

Vegetable Production

U.S. vegetable sales up 44% since 2017; farms growing vegetables down



ACH22-14/August 2024

U.S. vegetable sales (including melons) in 2022 were \$28.2 billion, 5.2% of total U.S. agriculture sales. This was an increase of \$8.6 billion, or 44%, since 2017, the last time the Census of Agriculture was conducted. The acreage for vegetables declined a little over 1% from 4.4 million acres in 2017 to 4.3 million acres in 2022, while the number of farms that grew vegetables decreased 6.5%. Vegetable producers on average were younger than U.S. producers overall.

69,452 farms



4.3 million acres



\$28.2 billion sales



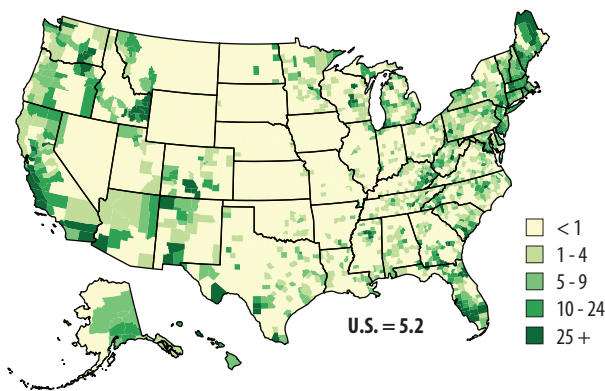
Number and Location

Ten states accounted for 78% of U.S. vegetable sales in 2022, with California alone accounting for 41%. Four of the top five U.S. counties in vegetable sales were in California, with Monterey County accounting for 13% of the U.S. total sales and one third of California's. With \$3.8 billion in vegetable sales, Monterey County had more vegetable sales than any state except California.

Farms produce vegetables for the fresh market and for processing, which refers to altering the commodity by heat, pressure, or freezing. Some farms produce for both markets, others specialize in one or the other. In 2022, of the 69,452 farms that produced vegetables, 64,075 farms grew fresh market vegetables and 11,828 farms grew vegetables for processing. The number of vegetable farms in 2017 was 74,276.

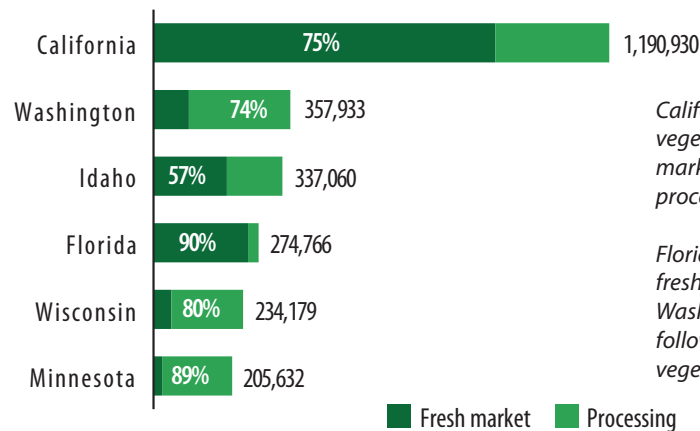
With 1.2 million harvested vegetable acres in 2022, California had the largest total acreage for both fresh market and processing vegetables.

Vegetable Sales as Percent of Agriculture Sales, by County, 2022



Top States	(\$ mil)
California	11,671.9
Florida	1,924.1
Washington	1,873.0
Idaho	1,597.0
Arizona	1,432.1
Wisconsin	764.0
Oregon	733.1
Michigan	706.3
North Carolina	697.0
Georgia	681.3

Top States in Vegetable Harvested Acres, 2022 (total acres and fresh market/processing shares)



California ranked first in both vegetable categories: fresh market (891,345 acres) and processing (299,584 acres).

Florida and Idaho followed in fresh market vegetables, and Washington and Wisconsin followed in processing vegetables.

SNAPSHOT Vegetable Producers, 2022

Number = 79,423*

	Vegetable (percent)	All U.S. (percent)
Sex		
Male	61	64
Female	39	36
Age		
<35	12	9
35 - 64	58	53
65+	30	38
Years farming		
10 or less	41	30
11 or more	59	70
Lived on their farm	72	70
Worked off farm		
No days	37	38
1 to 199 days	28	22
200+ days	35	40
Primary occupation		
Farming	51	42
Other	49	58
With military service	8	9
Race		
American Ind/Alaska Native	3.3	1.7
Asian	3.8	0.7
Black/African American	3.7	1.2
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Isl	0.3	0.1
White	87.5	95.4
More than one race	1.4	0.9
Hispanic	4.9	3.3
Average age (years)	54.4	58.1

* Producers on 41,793 specialized vegetable farms as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). More than half of a farm's sales came from growing vegetables and melons, producing vegetable and melon seeds, or growing vegetable and melon bedding plants. Data collected for up to four producers per farm.

About the Census

The Census of Agriculture, conducted once every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. Results from the 2022 and earlier censuses are available at national, state, and county levels.

See the searchable database Quick Stats, downloadable PDF reports, maps, and a variety of topic-specific products.

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

Producer Characteristics

Producers on farms specializing in vegetable production were, on average, younger (54.4 years) than U.S. producers overall (58.1 years). They were more likely to be relatively new farmers (41% had been farming 10 years or fewer) than U.S. producers overall (30%) and more likely to have farming as their primary occupation (51% versus 42%). Thirty-nine percent were female, compared with 36% for all U.S. producers.

41 The percent of vegetable producers who had farmed for 10 or fewer years.

Farm Characteristics

Thirty-eight percent of farms specializing in vegetable production had sales and government payments of less than \$10,000 in 2022. Forty-one percent had sales and payments ranging from \$10,000 to \$99,999 compared with 27% of all farms.

Economic Class (sales and government payments)	Vegetable Farms (percent of total)	All Farms
< \$10,000	38	52
\$10,000 - \$99,999	41	27
\$100,000 - \$499,999	10	11
\$500,000 - \$999,999	3	4
\$1,000,000 +	8	6

\$21.9 billion

The total production expenses of farms specializing in vegetable production.

Average Farm

On average, farms specializing in vegetable production had fewer acres than U.S. farms overall, but higher sales, greater production expenses, and higher net income.

	Vegetable Farms	All Farms
Avg. acres	229	463
Avg. sales	\$688,943	\$285,762
Avg. government payments	\$53,302	\$21,599
Avg. expenses	\$523,790	\$223,175
Avg. net cash farm income	\$184,320	\$79,790

Top Vegetables

Of the top vegetables, potatoes ranked first in 2022 harvested acres overall (1.1 million acres) and first in harvested acres for both the fresh market (476,117 acres) and the processing (600,169 acres) categories.

	Harvested Acres
Potatoes	1,076,285
Sweet corn	467,542
Tomatoes grown in the open	323,808
Snap beans	206,030
Sweet potatoes	168,052
Onions, dry	166,166
Green peas	149,645
Broccoli	147,485
Lettuce, head	142,488
Watermelons	142,389
Lettuce, romaine	133,199

Among Vegetable Farms

 **82%** Had internet access

 **33%** Hired farm labor

 **93%** Were family farms

 **61%** Had net positive income