The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber

A Spotlight on Mitchell County, Georgia

Prepared for Mitchell County Cooperative Extension
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by:
The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
The University of Georgia
Trends in Mitchell County: Number of Farms

Number of Farms, Mitchell County

Source: 1978-2007 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
Trends in Mitchell County:
Land in Farms, Harvested Cropland & Farms by Size

Source: 1992-2007 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
Georgia's 2012 Farm Gate Value was $13.88 billion. Adding the value of $2.1 billion of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $15.1 billion.

Total food and fiber production and directly related businesses account for a $76.9 billion output impact on Georgia's $809.9 billion economy.
What We Know about Mitchell County

- 2012 Farm Gate Value in Mitchell Co. was $389.3 million. Adding $.6 million of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $389.9 million.

- The highest value commodity group was row and forage crops, representing 35.5% of the total agricultural production value.
Mitchell County
2012 Agricultural Production Value

Row and Forage Crops 35.5%

Livestock 8.3%
Poultry and Eggs 25.4%

Other 16.6%

Pomoral Horticulture 0.5%

Forestry 0.8%

Vegetables 7.6%

Fruits and Nuts 5.4%
The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development performed an analysis of the county’s economy, focusing on the role of food and fiber.

How much of the county’s total current economic output comes from food and fiber production and directly related processing? (A Snapshot of the Economy)

What is the total (direct and indirect) *Impact* of food and fiber production and directly related industries?
Mitchell County Employment
Total Jobs = 10,113

- Agriculture: 1,242 (12.3%)
- Mining: 0 (0.0%)
- Construction: 223.7 (2.2%)
- Manufacturing: 2,924 (28.9%)
- Transp, Info, Public. Util.: 373 (3.7%)
- Trade: 1,203 (11.9%)
- Service: 2,266 (22.4%)
- State & Federal Government: 1,882 (18.6%)

Primary data source: Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, UGA
An Economic Snapshot of Mitchell County

- How much of Mitchell County’s total economic output comes from food and fiber production?

- AG value alone of $389.9 million consisting of Farm Gate Value and landscape services comprises 16.7% of the county’s economy.

- AG plus directly related businesses (ex. Ag Support Services, Processing, etc.) comprise 65.5% of the county’s economy.
What is the total (direct and indirect) impact of food and fiber production and directly related industries?

This scenario illustrates how other industries are affected by the presence of food and fiber in the county. The indirect impacts measure output created due to food and fiber production and processing in the county.
What Impact Means: 
A Brief Explanation

- The *impact* numbers capture the ripple effects that food and fiber create in the county’s economy. Many other sectors rely in part on the existence of food and fiber for sales.
## Mitchell County
### Agriculture IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Direct $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>389,873,618</td>
<td>389,873,618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
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<td>997,237</td>
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<td>Manufacturing</td>
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<td>2,871,801</td>
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<td>Trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service Industries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,045,881</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>389,873,618</strong></td>
<td><strong>455,006,228</strong></td>
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</table>

Total Impact of Production AG = $455.0 million
19.5% of total economy
## Mitchell County

### Production Agriculture + Directly Related Businesses IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Total (Million $)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
<td>1,528.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
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<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Manufacturing</td>
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<td>Trans-Utilities-Info</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade</td>
<td>33.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>96.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>5.1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,706.1</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = $1,706.1 million

73.2% of total economy
# Mitchell County

## Production Agriculture + Directly Related Industries

### Employment IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
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<td>Government</td>
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</table>

**Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 6,941 Jobs**

68.6% of total employment
What These Numbers Mean:  
A Brief Explanation

- **Direct** impact is $1,528.3 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.

- **Indirect** impact from related sectors is $177.8 million. This captures the effects of farmers (direct source) buying supplies (seed, fertilizer, work boots) from local stores. These stores must increase their output to meet farmer demand.
As local stores increase their output, they may demand more stock from local wholesalers (also in the Trade sector). Local wholesalers demand more from local manufacturers, thus increasing activity in the Manufacturing sector.

Local stores also hire employees to assist farmers. They take home wages and buy groceries at the local store which increases demand there.
The total impact of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is $1,706.1 million.

The total county output is $2,330.4 million.

Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 73.2% of the total county output, considering the multiplier effects.
Contact Information

Prepared by:
Sharon P. Kane, Public Service Associate, Economist
Karen Stubbs, Research Professional
Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development
Dr. Kent Wolfe, Director

“Adding Value to Georgia's Agricultural Economy Through Research and Extension“

To learn more about your county, go to:
http://www.caed.uga.edu/
...click on “Resources”, then “Georgia Statistics System”

Ag Profile Report
#14-8A