

A Look at Michigan Agriculture



Capital: Lansing

Population: 9,883,360

Founded: January 26, 1837 (26th)

State Bird: American Robin

State Tree: White pine

State Flower: Apple Blossom

Number of Counties: 83

Largest City: Detroit - 701,475

Nickname: Great Lakes State

Number of Farms: 56,000

Average Farm Size: 182 acres

Total Farmland: 10 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Michigan has many microclimates which support the growth of over 200 commodities on a commercial basis, making the state the second most agriculturally diverse state in the nation.
- Michigan has over 10 million acres of farmland with 33 percent of the total farmland in some form of preservation agreement.
- The Kalkaska Series of soils, which cover over 750,000 acres in both the upper and lower peninsulas and 29 of the 83 counties, was named the state soil on December 4, 1990.
- The soil series supports the growth of hardwood timber trees like sugar maple, yellow birch and Christmas trees.

Crops & Livestock

- Michigan is the national leader in the production of tart cherries, having grown 158 million pounds, or 68% of the U.S. total in 2011.
- Michigan also ranks 1st nationally for the production of pickling cucumbers, geraniums, petunias and Niagara grapes.
- Michigan ranks 3rd in the nation in apple production with 985 million pounds produced in 2011. The estimated farm-level value was \$194.7 million.
- Michigan is 2nd nationally for beans, carrots, and celery and 3rd in asparagus production.
- More than 394,500 tons of fresh market vegetables were grown in Michigan in 2011. The state ranks 5th in processed vegetable production nationally.
- Michigan ranks 3rd nationally in value of wholesale sales of floriculture products.
- In 2011, Michigan led the nation in the value of sales for 10 crops including Impatiens (flats and hanging baskets), Begonia Hanging Baskets, Geraniums (hanging baskets and potted plants), Potted Easter Lilies, and Potted Petunias.
- Approximately 366,000 dairy cows produced more than 8,400 million pounds of milk in 2011. Michigan ranks 8th nationally in milk production.
- Michigan hog production totaled 619 million pounds in 2011.
- Egg production in 2011 totaled 3 billion eggs from 10.7 million laying hens.
- There were more than 1.1 million beef cattle in the state in 2011 and 1.05 million head of hogs, 79,000 sheep, 28,000 dairy and meat goats.

General

- Production agriculture, food processing and related businesses employ nearly one million Michigan residents.
- Agriculture is Michigan's second largest industry, generating \$91.4 billion for the state's economy.
- In 2010, Michigan ranked eighteenth nationally for agriculture exports in the nation with a total value of \$2.31 billion.