

Producers with Military Service

Fifteen percent of farms had a producer who had served or was serving in the U.S. Armed Forces



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In 2022, the United States had 305,753 producers who had served or were serving in the military, a decline of 18% from the previous ag census in 2017. Producers with military service accounted for 9% of the country's 3.4 million producers. Fifteen percent of farms had a producer who had served or was currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Farms with a producer with military service were smaller than average, in both acres and sales.

305,753
producers



108,052,827
acres



\$49 billion
agriculture sales



Number and Location

The 2022 Census of Agriculture counted 3.4 million producers, down slightly from 2017. The number of producers with military service decreased 18% from the 2017 ag census. The average age of a producer with military service was 68.2, a decade older than the average age of all producers (58.1). The largest share of producers with military service were in the 65+ age category (67%).

The share of producers with military service was higher in the Southeastern states. Florida and South Carolina had the highest shares of producers with military service as a percent of total state producers at 12% each. Overall, 289,372 U.S. farms (15% of U.S. farms) had a producer with military service.

No. of Producers on Farm	With Military Service	All U.S.
	(% of farms)	
One	33	40
Two	50	47
Three or Four	14	11
Five +	3	2

Most producers with military service operated farms that had more than one producer.

Producers with Military Service Compared with All Producers

	With Military Service	All U.S.
Producers		
Number	305,753	3,374,044
Farms		
Number	289,372	1,900,487
Average farm size (acres)	373	463
Average total value of agricultural production	\$169,548	\$285,762

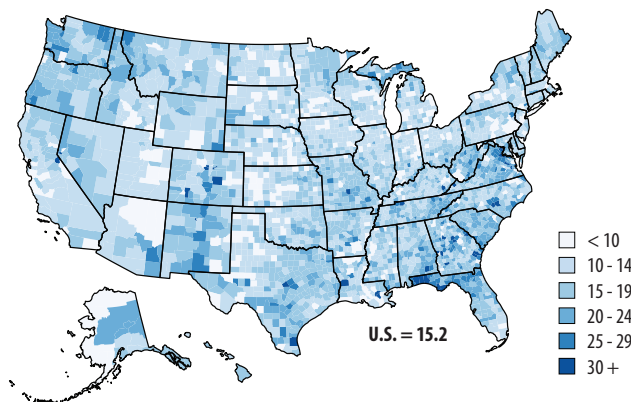
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The percent of U.S. producers with military service. Fifteen percent of all farms had a producer who had served or was serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Top States: Producers with Military Service, 2022 (as percent of total state producers)

Florida	12.0
South Carolina	12.0
West Virginia	11.5
Virginia	11.3
New Mexico	11.3
Tennessee	11.3
Georgia	10.9
Washington	10.7
Alabama	10.7
Texas	10.5

Farms Operated by Producers with Military Service as Percent of Total Farms, by County, 2022



The share of farms with producers who had served or were serving in the military was highest in the Southeast.

SNAPSHOT

Producers with Military Service, 2022

Number = 305,753*

	Military (percent)	All U.S.
Sex		
Male	93	64
Female	7	36
Age		
<35	2	9
35 - 64	31	53
65+	67	39
Years farming		
10 or less	23	30
11 or more	77	70
Primary occupation		
Farming	51	42
Other	49	58
Hispanic	3.3	3.3
Race		
American Indian	1.6	1.7
Asian	0.4	0.7
Black	2.5	1.2
Native Hawaiian	0.1	0.1
White	94.2	95.4
More than one race	1.2	0.9
Average age (years)	68.2	58.1

*Data collected for up to four producers per farm.

77 The percent of military producers who had farmed for 11 or more years.

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 ag census as well as previous censuses are available online 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

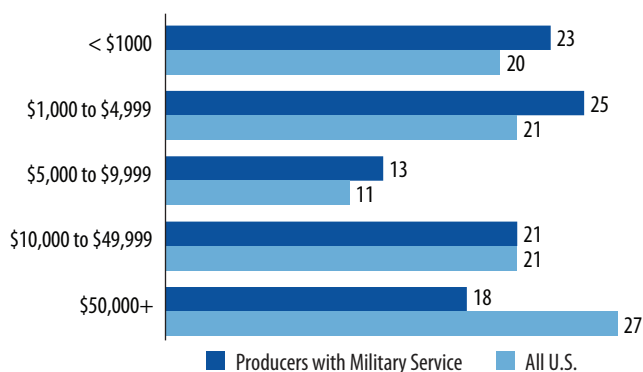
Producer Characteristics

Producers with military service were largely male (93%) and their average age was a decade older than producers as a whole. They were experienced farmers, 77% of producers with military service had farmed 11 years or more, compared to 70% of all U.S. producers. In terms of ethnicity and race, producers with military service were very similar to all U.S. producers, with the exception of black producers. Black producers accounted for 2.5% of producers with military service, compared to 1.2% of all U.S. producers.

Farm Characteristics

Farms operated by producers with military service sold \$49 billion in agricultural products in 2022, with 55% (\$27 billion) in crop sales and 45% (\$22 billion) in sales of livestock and livestock products. These farms accounted for 9% of total U.S. agricultural sales. They received \$1 billion in government payments in 2022.

Farms Operated by Producers with Military Service and U.S. Farms by Economic Class, 2022 (percent) (sales and government payments combined)



Farms and Land

Farms operated by producers with military service accounted for 108 million acres of land, 12% of the U.S. total. The majority of these farms (75%) were less than 180 acres in size. The average size of farms with a producer with military service was 373 acres, compared to 463 acres for all U.S. farms.

Farm Size in Acres	Producers with Military Service (percent of total)	All U.S.
1 to 9	12	12
10 to 49	33	30
50 to 179	30	28
180 to 499	14	15
500 +	11	15

Eighty percent of farms with a producer with military service were operated by farmers who owned all the land they operate, while 4% were operated by farmers who rented all their land. The other 16% of farms owned some of the land they operated and rented additional land.

Farm Specialization^a

One-third (30%) of farms operated by producers with military service specialized in production of cattle and dairy, followed by farms specializing in other crops (27%).

	% of Farms
Oilseeds and grains	13
Specialty crops	10
Vegetables and melons	2
Fruit and tree nuts	6
Greenhouse, nursery, floriculture	2
Other crops	27
Cattle and dairy	30
Hogs and pigs	1
Poultry and eggs	4
Sheep and goats	4
Other animals	11

^a Refers to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). More than half of a farm's sales come from the commodity.