NATIONAL CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

NCGA Economic Contribution Summary

Corn Farming Contribution to the U.S. Economy

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A Study of the Economic Contribution of Corn Farming in the United States for 2025

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Executive Summary

In 2025, America's corn growers produced the largest crop in history, dwarfing the previous record. 17.02 billion bushels grown on 98.8 million acres and valued at $70.1 billion is a testament to the magnitude of the U.S. corn industry, but the 'ripple effects' of the sector extend even further. The nation's corn growers drive economic activity far beyond their farms, supporting local communities and boosting the broader U.S. economic engine.

Corn production impacts the economies of all 50 states and extends across more than 500 different industries, generating an estimated $142 billion in total economic output, contributing $56 billion to the U.S. GDP, and supporting more than 482,000 jobs bringing home $32 billion in wages in 2025. Put a simpler way, every bushel of corn produced in the United States in 2025 contributed an associated $8.34 in economic activity to the broader U.S. economy.

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Study Analysis

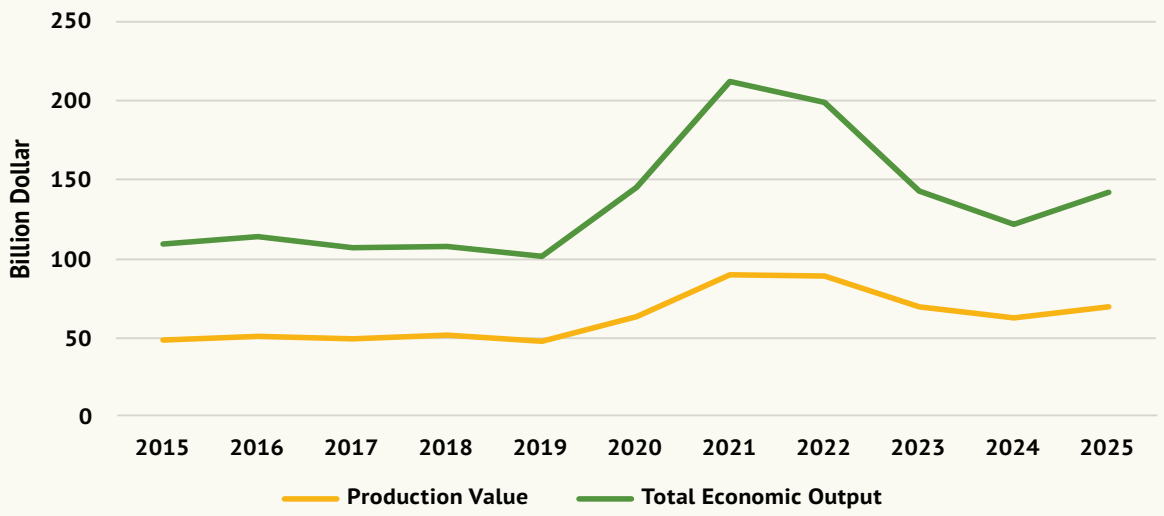
National Level Economic Contribution

The U.S. corn industry can be thought of as 'big' by many metrics: corn is the largest crop grown in the United States by planted acres and the United States is both the largest producer and exporter of corn in the world. About 500,000 of the roughly 3.4 million American farmers can be classified as corn farmers. As a result, the U.S. corn industry is a major contributor to the nation's agricultural and national economies.

Corn production for grain in the 2025/26 marketing year totaled 17.02 billion bushels, valued at an estimated $70.1 billion. Compared to the previous year, the price of corn was relatively lower but a significant increase in production volume more than made up the difference in total value of the crop, leading to a greater value flowing through the broader economy.

This increase in volume was driven by the largest corn crop in history. With both a record yield (186.5 bu/acre) and the highest planted acres (98.8 million) since 1933, production topped the previous record by more than 14%. However, despite this record output, 2025 was far from a record crop by value. The season-average price received at the farm gate for the 2025 crop is estimated at $4.15- this is lower than the five-year average ($5.10), ten-year average ($4.31), and twenty-year average ($4.32).

Corn Farming Production Value and Total Economic Output Contribution: 10 Year History

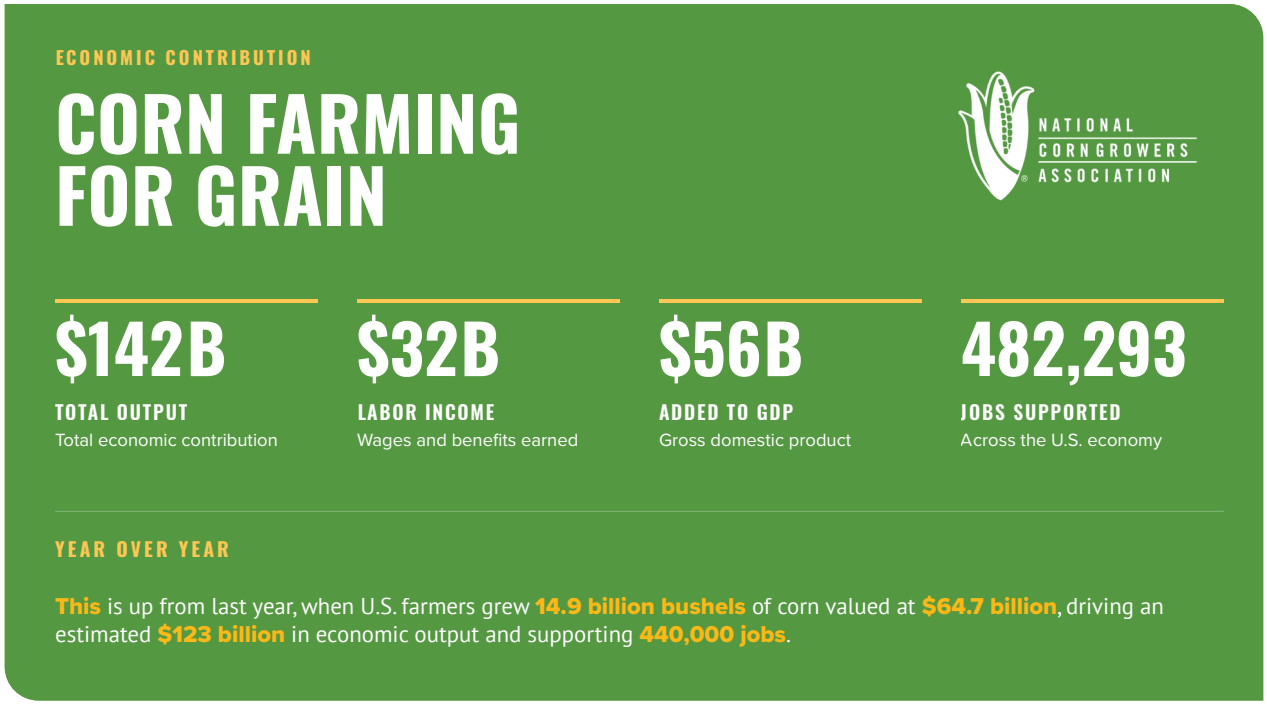


Data Source: IMPLAN model, using inputs provided by the user and IMPLAN Group, LLC.

Note: 2024 results were re-run with final value of production numbers. Compared to the analysis published in "A Study of the Economic Contribution of Corn Farming in the United States for 2024", the value of production estimate was revised down from $64.7 billion to $63.4 billion, resulting in a slightly lower economic contribution number here than reported at that time.

The Economic Contribution of Corn Study considers the direct, indirect, and induced effects of corn farming for grain, including upstream supply linkages and household spending of corn farmers/employees. The study does not account for downstream linkages of corn production, such as value-added processing, milling, or end uses of corn such as exports or livestock feeding.

The resulting analysis estimates a total economic contribution of $142 billion in output, $32 billion in labor income, $56 billion in GDP, and a total of 482,293 jobs supported by corn farming for grain.



This is up from last year, when U.S. farmers grew 14.9 billion bushels of corn valued at $64.7 billion, driving an estimated $123 billion in economic output and supporting 440,000 jobs.

These numbers are estimated by calculating output production value, upstream supply chain linkages, and linkages to household spending. "Average jobs" represent the annual average employment, based on an industry-specific mix that accounts for full-time and part-time positions, as well as seasonable variations.

The total effect is a sum of the direct, indirect, and induced effects. Direct effects are valued based on activities happening at the corn farm level. Indirect effects are valued based on activities up the corn farming supply chain, such as input providers. Induced effects are valued based on activities filtered back into the economy by household spending of corn farmers and employees up the corn supply chain.

For example, a farmer's labor income and value of production is the direct economic impact. However, that is not the only economic activity enabled by the farmer's direct output. The farmer purchases fertilizer, seeds, and agrichemicals, which supports manufacturing, equipment dealers, and transportation workers- these are indirect effects. Yet again, the impact doesn't stop there. The farmer and all of the employees whose job are enabled by this economic activity spend their wages on household goods and services, such as ordering food at a local restaurant, patronizing rural healthcare services, and securing housing for themselves and their families.

DIRECT EFFECT

Effects directly related to corn farming activities.

INDIRECT EFFECT

Effects stemming from activities up the corn farming supply chain.

INDUCED EFFECT

Effects of household spending by farmers and employees up the corn supply chain.

Direct Effects

In 2025, the 17 billion bushels of corn for grain grown by U.S. farmers represented the direct industry value. Corn farming provided 156,452 jobs directly, generating $9.7 billion in labor income. The direct impacts contribute $16.8 billion in value add from the industry, a measure of contribution to U.S. GDP.

Indirect Effects

Other businesses and industries are suppliers to the corn farming industry as part of the corn farming upstream supply chain. These firms produce and sell items such as fertilizer, fuel, machinery, power, and more. Suppliers also provide services including transportation services, financial services, consulting services, marketing services, insurance services, and more. These are just examples as corn industry impacts 489 different industries indirectly. The indirect effects of corn for grain farming in 2025 totaled 192,015 jobs generating $13.9 billion in wages, contributing $41.3 billion in economic output and $23 billion in GDP.

Induced Effects

Induced effects include the 'ripple effect' when the workers in the direct and indirect supply chains of an industry spend their earnings on consumer goods and services in the local community. In total, 506 distinct industries see induced effects from corn farming. For example, for the corn industry, this could look like a farmer or an employee of the seed industry spending their wages made possible by corn production at the dentist, on dinner at a restaurant, paying rent or a mortgage, or even subscribing to a gym membership. In this analysis, these induced effects support 133,826 jobs paid $8.7 billion in wages, $27 billion in output, and adds $16.6 billion to the United States GDP.

Corn Grain Farming Total Contribution to the U.S. Economy in 2024

IMPACT	EMPLOYMENT	LABOR INCOME	VALUE ADDED	OUTPUT
1 Direct	156,451.70	$9,666,238,692.65	$16,821,476,610.47	$73,357,917,961.62
2 Indirect	192,014.76	$13,876,118,845.71	$23,057,524,672.57	$41,356,047,362.77
3 Induced	133,826.45	$8,690,669,753.26	$16,590,997,834.30	$27,002,187,050.91
TOTAL	482,292.91	$32,233,027,291.62	$56,469,999,117.34	$141,716,152,375.30

Industry Linkages

There are firms in 506 industry sectors across all 50 states and the District of Columbia with linkages to corn grain farming. These individual sectors are aggregated into twenty larger industry groupings by two-digits of their North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code. Utilizing the NAICS system helps distinguish where impacts are occurring. A majority of the impacts are concentrated in NAICS code 11 (Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting), largely driven by the direct impacts of grain farming. Other areas that benefit from economic activity tied to corn production include manufacturing (NAICS 31-33), real estate and rental and leasing (NAICS 53), professional, scientific, and technical services (NAICS 54), finance and insurance (NAICS 52), healthcare and social assistance (NAICS 62), and wholesale trade (NAICS 42). In all, 17 of these codes see an impact output from corn farming of greater than $1 billion.

Corn Farming Total Economic Output Contribution by NAICS Aggregated Industry Sector Group

NAICS	INDUSTRY SECTOR	ECONOMIC OUTPUT
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	$79,024,385,300
42	Wholesale Trade	$9,823,216,832
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	$8,838,558,928
31-33	Manufacturing	$7,657,790,530
52	Finance and Insurance	$5,569,935,457
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	$4,527,583,310
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	$4,453,577,523
44-45	Retail Trade	$2,946,096,042
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	$2,837,261,458
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	$2,212,678,644
72	Accommodation and Food Services	$2,190,125,376
51	Information	$2,051,966,937
22	Utilities	$1,879,498,328
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	$1,779,938,050
9A	Government Enterprises	$1,714,172,550
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	$1,216,397,665
23	Construction	$1,092,541,402
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	$847,371,134
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	$601,567,937
61	Educational Services	$451,488,973

Total economic output by NAICS industry sector, rounded to the nearest dollar. Source: NCGA.

STATE LEVEL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

The national results are the sum of state-level impacts. The USDA reports corn production in 41 of the 50 states. As would be expected, the total economic value of corn farming is the largest in states with the highest corn production levels and generally lower in states without direct corn production. However, corn farming brings indirect or induced economic value to all 50 states and the District of Columbia given the linkages in its upstream supply chain and household spending of farmers and employees.

STATE	VALUE OF PRODUCTION	ECONOMIC OUTPUT	WAGES	EMPLOYMENT	VALUE ADDED
ALABAMA	227,392,000	**$544,130,985**	$143,839,544	2805	$187,145,355
ALASKA		**$19,409,042**	$5,035,448	76	$11,819,023
ARIZONA	19,642,000	**$220,724,825**	$68,199,619	978	$120,122,112
ARKANSAS	603,876,000	**$1,234,842,389**	$321,080,939	5567	$487,187,513
CALIFORNIA	40,655,000	**$4,714,048,360**	$1,606,640,960	19995	$2,987,824,730
COLORADO	731,500,000	**$1,807,313,761**	$451,582,833	7523	$654,188,963
CONNECTICUT		**$54,869,391**	$16,638,770	161	$28,551,320
DELAWARE	144,549,000	**$239,697,669**	$84,485,905	793	$168,779,723
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA		**$36,526,580**	$19,271,379	125	$26,369,781
FLORIDA	43,292,000	**$980,186,521**	$288,950,787	4443	$541,151,724
GEORGIA	458,150,000	**$847,835,633**	$195,262,187	2902	$676,512,565
HAWAII		**$29,462,819**	$9,369,314	147	$16,200,913
IDAHO	168,193,000	**$452,321,066**	$107,529,389	1635	$184,638,442
ILLINOIS	9,769,100,000	**$18,450,742,072**	$4,466,337,630	56501	$8,442,297,169
INDIANA	4,587,756,000	**$8,063,444,828**	$1,946,553,064	30087	$3,507,434,936
IOWA	11,365,200,000	**$19,711,571,314**	$3,506,322,505	48699	$7,019,050,854
KANSAS	3,770,000,000	**$6,943,198,517**	$1,399,547,210	18283	$2,662,985,824
KENTUCKY	1,078,987,000	**$2,184,971,649**	$531,830,790	11391	$715,678,209
LOUISIANA	632,751,000	**$1,677,151,051**	$304,933,525	5259	$405,767,095
MAINE		**$19,389,374**	$4,433,927	62	$8,014,242
MARYLAND	308,484,000	**$569,454,071**	$124,714,580	2940	$217,361,821
MASSACHUSETTS		**$96,823,703**	$31,148,249	292	$54,612,295
MICHIGAN	1,374,516,000	**$2,968,023,497**	$733,991,050	13965	$967,353,774
MINNESOTA	6,708,878,000	**$12,269,263,520**	$2,399,801,791	37322	$4,369,306,104
MISSISSIPPI	649,890,000	**$1,333,604,429**	$362,698,364	7432	$477,224,501
MISSOURI	2,809,965,000	**$5,839,017,385**	$1,322,447,768	25209	$2,467,748,888
MONTANA	36,135,000	**$217,280,889**	$57,998,159	871	$99,343,948
NEBRASKA	8,311,930,000	**$13,890,827,840**	$2,695,469,579	31586	$5,037,726,365
NEVADA		**$314,588,340**	$91,197,361	1175	$138,694,524
NEW HAMPSHIRE		**$21,718,273**	$7,749,657	78	$10,511,965
NEW JERSEY	50,474,000	**$272,416,669**	$82,964,902	1246	$133,064,336
NEW MEXICO	39,202,000	**$169,243,075**	$51,566,750	960	$3,804,124
NEW YORK	302,400,000	**$963,268,447**	$277,775,033	3956	$483,351,013
NORTH CAROLINA	622,440,000	**$1,277,895,575**	$324,029,674	4669	$786,790,186
NORTH DAKOTA	2,701,800,000	**$4,770,110,633**	$1,136,101,561	13649	$1,715,390,456
OHIO	2,484,550,000	**$5,633,222,055**	$1,441,327,719	27159	$1,977,759,585
OKLAHOMA	259,677,000	**$1,248,724,915**	$339,147,719	5743	$426,111,485
OREGON	82,305,000	**$480,317,639**	$150,525,523	2264	$251,938,582
PENNSYLVANIA	472,328,000	**$1,116,399,681**	$296,346,579	5412	$476,060,527
RHODE ISLAND		**$9,134,510**	$3,169,852	37	$4,362,489
SOUTH CAROLINA	239,982,000	**$507,319,232**	$106,804,518	2903	$184,510,864
SOUTH DAKOTA	4,126,230,000	**$6,863,560,826**	$1,607,566,564	18944	$2,249,217,453
TENNESSEE	616,572,000	**$1,494,013,304**	$301,009,604	9940	$398,600,235
TEXAS	1,328,940,000	**$4,258,554,798**	$1,256,175,749	18885	$2,105,649,959
UTAH	29,515,000	**$129,080,312**	$33,348,931	571	$60,307,771
VERMONT		**$9,429,525**	$1,932,172	28	$3,223,160
VIRGINIA	261,660,000	**$582,578,763**	$128,144,966	3442	$200,055,387
WASHINGTON	132,528,000	**$806,803,767**	$236,357,685	2999	$448,891,498
WEST VIRGINIA	20,655,000	**$98,985,205**	$21,910,636	637	$31,510,199
WISCONSIN	2,451,708,000	**$5,093,401,247**	$1,088,219,315	19797	$1,761,214,590
WYOMING	37,483,000	**$179,252,401**	$43,539,559	752	$76,580,542

Methodology

The Economic Contribution of Corn Study was conducted by the National Corn Growers Association to study the 'ripple effects' of the corn farming industry on the United States economy for the year 2025. IMPLAN, a regional economic analysis software designed to estimate the impact of a given economic activity within a specific geographic area, was used to conduct the analysis.

USDA National Statistics Service value of corn for grain production data by state for the crop year 2025/26 was the foundation for the study, applied to industry and final demand multipliers by state or district to estimate contribution to GDP, wages, and employment. Each state was modeled separately and aggregated in order to most accurately capture the unique state-by-state impacts in IMPLAN. The model was computed in 2025 dollars (when the economic activity occured) and reported in 2026 dollars.

IMPLAN utilizes an economic modeling technique called Input-Output analysis and a Social Accounting Matrix, which is a type of applied economic analysis that tracks the interdependence among various producing and consuming industries of an economy and the spending of households. It measures the relationship between a given set of demands for final goods and services and the inputs required to satisfy those demands.

Economic value calculations are derived from backward, or upstream linkages connecting corn farmers to other industries in every state. For example, a corn farmer in the agriculture sector purchases goods and services from suppliers in many industries including inputs like fertilizer, fuel, machinery, transportation services, financial services, marketing services, and many others. The input-output analysis does not look at forward, or downstream linkages such as processing of corn products.

The households providing labor and management resources for corn farming are also linked in the model, representing induced effects. Workers in direct and indirect industries spend earnings on goods and services in the region, representing a critical component of the economy. Economists at IMPLAN provided supporting services including the recommendation to use Multi-Regional Input-Output (MRIO) Analysis. MRIO analyses utilize interregional commodity trade and commuting flows to quantify the demand changes across regions stemming from a change in production and/or income in another region. It measures the economic interdependence of regions. The direct, indirect, and induced impacts on each state were modeled independently and then summed. IMPLAN has been a standard tool for academic and professional economists for decades. The methods used to produce IMPLAN's economic data set and economic impact estimates have been widely published both in professional publications as well as peer-reviewed academic journals. Many of these methods are considered standard best practices in a wide variety of applied economic fields today. Some of the language used in this report was provided by IMPLAN as part of the IMPLAN Report Toolkit6.