



# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

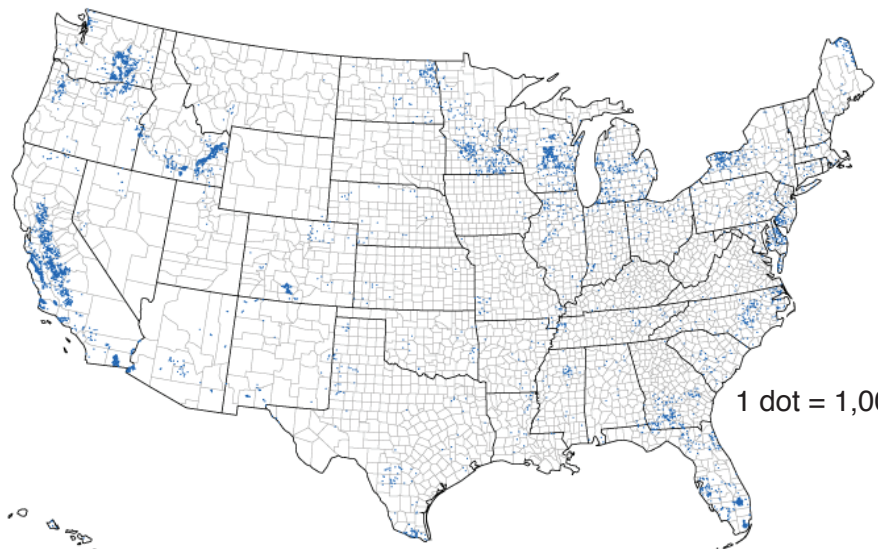
## Vegetables, Potatoes and Melons

The 2007 Census of Agriculture shows an increase in the value of sales for vegetables, potatoes and melons from \$12.8 billion in 2002 to \$14.7 billion in 2007, an increase of 15 percent. Vegetables, potatoes and melons accounted for 4.9 percent of all agricultural products sold in the United States during 2007. While the number of farms growing vegetables increased, acreage of most vegetable crops decreased from 2002 to 2007.

The top five counties for sales of vegetables, potatoes and melons were Monterey and Fresno County, California; Yuma County, Arizona; Palm Beach County, Florida; and Kern County, California. Monterey County was the only county in the United States with more than \$1 billion in vegetable sales, almost twice the sales value of the next largest county, Fresno. Monterey County produced almost 9% of total U.S. value of vegetable production.



Vegetable Acres Harvested for Sale: 2007



1 dot = 1,000 Acres

United States Total  
4,682,588 Acres

U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service



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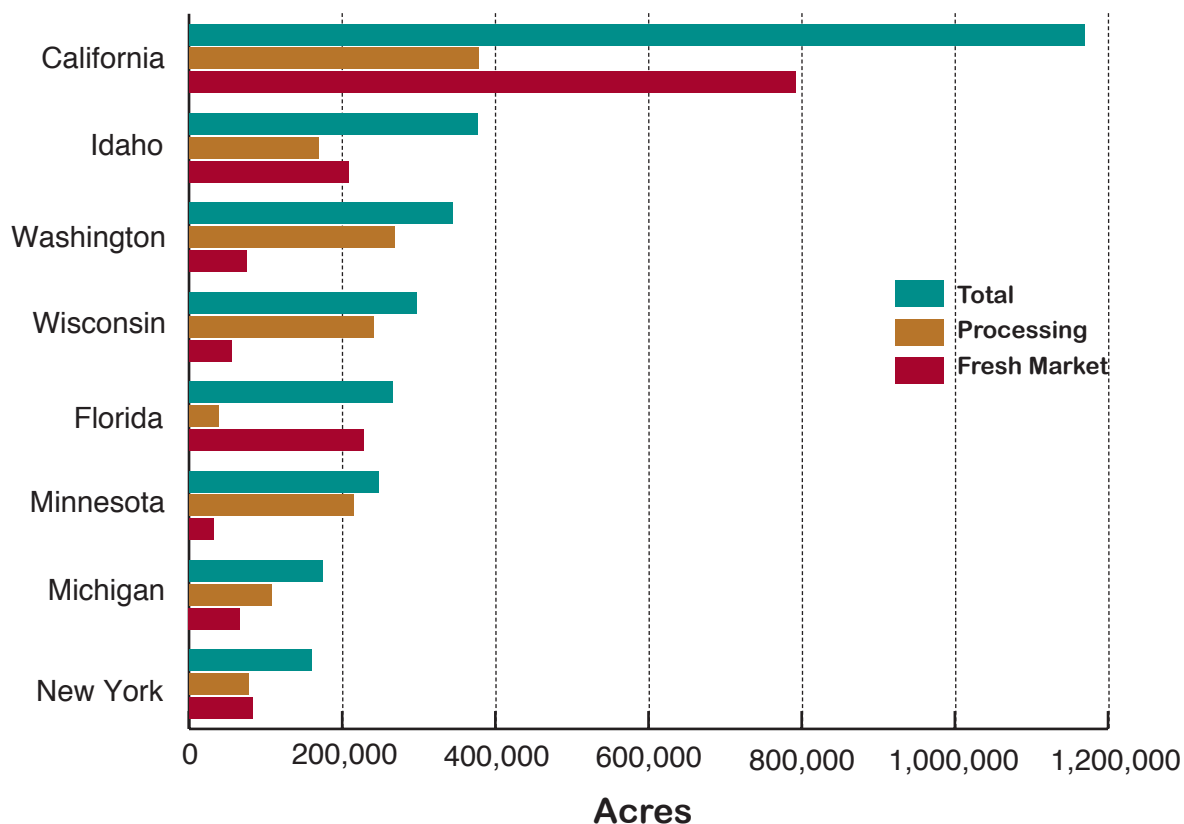


## Fresh Market and Processing Vegetables

Farms produce vegetables for both processing and the fresh market. Processing refers to vegetables that have been altered by heat, pressure or freezing. There were 62,495 farms that grew fresh market vegetables and 11,468 farms that produced vegetables for processing in 2007. Some farms produced both fresh market and processing vegetables.

The top five fresh market states in terms of harvested acreage are California, Florida, Idaho, Arizona and Georgia. California alone accounted for 30 percent of the acres harvested for fresh market. The top five processing states in terms of harvested acreage are California, Washington, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Idaho.

## Total Vegetable Acres Harvested for Processing and Fresh Market: 2007



# Vegetables, Potatoes and Melons

## Economic and Demographic Characteristics of Vegetable Farms

	All U.S. Farms	Vegetable, Potato and Melon Farms
Average size of operation	418 acres	228 acres
Average value of sales	\$134,807	\$368,950
Average government payments received	\$9,523	\$12,716
Average net cash farm income	\$33,827	\$109,964
% of farms with sales and government payments < \$10,000	58%	46%

	All U.S. Farms	Vegetable, Potato and Melon Producers
Average age	57.1	55.9
Age 65 and older	30%	26%
Not White	7%	19%
Female	14%	17%
Work off the farm	65%	63%
On farm less than 5 years	10%	14%

## How do they compare?

Compared to U.S. agricultural operations overall, vegetable operations, on average, have fewer acres but higher sales. They have slightly higher government payments. Fewer than half the farms have income of less than \$10,000 a year.

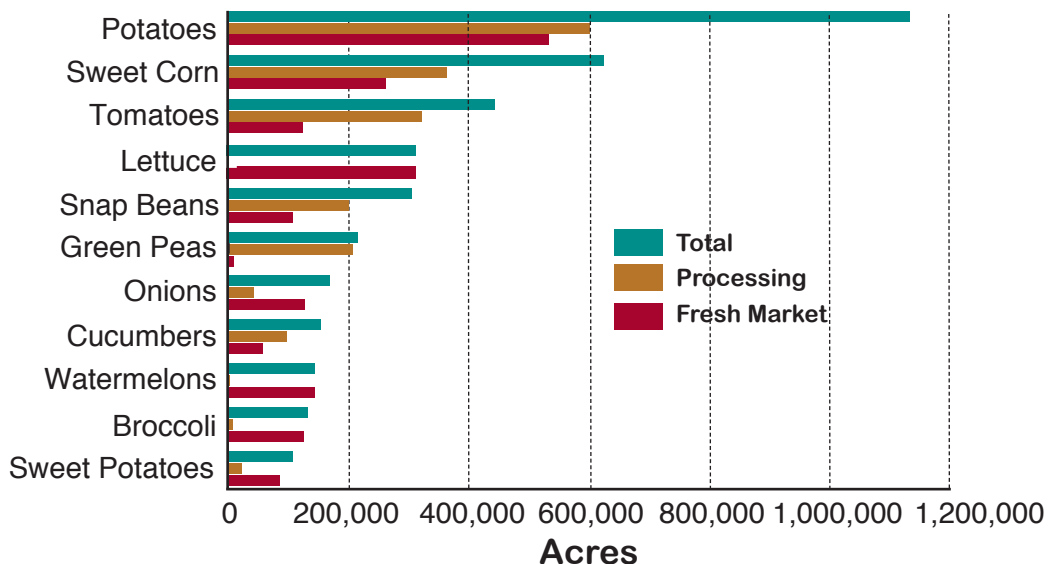
Operators of vegetable farms are on average younger than the typical farm operator, more likely to be female, and more likely to be a minority race or of Hispanic origin.

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## Top Vegetable Crops

The five largest fresh market crops in terms of acreage are potatoes, lettuce, sweet corn, watermelons and onions. The five largest processing crops in terms of acreage are potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes, green peas and snap beans.

**Vegetable Crop Acreage for Processing and Fresh Market: 2007**



Farms grew fewer acres of most of the major vegetable crops in 2007 compared to 2002. Of the eleven vegetables with more than 100,000 acres harvested in 2007, only three had increases in acreage compared to 2002: lettuce, onions and sweet potatoes. Potato acreage decreased by over 130,000 acres over the five-year period, a decrease of about 10 percent.

There were five crops with more than a 20 percent increase in acreage: romaine lettuce, Chinese peas, Brussels sprouts, artichokes and fresh cut herbs.



**For more information:**

[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

**Agricultural Statistics Hotline  
(800) 727-9540**

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