

**New York**  
**EQUINE SURVEY**



**2000**

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*New York*  
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STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS  
1 WINNERS CIRCLE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12235

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
518 457-4186

November 2001

Dear Friends:

New York's equine industry has changed dramatically over the past decade and, therefore, I am pleased to present to you the results of the 2000 New York Equine Survey.

The last equine survey in New York State took place in 1989, a time when there were more horses occupying the land than today. Since that time, the quality and impact of our equine industry has improved tremendously. Although today we have fewer horses, their value has increased in almost every category, representing nearly \$1.7 billion in value.

The equine industry also contributes greatly to the quality of life here in New York State. There are currently 168,000 horses, mules, donkeys and burros, raised at 30,000 different locations across New York State. Horse owners devote 920,000 acres of land in New York for equine purposes with associated assets totaling nearly \$6.2 billion. Overall, the industry provides more than 11,000 jobs annually.

This survey is one of a series of studies by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to take a comprehensive look at special sectors of New York agriculture such as the equine industry, direct marketing and turf grass. I hope you find the information presented to you in this equine survey of valuable use and I thank you for your continued interest in New York agriculture.

Sincerely,

Nathan L. Rudgers  
Commissioner  


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# *Equine Survey Highlights*

## EQUINE POPULATION

The 2000 Equine Survey indicated there were an estimated 168,000 equine of all types in New York on September 1, 2000, down 8 percent from the 182,000 on hand December 31, 1988. Race horse breeds totaled 42,000 head, down 16 percent from 1988, while other light horses decreased 5 percent to 100,500 head. All light horse breeds combined totaled 142,500, down 9 percent.

Draft horse breeds increased from 7,200 head in 1988 to 11,500 in 2000, a jump of 60 percent, while donkeys and mules rose 25 percent to a total of 2,500. The sharpest decline was in the number of ponies, which dropped 32 percent to a total of 11,500 in 2000. Pony numbers also posted a sharp decline in the previous survey, dropping 48 percent from 33,000 in 1978 to 17,000 in 1988.

## VALUE OF EQUINE

The value of all equine in New York as of September 1, 2000, is put at \$1.70 billion, up 90 percent from 1988. Average value per head was computed from the survey data for each breed and aggregated to the total for all equine. In spite of lower numbers of equine in most categories, total value was up in each category on the strength of higher average values per equine. Race horses averaged \$27,200 in value per head, more than double the \$11,220 in 1988. Other light horses averaged \$4,950 per head, up 71 percent from \$2,900 in 1988. Draft horses rose 44 percent to \$2,550 per head. Ponies increased to an average \$2,600 per head, while donkeys and mules were up to \$1,000 per head.

## EQUINE RELATED ASSETS

Survey tabulations indicated total equine-related assets of \$6.15 billion on September 1, 2000, an increase of 65 percent since the 1988 survey. The value of land, fences and buildings accounted for \$3.71 billion, or 60 percent of the total assets. Equine on hand, at \$1.70 billion, accounted for 28 percent of the assets. Vehicles, equipment, tack, and equine feed and supplies on hand, at \$745 million, accounted for the remaining 12 percent. Included with the vehicles are the estimated 16,450 horse trailers and vans owned by New York operators on December 31, 2000.

## EQUINE EXPENDITURES

New York equine owners and operators spent a total of nearly \$704 million during 2000 for operating and capital expenses, up 29 percent from the 1988 total of \$546 million. About \$523 million, or 74 percent, of the total was for operating expenses. The leading operating expenses and amounts spent were: feed, \$100.7 million; hired labor, \$88.3 million; boarding and training fees, \$54.8 million. Additional expense categories are shown in Table 15.

Expenditures for capital items totaled an additional \$181 million. Purchases of equipment totaled \$68.3 million; purchases of equine amounted to \$49.5 million, and the purchase or improvement of equine-related real estate totaled \$63.0 million.

Total expenses per equine on hand September 1, 2000 averaged \$4,188, up 40 percent from the total expenses of \$2,998 per equine on hand December 31, 1988. Operating expenses per equine averaged \$3,112, or 74 percent of the total, while the remaining 26 percent was accounted for by capital expenses averaging \$1,076 per head. The survey indicated a total of 11,200 hired workers were employed on New York equine operations during 2000. Of these, 3,700 were full-time workers and 7,500 were part-time workers. Numbers of hired workers by job category are shown in Table 16.

Table 1. EQUINE BY TYPE, NEW YORK, 1978, 1988, and 2000

Type	1978	1988	2000
Race Horse Breeds .....	46,050	50,000	42,000
Other Light Breeds .....	93,350	105,800	100,500
<b>Total Light Horse Breeds .....</b>	<b>139,400</b>	<b>155,800</b>	<b>142,500</b>
Draft Horse Breeds .....	5,400	7,200	11,500
Ponies .....	33,000	17,000	11,500
Donkeys/Mules .....	2,200	2,000	2,500
<b>TOTAL EQUINE .....</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>182,000</b>	<b>168,000</b>

**TOTAL EQUINE BY TYPE  
2000**

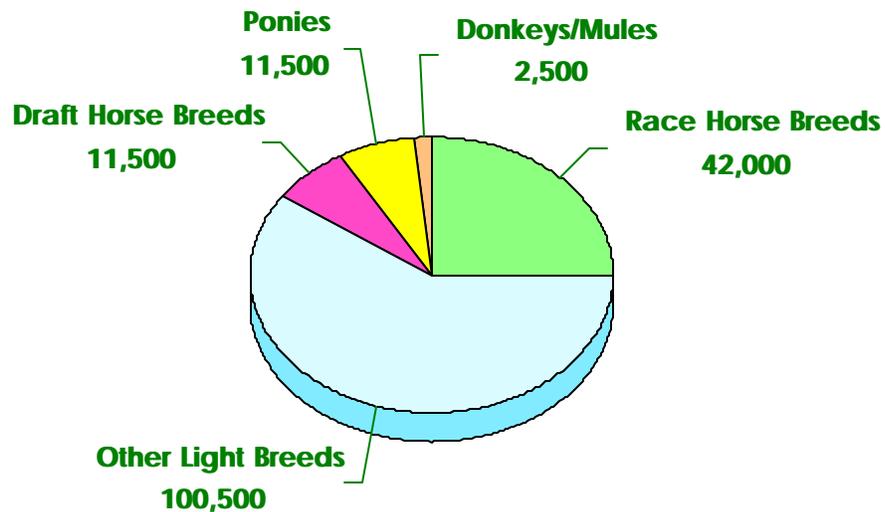
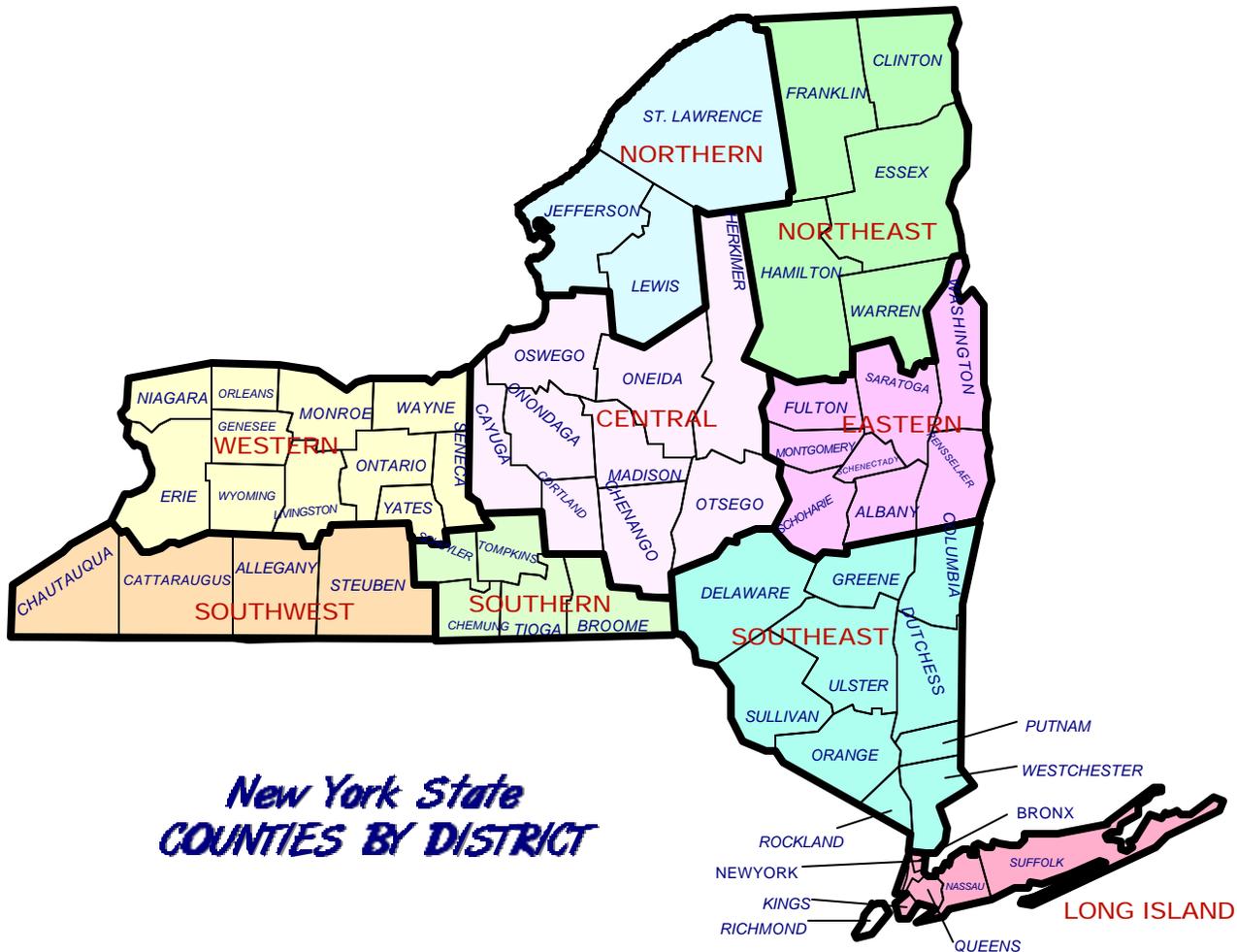


Table 2. EQUINE SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS, NEW YORK, 2000

Categories	Number	Average per equine <sup>1/</sup>	Total Value
<b><u>EQUINE BY TYPE</u></b>		<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Thousand Dollars</i>
Racing Breed Horses	42,000	27,200	1,142,500
Other Light Horses	100,500	4,950	497,520
Draft Horses	11,500	2,550	29,380
Ponies	11,500	2,600	29,900
Donkeys and Mules	2,500	1,000	2,500
Total All Equine	168,000	10,130	1,701,800
<b><u>EQUINE OPERATIONS BY TYPE</u></b>			
Commercial Boarding/Training	4,550		
Commercial Breeding	2,250		
Crop/Livestock Farms	7,950		
Non-Commercial/Non-Farm	14,600		
Other	650		
Total Equine Operations	30,000		
Acres Used for Equine	920,000		
Fenced Pasture	425,750		
Stalls	155,000		
<b><u>ASSET VALUES, DECEMBER 31, 2000</u></b>			
Equine on Hand		10,130	1,701,800
Land, Fences and Buildings		22,065	3,707,000
Vehicles, Equipment		3,527	592,610
Tack Equipment and Clothing		703	118,010
Equine Feed Supplies		204	34,220
Total Equine Related Assets		36,629	6,153,640
Horse Trailers and Vans <sup>2/</sup>	16,450	647	108,690
<b><u>EXPENDITURES DURING 2000</u></b>			
Equine Purchased		294	49,460
Real Estate and Improvements		375	63,010
Equipment Purchased		407	68,320
Total Capital Expenditures		1,076	180,790
Feed		600	100,740
Labor Expenditures		526	88,320
Boarding and Training		326	54,800
Other		1,661	279,000
Total Operating Expenditures		3,112	522,860
Total Expenditures		4,188	703,650
<b><u>TOTAL WORKERS</u></b>			
Full-Time Workers	3,700		
Part-Time Workers	7,500		
Total Hired Workers	11,200		
Cash Labor Expenditures		460	77,290
Value of Non-cash Items Provided to Workers		66	11,030
Total Hired Labor Expenditures		526	88,320
Workers for Whom Housing was Provided	1,800		

<sup>1/</sup> Based on total equine on hand September 1, 2000.

<sup>2/</sup> Value of horse trailers and vans included in total value of vehicles and equipment.



*New York State*  
**COUNTIES BY DISTRICT**

# *Equine by District*

Of the 168,000 total equine in New York on September 1, 2000, 19 percent, or 32,300 head, were in the Western District. Close behind was the Southeast District with 32,100 head (*also 19 percent*). The Eastern District was third with 26,800 head (*16 percent*), followed by the Central District with 25,600 head (*15 percent*).

For all light horses combined (*race horse breeds plus other light horse breeds*), the Southeast District was first with 28,570 head (*20 percent of the total 142,500*). Next came the Western District at 27,160 head (*19 percent*), then the Eastern District with 23,580 head (*17 percent*), and the Central District with 20,850 head (*15 percent*).

Ponies totaled 11,500 head, with 2,400 head, or 21 percent, being in the Western District. The Southeast District accounted for 2,150 head (*19 percent*), just ahead of the Central District with 2,100 head (*18 percent*). Of the 11,500 draft horses indicated by the survey, 2,440 head, or 21 percent, were found in the Western District. The Central District was second with 18 percent, followed by the Southwest with 17 percent.

## EQUINE BY BREED

Thoroughbreds led all breeds in 2000 with an estimated total of 30,500 horses. Quarter horses were almost as numerous, with 29,600 head. Thoroughbred numbers were unchanged from 1988, while quarter horses increased 38 percent. Among individual breeds, standardbreds came in third, at 11,500 head, despite a 41 percent drop from 1988. Other major breeds, as shown in Table 4, were: Arabians (*down 38 percent*), Morgans (*up 13 percent*), and Appaloosas (*down 31 percent*). Belgians, up 45 percent from 1988 to 6,100 head, constituted 53 percent of all New York draft horses. Welsh and Shetlands were the most common pony breeds, accounting for 23 percent and 18 percent respectively of all ponies.

## AVERAGE VALUES BY BREED

Thoroughbreds had the highest average value per horse at \$33,500, and accounted for 60 percent of the value of all equine in New York. Warmbloods averaged \$20,000 per head in 2000, and accounted for 8 percent of total equine value on the strength of a substantial increase in numbers from 1988. Standardbreds, at \$10,500 per head, were the third highest valued equine and accounted for 7 percent of the total value of all equine. The two race horse breeds accounted for 67 percent of the total equine value in 2000, compared with 63 percent in 1988.

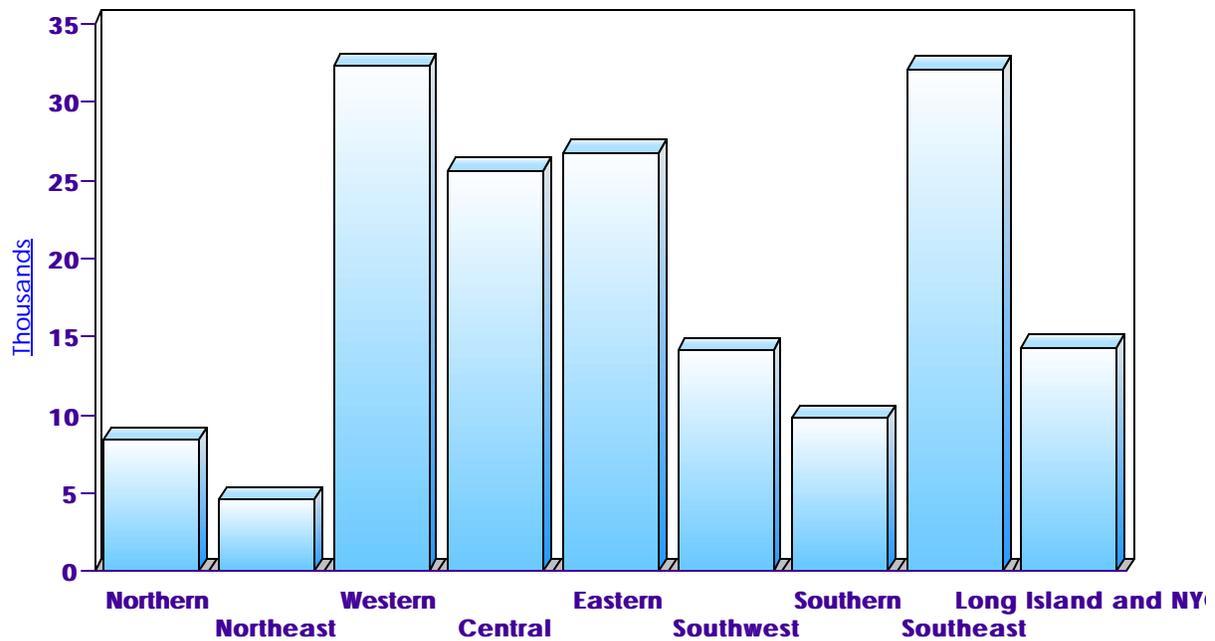
The average values of individual breeds and miscellaneous breed categories reflect the average prices one would have had to pay to purchase the same type of animals on September 1, 2000. Reported values ranged from high priced breed, racing, and show stock to low valued grade animals and older equine. High sentimental values placed on "family member" equine were excluded from average value calculations. Values by breed are shown in Table 4.

Table 3. EQUINE BY TYPE AND DISTRICT, NEW YORK, 2000

District	Total Equine	Light Horses <sup>1/</sup>	Draft Horses	Ponies	Mules and Donkeys
Northern	8,400	6,650	1,100	550	100
Northeast	4,600	3,850	350	300	100
Western	32,300	27,160	2,440	2,400	300
Central	25,600	20,850	2,100	2,100	550
Eastern	26,800	23,580	1,320	1,550	350
Southwest	14,100	10,710	1,940	1,100	350
Southern	9,800	7,830	920	750	300
Southeast	32,100	28,570	1,030	2,150	350
Long Island and NYC	14,300	13,300	300	600	100
<b>STATE</b>	<b>168,000</b>	<b>142,500</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>2,500</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes racing breeds

**TOTAL EQUINE BY DISTRICT  
2000**



**Table 4. EQUINE INVENTORY AND VALUE OF BREED,  
NEW YORK, 1988 and 2000**

Breeds	Number		Value		Average Value	
	1988	2000	1988	2000	1988	2000 <sup>1/</sup>
	<i>Head</i>		<i>Thousand Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>	
<b><u>Light Breeds</u></b>	105,80	100,50	306,87	497,520	2,900	4,950
	0	0	5			
Quarter Horse .....	21,500	29,600	47,290	115,440	2,200	3,900
Saddlebred .....	2,200	2,500	9,240	15,750	4,200	6,300
Appaloosa .....	12,400	8,500	19,835	19,550	1,600	2,300
Arabian .....	12,750	9,200	80,320	44,160	6,300	4,800
Half Arabian .....	4,650	3,600	11,160	10,800	2,400	3,000
Morgan .....	8,000	9,000	33,600	38,700	4,200	4,300
Palomino .....	1,100	1,600	1,650	4,960	1,500	3,100
Pinto or Paint .....	4,350	6,800	7,830	21,760	1,800	3,200
Warmblood .....	1,550	6,700	30,225	134,000	19,500	20,000
Crossbreds .....	25,800	11,000	33,530	26,400	1,300	2,400
Other Light .....	11,500	12,000	32,195	66,000	2,800	5,500
<b><u>Race Horse Breeds</u></b>	50,000	42,000	561,00	1,142,50	11,22	27,20
			0	0	0	0
Standardbred .....	19,500	11,500	195,000	120,750	10,000	10,500
Thoroughbred .....	30,500	30,500	366,000	1,021,750	12,000	33,500
<b><u>Draft Breeds</u></b>	7,200	11,500	12,700	29,380	1,765	2,550
Belgian .....	4,200	6,100	6,300	13,420	1,500	2,200
Percheron .....	1,400	3,200	2,240	8,320	1,600	2,600
Clydesdale .....	NA	700	NA	2,240	NA	3,200
Other .....	1,600	1,500	4,160	5,400	2,600	3,600
<b><u>Ponies</u></b>	17,000	11,500	12,750	29,900	750	2,600
Welsh .....	NA	2,700	NA	9,450	NA	3,500
Shetland .....	NA	2,100	NA	2,520	NA	1,200
Connemara .....	NA	500	NA	3,050	NA	6,100
Other .....	NA	6,200	NA	14,880	NA	2,400
<b>Donkeys &amp; Mules</b>	2,000	2,500	900	2,500	450	1,000
<b>TOTAL EQUINE</b>	182,00	168,00	894,22	1,701,80	4,913	10,13
	0	0	5	0		0

<sup>1/</sup> Breed categories rounded.  
NA - Not available.



Table 5. LIGHT BREEDS BY DISTRICT, NEW YORK, 2000

District	All Light <sup>1/</sup>	Racing Breeds				
		Standardbred <i>Number</i>	Thoroughbred			
Northern	6,650	300	150			
Northeast	3,850	150	250			
Western	27,160	2,400	4,200			
Central	20,850	2,000	2,000			
Eastern	23,580	3,100	7,700			
Southwest	10,710	500	450			
Southern	7,830	300	750			
Southeast	28,570	2,600	7,200			
Long Island and NYC	13,300	150	7,800			
<b>STATE</b>	<b>142,500</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>30,500</b>			
District	All Other Light Breeds					
	Quarter Horse	Appaloosa	Arabian	Morgan	Crossbred or Unknown	Other Light Breed
	<i>Number</i>					
Northern	1,600	660	280	1,700	600	1,360
Northeast	1,100	350	150	400	400	1,050
Western	5,500	1,950	2,900	1,400	1,850	6,960
Central	5,200	1,600	1,550	1,800	1,550	5,150
Eastern	4,200	980	800	1,200	1,100	4,500
Southwest	3,150	1,100	1,000	600	850	3,060
Southern	2,050	500	860	530	900	1,940
Southeast	4,350	1,100	1,500	1,200	2,900	7,720
Long Island and NYC	2,450	260	160	170	850	1,460
<b>STATE</b>	<b>29,600</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>33,200</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Includes racing breeds.

# *Equine by Primary Use*

The 2000 Equine Survey questionnaire listed the same eight primary use categories used in the 1988 survey, as shown in Table 6. The respondent was requested to record each equine in only one primary use category – the category for which the animal provided the use most important to the respondent.

## PLEASURE USE

Almost 39 percent of the equine in New York in 2000 were kept primarily for pleasure use, down from 48 percent in 1988. Included in the pleasure use total were 50 percent of the ponies, 49 percent of the non-racing breed light horses, 30 percent of the draft horses, and 13 percent of race horse breeds. The greatest number of equine for pleasure use was in the Eastern District (*13,600 head*), while the highest percentage of equine for pleasure use was in the Northern District (*55 percent*).

## BREEDING USE

A total of 30,100 equine were used primarily for breeding in 2000, 18 percent of all equine. This compares with 28,500 head, or 16 percent of all equine, in 1988. Brood mares totaled 25,300, and stallions for breeding 4,800. Thirty one percent of the equine breeding stock consisted of race horse breeds, down from 48 percent in 1988. Included in the breeding stock total were 22 percent of the state's draft horses, 22 percent of the race horses, 16 percent of other light horse breeds, and 16 percent of the ponies. The greatest number of equine for breeding was in the Southeast District (*7,600 head*), while the highest percentage of equine for breeding was in the Southern District (*28 percent*).

## RACING USE

A total of 15,300 equine in New York on September 1, 2000 were used primarily for racing. Thoroughbreds accounted for 69 percent and standardbreds 31 percent. (*Only standardbreds and thoroughbreds were included in the "racing" category. All other breeds used for racing were included in the "competition or sport" category for this survey.*) The largest number of equine for racing (*3,800 head*) was in the Southeast District and the highest percentage of equine for racing (*24 percent*) was in the Long Island/NYC District.

## COMPETITION/SPORT USE

Nearly 17 percent of equine in 2000 were used for showing, polo, eventing, etc., up from 11 percent in 1988. The total of 27,950 head included 20 percent of the non-racing breed light horses, 15 percent of the ponies, and 12 percent of race horse breeds. The Southeast District had the greatest number devoted to this use (*6,000 head*), while the Long Island/NYC District had the highest percentage (*24 percent*).

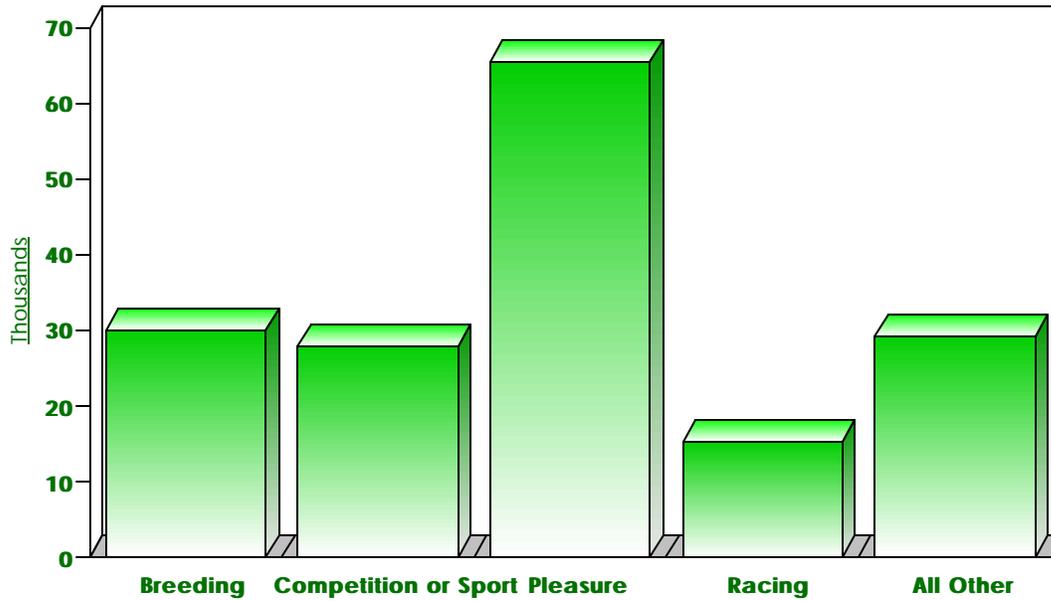
## OTHER USE

Seventeen percent of New York's equine population in 2000 were kept for other uses such as police work, carriage rides, teaching, and work, or were retired, as shown in Table 6. In Table 6, foals are included under "all other" uses.

Table 6. EQUINE BY PRIMARY USE AND DISTRICT,  
NEW YORK, 2000

District	Total Equine	Breeding	Competition or Sport	Pleasure	Racing	All Other
			<i>Number</i>			
Northern	8,400	1,100	1,150	4,650	200	1,300
Northeast	4,600	800	950	1,450	200	1,200
Western	32,300	6,300	5,800	10,900	3,600	5,700
Central	25,600	4,200	4,800	11,200	900	4,500
Eastern	26,800	4,100	3,000	13,600	2,500	3,600
Southwest	14,100	2,800	1,200	6,700	500	2,900
Southern	9,800	2,700	1,650	3,700	100	1,650
Southeast	32,100	7,600	6,000	7,600	3,800	7,100
Long Island and NYC	14,300	500	3,400	5,600	3,500	1,300
<b>STATE</b>	<b>168,000</b>	<b>30,100</b>	<b>27,950</b>	<b>65,400</b>	<b>15,300</b>	<b>29,250</b>

EQUINE BY PRIMARY USE  
2000

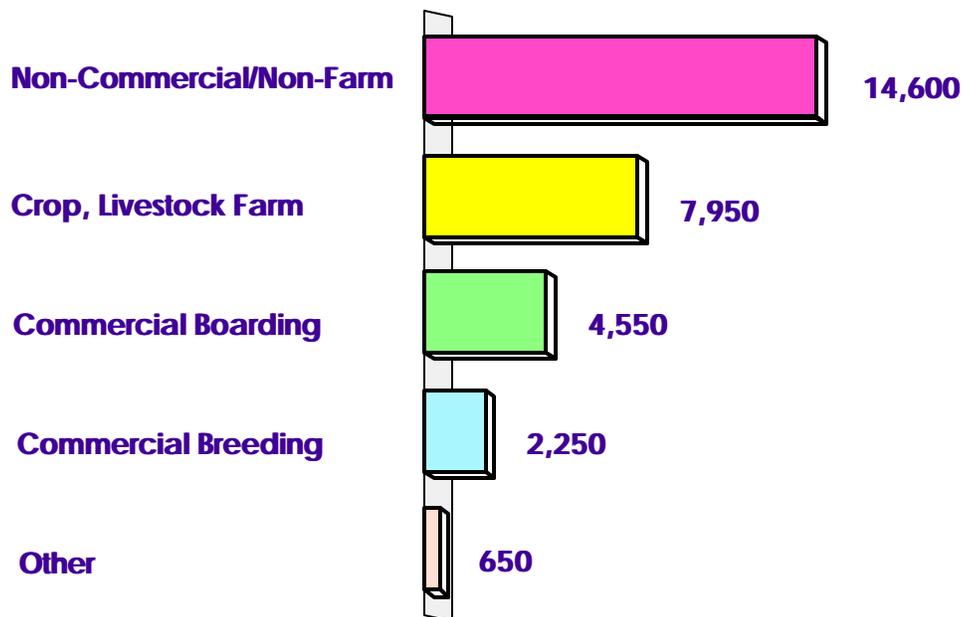


**Table 7. EQUINE BY PRIMARY USE AND BREED,  
NEW YORK, 2000**

Breed	Total	Breeding		Foals 1999	Foals 2000	Competition	Pleasure	Other	Racing	
		Brood Mares	Stallions							
	<i>Number</i>									
<u>Light Breeds</u>	100,500	13,000	3,100	3,000	3,500	19,700	49,400	8,800	-	
Quarter Horses . . . . .	29,600	4,200	700	600	900	5,400	15,100	2,700	-	
Saddlebred . . . . .	2,500	200	100	100	100	600	1,200	200	-	
Appaloosa . . . . .	8,500	1,300	200	300	400	900	4,500	900	-	
Arabian . . . . .	9,200	1,600	500	300	400	1,600	4,300	500	-	
Half Arabian . . . . .	3,600	1/	1/	1/	1/	900	2,000	1/	-	
Morgan . . . . .	9,000	1,200	400	300	200	1,700	4,700	500	-	
Palomino . . . . .	1,600	1/	1/	1/	1/	200	1,100	1/	-	
Pinto or Paint . . . . .	6,800	1,100	400	300	400	1,100	3,100	400	-	
Warmblood . . . . .	6,700	500	1/	1/	1/	3,900	1,500	400	-	
Crossbred or Unknown .	11,000	300	1/	1/	1/	1,800	6,700	1,900	-	
Other Light . . . . .	12,000	2,300	600	700	700	1,600	5,200	900	-	
<u>Race Horse Breeds</u>	42,000	8,600	700	2,100	2,700	5,200	5,600	1,800	15,300	
Standardbred . . . . .	11,500	2,300	300	1,000	1,000	500	1,100	500	4,800	
Thoroughbred . . . . .	30,500	6,300	400	1,100	1,700	4,700	4,500	1,300	10,500	
<u>Draft Horse Breeds</u>	11,500	2,000	500	500	400	1,300	3,500	3,300	-	
Belgian . . . . .	6,100	1,000	200	300	200	400	2,000	2,000	-	
Other Draft . . . . .	5,400	1,000	300	200	200	900	1,500	1,300	-	
<u>Ponies, All</u>	11,500	1,400	400	300	400	1,700	5,700	1,600	-	
Welsh . . . . .	2,700	400	100	100	100	400	1,300	300	-	
Other Ponies . . . . .	8,800	1,000	300	200	300	1,300	4,400	1,300	-	
Donkeys & Mules	2,500	300	100	100	50	50	1,200	700	-	
<b>TOTAL EQUINE</b>	<b>168,000</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>4,800</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>7,050</b>	<b>27,950</b>	<b>65,400</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>15,300</b>	

1/ Included in totals only.

OPERATIONS BY TYPE  
2000



# Equine Operations



New York had 30,000 places with equine in 2000, compared with 39,000 places in 1988. A place is defined as anyone operating land on which equine are kept. Owners of equine boarding their animals on land they did not operate were excluded.

Operators of places with equine were asked which type of activity best described their operation. Almost half of the operators, 49 percent, described their equine operation as non commercial/non farm. Second most common were farms on which the major activity was deriving income from crops and/or livestock. Commercial boarding and training operations were third, with 4,550 places. Commercial breeding operations were next, with 2,250 places.

The number of commercial equine operations had a sizeable increase from the 1988 survey. This increase was more than offset by the decline in the number of crop/livestock farms and non commercial/non farm operations.

Most of the operations, 81 percent, in the state consider themselves involved with recreational or pleasure riding or driving. (*Operators were permitted to list more than one discipline that they were involved with.*) The second largest group was involved with shows or competitive events. Most of the operations that were involved with shows or competitive events listed more than one discipline. Many were also involved with recreation and pleasure riding or driving.

More than half, 66 percent, of the equine operations in the state have been in operation 11 or more years. This is a big change from the 37 percent of operations reported in this category in 1988. The number of newer operations, those with equine five years or less, totaled 4,900 in 2000, compared with 13,600 in 1988. In most of the regions of the state the number of operations of five years or less ranges from 12 to 19 percent of the total, except for Long Island and New York City, which has 30 percent. Long Island and New York City had only 15 percent of the newer operations in 1988.

Property use prior to involvement with equine, for properties having equine less than 10 years, was more or less evenly divided among the four use categories. Twenty eight percent of these operations had been livestock farms, excluding equine. Former non-farm operations accounted for 22 percent, while former horse farms and former crop farms accounted for 20 percent each. Previous property use for the remaining 10 percent was unknown or unreported.

Table 8. EQUINE OPERATIONS BY TYPE AND DISTRICT,  
NEW YORK, 2000

District	Primary Type					
	Total	Commercial Boarding and Training	Commercial Breeding	Crop, Livestock Farm	Non- Commercial Non-Farm	Other <u>1/</u>
		<i>Number</i>				
Northern	1,700	100	<u>2/</u>	700	750	<u>2/</u>
Northeast	800	150	<u>2/</u>	200	350	<u>2/</u>
Western	7,100	1,050	500	1,700	3,700	150
Central	5,100	750	400	1,550	2,300	100
Eastern	4,500	600	300	1,100	2,400	100
Southwest	3,000	300	300	1,150	1,200	<u>2/</u>
Southern	2,100	300	150	700	900	<u>2/</u>
Southeast	4,700	1,000	400	800	2,400	100
Long Island & NYC	1,000	300	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	600	<u>2/</u>
<b>STATE</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>4,550</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>7,950</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>650</b>

1/ Includes race tracks, fairgrounds and other public facilities or institutions.

2/ Less than 100.

Table 9. EQUINE OPERATIONS BY DISCIPLINE,  
NEW YORK, 2000

Discipline	Exclusive Use		Multiple Use		Total	
	Number	Percent <u>1/</u>	Number	Percent <u>1/ 2/</u>	Number	Percent <u>1/ 2/</u>
Thoroughbred Racing	700	2%	400	1%	1,100	4%
Standardbred Racing	800	3%	300	1%	1,100	4%
Shows or Competitive Events	2,000	7%	7,000	23%	9,000	30%
Recreation or Pleasure	16,900	56%	7,400	25%	24,300	81%
Other	1,900	6%	1,200	4%	3,100	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

1/ Percent of all equine operations in the state.

2/ Does not round to total because of multiple uses per operation.

**Table 10. EQUINE OPERATIONS BY LENGTH OF TIME IN  
EQUINE-RELATED USAGE, NEW YORK, 2000**

District	Total Operations	Less than 3 years	3 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	11 to 20 years	21 years or more
	<i>Number</i>					
Northern	1,700	100	200	400	500	500
Northeast	800	50	50	200	200	300
Western	7,100	400	800	1,300	2,200	2,400
Central	5,100	200	500	900	1,800	1,700
Eastern	4,500	200	500	1,000	1,200	1,600
Southwest	3,000	100	300	400	1,000	1,200
Southern	2,100	100	200	300	600	900
Southeast	4,700	300	600	800	1,600	1,400
Long Island and NYC	1,000	150	150	100	300	300
<b>STATE</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>9,400</b>	<b>10,300</b>

**Table 11. PRECEDING USE OF PROPERTY,  
NEW YORK, 2000 <sup>1/</sup>**

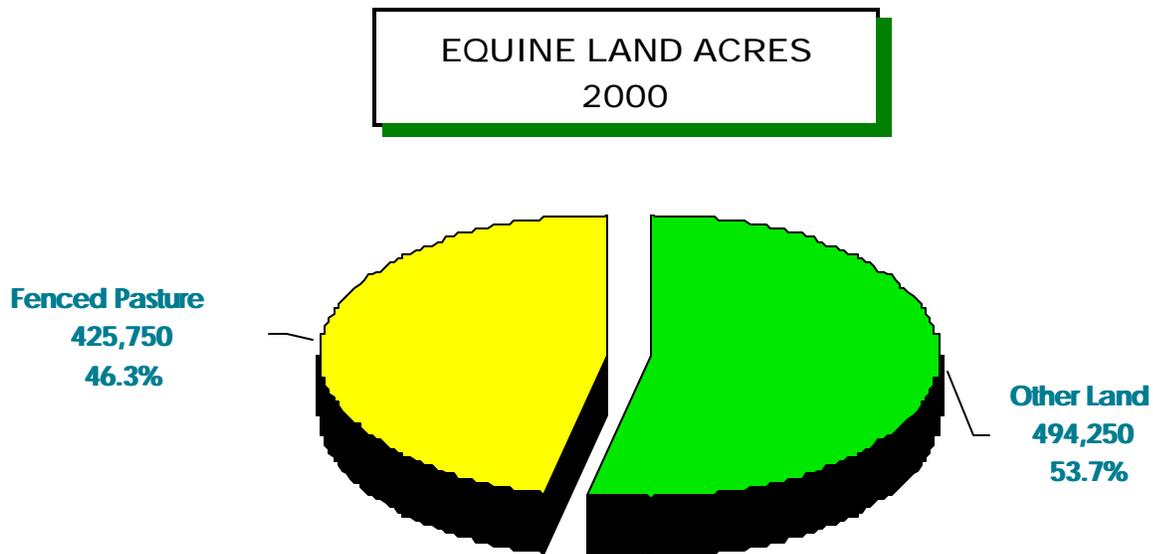
District	Total Operations	Horse Farm	Crop Farm	Livestock Farm	Non Agricultural	Unknown Type
	<i>Number</i>					
Northern	700	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	300	170	<u>2/</u>
Northeast	300	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	170	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
Western	2,500	450	850	460	490	250
Central	1,600	230	330	600	300	140
Eastern	1,700	250	260	570	460	160
Southwest	800	<u>2/</u>	140	370	<u>2/</u>	130
Southern	600	<u>2/</u>	190	<u>2/</u>	150	<u>2/</u>
Southeast	1,700	670	100	300	450	180
Long Island and NYC	400	210	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	100	<u>2/</u>
<b>STATE</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>2,060</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>1,030</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Property use prior to involvement with equine for properties with equine less than 10 years.

2/ Less than 100 operations.

**Table 12. ACREAGE IN EQUINE RELATED USAGE AND VALUE  
BY DISTRICT, NEW YORK, 2000**

District	Total Acres	Equine Acres		Total Value of Equine Related Land, Fencing and Buildings <i>Thousand Dollars</i>	Average Value per Equine Acre <i>Dollars</i>
		Total	Fenced Pasture		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Thousand Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>
Northern	300,000	70,000	30,250	119,000	1,700
Northeast	145,000	30,000	11,100	78,000	2,600
Western	700,000	140,000	56,600	490,000	3,500
Central	630,000	220,000	107,000	572,000	2,600
Eastern	480,000	100,000	43,300	340,000	3,400
Southwest	400,000	100,000	42,200	130,000	1,300
Southern	280,000	90,000	43,700	216,000	2,400
Southeast	600,000	160,000	87,000	1,392,000	8,700
Long Island and NYC	16,000	10,000	4,600	370,000	37,000
<b>STATE</b>	<b>3,551,000</b>	<b>920,000</b>	<b>425,750</b>	<b>3,707,000</b>	<b>4,029</b>



**Table 13. VALUE OF EQUINE RELATED ASSETS, BY DISTRICT,  
NEW YORK, DECEMBER 31, 2000**

District	Total Equine Related Assets	Equine on Hand	Equine Related Land, Fencing and Buildings	Vehicles and Equipment <sup>1/</sup>		Tack, Equipment and Clothing <sup>2/</sup>	Equine Feed and Supplies on Hand
				Total	Horse Trailers and Vans		
<i>Thousand Dollars</i>							
Northern	177,750	26,050	119,000	26,100	5,000	5,200	1,400
Northeast	111,450	17,090	78,000	11,860	2,500	2,960	1,540
Western	809,830	155,180	490,000	127,540	25,220	29,560	7,550
Central	782,090	110,150	572,000	81,270	16,850	14,430	4,240
Eastern	821,550	388,660	340,000	75,930	13,800	12,410	4,550
Southwest	223,440	40,850	130,000	43,300	6,850	6,860	2,430
Southern	301,650	40,190	216,000	36,190	7,280	6,740	2,530
Southeast	2,059,250	471,800	1,392,000	157,200	25,320	30,150	8,100
Long Island and NYC	866,630	451,830	370,000	33,220	5,870	9,700	1,880
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,153,640</b>	<b>1,701,800</b>	<b>3,707,000</b>	<b>592,610</b>	<b>108,690</b>	<b>118,010</b>	<b>34,220</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Equipment includes tractors, farm trucks, manure spreaders, starting gates, hot walkers, treadmills, horse trailers, vans, etc.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes saddles, bridles, halters, harnesses, riding/driving/racing equipment, grooming equipment, blankets, trunks, equestrian clothing, etc.

**EQUINE RELATED ASSETS  
2000 and 1988**

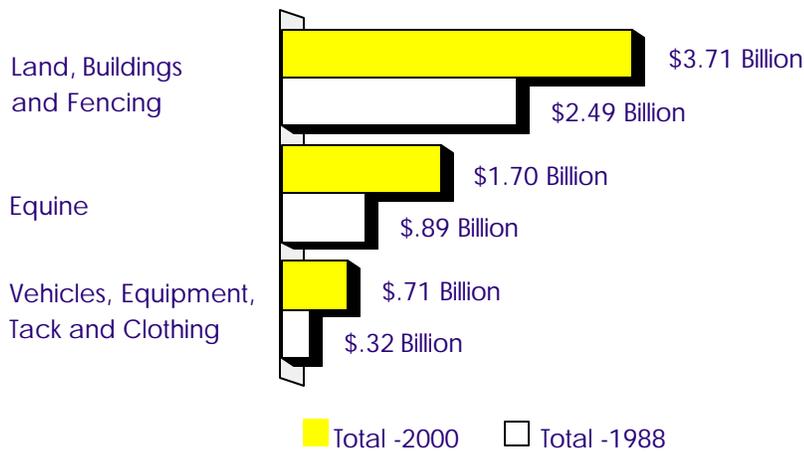


Table 14. EQUINE RELATED EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES,  
NEW YORK, 2000

Category	Total
<u>Horse Trailers or Vans</u> 1 or 2 Horse Capacity 3 or 4 Horse Capacity More than 4 Horse Capacity	9,350 5,000 2,100
Total Horse Trailers or Vans	16,450
Total Number of Stalls Used for Equine Purposes	155,000



# Equine Related Expenditures

Equine related expenditures totaled \$704 million in 2000, 29 percent more than \$546 million in 1988. Total equine related expenses have been broken down into two main categories: operating expenses and capital expenses. Operating expenses of \$523 million were 74 percent of the total, and 33 percent above the 1988 total. Capital expenditures rose only 18 percent from 1988 to a total of \$181 million.

As might be expected, feed represented the largest single expense item. Equine feed expenditures (*grain, hay, feed and supplements*) in New York during 2000 totaled \$101 million, 11 percent more than in 1988. This was an average of \$600 per equine, up \$100 from 1988. Feed expenditures included \$59.1 million for hay, \$24.9 million for grain and \$16.7 million for feed and supplements.

Labor was the second largest component of total expenditures with \$88.3 million. This included both cash wages and value of non-cash items received for work on the equine operation. Labor expense was 12 percent above the 1988 total and averaged \$526 per equine, compared with \$433 in 1988. Cash labor expenditures included cash wages as well as the employer's cost of social security tax, workman's compensation, insurance, pension, and unemployment compensation. Non-cash items included such things as housing, meals, clothing, horse board, lessons, and other benefits.

Boarding and training was the third leading operating expense category for equine operations. This totaled \$54.8 million, 16 percent above the 1988 total. This category covers expenditures by the equine owner for boarding, including stall fees, and fees paid for the training of equine and/or individuals by another operation.

Some additional leading operating expenses and amounts spent were: taxes, \$37.9 million; maintenance/repair, \$37.2 million; health services, \$32.6 million; farrier services, \$23.4 million; and breeding fees, \$22.0 million.

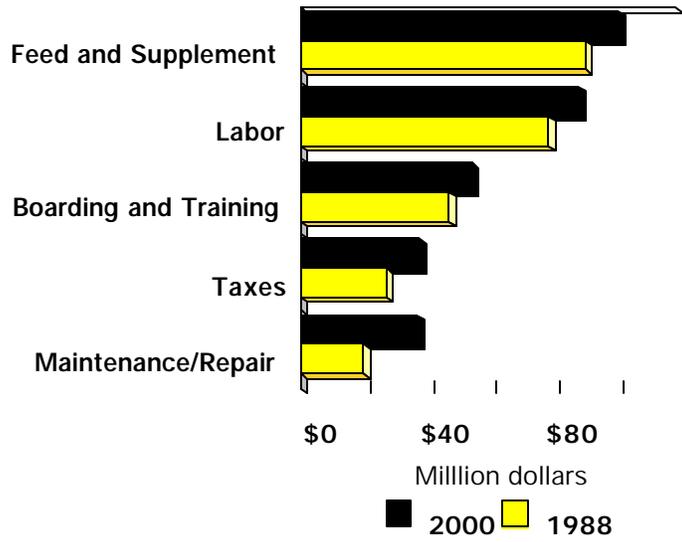
Capital expenditures, totaling \$181 million, accounted for 26 percent of all equine expenditures in the state. Equipment purchases in 2000 are put at \$68.3 million, 16 percent above the \$59.2 million spent in 1988. Included as equine related equipment purchases during the year were trucks, tractors, manure spreaders, horse vans, trailers, portable stalls, starting gates, hot walkers, treadmills, sulkies, carts, buggies, motor homes, campers, and autos.

Real estate purchases and improvements totaled \$63.0 million, 54 percent more than the \$41.0 million during 1988. Included were new real estate purchases and improvements to land and buildings for which the cost can be depreciated.

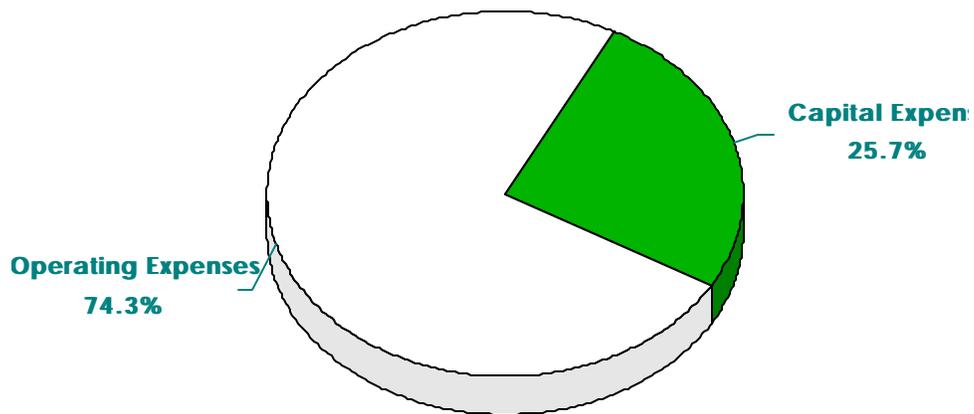
Equine purchases amounted to \$49.5 million, 8 percent below the \$53.7 million spent in 1988. Equine purchases was the only capital expenditure category to show a decrease from the 1988 survey. With the average value of equine higher in 2000 than in 1988, this tells us that there were fewer equine purchased in 2000 than in 1988.

Average expenditures per equine as given in Table 15 should be used with caution, as the sample size for obtaining economic data was not large enough to allow reliable estimates at the district level. Generally, costs will be higher in the urban and agri-urban areas while rural areas will have below average costs.

**LEADING EQUINE EXPENDITURES  
1988 AND 2000**



**EQUINE RELATED EXPENDITURES  
2000**



**Table 15. EQUINE RELATED EXPENDITURES,  
NEW YORK, 1988 AND 2000**

Expense Category	Total Expenditures		Average per Equine	
	1988	2000	1988	2000
	<i>Thousand Dollars</i>		<i>Dollars</i>	
<b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b>	<b>391,780</b>	<b>522,860</b>	<b>2,153</b>	<b>3,112</b>
Boarding and Training Fees .....	47,320	54,800	260	326
Grain .....	<u>1</u> /	24,920	<u>1</u> /	148
Feed and Supplements .....	91,000	16,700	500	99
Hay .....	<u>1</u> /	59,120	<u>1</u> /	352
Bedding .....	15,110	18,750	83	112
Health .....	20,020	32,590	110	194
Supplies .....	8,550	11,050	47	66
Farrier .....	15,290	23,400	84	139
Breeding Fees .....	11,470	22,000	63	131
Labor .....	78,730	88,320	433	526
Maintenance/Repair .....	20,020	37,190	110	221
Insurance Premiums .....	14,200	20,290	78	121
Utilities .....	10,190	14,550	56	87
Fuels .....	<u>2</u> /	8,380	<u>2</u> /	50
Taxes .....	27,300	37,910	150	226
Interest .....	<u>3</u> /	7,970	<u>3</u> /	47
Rent/Lease .....	6,190	10,920	34	65
Fees and Payments .....	5,460	12,780	30	76
Shipping and Travel .....	15,830	14,810	87	88
Miscellaneous .....	5,100	6,410	28	38
<b><u>Capital Expenses</u></b>	<b>153,790</b>	<b>180,790</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>1,076</b>
Purchases of Equine .....	53,690	49,460	295	294
Real Estate Purchases & Improvements .	40,950	63,010	225	375
Equipment Purchases .....	59,150	68,320	325	407
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>545,570</b>	<b>703,650</b>	<b>2,998</b>	<b>4,188</b>

1/ Grain and Hay included with feed and supplements in 1988.

2/ Fuels included with Shipping and Travel in 1988.

3/ Interest included with Miscellaneous in 1988.

# Equine Related Labor

There were 11,200 equine related positions for which people were hired during 2000 in New York, slightly less than the 11,400 in 1988. Of this total 67 percent, or 7,500, were considered part time. A part time or seasonal worker is defined as a person working less than 150 days a year.

Full time workers totaled 3,700, 31 percent less than the total full time workers in 1988. Of the 3,700 full time workers 27 percent, or 1,000, were considered as grooms, exercise riders, etc. Managers and assistant managers totaled 700, or 19 percent, of full time workers. Trainers and assistant trainers also totaled 700.

Most workers fell in the "other" category. For the most part these were general farm workers, or persons hired for cleaning of stalls, tending of the equine or general crop workers. The majority of these workers were part time employees.

Hired workers that performed multiple duties were counted only in the category for which the most important service to the operator was provided.

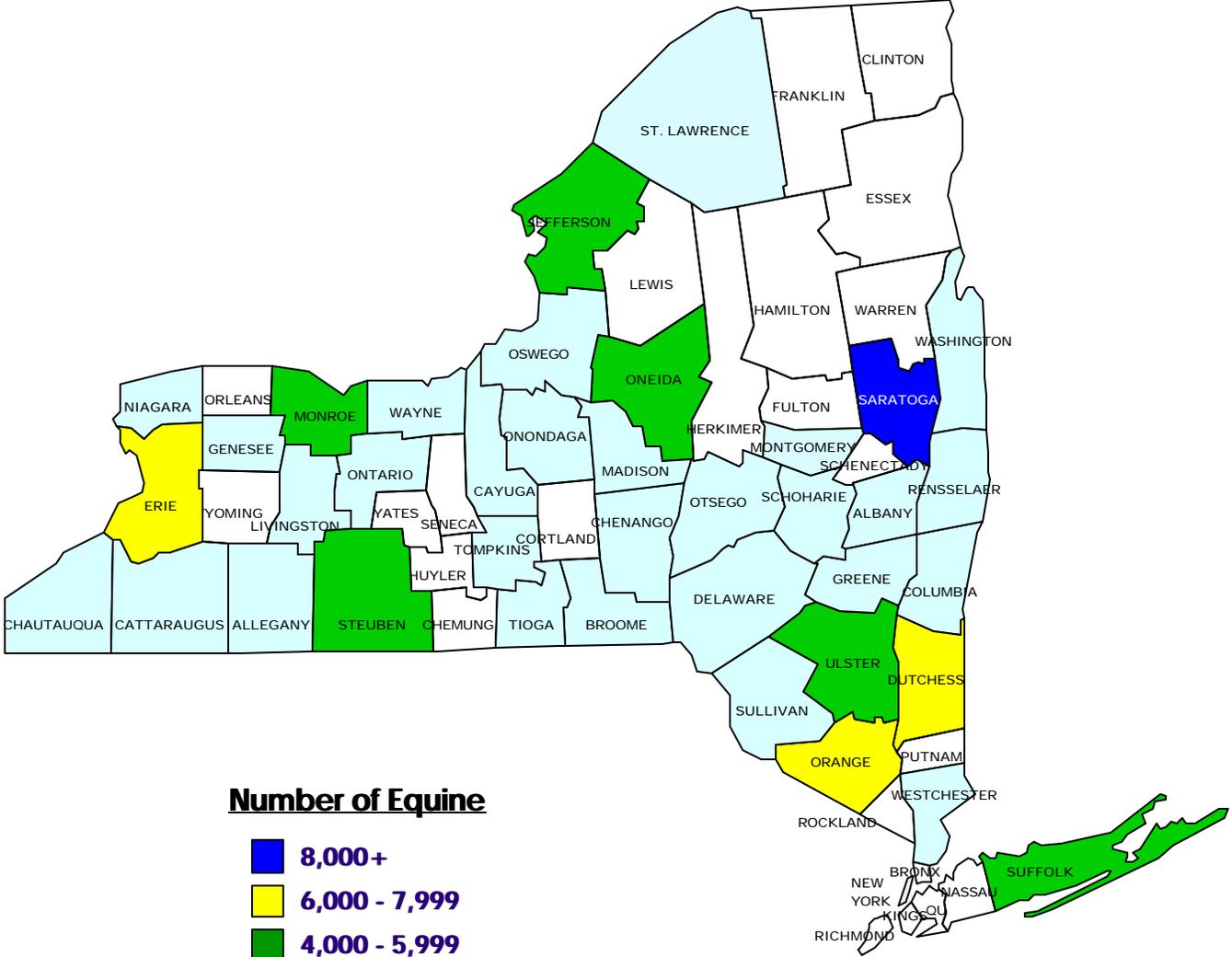
Cash labor expenditures of \$77.3 million, or \$460 per equine, included cash wages as well as the employer's cost of social security taxes, workman's compensation, insurance, pension, and unemployment compensation. The estimated value of non-cash items provided to workers during 2000 totaled \$11.0 million, or \$66 per equine. These non-cash items included such things as housing, meals, clothing, horse board, lessons, and other benefits. A total of 1,800 hired workers, or 16 percent, were provided housing.

**Table 16. EQUINE RELATED LABOR, NEW YORK, 2000**

Category	Full Time (150 days or more)	Part Time (less than 150 days)	Total
	<i>Number of Workers</i>		
<u>Type of Worker</u>			
Manager, Assistant Manager	700	200	900
Trainer, Assistant Trainer	700	700	1,400
Groom, Exercise Rider, etc.	1,000	1,200	2,200
Other	1,300	5,400	6,700
<b>Total Hired Workers</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>11,200</b>
Workers For Whom Housing Was Provided			1,800
<u>Expenditures for Labor During 2000</u>			
Cash Labor Expenditures			77,290
Value of Non-Cash Items Provided to Workers			11,030
Total Labor Expenditures			88,320

# EQUINE INVENTORY

## September 1, 2000



**Number of Equine**

- 8,000+
- 6,000 - 7,999
- 4,000 - 5,999
- 2,000 - 3,999
- 1 - 1,999

Table 17. EQUINE INVENTORY AND VALUE BY COUNTY,  
NEW YORK, 1988 AND 2000

County	Head			Total Value		
	Dec. 31, 1988	Sept. 1, 2000	Rank in 2000	Dec. 31, 1988	Sept. 1, 2000	Rank in 2000
	<i>Head</i>			<i>Thousand Dollars</i>		
Jefferson	2,200	4,300	10	6,490	13,760	19
Lewis	500	1,200	48	1,475	3,300	53
St. Lawrence	3,500	2,900	21	10,325	8,990	35
<b>Northern</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>8,400</b>		<b>18,290</b>	<b>26,050</b>	
Clinton	1,000	1,500	45	3,595	6,150	43
Essex	1,500	1,000	53	5,393	3,100	54
Franklin	700	800	56	2,516	2,560	55
Hamilton	NA	100	58	NA	180	58
Warren	1,400	1,200	48	5,033	5,100	47
<b>Northeast</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>4,600</b>		<b>16,537</b>	<b>17,090</b>	
Erie	8,000	7,200	2	41,800	48,240	9
Genesee	2,700	2,100	35	14,108	10,080	33
Livingston	3,400	3,300	18	17,765	13,200	21
Monroe	7,200	5,700	6	37,620	27,930	12
Niagara	3,000	3,000	20	15,675	12,000	25
Ontario	3,800	3,700	13	19,855	22,570	13
Orleans	2,100	1,400	47	10,972	4,060	50
Seneca	700	900	55	3,657	1,800	57
Wayne	3,200	2,000	36	16,720	6,600	42
Wyoming	1,800	1,800	40	9,405	5,220	45
Yates	1,100	1,200	48	5,748	3,480	52
<b>Western</b>	<b>37,000</b>	<b>32,300</b>		<b>193,32</b>	<b>155,18</b>	
Cayuga	2,400	2,200	33	9,540	7,700	36
Chenango	3,100	2,900	21	12,322	10,440	32
Cortland	1,500	1,600	42	5,963	3,680	51
Herkimer	1,400	1,600	42	5,565	4,800	48
Madison	2,700	2,600	26	10,732	12,220	24
Oneida	6,000	5,500	7	23,850	31,350	11
Onondaga	5,500	3,700	13	21,863	17,760	16
Oswego	2,700	2,000	36	10,732	11,000	29
Otsego	3,200	3,500	15	12,720	11,200	28
<b>Central</b>	<b>28,500</b>	<b>25,600</b>		<b>113,28</b>	<b>110,15</b>	
Albany	2,500	2,900	21	12,650	15,080	17
Fulton	1,000	1,000	53	5,060	4,700	49
Montgomery	1,500	2,400	29	7,590	7,680	37
Rensselaer	2,400	2,500	27	12,144	12,750	23
Saratoga	9,300	11,800	1	47,058	317,420	1
Schenectady	1,100	1,500	45	5,566	7,200	41
Schoharie	2,000	2,000	36	10,120	10,600	31
Washington	1,700	2,700	25	8,602	13,230	20
<b>Eastern</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>26,800</b>		<b>108,79</b>	<b>388,66</b>	

Table 17. EQUINE INVENTORY AND VALUE BY COUNTY,  
NEW YORK, 1988 AND 2000 (Continued)

County	Head			Total Value		
	Dec. 31, 1988	Sept. 1, 2000	Rank in 2000	Dec. 31, 1988	Sept. 1, 2000	Rank in 2000
	<i>Head</i>			<i>Thousand Dollars</i>		
Allegany	2,500	2,300	31	8,412	7,360	38
Cattaraugus	3,800	3,500	15	12,787	9,800	34
Chautauqua	4,500	3,800	12	15,142	10,640	30
Steuben	2,700	4,500	9	9,086	13,050	22
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>14,100</b>		<b>45,427</b>	<b>40,850</b>	
Broome	3,400	2,500	27	11,611	14,250	18
Chemung	1,500	1,700	41	5,122	7,310	39
Schuyler	1,400	1,100	51	4,781	2,200	56
Tioga	2,400	1,600	42	8,196	5,120	46
Tompkins	3,800	2,900	21	12,977	11,310	27
<b>Southern</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>9,800</b>		<b>42,687</b>	<b>40,190</b>	
Columbia	4,400	2,400	29	25,887	63,600	7
Delaware	3,300	2,200	33	19,415	7,260	40
Dutchess	6,500	7,000	3	38,242	126,000	3
Greene	2,200	2,000	36	12,943	11,400	26
Orange	8,800	6,800	4	51,773	59,840	8
Putnam	1,200	1,100	51	7,060	21,450	14
Rockland	1,000	600	57	5,883	5,400	44
Sullivan	4,200	2,300	31	24,710	20,470	15
Ulster	4,900	4,200	11	28,829	35,280	10
Westchester	8,500	3,500	15	50,009	121,100	4
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>32,100</b>			<b>471,800</b>	
Nassau	4,800	5,400	8	33,139	287,280	2
Suffolk	5,200	5,800	5	35,900	63,800	6
New York <sup>1/</sup>	3,200	3,100	19	22,092	100,750	5
Long Island/NYC	13,200	14,300		91,131	451,830	
<b>STATE</b>	<b>182,00</b>	<b>168,00</b>		<b>894,22</b>	<b>1,701,80</b>	

<sup>1/</sup> Includes Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond.

# *Equine Survey Procedures*

## Purpose

The chief purpose of the 2000 Equine Survey was to update the data collected in the 1988 Survey. The equine industry has changed substantially since the last survey in 1988, according to industry leaders. The Survey documented changes in the industry since that time, and provided updated information to help measure the contribution of horses, ponies, mules and donkeys to the New York economy. Some additional items were added to further evaluate the impact the equine industry has on the state.

## Design

The survey was designed in a manner to insure reliable coverage of all places with equine. A comprehensive list of all horse operations was compiled from many sources including veterinarians and equine organizations. A list of 23,500 names was developed.

To compensate for any incompleteness in the list, a land area sample consisting of 400 segments of land was selected. Each segment was from about one-tenth to one square mile (*64-640 acres*) in size and was canvassed for equine. Names of all persons with equine inside the segment were matched against the list of 23,500 names. The equine in segments for those persons not found on the list were expanded to give a measure of incompleteness of the list. This is known as multi-frame sampling.

## Methodology

In the first phase of the survey, questionnaires were mailed in early September 2000 to all persons on the list of operators. This questionnaire asked primarily the number of horses by breed and the total value of each breed on their operation on September 1. This provided two benefits. First, we were able to obtain the number and value of horses by breed for these operations. Second, we were able to stratify the list by size in order to sub-sample these operations for the important economic phase of the survey.

All known operations were sent a questionnaire. Key persons familiar with the equine industry also distributed questionnaires to pick up data for operations not already added to the list. In order to improve response on this phase of the survey, as many non-respondents to the mail inquiry as possible were contacted by telephone. With the mail response and the telephone follow up, we were able to get completed reports from more than 75 percent of the list.

A stratified systematic sample of 2,500 names was selected from the operations who responded to the survey's first phase. Respondents were assigned to one of six groups or strata: 1-4, 5-9, 10-19, 20-49, 50 or more equine, or no equine but equine expenses (*owners that board out their horses.*) Sampling rates varied from 4 percent for the operations that had no equine but did have expenses, to 100 percent for those operations with 50 or more equine. Race tracks were not sampled for the economic phase of the survey.

The comprehensive questionnaire used in the second phase of the survey, which included economic questions, was mailed to the entire sub-sample of 2,500 by the middle of January 2001. Operations that did not respond by mail were contacted by telephone and/or personal visits during February and March 2001. We received responses from 95 percent of this group.

Screening of the land area segments was conducted by trained enumerators during January and February 2001. Each operation with land in the segments was asked the number of equine on the operation on September 1, 2000 and the type of operation.

## Summarization

All questionnaires were manually reviewed before being computer edited and summarized. Data from "volunteer" questionnaires received from individuals not on the list were added after summary expansions were calculated. The data from the 400 area segments were expanded and added to the list expansions after eliminating any operations that were already on the list or among the volunteer reporters.

This resulted in a multi-frame indicator, which was the basis for estimating the total number of equine in New York. Summary results from the first phase of the survey were used to set county level estimates and the estimates for breeds. The results of the survey's second phase provided the basis for setting estimates of equine usage, assets, expenditures, and hired labor.

## Results

Estimates from a sample survey will vary depending upon the units selected in the sample. The variations in the expansions are measured by the relative error of the estimate which is the estimate divided by the statistical sampling error. The relative error gives an indication of the confidence that can be assigned to the survey expansions.

Statistically, this survey was designed to estimate the equine population at the State level. The relative error for the total number of equine was 7.8 percent, compared with 6.9 percent in the 1988 survey and 7.7 percent in the 1978 survey.

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Cambridge Saddle Club	New York State Horse Pullers Association
Caps 'n Chaps 4-H Club	New York State Morgan Horse Society
Central New York Horse Club, Inc.	Northern Exposure Pony Club
Empire State Quarter Horse Association	Orleans County 4-H Mounted Drill Team
Equestrians Unlimited 4-H Club	Paso Fino Horse Association
Genesee Valley Riding Club	Red Jacket Pony Club
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