The Ohio State University’s Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics

The mission of the Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics is to generate and disseminate knowledge through application of economic and business principles to society’s challenges.

The Impact of the Agricultural and Food Production Cluster to Union County

Total Value Added: **$549,639,730** representing **13%** of the county’s economy.

Total Employment: **3,553** representing **9%** of the county total.

Total Labor Income: **$237,778,177** representing **10%** of the county total.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value Added; Percent of County Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sum of Agricultural Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$459.6 million; 10.88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum of Food Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$32.8 million; 0.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sum of Wholesale/Retail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$57.2 million; 1.35%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Agricultural and Food Employment; Percent of County Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,565; 6.74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>310; 0.81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wholesale/Retail</td>
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<tr>
<td>679; 1.78%</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Labor Income Contributed; Percent of County Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$189.2 million; 7.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15.1 million; 0.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale/Retail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$33.5 million; 1.40%</td>
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Taxes on Production and Imports: **$34,582,816**

Top Three Agricultural Production Sectors:
Farm Inputs, Equipment & Professional Services, Soybean & Other Oil Crops, and Grain Production

Data for these calculations were obtained from IMPLAN and included in The Economic Contribution of Agricultural and Food Production to the Ohio Economy report (DiCarolis et al, 2017) by Ben Brown.
Ohio’s agricultural and food production cluster plus restaurants and bars accounts for $1 in every $13 of Ohio’s Gross State Product (GSP) and 1 in 8 jobs in Ohio.

The agricultural and food production cluster employed 402,874 Ohioans in 2015 and contributed $33 billion in value added directly to Ohio’s GSP.

The agriculture and food production cluster contributed an additional $20 billion to Ohio’s economy through the purchases of additional inputs.

The total contribution of the cluster to Ohio’s economy in 2015 was $53 billion (a multiplier of 1.6 for every dollar of value-added in the agriculture and food production cluster).

Since 1944, efficiency gains have led to decreases in employment of the following sectors:

- 24%-Ohio Farm Input Sector
- 38%-Agricultural Production
- 17%-Food Processing
- 47%-Food Wholesaling/Retailing

There has been strong growth in the farming and wholesaling/retailing sectors against decreasing employment, decreasing commodity prices, and decreasing relative contributions of these sectors to GSP.