



MARYLAND FOOD STATISTICS

The following statistics on Maryland agriculture are from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) 2022 Census of Agriculture, except where noted.

Overall: Maryland has 12,550 farms covering nearly 2 million acres. The average farm size is 158 acres, with an average net income of \$74,507 per farm. The total cash farm income for all commodities raised and produced was nearly \$3.4 billion for 2017.

Cattle: As of January 1, 2023, inventory of cattle in Maryland totaled 157,000 head. (Source: USDA NASS 2023 Survey) Value of production for cattle and calves is measured at \$97 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 1.8 billion pounds of broiler meat in 2023. (Source: USDA NASS 2023 Survey) Value of production for Maryland broiler meat is measured at \$1.3 billion according to the most recent survey data.

Eggs: Maryland egg production totaled 58.5 million during January 2023. Production included 57.2 million table eggs, and 1.3 million hatching eggs. The total number of layers during January 2023 averaged 2.18 million. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,688 eggs. *(Source: 2023 USDA NASS Survey)*

Fresh Market Vegetables: According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture, 821 Maryland farms produced 21,583 acres of vegetables and melons with more \$106 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 4,693 acres of land in fruits and tree nuts, generating \$32.7 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: More than 3,607 farms in Maryland produced corn, wheat, soybeans and barley worth more than \$899 million in 2022.

Hogs and Pigs: In 2022, 432 farms reported having hogs and pigs. Those farms had sales of more than \$7.9 million.

Honey: According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture there were 11,114 bee colonies in Maryland, and 2,639 apiary locations registered with the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Honey production in 2022 totaled more than 222,000 pounds. United States honey production in 2022 totaled 125 million pounds, down 1 percent from 2021. There were 2.67 million colonies producing honey in 2022, down 1 percent from 2021. Yield per colony averaged 47.0 pounds, unchanged from 2021. *(Source: 2022 USDA NASS Survey)*

Milk Production: Milk accounted for nearly \$185 million in production for 2023, producing a total of 846 million pounds of milk from 40,000 cows. *(Source: 2022 USDA NASS Survey)*

Crabs: In 2023, Maryland landed just over 26 million pounds of hard shell crab with a dockside value of nearly \$57.6 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 722,938 bushels with a dockside value of 6.18 million during the 2022-23 season with a dockside value of \$31.1 million. This was the largest oyster harvest in the state in 36 years. *(Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources)*

Oyster Aquaculture: The aquaculture sector continues to have record harvests. In 2023 Maryland oyster farms produced 94,286 bushels with an estimated economic impact of \$13.3 million (or \$7.4 million dockside value).

Striped Bass: Rockfish—a.k.a. striped bass—is the state fish of Maryland. In 2023, 1.5 million pounds of striped bass were harvested in Maryland’s waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean. 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 4.25 million pounds in in 2023 from Maryland, including the Potomac River with an estimated dockside value exceeding \$2 million*(Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources)*

Breweries: Maryland has 140+ licensed breweries. In fiscal year 2022, Maryland breweries sold 12.5 million gallons, which is equivalent to 134 million bottles. *(Source: Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Annual Report Fiscal Year 2023)*

Distilleries: There are currently 42 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 110 licensed wineries in Maryland. 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 2022 Census of Agriculture, a total of 1,170 acres of grapes were grown in Maryland on 187 farms

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