

Economic Contribution of Idaho Agribusiness 2025



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Extension



Contents

- Gross Contribution of Idaho Agribusiness, 2024 4
- Base Contribution of Idaho Agribusiness, 2024 5
- Definitions 6
- Contribution of Agribusiness to Idaho's Economic Base 8
- Agribusiness in Idaho vs. Neighboring States 11
- National Rankings: Crop and Livestock Production ..12
- National Rankings: Gross Production and Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold 13
- Idaho Agricultural Exports 14
- Agricultural Commodities: Gross Receipts and Production 15
- Agricultural Commodities: Production 16
- Gross Economic Contribution: Idaho Crops17
- Gross Economic Contribution: Idaho Livestock 18
- Gross Economic Contribution: Idaho Agricultural Processing 19
- Indirect Contribution of Agribusiness to Idaho Jobs20
- Indirect Contribution of Agribusiness to Value Added21
- Idaho's Top Agribusiness Counties.....22

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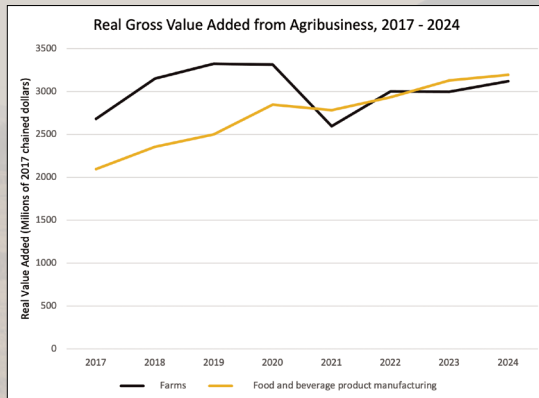
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Gross Contribution of Idaho Agribusiness, 2024

In Idaho in 2024, agribusiness alone (not including linked sectors) contributed

- **\$32.7 billion in sales**
- **79,000 Idaho jobs**
- **\$8.85 billion in value added¹**

Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN (Impact Analysis for Planning) data.



Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Data (SAG-DP9), gross domestic product by state and industry, 2017-24.

¹Value added is the sum of employee compensation, proprietary income, returns to capital, and indirect business taxes and is a measure of a sector's contribution to gross state product (GSP).

Base Contribution of Idaho Agribusiness, 2024

In addition to direct contributions to the Idaho economy, agribusiness exports generate economic activity in other sectors of the Idaho economy. Accounting for linkages between agribusiness and other sectors, Idaho agribusiness and the economic activity it generates in other sectors accounted for

- **\$44.5 billion in sales** or 17.2% of Idaho's total economic output
- **137,900 Idaho jobs** or approximately 1 in every 9 jobs in the state
- **\$15.8 billion in value added** or 12.0% of total Idaho GSP

Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN data.

Definitions

agribusiness. The vertically integrated industrial complex that comprises all production agriculture — crop farming and livestock production — and the processing of agricultural products.

The total economic contribution of *agribusiness* to the Idaho economy can be described in two ways, using gross values and base values.

base values. These include the agribusiness sector’s export activity and the economic activity it spawns within other sectors and the state economy. The *base sales* contribution of the agribusiness sector, for example, is calculated as the sector’s sales outside the state times the sector’s multiplier. In gross analysis, the sale of a tire to a wheat producer would be credited to the state economy’s retail trade sector; in base analysis, it would be credited to agribusiness.

gross values. Government-reported measures of economic activity in agribusiness — output (sales), jobs, and value added.

Measuring *gross values* is an accounting task.

In base analysis, the total economic contribution of agribusiness is made up of direct and indirect contributions:

direct contributions. Jobs, value added, and output attributable to the out-of-state export of crop and livestock products.

indirect contributions. These are generated when agribusiness firms purchase materials and services from other Idaho businesses to produce their exports.

Direct and indirect contributions are reported in terms of jobs, sales, value added, and wages:

jobs. These represent wage-earning and salaried employees, including self-employed works, in agribusiness.

sales. These represent output of the agribusiness sector.

value added. Proprietary income and wages plus indirect taxes and other property-type income such as payments for rents, royalties, and dividends. Value added and GSP are equivalent measures in total but are estimated using different methods and data sources.

wages. Payments to workers, including benefits.

Sources:

English, L., J. Popp, and E. W. Miller. 2013. “Economic Contribution of the Agricultural Sector to the Arkansas Economy in 2011.” Research Report 992. Fayetteville: Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

Taylor, G., B. Eborn, P. Watson, and A. Rodriguez. 2012. *Contribution of Agribusiness to Idaho’s Economy, 2010* (CIS 1186). Moscow, ID: University of Idaho Extension.

Watson, P., S. Cooke, D. Kay, and G. Alward. 2015. “A Method for Improving Economic Contribution Studies for Regional Analysis.” *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy* 45(1):1-15.

Contribution of Agribusiness to Idaho's Economic Base

Sales Contribution of the Agribusiness Sector in Idaho, 2024*

	Direct Sales (Domestic and International Exports)	Indirect Sales	Total
Crop production	\$3.5 billion	\$2.9 billion	\$6.4 billion
Livestock and dairy production	\$4.2 billion	\$4.6 billion	\$8.8 billion
Agricultural processing	\$15.1 billion	\$14.3 billion	\$29.3 billion
Total	\$22.8 billion	\$21.7 billion	\$44.5 billion

Value Added Contribution of the Agribusiness Sector in Idaho, 2024*

	Direct Value Added	Indirect Value Added	Total
Crop production	\$1.3 billion	\$1.6 billion	\$2.9 billion
Livestock and dairy production	\$1.2 billion	\$2.0 billion	\$3.2 billion
Agricultural processing	\$3.4 billion	\$6.3 billion	\$9.7 billion
Total	\$5.8 billion	\$8.4 billion	\$15.8 billion

*Individual values may not sum to total due to rounding.

Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN data.

Agribusiness contributed

- **\$44.5 billion in total sales**, which means that agribusiness was responsible for generating 17.2% of the state's total sales in 2024.
- **\$15.8 billion in value added** or 12.0% of total Idaho GSP.
- **137,900 jobs**, which is approximately 1 in every 9 jobs in the state.
- **\$8.2 billion in wages (including farmer/proprietor income)**, which is over \$1 of every \$10 of wages paid in the state of Idaho.

Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN data.



Agribusiness in Idaho Versus Neighboring States

The agribusiness sector accounts for a greater share of the state economy in Idaho than in all its neighboring states and the United States as a whole.²

Even without including the indirect effects, in 2024 agribusiness contributed 7% to Idaho GSP. In comparison to neighboring states, this is

- 4.4 times greater than in Washington
- 2.8 times greater than in Oregon
- 10.0 times greater than in Nevada
- 3.9 times greater than in Utah
- 4.1 times greater than in Wyoming
- 2.2 times greater than in Montana
- 3.2 times greater than in the United States as a whole

Source: Author calculations using US Bureau of Economic Analysis Regional Data (SAGDP2), GDP by state and industry data, 2024.

²Based on calculations of the percent contribution of the agribusiness sector to each state's GSP.

National Rankings: Crop and Livestock Production

Idaho has been the top producer of potatoes, barley, peppermint oil, alfalfa, and trout among all US states, based on 2023 production levels. Idaho ranks among the top 8 states in the production of 22 crop and livestock commodities, including

No. 1 in Potatoes	No. 4 in Lentils
No. 1 in Barley	No. 4 in Dry Peas
No. 1 in Trout	No. 5 in Wheat (All)
No. 1 in Peppermint Oil	No. 5 in Haylage
No. 1 in Alfalfa	No. 5 in Wool
No. 2 in Hops	No. 6 in Dry Beans
No. 3 in Sugar Beets	No. 6 in Hay (All)
No. 3 in Cheese	No. 6 in Sheep and Lambs
No. 3 in Milk	No. 7 in Corn (Silage)
No. 3 in Milk Cows	No. 8 in Wheat (Winter)
No. 4 in Wheat (Spring)	No. 10 in Honey
No. 4 in Onions	No. 11 in Cattle and Calves (All)

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2024 Idaho Annual Statistical Bulletin.

National Rankings: Gross Production and Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Idaho ranked

- No. 16 in **value of total crops sold**, including nursery and greenhouse
- No. 15 in **value of field crops**
- No. 12 in **value of fruits, nuts, and vegetables** sold

In 2024, Idaho cash receipts from all agricultural commodities totaled approximately \$11.8 billion, with approximately \$7.5 billion from animals and their products and \$4.3 billion from crops.

Source: USDA Crop Values 2024 Summary (ISSN: 1949-0372) and USDA Economic Research Service, cash receipts by commodity, state ranking, 2024.

Idaho Agricultural Exports

Idaho ranked twenty-first nationally in total international agricultural exports in 2024, with a value of \$2.8 billion. Plant product exports accounted for \$1.8 billion of total Idaho agricultural exports and animal product exports accounted for \$1.1 billion.

Idaho ranked in the top six in the nation for international exports of four major commodities:

- **No. 3 in fresh vegetables**, with international exports valued at \$188 million
- **No. 3 in processed vegetables**, with international exports valued at \$366 million
- **No. 4 in dairy**, with international exports valued at \$630 million
- **No. 6 in wheat**, with international exports valued at \$316 million

Source: USDA Economic Research Service, US agricultural exports, commodity detail by state, 2024.



Agricultural Commodities: Gross Receipts and Production

Nominal Cash Receipts for Idaho's Crop and Livestock Commodities, 2019–24

Idaho Commodity Cash Receipts (\$1,000)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All commodities	\$8,014,783	\$8,103,560	\$8,732,816	\$11,283,293	\$10,967,202	\$11,794,206
Animals and products	\$4,780,047	\$4,741,606	\$4,965,145	\$6,843,351	\$6,344,574	\$7,537,504
Meat animals	\$1,743,992	\$1,602,811	\$1,717,705	\$2,281,652	\$2,624,412	\$3,382,825
Dairy products, Milk	\$2,854,800	\$2,979,144	\$3,062,312	\$4,281,252	\$3,458,946	\$3,872,580
Poultry and eggs	\$57,970	\$68,387	\$62,829	\$144,092	\$136,488	\$149,891
Miscellaneous animals and products	\$123,285	\$91,264	\$122,299	\$136,355	\$124,728	\$132,208
Crops	\$3,234,736	\$3,361,954	\$3,767,671	\$4,439,942	\$4,622,628	\$4,256,702
Food grains	\$447,552	\$540,501	\$623,517	\$631,384	\$608,182	\$597,299
Feed crops	\$835,410	\$830,318	\$920,045	\$1,283,844	\$1,182,096	\$863,843
Oil crops	\$6,753	\$9,234	\$8,694	\$8,822	\$17,250	\$36,673
Vegetables and melons	\$1,102,339	\$1,060,645	\$1,177,274	\$1,357,189	\$1,592,536	\$1,540,821
Fruits and nuts	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
All other crops	\$842,682	\$921,255	\$1,038,140	\$1,158,702	\$1,222,564	\$1,218,066

Source: USDA Economic Research Service, cash receipts by commodity.

Agricultural Commodities: Production

Gross Economic Contribution: Idaho Crops

Production and Rank of Idaho Crop and Livestock Commodities, 2023

Item	Unit	Rank among states (2023)	Idaho production (total)	Idaho production (percent of US)	Leading state
Peppermint oil	1,000 pounds	1	1,132	40.3%	Idaho
Potatoes	1,000 cwt	1	143,333	32.6%	Idaho
Barley	1,000 bushels	1	60,480	32.5%	Idaho
Hay, alfalfa	1,000 tons	1	4,500	9.0%	Idaho
Sugar Beets	1,000 tons	2	6,960	19.8%	Minnesota
Hops	1,000 pounds	2	16,853	16.2%	Washington
Onion, dry	1,000 cwt	4	8,284	11.3%	Washington
Wheat, spring	1,000 bushels	4	32,390	6.4%	North Dakota
Lentils	1,000 cwt	4	185	3.2%	Montana
Haylage	1,000 tons	5	1,795	7.0%	Wisconsin
Wheat, all	1,000 cwt	5	89,110	4.9%	North Dakota
Dry edible peas	1,000 cwt	5	290	1.6%	Montana
Hay, all	1,000 tons	6	5,250	4.4%	Texas
Dry edible beans	1,000 cwt	6	858	3.6%	North Dakota
Corn silage	1,000 tons	7	6,720	5.2%	Wisconsin
Wheat, winter	1,000 bushels	8	56,070	4.5%	Kansas
Trout, value of fish sold	1,000 dollars	1	36,948	36.9%	Idaho
Milk	million pounds	3	16,827	7.4%	California
Cheese	1,000 pounds	3	1,012,143	7.1%	Wisconsin
Milk cows	head	3	663,000	7.1%	California
Wool	1,000 pounds	5	1,510	6.7%	California
Sheep and lambs	head	6	235,000	4.7%	Texas
Honey	1,000 pounds	10	2,944	2.1%	North Dakota
Cattle and calves, all	head	11	2,500,000	2.9%	Texas

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2024 Idaho Annual Statistical Bulletin, 2023 Production Year.

Idaho's crops sector includes all activities in the production and support of potatoes, sugar beets, food and feed, grains, hay and pasture, fruits, nuts, vegetables, and oil-bearing crops and support services for crop farming such as custom harvester operations.

Gross Contribution of Crop Production to the Idaho Economy, 2024

Jobs	32,400
Wages	\$1.6 billion
Value Added	\$2.3 billion

Based on the gross contribution of crop farming to the Idaho economy, crop farming is responsible for

- 41% of all agribusiness jobs
- 37% of all agribusiness wages
- 26% of all agribusiness value added



Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN data.

Gross Economic Contribution: Idaho Livestock

Idaho's animal livestock sector includes the production of beef, dairy products, poultry, eggs, trout, and other animals and their products.

Gross Contribution of Livestock Production, Including Dairy, to the Idaho Economy, 2024

Jobs	21,800
Wages	\$1.0 billion
Value Added	\$2.4 billion

Based on the gross contribution of livestock production to the Idaho economy, livestock production is responsible for

- 28% of all agribusiness jobs
- 23% of all agribusiness wages
- 27% of all agribusiness value added

Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN data.



Gross Economic Contribution: Idaho Agricultural Processing

Idaho's agricultural processing sector makes products from both crops and livestock. Examples include grain milling, sugarbeet processing, and cheese manufacturing.

Gross Contribution of Agricultural Processing to the Idaho Economy, 2024

Jobs	24,850
Wages	\$1.8 billion
Value Added	\$4.1 billion

Based on the gross contribution of agricultural processing to the Idaho economy, agricultural processing is responsible for

- 31% of all agribusiness jobs
- 40% of all agribusiness wages
- 46% of all agribusiness value added

Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN data.

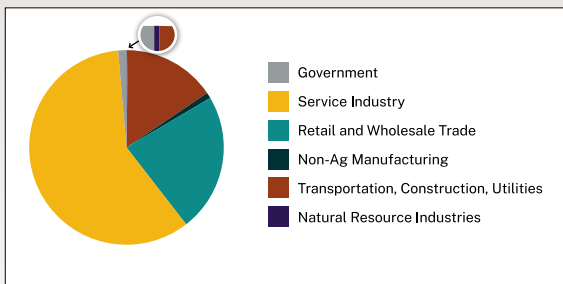


Indirect Contribution of Agribusiness to Idaho Jobs

Idaho agribusiness operations generated 63,920 jobs in other sectors of the Idaho economy in 2024.

Contribution of Agribusiness to Jobs in Other Sectors

Sectors	Indirectly Created Jobs
Natural Resource Industries	144
Transportation, Construction, Utilities	9,790
Non-Ag Manufacturing	620
Retail and Wholesale Trade	14,690
Service Industry	37,800
Government	876
Total	63,920



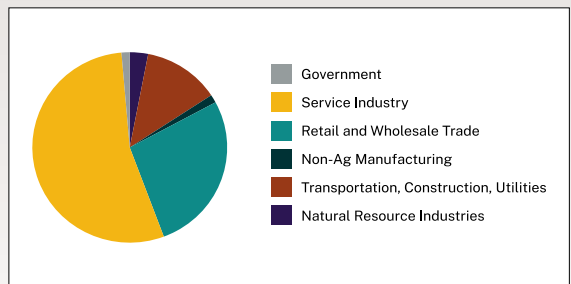
Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN data.

Indirect Contribution of Agribusiness to Value Added

Idaho agribusiness generated \$7.7 billion in value added in other sectors of Idaho's economy in 2024.

Contribution of Agribusiness to Value Added in Other Sectors

Sectors	Indirect Value Added
Natural Resource Industries	\$23.5 million
Transportation, Construction, Utilities	\$984 million
Non-Ag Manufacturing	\$106 million
Retail and Wholesale Trade	\$2.1 billion
Service Industry	\$4.2 billion
Government	\$105 million
Total	\$7.7 billion



Source: Author calculations using IMPLAN data.

Idaho's Top Agribusiness Counties

Total 2022 Cash Receipts for Agricultural Crops and Livestock by County

Agricultural Cash Receipts (Thousands of Dollars)				
Region	Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	Number of Farms	Crops (Including Nursery and Greenhouse Crops)	Livestock, Poultry, and Their Products
Idaho (State)	\$10,892,201	22,877	\$4,764,793	\$6,127,408
Ada	\$191,322	1,142	\$39,332	\$151,990
Adams	\$15,577	229	\$2,764	\$12,812
Bannock	\$45,676	1,005	\$32,650	\$13,026
Bear Lake	\$29,034	353	\$12,106	\$16,928
Benewah	\$25,444	240	\$24,985	\$459
Bingham	\$575,692	1,081	\$476,088	\$99,604
Blaine	\$65,466	203	\$48,959	\$16,507
Boise	\$7,330	108	\$4,876	\$2,455
Bonner	\$14,709	798	\$10,334	\$4,376
Bonneville	\$256,056	893	\$181,323	\$74,733
Boundary	\$48,912	319	\$44,816	\$4,096
Butte	\$64,126	147	N/A	N/A
Camas	\$32,695	111	\$27,581	\$5,114
Canyon	\$829,378	2,311	\$453,907	\$375,471
Caribou	\$114,212	399	\$81,384	\$32,828
Cassia	\$1,153,031	554	\$390,187	\$762,844
Clark	\$49,051	67	\$39,187	\$9,864
Clearwater	\$8,481	273	\$3,490	\$4,991
Custer	\$31,092	235	\$10,956	\$20,136
Elmore	\$591,747	284	\$94,044	\$497,702
Franklin	\$131,820	727	\$37,557	\$94,264

Total Cash Receipts by County, cont.

Fremont	\$247,228	545	\$228,065	\$19,163
Gem	\$37,861	718	\$22,149	\$15,711
Gooding	\$1,117,613	499	\$135,890	\$981,724
Idaho County	\$76,139	696	\$49,927	\$26,212
Jefferson	\$380,801	679	\$216,106	\$164,696
Jerome	\$944,081	448	\$201,101	\$742,980
Kootenai	\$23,353	968	\$19,591	\$3,762
Latah	\$101,510	989	\$97,626	\$3,885
Lemhi	\$32,180	306	\$8,060	\$24,120
Lewis	\$76,489	219	N/A	N/A
Lincoln	\$254,603	229	\$35,359	\$219,244
Madison	\$212,410	358	\$206,490	\$5,920
Minidoka	\$547,338	454	\$412,353	\$134,985
Nez Perce	\$95,985	415	\$89,503	\$6,482
Oneida	\$53,734	446	\$37,465	\$16,269
Owyhee	\$463,023	461	\$98,692	\$364,331
Payette	\$313,664	574	\$81,867	\$231,798
Power	\$360,522	276	\$299,477	\$61,045
Shoshone	\$222	44	\$85	\$137
Teton	\$62,626	268	\$57,258	\$5,368
Twin Falls	\$1,135,933	1,169	\$279,269	\$856,664
Valley	\$12,423	142	\$1,685	\$10,738
Washington	\$61,610	495	\$39,570	\$22,040

Source: USDA Census of Agriculture, 2022.





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