



Georgia Agricultural Census Comparison: 2017 and 2022

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2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: General Agriculture

Jared Daniel and Gopinath Munisamy

Farms in Georgia			
	2017	2022	% Change
# of Farms	42,439	39,264	-7%
Land in Farms (acres)	9,953,730	9,939,313	-0.14%
Average Size (acres)	235	253	8%
Mkt. Value. of Ag Products Sold	\$11,429,748,956	\$13,239,372,000	16%

- The number of farms in Georgia declined by 7% in line with the nation.
- Nationally, nearly 20 million acres (2%) of farmland were lost, but Georgia only saw 14,417 acres (0.14%) of farmland lost.
- Average farm size increased by 8% in Georgia compared to about 5% nationally.

- Small and medium farms have exited Georgia's economy, consistent with national trends.
- Surprisingly, growth in Georgia farms over 2,000 acres is not matched by the rest of the country. Nationally, much of the growth occurred in 1,000 to 1,999 acres category.

# of Farms by Size					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
1 to 9	4,516	11%	3,345	9%	-26%
10 to 49	13,444	32%	12,508	32%	-7%
50 to 179	13,479	32%	12,823	33%	-5%
180 to 499	6,514	15%	6,144	16%	-6%
500 to 999	2,233	5%	2,212	6%	-1%
1,000 to 1,999	1,498	4%	1,312	3%	-12%
2,000 or more	755	2%	920	2%	22%

Farms by Legal Status					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Family or Individual	36,233	85%	32,831	84%	-9%
Partnership	2,733	6%	2,549	6%	-7%
Corporation	2,882	7%	3,404	9%	18%
Other	591	1%	480	1%	-19%

- With the increase in average farm size and growth of farms with 2,000 acres or more in Georgia
 - The number of family and individual farms had the highest decline between 2017 and 2022.
- Corporate farms' share in total number of farms increased from 6.8% in 2017 to 10.3% in 2022. Nationally, corporate farms' share increased from 5.7 to 6.7% only during the same time.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



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Operations with Commodity Sales					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
< \$1,000	14,907	35%	11,822	30%	-21%
\$1,000-\$2,499	3,687	9%	3,436	9%	-7%
\$2,500-\$4,999	4,216	10%	3,562	9%	-16%
\$5,000-\$9,999	4,492	11%	4,825	12%	7%
\$10,000-\$19,999	3,746	9%	3,746	10%	0%
\$20,000-\$24,999	1,043	2%	1,052	3%	1%
\$25,000-\$39,999	1,678	4%	1,875	5%	12%
\$40,000-\$49,999	657	2%	743	2%	13%
\$50,000-\$99,999	1,498	4%	1,590	4%	6%
\$100,000-\$249,999	1,226	3%	1,269	3%	4%
\$250,000-\$499,999	1,031	2%	1,012	3%	-2%
\$500,000-\$999,999	1,783	4%	1,258	3%	-29%
\$1,000,000-\$2,499,999	1,527	4%	1,385	4%	-9%
\$2,500,000-\$4,999,999	699	2%	1,183	3%	69%
\$5,000,000+	249	1%	506	1%	103%

- Again, in line with increase in the number of farms with 2,000 or more acres and corporate farming in Georgia,
 - Operations with sales over \$2.5 million have increased their share of total number of operations from 3% to 5% between 2017 and 2022.
- Modest growth in operations with sales of \$20,000 - \$249,999 is observed between 2017 and 2022.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Farm Financials

Jared Daniel, Cesar Escalante, and Guy Hancock

Net Cash Farm Income, # of Operations with Gain					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
< \$1,000	1,306	8%	945	6%	-28%
\$1,000-\$4,999	2,999	18%	2,378	16%	-21%
\$5,000-\$9,999	1,833	11%	1,584	11%	-14%
\$10,000-\$24,999	2,424	15%	2,100	14%	-13%
\$25,000-\$49,999	1,545	10%	1,515	10%	-2%
\$50,000+	6,112	38%	6,057	42%	-1%

- The number of farms that experienced net cash gains dropped in 2022 across all farm size categories, with significantly larger drops among smaller farms.
- The smaller decline in the number of more profitable operations in the larger size categories allowed an overall increase in the state’s net cash farm income in 2022, compared to the 2017 level.

- There were more farms in the larger size categories that experienced net losses in 2022 compared to 2017. Analyzing the changes in specific components of Georgia farms’ total farm expenses between 2017 and 2022, manufactured input (electricity, fertilizer, pesticides, fuel) and interest expenses registered large increases (28.54% and 16.70%, respectively) in 2022. These expenses figure more prominently in larger farms’ expense profiles.
- Labor expenses registered an overall decrease in 2022 (23.13% drop from its 2017 level). Among other cost efficiency improvement schemes, smaller farms could have more effectively employed some labor cost minimization schemes (especially through optimizing family labor contributions) than their larger business counterparts.

Net Cash Farm Income, # of Operations with Loss					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
< \$1,000	1,644	6%	1,254	5%	-24%
\$1,000-\$4,999	7,506	29%	5,988	24%	-20%
\$5,000-\$9,999	6,081	23%	5,668	23%	-7%
\$10,000-\$24,999	6,689	26%	6,931	28%	4%
\$25,000-\$49,999	2,535	10%	2,850	12%	12%
\$50,000+	1,765	7%	1,994	8%	13%

Govt. Programs, Federal, Operations w/ Receipts			
	2017		% Change
	#	#	
Total Receipts	295,410,580	196,282,000	-34%
\$ Per Operation	\$ 21,861	\$ 29,785	36%

- Total agricultural operation receipts decreased by 34% from 2017 to 2022 while the average amount received per operation increased by 36%
- A smaller number of operations receiving larger payments is likely linked to the trend of mid-size Georgia farms growing into larger farms (over 1,000 acres) or being absorbed by a large farm.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Farm Financials

Jared Daniel, Cesar Escalante, and Guy Hancock

Expense Totals, Operating, # of Operations					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
<\$5,000	8,606	20%	5,914	15%	-31%
\$5,000-\$9,999	8,256	19%	7,293	19%	-12%
\$10,000-\$24,999	11,218	26%	10,788	27%	-4%
\$25,000-\$49,999	5,041	12%	5,455	14%	8%
\$50,000-\$99,999	2,456	6%	2,727	7%	11%
\$100,000-\$249,999	1,815	4%	2,037	5%	12%
\$250,000-\$499,999	1,443	3%	1,113	3%	-23%
\$500,000-\$999,999	1,617	4%	1,233	3%	-24%
\$1,000,000-\$2,499,999	1,589	4%	2,005	5%	26%
\$2,500,000	398	1%	699	2%	76%

- The distribution of farm expenses across business size categories seems to be even for expenses below \$50,000 in 2017 and 2022. In both years, about 75% of the farms reported expenses below \$50,000. Within this subgroup, the distribution leans more on the higher end as more farms (8% increase) incurred expenses \$25,000 and above while less farms reported expenses below \$25,000 between 2017 and 2022.
- About 9% to 10% of the farms incurred expenses of \$500,000 and above in both years. More farms incurred expenses of \$1.0 million and above in 2022, especially in the \$2.5 million and above expense category that experienced a 76% increase in farm numbers.

- Farm operations receiving < \$25,000 in Federal program receipts constitute the largest proportion of decreases in # of Operations with receipts, ranging from 53% to 60%.
- Conversely, Operations receiving > \$50,000 in Federal Program Receipts represent the smallest decrease at 17%.
- These decreases can be attributed to the overall reduction in total receipts (-34%) and consolidation of small to mid-size farms.

Govt. Programs, Federal, Operations w/ Receipts					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
< \$1,000	2,147	16%	952	14%	-56%
\$1,000-\$4,999	5,709	42%	2,263	34%	-60%
\$5,000-\$9,999	1,836	14%	864	13%	-53%
\$10,000-\$24,999	1,676	12%	783	12%	-53%
\$25,000-\$49,999	784	6%	600	9%	-23%
\$50,000+	1,361	10%	1,128	17%	-17%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Inputs

Jared Daniel and Guy Hancock

Ag Land, Irrigated, # of Operations					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Avg. Acres/Farm	208	-	201	-	-3%
1.0-9.0 acres	2,409	39%	2,641	41%	10%
10.0-49.9 acres	1,134	18%	1,438	23%	27%
50.0-99.9 acres	504	8%	515	8%	2%
100-199 acres	591	10%	485	8%	-18%
200-499 acres	727	12%	638	10%	-12%
500-999 acres	546	9%	349	5%	-36%
1,000-1,999 acres	199	3%	212	3%	7%

- Between 2017 and 2022, there was a notable hollowing out of mid-sized irrigated agriculture operations (100-999 acres). This development can be partially attributed to large operations' economies of scale benefits and smaller operations' ability to utilize a significant amount of owner/family labor.
- 2022 data does show an increase in smaller farming operations that could also likely be attributed to a pandemic-inspired interest in small-scale production.
- The percentage change in the 2,000+ acre operation segment surged more than any category in 2022, with many large producers absorbing irrigated acreage from mid-sized operations.

- Higher agricultural input prices across all categories resulted in producers not investing resources into their least productive land.
- Between 2017 and 2022, the percentage of acres that a major input was utilized decreased in most categories by 6%-34%.
- Only chemical nematicide and other chemical (e.g. wildlife deterrents and plant growth regulators) applications increased from 2017 to 2022.
- The most notable input change observed from the 2022 data is the drastic 132% increase in nematicide use on Georgia acres.

Ag Land, Treated, Acres					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Fertilizer (total)	3,446,808	35%	2,975,334	30%	-14%
Fertilizer (manure)	627,178	6%	516,439	5%	-18%
Fertilizer (organic)	73,098	1%	61,277	1%	-16%
Chemical, Insecticide (excl. nematicides)	2,646,137	27%	1,758,380	18%	-34%
Chemical, Herbicide (total)	3,420,961	34%	3,216,758	32%	-6%
Chemical, Insecticide (nematicides)	671,621	7%	1,561,398	16%	132%
Chemical, Fungicide (total)	1,130,408	11%	1,061,167	11%	-6%
Chemical, Other (total)	1,153,845	12%	1,438,573	14%	25%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Inputs

Jared Daniel and Guy Hancock

Selected Input Expense Totals, Measured in \$					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Fertilizer, Incl. Lime & Soil Conditioners	\$540,047,093	8%	\$594,606,000	8%	10%
Chemicals	\$489,949,982	7%	\$532,583,000	7%	9%
Seeds & Plants	\$373,968,485	6%	\$399,824,000	6%	7%
Animals	\$1,199,521,353	18%	\$1,326,524,000	18%	11%
Feed	\$2,703,862,612	41%	\$3,100,032,000	43%	15%
Fuels, Incl. Lubricants	\$338,507,706	5%	\$346,713,000	5%	2%
Ag Services, Utilities	\$242,408,649	4%	\$229,821,000	3%	-5%
Supplies & Repairs (excl. lubricants)	\$435,043,740	7%	\$464,853,000	6%	7%
Ag Services, Customwork	\$212,615,433	3%	\$223,007,000	3%	5%

- From 2017 to 2022, producers saw notable percentage increases across most major agricultural input categories with the feed expense category being the biggest mover, increasing 15% (adjusted for inflation).
- Prices of most agricultural input categories were pushed higher from 2017 to 2022 by pandemic-induced supply-chain issues and geopolitical instability.
- Although most input expense categories increased, the distribution of agricultural input expenses remained mostly stable from 2017 to 2022.
- Ag Services, Utilities was the only major input expense category to decline (-5%, adjusted for inflation) from 2017 to 2022.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Inputs

Jared Daniel and Guy Hancock

Crop Insurance Usage					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Farms Enrolled in Crop Insurance	5,213	12%	4,664	12%	-11%
Acres Enrolled in Crop Insurance	2,616,863	26.3%	2,814,670	28%	8%

- The total number of farms enrolled in crop insurance declined by 11% while total acres enrolled increased by 8% from 2017 to 2022.
- This inverse relationship between farms and acres enrolled in crop insurance can likely be attributed to the shift in acreage towards larger operations that would be more likely to use crop insurance.
- Natural disasters that have impacted Georgia agriculture such as Hurricane Michael were likely also instrumental in motivating producers to enroll more acres in crop insurance programs.

- The number of organic farms steeply declined from 2017 to 2022 by 19%.
- Despite a reduction in total organic farms, reported sales by organic farms surged 65% (inflation-adjusted) from 2017 to 2022.
- The drastic increase in organic farm sales can be partially attributed to the continuing trend of Georgia farms becoming larger and more productive.

Organic Agriculture					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Farms	122	0.3%	99	0.3%	-19%
Sales	\$ 35,808,211	0.4%	\$59,085,000	0.4%	65%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Labor

Jared Daniel and Cesar Escalante

Hired Labor					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Total Operations w/ Hired Labor expense	11,737	28%	9,891	25%	-16%
Hired Labor Expense	\$619,101,671	8.7%	\$ 691,014,000	7%	12%

- The drop in the number of farm operations that directly hired farm workers between 2017 and 2022 is consistent with the overall national and state declining trends in the number of farm businesses registered in the past decades.
- Despite the decrease in number of hired workers, total hired workers' wage payments, increased by 12% over the five-year period; this could be attributed to adjustments in real wage rates as state annual minimum wages were upgraded and possibly due to an increasing proportion of skilled to total hired worker population.
- The slight drop in the share of farms with direct hires to 25% in 2022 (from 28% in 2017) reflects that farms could have resorted to other labor substitution strategies (such as optimizing family labor inputs) or input substitution schemes.

- Hired labor expenses for operations with revenues less than \$100,000 in 2022 decreased from their 2017 levels.
- In contrast, larger farms (with revenues of \$100,000 and over) could have employed more skilled workers in 2022 (compared to 2017) that were paid higher wages or hired more workers, regardless of skill level.

Operations with Hired Labor Expense					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
< \$1,000	2,218	19%	1,474	15%	-34%
\$1,000-\$4,999	2,919	25%	2,415	24%	-17%
\$5,000-\$9,999	1,241	11%	1,051	11%	-15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	1,782	15%	1,305	13%	-27%
\$25,000-\$49,000	1,662	14%	1,135	11%	-32%
\$50,000-\$99,999	1,030	9%	1,006	10%	-2%
\$100,000-\$249,999	567	5%	1,033	10%	82%
\$250,000-\$499,999	183	2%	289	3%	58%
\$500,000+	135	1%	183	2%	36%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Labor

Jared Daniel and Cesar Escalante

Contract Labor					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Total Operations w/ Contract Labor expense	5,983	14%	4,637	12%	-22%
Contract Labor Expense	\$181,685,601	2.6%	\$211,062,000	2%	16%

- The number of operations with contract workers supplied by third party farm labor contractors (FLCs) decreased in 2022 by 22%, but the total contract wages expense increased by 16%.
- The rise in total contract wages could suggest either annual increases in average real contract wages per worker and/or an increasing competition in the farm labor contracting market that induced FLCs to maximize hiring opportunities through recruitment of more workers in each production cycle that will be outsourced to a growing farm business clientele.

- Larger operations (with revenues of \$50,000 and above) increased their patronage of contract workers as these farms could have expanded their operations in size and scale.
- Possibly, as FLC commissions and other intermediation fees could have increased contract wage rates, larger farms could relatively afford these rates than their smaller business peers.

Operations with Contract Labor Expense					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
< \$1,000	816	14%	518	11%	-37%
\$1,000-\$4,999	1,673	28%	1,515	33%	-9%
\$5,000-\$9,999	887	15%	569	12%	-36%
\$10,000-\$24,999	1,489	25%	726	16%	-51%
\$25,000-\$49,000	625	10%	502	11%	-20%
\$50,000-\$99,999	296	5%	331	7%	12%
\$100,000+	197	3%	476	10%	142%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Demographics

Jared Daniel and Vanessa Shonkwiler

Producer Numbers					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Total	68,087	-	67,082	-	-1%
Male	44,839	65.9%	43,322	64.6%	-3%
Female	23,248	34.1%	23,760	35.4%	2%
Primary Occupation is Farming	27,062	39.7%	26,974	40.2%	0%
Hispanic	922	1.4%	996	1.5%	8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	211	0.3%	229	0.3%	9%
Asian	461	0.7%	584	0.9%	27%
Black or African American	2,773	4.1%	2,700	4.0%	-3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	30	0.0%	55	0.1%	83%
White	64,202	94.3%	62,985	93.9%	-2%
Multi-Race	410	0.6%	529	0.8%	29%
Military Service, Served	8,835	13.0%	7,339	10.9%	-17%

- On average, producers in Georgia were approximately 58 years old. This age aligns with the generation commonly referred to as “Boomers”.
- Most producers (64%) were aged over 55.
- In 2022, the number of younger producers (less than 25) had increased by 15% compared to 2017.
- This relatively older age characterizing Georgia producers may have implications for succession planning, workforce development, and other aspects of the agricultural industry.

- Between 2017 and 2022, there was a 1% decrease of the total number of Georgia producers. This is largely explained by the decline of male producers (-3%). Conversely, the number of female producers increased by 2%.
- Less than half of Georgia producers (40%) reported that farming is their primary occupation.
- The majority of producers were white (94%), slightly declining number (-2%) compared to the significant increase of Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (+83%), Multi-Race (+29%), and Asian (+27%) producers.
- Among Georgia producers, about 11% had served or were serving in the U.S. military in 2022.

Producers by Age					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Average	57.9	-	59	-	2%
< 25	832	1%	956	1%	15%
25-34	4,272	6%	4,075	6%	-5%
35-44	7,619	11%	7,578	11%	-1%
45-54	13,143	19%	11,151	17%	-15%
55-64	18,071	27%	16,636	25%	-8%
65-74	15,983	23%	16,418	24%	3%
75+	8,167	12%	10,268	15%	26%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Demographics

Jared Daniel and Vanessa Shonkwiler

Farms by # of Producers (involved in day-to-day decision making)					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
1	20,732	50.2%	16,941	44.7%	-18%
2	17,202	41.6%	16,692	44.0%	-3%
3	2,248	5.4%	2,549	6.7%	13%
4	817	2.0%	1,296	3.4%	59%
5+	323	0.8%	439	1.2%	36%
1 Male	32,909	79.6%	29,714	78.4%	-10%
2 Male	4,030	9.8%	4,321	11.4%	7%
3 Male	685	1.7%	896	2.4%	31%
4 Male	160	0.4%	183	0.5%	14%
5+ Male	69	0.2%	97	0.3%	41%
1 Female	19,609	47.5%	18,666	49.2%	-5%
2 Female	1,206	2.9%	1,765	4.7%	46%
3 Female	214	0.5%	272	0.7%	27%
4 Female	54	0.1%	69	0.2%	28%
5+ Female	28	0.1%	32	0.1%	14%

- More than half of Georgia farms with day-to-day decision making, comprising 88.7%, were typically owned or managed by either one or two producers.
- The number of farms with day-to-day decisions made by a single male, represented 79.6% of all farms in 2017, and had declined by 10% by 2022.
- Operations with female decision-makers constituted 51% of the overall number of farms with day-to-day decision making in Georgia in 2017 and 55% in 2022.
- The number of producers involved in farm decisions decreased by 2% from 2017 to 2022.

- In 2022, beginning producers made up 34% of all producers in Georgia, indicating a 2% rise compared to 2017.
- The primary occupation for the majority of beginning producers (90%) was non-farming related.

New & Beginning Producers (farming <10 yrs)					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Total	22,743	33%	23,085	34%	2%
Primary Occupation is farming	6,333	28%	6,742	10%	6%
Male	13,989	62%	13,916	21%	-1%
Female	8,754	38%	9,169	14%	5%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Conservation

Jared Daniel

No-till, # of Operations					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Average Acreage Per Farm	248	-	186	-	-25%
1-9 acres	794	26%	1095	36%	38%
10-49 acres	744	25%	1092	36%	47%
50-99 acres	289	10%	387	13%	34%
100-199 acres	354	12%	272	9%	-23%
200-499 acres	349	12%	313	10%	-10%
500-999 acres	278	9%	212	7%	-24%
1000-1,999 acres	164	5%	139	5%	-15%
2,000+ acres	47	2%	44	1%	-6%

- Overall, the number of operations using no-till increased by 18% from 2017 to 2022.
- The average acreage of farms using no-till practices decreased by 25% from 2017 to 2022. This can be attributed to the fact that the number of smaller operations (<100 acres) using no-till practices increased, while the opposite is true for larger-sized operations.

- The total number of operations using conservation or reduced tillage practices (excluding no-till) increased by 30% from 2017 to 2022.
- The average acreage of farms using conservation or reduced tillage practices decreased by 3%.
- Operations using these practices with 2,000+ acres and 10-49 acres saw the largest increases of 104% and 100%, respectively.

Conservation or Reduced Tillage excluding no-till, # of Operations					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Average Acreage Per Farm	429	-	417	-	-3%
1-9 acres	442	15%	664	22%	50%
10-49 acres	414	14%	830	27%	100%
50-99 acres	227	8%	233	8%	3%
100-199 acres	207	7%	201	7%	-3%
200-499 acres	411	14%	503	17%	22%
500-999 acres	423	14%	312	10%	-26%
1,000-1999 acres	220	7%	248	8%	13%
2,000+ acres	91	3%	186	6%	104%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by author, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Conservation

Jared Daniel

Farms Using Renewable Energy Producing Systems					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Total	946	-	1,146	-	21%
Solar Panels	687	73%	968	84%	41%
Wind Turbines	41	4%	46	4%	12%
Methane Digesters	10	1%	14	1%	40%
Geothermal/geoexchange	118	12%	173	15%	47%
Small hydro systems	18	2%	48	4%	167%
Wind rights leased	88	9%	75	7%	-15%

- Overall, the number of operations using renewable energy producing systems increased by 21%.
- All types of renewable energy systems saw increases except for wind rights leased to others, with a decrease of 15%.
- Small hydro systems saw the largest increase of 167%.

- Idle cropland or acreage used for cover crops for soil improvement increased by 29%.
- The number of operations with idle cropland or cover crops used for soil improvement increased by 2%.

Cropland Idle or used for cover crops or soil-improvement, but not harvested and not pastured or grazed					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Farms	7,332	17%	7,513	19%	2%
Acres	443,265	5%	571,711	6%	29%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by author, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Livestock

Jared Daniel and Will Secor

Livestock Inventory			
	2017	2022	% Change
Cattle, Incl. Calves	1,059,672	1,000,560	-6%
Cattle, Cows, Beef	488,415	490,955	1%
Cattle, Cows, Milk	85,554	72,830	-15%
Hogs	81,197	41,671	-49%
Sheep, Incl. Lambs	24,805	26,839	8%
Goats	70,182	57,720	-18%
Horses & Ponies	51,569	37,342	-28%
Honeybee Colonies	119,609	174,196	46%

- Total cattle inventory was lower in 2022, in line with where the industry was in the cattle cycle. This decline has continued, but inventories will likely rebound as expected with the cattle cycle pattern.
- While dairy cow inventory was lower according to the Ag Census, dairy cow inventory appears to have rebounded strongly since 2022 with current estimates above 90,000 cows.
- Other animal inventories have seen mixed changes, with mostly declines outside of an increase in sheep.

- Cattle sales declined over this timeframe in real dollar terms, but in nominal terms, sales edged higher. Total sales for this sector will likely be choppy going forward as prices likely push higher this year, while inventories shrink.
- Milk sales were higher between 2017 and 2022. These higher sales likely happened despite a reduction in milk cows through higher prices that year and higher milk production per cow.
- Despite substantial growth in many sectors, the total of other livestock sales dropped because of the significant declines in the hog and specialty animals sectors.

Livestock Sales			
	2017	2022	% Change
Cattle, Incl. Calves	\$432,596,193	\$380,120,000	-12%
Milk	\$395,643,007	\$464,366,000	17%
Hogs	\$63,594,438	\$26,224,000	-59%
Sheep, incl. Lambs	\$1,872,075	\$2,124,000	13%
Goats	\$3,848,022	\$4,379,000	14%
Horses & Ponies	\$15,044,654	\$21,879,000	45%
Honey	\$10,524,453	\$15,561,000	48%
Specialty Animals	\$18,306,459	\$7,222,000	-61%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by author, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Poultry

Jared Daniel and Will Secor

Poultry Inventory			
	2017	2022	% Change
Chickens, Layers	17,966,521	22,129,571	23%
Chickens, Pullets, Replacement	8,714,012	9,613,925	10%
Chickens, Broilers	244,604,654	231,349,257	-5%
Turkeys	2,722	7,011	158%
Ducks	19,587	15,667	-20%
Guineas	5,494	6,137	12%
Quail	2,665,808	2,351,420	-12%
Chickens, Roosters	1,043,869	1,152,873	10%

- Broiler inventory declined between 2017 and 2022. This decline does not match the overall U.S. inventory change that increased by more than 5%.
- Layers, pullets, and roosters increased during this time period. With declines in broiler layer productivity, the increase in layers may continue into the coming years.
- Non-chicken poultry inventory dropped on significantly lower quail inventories, while turkey inventory more than doubled.

- Sales across all sectors (except quail) matched the direction of inventory changes. Broiler sales reductions were only partially offset by increases in other sectors.
- While total sales declined, the number of poultry animals hatched in the state increased by more than 5%.
- The sales declines for Georgia, measured in head, contrast with USDA-ERS's estimation that cash receipts for the poultry sector in Georgia grew by 30% over this same time period. While the number of head may have declined, sales in dollar terms appear to have increased.

Poultry Sales (measured in head)			
	2017	2022	% Change
Chickens, Layers	15,021,171	16,513,612	10%
Chickens, Pullets, Replacement	13,971,804	15,001,402	7%
Chickens, Broilers	1,380,543,983	1,300,052,315	-6%
Turkeys	1,684	7,238	330%
Ducks	23,476	16,305	-31%
Guineas	1,481	3,405	130%
Quail	9,542,668	9,677,600	1%
Chickens, Roosters	1,079,560	1,200,261	11%
Poultry hatched	1,484,961,033	1,591,892,930	7%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by author, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Cotton & Peanuts

Jared Daniel, Yangxuan Liu, and Amanda Smith

Cotton	2017	2022	% Change
Lint & Seed, Operations w/Sales	2,550	2,289	-10%
Lint & Seed - Sales	\$927,263,375	\$1,204,626,000	30%
Acres Harvested	1,270,652	1,256,908	-1%
Irrigated Acres Harvested	434,548	405,795	-7%
# of Bales Produced	2,220,541	2,585,054	16%
Cotton, Irrigated, Entire Crop, Yield (bales/acre)	2	2.3	15%
Cotton, Non-irrigated, Yield (bales/acre)	1.7	2	18%

- Cotton farm numbers in Georgia decreased 10% from 2,550 farms to 2,289 while the total number of bales produced increased 16% from 2.2 million to nearly 2.6 million bales.
- Georgia farmers became more efficient as indicated with an increased 1/3 bale per acre on irrigated and non-irrigated land.
- The production of cotton continues to be of significant economic importance to Georgia as the sales value of cotton lint and seed increased 30% from \$927 million to \$1.2 billion.

- Georgia farm numbers with harvested acres of peanuts decreased 22% from 2,838 farms to 2,217 and total production was down 17% from 1.79 million tons to 1.49 million tons.
- Although the value of production was down 24% in 2022, compared to 2017, peanuts were still economically important to Georgia with production valued at over \$716 million.
- There were 102,082 fewer harvested acres of irrigated peanuts, a 28% decrease from 2017.
- Irrigated peanut yields were down 271 pounds per acre on average in Georgia, a 6% decrease from 2017. However, non-irrigated yields remained flat between the two census periods.

Peanuts	2017	2022	% Change
Operations with Area Harvested	2,838	2,217	-22%
*Production (\$)	\$942,564,723	\$716,720,000	-24%
Acres Harvested	827,627	692,619	-16%
Tons Produced	1,791,287	1,489,287	-17%
Irrigated Acres Harvested	364,427	262,345	-28%
Peanuts, Irrigated, Entire Crop, Yield (lb./acre)	4,750.30	4,478.60	-6%
Peanuts, Non-irrigated, Yield (lb./acre)	4,158.20	4,139.20	-0.5%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars,

*Survey Data, U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service QuickStats database



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Corn & Soybeans

Jared Daniel, Amanda Smith, and Yangxuan Liu

Corn			
	2017	2022	% Change
Operations with Sales	2,259	2,185	-3%
Sales	\$243,030,684	\$454,792,000	87%
Grain Acres Harvested	259,315	394,097	52%
Grain Production (bu)	44,834,066	66,844,367	49%
Grain, Irrigated Acres Harvested	146,480	202,953	39%
Grain, Irrigated, Entire Crop, Yield (bu/acre)	193.4	197.2	2%
Grain, Non-irrigated, Yield (bu/acre)	147.2	145.4	-1%

- Georgia corn farm numbers were reduced by 74 farms in the updated census, down to 2,185 farms in 2022 compared to 2,259 farms in 2017.
- Georgia farmers harvested almost 135,000 more acres of corn, a 52% increase over 2017. This also led to an increase in production of 22 million bushels to total 66.8 million bushels in 2022.
- Corn was harvested on over 200,000 irrigated acres, a 39% increase. Yields increased 3.8 bushels per acre under irrigation. Non-irrigated yields were down 1.8 bushels per acre.
- The production of corn continues to be of significant economic importance to Georgia as the sales value increased 87% from \$243 million to \$454 million.

- Georgia soybean farm numbers were down 39 farms, to 902 farms in 2022, a 4% decrease.
- Georgia farmers harvested almost 10,500 more acres of soybeans, a 7% increase over 2017. This led to an increase in production of almost 1 million bushels to total 6.8 million bushels in 2022.
- Soybeans were harvested on over 41,000 irrigated acres, a 30% increase. Yields increased 4 bushels per acre under irrigation and 1.9 bushels per acre on non-irrigated acres.
- Soybeans continue to be of significant economic importance to Georgia as the sales value increased 39% from \$68 million to \$95 million.

Soybeans			
	2017	2022	% Change
Operations with Sales	941	902	-4%
Sales	\$68,272,238	\$95,137,000	39%
Acres Harvested	150,222	160,648	7%
Production (bu)	5,975,406	6,848,896	15%
Irrigated Acres Harvested	31,881	41,346	30%
Irrigated, Entire Crop, Yield (bu/acre)	45.1	49.1	9%
Non-irrigated, Yield (bu/acre)	38.3	40.2	5%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Vegetables

Jared Daniel and Greg Fonsah

Vegetables, Potatoes & Melons Acres Harvested			
	2017	2022	% Change
Vegetable Total, In the Open	108,673	98,785	-9%
Vegetables, Fresh Market	101,771	93,893	-8%
Vegetables, Processing	6,902	4,892	-29%
Bell Peppers	3,398	3,371	-1%
Sweet Corn	24,795	23,843	-4%
Tomatoes, In the Open	2,648	2,037	-23%
Cucumbers	6,140	6,124	0%
Greens, Collard	2,960	1,935	-35%
Squash	2,757	4,373	59%
Watermelon	20,834	14,866	-29%
Potatoes	2,871	1,692	-41%

- Total vegetable harvested acreages experienced 9% decrease in 2022, compared to five years ago, whereas fresh market vegetables fell by 8%.
- On the other hand, an outstanding 29% decline was recorded for processed vegetable during the same time period.
- As far as individual vegetables are concerned, squash acreages increased by 59% while cucumber remained the same.
- Tomato, collard and watermelon all declined by 23%, 35% and 29% respectively.

- For the past half a decade, i.e., 2017-2022, vegetables, seeds and transplants sales increased by 1.0% after adjusted for inflation.
- During the same time period, the percentage of farm sales decreased by 14%.
- Operations with sales fell by 11% from 2017 to 2022.

Vegetable Sales Incl. Seeds & Transplants			
	2017	2022	% Change
Operations with Sales	1,899	1,697	-11%
Sales	\$676,223,839	\$681,265,000	1%
% of Farm Sales	6%	5%	-14%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Fruits & Tree Nuts

Jared Daniel and Greg Fonsah

Berries, Fruits & Tree Nuts Acres, bearing and non-bearing			
	2017	2022	% Change
Blueberries	18,361	27,996	52%
Blackberries, Incl. Dewberries & Marionberries	880	1,858	111%
Strawberries	143	269	88%
Apples	558	984	76%
Grapes	2,086	2084	0%
Olives (farms)	32	29	-9%
Peaches	11,877	9,206	-22%
Citrus	248	1,583	538%
Pecans	161,401	180,295	12%

- Blueberry, the number one fruit crop in GA in terms of farm gate value increased its acreages by 52% in the past five years.
- Although other crops such as strawberries, apples, and pecans increased their acreages by 88%, 76%, and 12% respectively, citrus, the new kid in town recorded 538% increase in the past five years.
- In the berries, fruits and tree nuts categories, only olives and peaches recorded declining trends of 9% and 22% respectively.
- The GA Peach Industry has suffered from two consecutive weather-related problems in 2022 and 2023 respectively with huge impacts.

- In the berries, fruits and tree nuts category, berry sales recorded 84% increase from 2017 to 2022.
- The percentage of total berry farm sales also increased by 60% in the same time period.
- On the other hand, fruit and tree nut (excluding berries) declined by 30% while the percentage of total farm sales (excluding berries) declined by 41% during the study period, i.e. 2017-2022.

Berries, Fruits & Tree Nut Sales			
	2017	2022	% Change
Berry Sales	\$117,140,799	\$215,589,000	84%
Berry Sales, % of Total Farm Sales	1%	1.6%	60%
Fruit & Tree Nut Sales (excl. Berries)	\$386,501,120	\$271,308,000	-30%
Fruit & Tree Nut Sales % of Total Farm Sales (excl. Berries)	3.4%	2.0%	-41%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Nursery, Greenhouse, & Sod

Jared Daniel and Ben Campbell

Crops Grown Under Glass or Other Protection Sq. Ft. in Production			
	2017	2022	% Change
Floriculture Total	7,618,027	6,918,825	-9%
Bedding Plants Total	4,840,384	4,366,808	-10%
Cut Flowers & Cut Cultivated Greens	225,395	137,717	-39%
Foliage Plants, Indoor Use	453,927	494,720	9%
Flowering Plants, Potted, Indoor Use	1,545,714	1,387,592	-10%
Floriculture, Other	552,607	532,588	-4%
Nursery Total	7,780,275	8,781,597	13%
Aquatic Plants (farms)	17	2	-88%
Bulbs & Corms & Rhizomes & Tubers, Dry	33,599	19,708	-41%
Propagative Material	878,506	578,859	-34%
Transplants, Commercial, Tobacco	233,408	472,691	103%
Transplants, Commercial, Vegetable & Strawberry	2,050,886	5,582,183	172%
Mushrooms	293,876	406,466	38%
Vegetable Total, Incl. Fresh Cut Herbs	759,758	1,026,496	35%
Tomatoes	121,932	178,950	47%

- Overall floriculture was down from 2017 to 2022; however, nursery production was up over 13% which offset the loss in floriculture production.
- Fruit and vegetable production under glass or other protection was up over 100%.
- Bulbs/tubers and propagative material were down double figures, 41% and 34%.

- Floriculture, bedding crops and nursery acreage all increased from 2017 to 2022 with nursery having the largest increase at 44%
- Sod acreage slightly declined from 16,793 to 16,012 acres or a 5% decrease.

Floriculture, Bedding Crops, Nursery & Sod Crop Acreage in the Open			
	2017	2022	% Change
Floriculture Total	567	758	34%
Bedding Plant Total	296	370	25%
Flowering Plants, Potted, Indoor Use	102	114	12%
Floriculture, Other	70	38	-46%
Nursery Total	7,559	10,897	44%
Propagative Material	73	84	15%
Sod	16,793	16,012	-5%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Nursery, Greenhouse, & Sod

Jared Daniel and Ben Campbell

Nursery & Greenhouse Sales			
	2017	2022	% Change
Floriculture Total	\$81,250,151	\$76,963,328	-5%
Bedding Plants Total	\$56,182,347	\$50,634,272	-10%
Cut Flowers & Cut Cultivated Greens	\$2,007,366	\$2,239,461	12%
Foliage Plants, Indoor Use	\$5,633,383	\$4,451,070	-21%
Flowering Plants, Potted, Indoor Use	\$12,234,592	\$13,765,375	13%
Floriculture, Other	\$5,192,463	\$5,873,150	13%
Nursery Total	\$192,043,411	\$223,691,204	16%
Aquatic Plants	\$589,441	\$20,660	-96%
Bulbs & Corms & Rhizomes & Tubers, Dry	\$183,776	\$726,221	295%
Propagative Material	\$11,551,190	\$10,519,930	-9%
Transplants, Commercial, Tobacco	\$777,829	\$1,388,648	79%
Mushrooms	\$6,883,775	\$3,950,707	-43%
Vegetable Total, Incl. Fresh Cut Herbs	\$3,726,673	\$7,238,853	94%
Tomatoes	\$981,453	\$966,132	-2%

- Overall nursery sales were up by 16%.
- Floriculture and bedding plants sales experienced a 5% and 10% decrease, respectively.
- Vegetables and herbs grown in greenhouse/nursery production had a 94% increase in sales.

- Though sod production area decreased, overall sales increased by 34%. Most likely this was driven by increased home starts and increased demand coming out of COVID-19.
- The largest growth in sales were at the small and large acreage sod farms. Farms under 50 acres had sales growth of around 270% with farms over 400 acres having around 100% sales growth.

Sod Sales by Area Harvested, Acres			
	2017	2022	% Change
Total	\$86,824,789	\$116,172,833	34%
0.1-14.9	\$156,404	\$585,408	274%
15.0-49.9	\$863,805	\$3,161,196	266%
50.0-99.9	\$1,918,118	\$2,133,631	11%
100-249	\$21,842,866	\$8,035,860	-63%
250-399	\$13,401,813	\$10,295,518	-23%
400-749	\$10,915,463	\$27,083,162	148%
750+	\$37,726,321	\$64,875,058	72%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Nursery, Greenhouse, & Sod

Jared Daniel and Ben Campbell

Greenhouses & Nurseries			
	2017	2022	% Change
Operations w/Crops Under Protection	848	915	8%
Operations w/Floriculture, Bedding, Nursery, and Propagative Materials in the Open	726	867	19%
Avg. Operation w/Crops Under Protection Sq. Ft.	23276.2	26063.6	12%
Avg. Operation w/Floriculture, Bedding, Nursery and Propagative Materials Acres	11.3	13.7	21%

- Nursery, greenhouse, and food crops grown both under protection and in the open saw increases in number of operations by 8% and 19%, respectively.
- The average square feet of operations with crops grown under protection increased by 12%.
- The average acreage of operations with crops in the open increased by 21%.

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Agritourism & Direct Marketing

Jared Daniel, Angie Im, and Daniel Remar

	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Average Per Farm	\$17,403	-	\$21,299	-	22%
\$1-\$499	\$168,343	0.4%	\$116,000	0.2%	-31%
\$500-\$999	\$303,257	0.7%	\$215,000	0.5%	-29%
\$1,000-\$4,999	\$2,303,082	5.3%	\$1,494,000	3.2%	-35%
\$5,000-\$9,999	\$2,211,150	5.1%	\$1,621,000	3.5%	-27%
\$10,000-\$24,999	\$2,571,715	5.9%	\$2,620,000	5.6%	2%
\$25,000-\$49,999	\$3,087,491	7.1%	\$2,525,000	5.4%	-18%
\$50,000+	\$32,932,045	75.6%	\$37,814,000	81.4%	15%

- The average value of food sold directly to consumers per farm saw an increase of 22% from 2017 to 2022.
- Operations with values of sales greater than \$50,000 make up most of the value in both 2017 and 2022.
- Operations with value of sales greater than \$50,000 of sales also saw the most growth in value from 2017 to 2022 with a 15% increase.

- The value of food sold directly to retail markets, institutions, and food hubs for local or regionally branded products increased across the board from 2017 to 2022.
- The least growth occurred in the values of sales greater than \$50,000, defying the consolidation trend, with only a 1% increase.
- The average per farm sales of this marketing option saw a decrease of 54%, suggesting a surge of smaller operations taking advantage of these opportunities.

	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Average Per Farm	\$554,195	-	\$257,448	-	-54%
\$1-\$499	\$13,133	0.01%	\$33,000	0.0%	151%
\$500-\$999	\$42,981	0.02%	\$66,000	0.0%	54%
\$1,000-\$4,999	\$441,752	0.17%	\$678,000	0.3%	53%
\$5,000-\$9,999	\$336,687	0.13%	\$752,000	0.3%	123%
\$10,000-\$24,999	\$930,068	0.36%	\$1,952,000	0.7%	110%
\$25,000-\$49,999	\$888,281	0.34%	\$1,936,000	0.7%	118%
\$50,000+	\$258,927,801	98.99%	\$261,040,000	98.0%	1%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Agritourism & Direct Marketing

Jared Daniel, Angie Im, and Daniel Remar

Agritourism and Recreational Services			
	2017	2022	% Change
Farms	736	742	0.8%
Average Per Farm	\$38,122	\$41,849	9.8%
Total Value	\$33,499,160	\$31,052,000	-7.3%

- The number of farms reporting agritourism and recreational services has slightly increased from 736 to 742 between 2017 and 2022, representing a 0.8% increase.
- The average income per farm also saw a slight rise to \$41,849 compared to that of 2017, yet it remains slightly below the national average of \$44,004.

- Out of 11,307 farms generating incomes from farm-related sources, 742 (or 6.56%) offered agritourism activities, marking a slight increase from the 5.57% composition in 2017.
- Among the farms providing agritourism and recreational services, approximately 16.04% reported receipts between \$10,000 and \$24,999, showing about a 1.64% increase compared to 2017. Around 51% of farms in Georgia received receipts between \$1 and \$5,000, which is a slightly greater portion compared to the U.S. average of 47.68%.

Agritourism and Recreational Services, by receipts					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
\$1-\$999	144	20%	152	21%	5.6%
\$1,000-\$4,999	266	36%	230	31%	-13.5%
\$5,000-\$9,999	102	14%	115	16%	12.7%
\$10,000-\$24,999	106	14%	119	16%	12.3%
\$25,000+	118	16%	126	17%	6.8%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars