



Fruits, Tree Nuts, and Berries

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. . . account for 94 percent of fruit, tree nut, and berry sales.

Top States in Sales (\$ millions)

California	17,639
Washington	2,931
Florida	1,848
Oregon	517
Georgia	308
New York	308
Michigan	257
Texas	252
Wisconsin	219
Pennsylvania	161

Fruit, tree nut, and berry sales together amounted to \$25.9 billion in 2012, according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture. This represented 7 percent of the \$395 billion in U.S. agriculture sales that year and an increase of \$7.2 billion since 2007, the last time the agriculture census was conducted. Ten states accounted for 94 percent of sales and 91 percent of acres producing these products in 2012. Just three states – California, Washington, and Florida – accounted for 87 percent of sales and 78 percent of acres.

The number of acres producing fruits, tree nuts, and berries was up 4 percent (5.5 million acres in 2012 versus 5.3 million in 2007). The increase in acreage came from tree nuts (up 14 percent) and berries (up 11 percent). The number of acres in non-citrus fruit production was up 2 percent since 2007, but acres in citrus production declined 13 percent. (Table 1)

Table 1
Land in Fruit, Tree Nut, and Berry Production, 2007 and 2012
(acres and percent change)

	2007	2012	% change
	acres		2007 - 12
Citrus Fruit	1,005,806	877,701	- 13
Noncitrus Fruit	2,176,511	2,209,192	+ 2
Tree nuts	1,857,179	2,112,869	+ 14
Berries	261,733	289,913	+ 11
Total	5,301,229	5,489,675	+ 4

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture, Specialty Crops.

Fruits

Oranges and grapefruits are by far the largest citrus crops. More than three fourths (76 percent) of the 877,701 citrus acres in 2012 were devoted to oranges, and another 10 percent to grapefruit.

Florida and California continue to be the largest citrus producers, but like citrus acres overall, their citrus acres declined since 2007 – 18 percent in Florida, and 3 percent in California.

Among non-citrus fruits, grapes and apples are the largest commodities. Over half of all land planted to non-citrus fruit trees is planted to grapes, which includes grapes for wine and raisins as well as fresh market grapes. Apple acreage accounted for about 17 percent of non-citrus fruit acreage. Olive and grape acres had the largest increases since 2007; prunes/plums, pears, peaches, and avocados had the largest decreases. (Table 2)

Table 2

Non-Citrus Fruit Acres, by Type, 2012, and change since 2007

	2012		% change 2007 - 12
	acres	%	
Grapes	1,139,146	52	+ 8
Apples	384,237	17	-4
Peaches	128,480	6	-14
Sweet cherries	105,244	5	+ 5
Prunes and plums	88,122	4	-19
Avocados	73,534	3	-11
Pears	56,749	3	-17
Olives	51,150	2	+ 29
Tart cherries	49,785	2	+ 0.5
Other	132,745	6	+ 4
Total	2,209,192	100	+ 2

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Tree Nuts

Four nuts account for almost all the tree nut acreage in the United States: almonds, pecans, walnuts, and pistachios. (Table 3) More than 98 percent of the acreage in almonds, pistachios, and walnuts was in California. Three states – Texas, Georgia, and Oklahoma – accounted for 72 percent of the pecan acreage.

Table 3

Tree Nut Acres, by Type, 2012, and change since 2007

	2012		% change 2007 - 12
	acres	%	
Almonds	936,248	44	+19
Pecans	543,486	26	-7
Walnuts	332,045	16	+24
Pistachios	232,653	11	+51
Other	68,437	3	+8
Total	2,112,869	100	+ 14

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Berries

Strawberries and tame and wild blueberries together accounted for more than 70 percent of the 289,913 U.S. berry acreage in 2012. Cranberries were the third largest berry crop, accounting for 15 percent of acres. Except for wild blueberries, all berry types had increases in acreage since 2007. (Table 4) The combined acreage increased 11 percent, and the number of farms producing berries increased 22 percent during that time.

Table 4

Berry Acres, by Type, 2012, and change since 2007

	2012		% change 2007 - 12
	acres	%	
Blueberries, tame	96,169	33	+25
Strawberries	67,467	23	+15
Cranberries	43,918	15	+6
Blueberries, wild	41,087	14	-10
Raspberries	23,104	8	+7
Blackberries and dewberries	14,982	5	+1
Other	3,195	1	+35
Total	289,913^a	100	+ 11

^aSome acres may have more than one crop.

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Producer Characteristics

Operators of fruit, tree nut, and berry farms resemble principal farm operators of all farms on many dimensions but they are more likely to be minority operators and on average are slightly older. A smaller proportion is under 45 years of age. (Table 5)

Table 5

Fruit, Tree Nut, and Berry Producers: Key Characteristics, 2007 and 2012
(principal operators of farms specializing in fruit, tree nut, and berry production)^a

	2007	2012	All Farms 2012
	percent		
Gender			
Male	86	86	86
Female	14	14	14
Age			
Under 45 years	12	10	16
45 to 64 years	55	51	51
65 years and older	33	39	33
Race/Ethnicity			
White (non-Hispanic)	83	81	92
Minority ^b	17	19	8
Worked some days off the farm			
Yes	70	63	61
No	30	37	39
Average Age (years)	59.1	60.8	58.3

^aMore than half its sales come from fruits, tree nuts, and berries.

^bIncludes Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Asian Pacific Islander, and multi-race.

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

To learn more about fruit, tree nut, and berry farming, the 2012 Census of Agriculture, and how to access national, state, and county data, go to: **www.agcensus.usda.gov**