



---

## **MARYLAND FOOD STATISTICS**

*The following statistics on Maryland agriculture are from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) 2017 Census of Agriculture, except where noted.*

**Overall:** Maryland has more than 12,400 farms covering nearly 2 million acres. The average farm size is 160 acres, with an average net income of \$52,997 per farm. The total cash farm income for all commodities raised and produced was nearly \$2.5 billion for 2017.

**Cattle:** As of January 1, 2022, inventory of cattle in Maryland totaled 165,000 head. (*Source: USDA NASS 2022 Survey*) Value of production for cattle and calves is measured at \$71 million, according to the most recent survey data.

**Poultry:** Maryland is a national leader in broiler chicken production. A broiler is a chicken raised specifically for meat production. Maryland's poultry industry produced 1.7 pounds of broiler meat in 2021. (*Source: USDA NASS 2021 Survey*) Value of production for Maryland broiler meat is measured at \$913 million according to the most recent survey data.

**Eggs:** Maryland farmers produced more than 748 million eggs from 2.4 million chickens in 2021, with an average annual lay rate of 300 eggs per chicken. Egg production is valued at \$36.9 million. (*Source: 2021 USDA NASS Survey*)

**Fresh Market Vegetables:** According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, Maryland farmers harvested 29,339 acres of vegetables and melons—including 12,171 acres harvested for fresh market—with more \$71.3 million in sales. Maryland farmers grow a wide variety of fresh market vegetables and melons including sweet corn, celery, watermelons, snap beans, cantaloupes, cucumbers, spinach, asparagus, lima beans, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, eggplant, garlic, herbs, honeydew melons, kale, lettuce, mustard greens, okra, onions, bell peppers, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, and turnips.

**Fruits and Tree Nuts:** Maryland harvested 4,183 acres of land in fruits and tree nuts, generating \$23.7 million in sales. The two largest crops, in terms of production, are apples and peaches. Maryland farmers also grow apricots, cherries, figs, grapes, nectarines, pears, persimmons, plums, almonds, chestnuts, hazelnuts, pecans, and walnuts.

**Grains:** Total value of grain sales in the state – including corn, wheat, soybeans, and barley – was more than \$575 million in 2017.

**Hogs and Pigs:** As of December 1, 2021, inventory of hogs in Maryland totaled 22,000 head. (Source: USDA NASS 2021 Survey) Value of production for hogs is measured at \$8.4 million, according to the most recent survey data.

**Honey:** As of July 16, 2019, there were 2,098 beekeepers and 15,498 bee colonies in 2,639 apiary locations registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. United States honey production in 2021 totaled 126 million pounds, down 14% from 2020. There were 2.70 million colonies producing honey for an average of 46.9 pounds of honey per colony. Honey prices averaged \$2.54 per pound in 2021—marking a 21% increase from 2020. (Source: 2022 USDA NASS Survey)

**Milk Production:** Milk accounted for nearly \$158 million in production for 2022, producing a total of 875 million pounds of milk from 21,000 head of milk cows—producing an average of 20,833 pounds of milk per head. (Source: 2022 USDA NASS Survey)

---

**Crabs:** In 2018, Maryland landed more than 31.8 million pounds of hard shell crab with a dockside value of nearly \$44.4 million; and 1.28 million pounds of soft shell and peeler crabs with a dockside value of \$9.2 million. (Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

**Oysters:** Maryland watermen harvested 136,954 bushels with a dockside value of 6.18 million during the 2018-19 season. This is a 25% decrease from the previous harvest season, continuing a declining trend over the last five years. The main cause of this decline has been low spatsets in recent years. The aquaculture sector, which continues to grow, produced 57,543 bushels in 2018. (Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

**Striped Bass:** Rockfish—a.k.a. striped bass—is the state fish of Maryland. In 2018, 1.5 million pounds of striped bass were harvested in Maryland. The estimated dockside value of this fish in Maryland was over \$5 million. (Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

**Wild Blue Catfish:** This invasive species was originally introduced to the Chesapeake Bay as a new recreational fishery. Over the years, the blue catfish population has spread rapidly throughout the watershed and poses a major threat to the Bay's ecosystem. In an effort to control the population, many local chefs and watermen have been promoting blue catfish as a menu item. The number of commercial landings has grown exponentially from 59,906 pounds in 2007 to about 2.8 million pounds in 2018—with a dockside value between \$420,000 and \$1,092,000. (Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

---

**Breweries:** Maryland has 120+ licensed breweries. In fiscal year 2018, Maryland breweries sold 8 million gallons, which is equivalent to 52.5 million bottles and \$100 million in sales. (*Source: Office of the Comptroller*)

**Distilleries:** There are currently 40 operating distilleries, with an additional 10 in the licensing process, located throughout Maryland that are producing local rye, bourbon, rum, gin, and vodka.

**Wine:** There are currently 103 licensed wineries in Maryland. In fiscal year 2018, Maryland wineries sold nearly 200,000 cases of wine. Annual sales of Maryland wine from 2018 are estimated at \$50 million. Maryland's wineries produce more than 500 different wines. Maryland wine is sold at more than 1,000 wine shops, served at more than 400 restaurants, and shipped to customers in 35 states. (*Source: Maryland Wineries Association*)

According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, a total of 1,170 acres of grapes were grown in Maryland on 187 farms

*Updated July 2023*

###

Follow [@MdAgDept](#) & [@MDsBest](#) on Twitter and use **#BuyLocalCookout23**