

# ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS

**NC STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture  
and Life Sciences

**\$76**  
**BILLION**

Agriculture and Agribusiness, including the farming, processing, wholesaling and retailing of food, natural fiber and forestry products, accounted for \$76 billion of value added to the North Carolina economy.<sup>1</sup>

**THAT'S 16 CENTS  
OF EVERY DOLLAR.**

**1. Value-added** is the sum of the returns to factors of production in the state and includes employee compensation, proprietary income, other property-type income, and indirect business taxes.

**Source:** *Agriculture and Agribusiness in North Carolina*, Dr. Michael L. Walden, NC State University, May 2015. Data are for 2013.

Job sector	% of total jobs	% of NC economy	Value in billions
Manufacturing	43.0	7.3	\$33.5
Retailing	24.5	4.2	\$19.1
Farming <sup>1</sup>	20.9	3.6	\$16.3
Wholesaling	11.6	2.0	\$9.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>\$77.9</b>

**1. Farming** includes crops, livestock, aquaculture, ornamentals, turf and forestry graduates.

# AG PROVIDES 633,000 JOBS.

## THAT'S 17% OF ALL JOBS IN NC.

**Source:** *Agriculture and Agribusiness in North Carolina*, Dr. Michael L. Walden, NC State University, May 2015. Data are for 2013.

# SNAPSHOT OF NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE

49,500 farms

8.4 million acres

\$14.9 billion in gross cash income

\$3.9 billion in agricultural exports

8th in U.S. livestock cash receipts

9th in total U.S. GDP

10th in U.S. agricultural cash receipts

**Sources:** U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, N.C. Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Data are for 2014 and 2015 respectively.

## SHARE OF AG SECTOR

**1.1 times greater**  
than the entire Southeast

**2.9 times greater**  
than Virginia

**1.9 times greater**  
than Tennessee

**1.5 times greater**  
than South Carolina

**1.3 times greater**  
than Florida

Equal to Georgia

# NC COUNTS ON AGRICULTURE

The farm agriculture sector's share of North Carolina's economy is larger than many neighboring states in the Southeast.

**The Southeast** includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis  
*Regional data, using price-adjusted quantities; data are for 2013.*

# TOP VALUE- ADDED SECTOR

Agriculture and Agribusiness	<b>\$76 billion</b>
Other manufacturing <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$66 billion</b>
Real estate	<b>\$52 billion</b>
Financial services	<b>\$42 billion</b>
Education and health care	<b>\$36 billion</b>
Other wholesale and retail trade <sup>1</sup>	<b>\$20 billion</b>

1. After subtracting manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade activities related to agriculture and agribusiness

**Sources:** U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; *Agriculture and Agribusiness in North Carolina* by Dr. Michael L. Walden, NC State University. May 2015. Data are for 2013.

# TOP JOB SECTORS

NC State is a leading ag educator, contributing directly to the state's two largest job sectors

Agriculture and Agribusiness **663,000**

Education and health care **765,000**

Other manufacturing<sup>1</sup> **322,000**

Other wholesale and retail trade<sup>1</sup> **173,000**

Financial services **150,000**

Real estate **50,000**

**1.** After subtracting manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade activities related to agriculture and agribusiness

**Source:** U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis; *Agriculture and Agribusiness in North Carolina* by Dr. Michael L. Walden, NC State University. May 2015. Data are for 2013.

Farm Sector	Dollar Multiplier	Jobs Multiplier
All other crops	2.55	8.8
Beef cattle	2.38	6.1
Cotton	3.24	9.2
Dairy	1.51	5.9
Fruit	2.18	11.5
Grains	3.23	15.3
Greenhouses and nurseries	1.69	9.5
Oilseeds	2.07	11.4
Other animal production	1.45	15.8
Poultry and eggs	2.61	4.7
Timber	3.45	16.8
Tobacco	3.74	16.1
Tree nuts	1.81	12.0
Vegetables and melons	2.08	10.1

# A TOTAL CONTRIBUTION

Through its linkages to other economic sectors, changes in farm-level agriculture production can have much larger total impacts on the state economy.

**Dollar multiplier** is the total new spending in the state per \$1 of additional product output using North Carolina inputs (value-added).

**Jobs multiplier** is the total new employment in the state per \$1 million of additional product output using North Carolina inputs.

**Source:** *Economy-Wide Impacts of Agricultural Sectors in North Carolina* by Dr. Michael L. Walden, NC State University, May 2015. Data are for 2013.



# TOP 10 PRODUCER

## NC IS A TOP 10 PRODUCER IN 19 COMMODITIES

- #1 in sweet potatoes and flue-cured tobacco
- #2 in turkeys, hogs and pigs
- #3 in cucumbers, pickles and fresh market strawberries
- #4 in broilers and upland cotton
- #6 in peanuts for nuts, fresh market tomatoes, fresh market cabbage and Burley tobacco
- #7 in blueberries
- #8 in fresh market watermelons and apples
- #9 in squash and grapes

**Source:** U.S. Dept. of Agriculture *NASS 2014 Annual Report*  
Note: Producer commodities are evaluated every year.

# TOP 10 HARVESTER

## NC HARVESTS MORE ACRES IN 28 COMMODITIES

- #3 in collards and turnips
- #4 in mustard greens and turnip greens
- #5 in total floraculture, bedding plants, figs, kale and Chinese peas
- #6 in nursery stock crops, harvested sod and radishes
- #7 in blackberries, dewberries, Chinese cabbage, head cabbage, cantaloupes and mushrooms
- #8 in cut flowers, cut florist greens and okra
- #9 in broccoli, eggplant, flower seeds and non-bell peppers
- #10 in aquatic plants, chestnuts and pumpkins

**Source:** U.S. Dept. of Agriculture *2012 Census of Agriculture*  
Note: Harvester commodities are evaluated every five years.

# EXPORT LEADER

## NC IS THE 11TH LARGEST OVERALL U.S. EXPORTER

- #1** in tobacco, \$562 million
- #2** in pork, \$739; and poultry, \$669 million
- #5** in cotton, \$328 million
- #9** in hides and skins, \$108 million
- #13** in fresh and processed vegetables, \$145 million
- #14** in fresh and processed fruit, \$72 million

**Sources:** USDA Economic Research Service; USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (Global Agricultural Trade System), 2013.

# THE NATURAL STATE

There are nearly 19 million acres of forest land, or approximately 60% of state's total land base.

North Carolina ranks 2nd in the South for saw-log production and provides jobs for 5,000 foresters.

Logging cash receipts **\$390 million**

Forestry farming cash receipts **\$227 million**

**Sources:** U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, IMPLAN for North Carolina. Data are for 2012-3.

# AQUACULTURE DESERVES ATTENTION

The 2013 Census of Aquaculture indicates that North Carolina ranks in the top 15 states for the following commodities by value.

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Trout	\$6,896,000	3
Catfish	\$4,378,000	5
Crustaceans	\$334,000	7
Food fish	\$23,443,000	8
Sport fish	\$452,000	9
Mollusks	\$337,000	13

**Sources:** U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 2013 Census of Aquaculture.

# BY THE NUMBERS

**Sources:** U.S. Dept. of Agriculture *NASS 2014 Annual Report*;  
N.C. Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, IMPLAN for  
North Carolina. Data are for 2013.

## TOP CROP SECTOR SALES VALUES

Flue-cured tobacco	\$903 million
Soybeans	\$713 million
Corn for grain	\$417 million
Sweet potatoes	\$355 million
Upland cotton	\$307 million
Wheat	\$230 million
Hay	\$214 million
Peanuts	\$105 million
Cottonseed	\$62 million

## CROP FARM SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NC

Jobs	19,264
Cash receipts	\$4.2 billion

## TOP LIVESTOCK SECTOR SALES VALUES

Chickens (broilers)	\$3.8 billion
Hogs and pigs	\$2.8 billion
Turkeys	\$733 million
Eggs	\$501 million
Cattle and calves	\$419 million

## LIVESTOCK FARM SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NC

Jobs	38,154
Cash receipts	\$8.305 billion

**COMMODITY****PRODUCTION**

Apples	95 million pounds
Bell peppers	441,000 hundred weight
Blueberries	48.5 million pounds
Broilers	795.2 million head
Broilers	6.0 billion pounds
Flue-cured Tobacco	451.2 million pounds
Burley Tobacco	2.7 million pounds
Fresh market Cabbage	644,000 hundred weight
Catfish	4.8 million pounds
Fresh market Cucumbers	552,000 hundred weight
Processed Cucumbers	40,950 tons
Hogs and Pigs	8.8 million head
Melons	1.2 million hundred weight
Peanuts	400 million pounds
Squash	162,000 hundred weight
Fresh market Strawberries	154,000 hundred weight
Sweet Potatoes	15,840,000 hundred weight
Fresh market Tomatoes	850,000 hundred weight
Turkeys	28.5 million head
Upland cotton	1.0 million bales

**Source:** U.S. Dept. of Agriculture *NASS 2014 Annual Report*

This guide was produced October 2015.  
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Like to know more? Please contact

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