$ 16.77$ |
| 2010 | $\$ 14.75$ |
| 2009 | $\$ 12.44$ |
| 2008 | $\$ 12.90$ |
| 2007 | $\$ 11.17$ |
| 2006 | $\$ 9.82$ |
| 2005 | $\$ 9.37$ |
| 2004 | $\$ 8.24$ |
| 2003 | $\$ 7.50$ |
| 2002 | $\$ 6.55$ |
| Source: California Ag Statistics |  |
| Review |  |

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