



Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics

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Southeastern Agricultural Census Comparison 2017-2022

Jared Daniel

A comparison of agricultural and economic trends among states in the Southeastern US using data from the 2017 and 2022 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture.



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# of Farms					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Alabama	40,592	13%	37,362	13%	-8%
Florida	47,590	8%	44,703	16%	-6%
Georgia	42,439	7%	39,264	14%	-7%
Mississippi	34,988	6%	31,290	11%	-11%
North Carolina	46,418	8%	42,817	15%	-8%
South Carolina	24,791	4%	22,633	8%	-9%
Tennessee	69,983	11%	63,105	22%	-10%
Total Southeast	306,801	-	281,174	-	-8%

- The number of farms in the Southeast decreased by 8% from 2017 to 2022.
- The largest percentage decrease of 11% occurred in Mississippi, while the largest nominal decrease occurred in Tennessee, with a loss of 6,878 farms.
- The only state with less decline in number of farms than the national decrease of 7% was Florida with 6%.

- North and South Carolina saw the largest decreases in farm acreage with 3.6% and 4% losses respectively.
- Florida's farm acreage decreased the least, .3%.
- The Southeast's decrease in farmland acreage of 1.3% was less than the Nation's 2.2% decrease.

Land in Farms (acres)					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Alabama	8,580,940	14%	8,629,101	14%	0.6%
Florida	9,731,731	16%	9,701,400	16%	-0.3%
Georgia	9,953,730	16%	9,939,313	16%	-0.1%
Mississippi	10,415,136	17%	10,251,497	17%	-1.6%
North Carolina	8,430,522	13%	8,128,136	13%	-3.6%
South Carolina	4,744,913	8%	4,553,922	7%	-4.0%
Tennessee	10,874,238	17%	10,732,951	17%	-1.3%
Total Southeast	62,731,210	-	61,936,320	-	-1.3%

Sources: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2022 and 2017 Census of Agriculture, values adjusted to 2022 dollars, calculations made by authors, Southeast defined as AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, and TN



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# of Farms by Legal Status					
	2017		2022		Change
	#	%	#	%	%
Alabama					
Family or Individual	36,875	91%	33,797	90%	-8%
Partnership	1,944	5%	1,707	5%	-12%
Corporation	1,384	3%	1,528	4%	10%
Other	389	1%	330	1%	-15%
Florida					
Family or Individual	37,986	80%	34,167	76%	-10%
Partnership	2,530	5%	2,538	6%	0%
Corporation	6,088	13%	7,242	16%	19%
Other	986	2%	756	2%	-23%
Georgia					
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%
Mississippi					
Family or Individual	30,279	87%	26,892	86%	-11%
Partnership	2,561	7%	2,539	8%	-1%
Corporation	1,663	5%	1,520	5%	-9%
Other	485	1%	339	1%	-30%
North Carolina					
Family or Individual	39,452	85%	35,740	83%	-9%
Partnership	2,949	6%	2,722	6%	-8%
Corporation	3,381	7%	3,818	9%	13%
Other	636	1%	537	1%	-16%
South Carolina					
Family or Individual	21,711	88%	19,820	88%	-9%
Partnership	1,397	6%	1,132	5%	-19%
Corporation	1,351	5%	1,421	6%	5%
Other	332	1%	260	1%	-22%
Tennessee					
Family or Individual	65,172	93%	58,952	93%	-10%
Partnership	2,989	4%	2,477	4%	-17%
Corporation	1,211	2%	1,090	2%	-10%
Other	611	1%	586	1%	-4%
Southeastern State Total					
Family or Individual	267,708	87%	242,199	86%	-10%
Partnership	17,103	6%	15,664	6%	-8%
Corporation	17,960	6%	20,023	7%	11%
Other	4,030	1%	3,288	1%	-18%

- Farms identifying as family or individual farms for tax purposes declined in all selected southeastern states.
- Florida and Georgia saw the largest growth in corporate farms, with 19% and 18% increases, respectively.
- The 10% loss of family or individual farms in the Southeast outpaced the nation's loss of 8%.
- The 11% growth in corporate farms in the Southeast surpassed the nation's 9% growth.
- In 2022, Tennessee had the largest proportion of family farms with 93%, while Florida had the smallest proportion with 76%.
- Florida had the largest proportion of corporate farms in 2022 with 16%.

Sources: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2022 and 2017 Census of Agriculture, values adjusted to 2022 dollars, calculations made by authors, Southeast defined as AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC, and TN



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Average Farm Size			
	2017	2022	% Change
	#	#	
Alabama	211	231	9%
Florida	204	217	6%
Georgia	235	253	8%
Mississippi	298	328	10%
North Carolina	182	190	4%
South Carolina	191	201	5%
Tennessee	155	170	10%
Southeast	211	227	8%

- Mississippi and Tennessee farmland consolidated the most between 2017 and 2022 with an increase in average farm size of 10%.
- North Carolina's average farm size saw the smallest increase of 4%.
- The Southeast's average farm size increased more than the Nation's as a whole, with increases of 8% and 5% respectively.

- The largest increase, 27%, in market value of ag products sold occurred in Alabama.
- Mississippi saw the smallest relative growth but still increased 11% in sales from 2017 to 2022.
- The Southeast saw one more percentage point of growth in agricultural product sales than the nation's 17% inflation-adjusted increase.

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$7,140,384,423	12%	\$9,035,897,000	13%	27%
Florida	\$8,784,118,863	15%	\$10,224,600,000	15%	16%
Georgia	\$11,429,748,956	20%	\$13,239,372,000	19%	16%
Mississippi	\$7,397,523,723	13%	\$8,247,775,000	12%	11%
North Carolina	\$15,402,442,679	26%	\$18,692,574,000	27%	21%
South Carolina	\$3,592,209,987	6%	\$4,427,204,000	6%	23%
Tennessee	\$4,533,256,037	8%	\$5,161,034,000	7%	14%
Total Southeast	\$58,279,684,668	-	\$69,028,456,000	-	18%

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Market Value of All Crops					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$1,447,430,416	6%	\$1,746,040,000	7%	21%
Florida	\$6,810,786,982	29%	\$8,099,308,000	30%	19%
Georgia	\$3,906,452,353	17%	\$4,328,572,000	16%	11%
Mississippi	\$2,736,345,741	12%	\$3,318,183,000	12%	21%
North Carolina	\$4,459,287,581	19%	\$4,714,749,000	18%	6%
South Carolina	\$1,308,834,777	6%	\$1,614,663,000	6%	23%
Tennessee	\$2,605,619,264	11%	\$3,003,794,000	11%	15%
Total Southeast	\$23,274,757,114	-	\$26,825,309,000	-	15%

- South Carolina's increase of 23% in Market Value of Crops, including Nursery and Greenhouse sold was the largest percentage increase.
- North Carolina on the other hand saw the smallest proportionate growth with a 6% increase.
- The Southeast's 15% increase in Market Value of Crops sold trailed behind the nation's 21% increase.

- Alabama and North Carolina had the largest percentage growths in market Value of livestock, poultry, and their products sold, both with 28% increases.

- Mississippi saw the least growth with a 6% increase.
- The Southeast's relative growth in market value of livestock sales of 21% surpassed the nation's growth of 13%.

Market Value of Livestock, Poultry and Their Products Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$5,690,566,156	16%	\$7,289,857,000	17%	28%
Florida	\$1,973,331,881	6%	\$2,125,292,000	5%	8%
Georgia	\$7,523,296,603	21%	\$8,910,800,000	21%	18%
Mississippi	\$4,661,179,177	13%	\$4,929,592,000	12%	6%
North Carolina	\$10,943,155,098	31%	\$13,977,825,000	33%	28%
South Carolina	\$2,283,375,210	7%	\$2,812,541,000	7%	23%
Tennessee	\$1,930,024,624	6%	\$2,157,240,000	5%	12%
Total Southeast	\$35,004,928,748	-	\$42,203,147,000	-	21%

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Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold, Average Per Farm			
	2017	2022	% Change
	\$	\$	
Alabama	\$175,906	\$241,847	37%
Florida	\$184,580	\$228,723	24%
Georgia	\$269,322	\$337,189	25%
Mississippi	\$211,430	\$263,591	25%
North Carolina	\$331,821	\$436,569	32%
South Carolina	\$144,900	\$195,608	35%
Tennessee	\$64,811	\$81,785	26%

- Average farm sales increased the most in Alabama with a 37% increase.
- Florida average farm sales saw the smallest relative increase of 24%.
- Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee resembled the nation's growth in average sales per farm of 26%, while Alabama, North Carolina, and South Carolina grew in larger proportions.

- Alabama had the largest gain of 17% in inflation adjusted total farm production expenses.
- Florida and Georgia had the smallest percentage increases of 9%.
- Growth of production expense totals by 12% in the Southeast outpaced the nation's 9% increase from 2017 to 2022.

Total Farm Production Expenses					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$5,510,624,880	12%	\$6,440,384,000	13%	17%
Florida	\$7,769,240,465	17%	\$8,492,599,000	17%	9%
Georgia	\$8,492,556,305	19%	\$9,247,070,000	18%	9%
Mississippi	\$5,237,199,243	12%	\$5,858,132,000	12%	12%
North Carolina	\$11,081,267,197	25%	\$12,858,711,000	25%	16%
South Carolina	\$2,849,936,999	6%	\$3,178,283,000	6%	12%
Tennessee	\$4,012,678,286	9%	\$4,421,280,000	9%	10%
Total Southeast	\$44,953,503,374	-	\$50,496,459,000	-	12%

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Market Value of Grains, Oilseeds, Dry Beans, and Dry Peas Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$401,376,237	7%	\$565,231,000	7%	41%
Florida	\$57,505,418	1%	\$108,703,000	1%	89%
Georgia	\$337,969,246	6%	\$622,885,000	8%	84%
Mississippi	\$1,860,572,788	31%	\$2,487,364,000	31%	34%
North Carolina	\$1,485,353,069	24%	\$1,892,774,000	23%	27%
South Carolina	\$407,606,140	7%	\$560,963,000	7%	38%
Tennessee	\$1,539,492,811	25%	\$1,817,813,000	23%	18%
Total Southeast	\$6,089,875,708	-	\$8,055,733,000	-	32%

- Florida had the largest proportional growth in inflation-adjusted grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas sales with an 89% increase.
- Tennessee saw the smallest increase from 2017 to 2022 of 18%.
- The Southeast mirrored the nation's 32% increase in sales.

- North Carolina saw the largest increase of 55% in cotton sales from 2017 to 2022.
- Mississippi's inflation-adjusted cotton sales decreased 2%.
- While the nation's cotton sales decreased 18%, the Southeast saw growth of 20%.

Market Value of Cotton Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$310,714,316	12%	\$348,203,000	11%	12%
Florida	\$62,628,552	2%	\$71,163,000	2%	14%
Georgia	\$927,263,375	36%	\$1,204,626,000	39%	30%
Mississippi	\$541,410,556	21%	\$529,159,000	17%	-2%
North Carolina	\$286,049,011	11%	\$444,708,000	14%	55%
South Carolina	\$183,111,148	7%	\$214,788,000	7%	17%
Tennessee	\$281,061,984	11%	\$307,330,000	10%	9%
Total Southeast	\$2,592,238,942	-	\$3,119,977,000	-	20%

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Market Value of Vegetables, Melons, Potatoes, and Sweet Potatoes Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$70,720,979	2%	\$92,910,000	2%	31%
Florida	\$1,533,131,577	46%	\$1,924,130,000	49%	26%
Georgia	\$676,223,839	20%	\$681,265,000	17%	1%
Mississippi	\$122,354,671	4%	\$128,077,000	3%	5%
North Carolina	\$660,776,832	20%	\$697,031,000	18%	5%
South Carolina	\$182,410,314	5%	\$222,082,000	6%	22%
Tennessee	\$111,432,642	3%	\$170,622,000	4%	53%
Total Southeast	\$3,357,050,854	-	\$3,916,117,000	-	17%

- Tennessee had the largest proportional growth in inflation-adjusted vegetable, melon, potato, and sweet potato sales with an 53% increase.
- Georgia saw the smallest increase from 2017 to 2022 of 18%.
- The Southeast's 17% increase trailed the nation's 21% increase in sales.

- South Carolina saw the largest increase in inflation-adjusted fruit, tree nut, and berry sales of 237% from 2017 to 2022.
- Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi's sales decreased 7%, 3% and 3% respectively.
- The Southeast's 4% increase trailed the nation's 15% increase.

Market Value of Fruits, Tree Nuts and Berries Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$22,017,179	1%	\$36,615,000	2%	66%
Florida	\$1,550,498,416	67%	\$1,444,644,000	61%	-7%
Georgia	\$503,640,725	22%	\$486,897,000	20%	-3%
Mississippi	\$19,955,270	1%	\$19,347,000	1%	-3%
North Carolina	\$130,303,827	6%	\$195,909,000	8%	50%
South Carolina	\$49,661,328	2%	\$167,392,000	7%	237%
Tennessee	\$21,816,599	1%	\$28,046,000	1%	29%
Total Southeast	\$2,297,893,344	-	\$2,378,850,000	-	4%

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Market Value of Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture, and Sod Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$351,954,888	7%	\$435,080,000	8%	24%
Florida	\$2,715,767,242	57%	\$3,480,843,000	61%	28%
Georgia	\$384,923,945	8%	\$441,019,000	8%	15%
Mississippi	\$65,707,686	1%	\$65,337,000	1%	-1%
North Carolina	\$659,098,173	14%	\$601,328,000	10%	-9%
South Carolina	\$248,743,617	5%	\$289,892,000	5%	17%
Tennessee	\$357,727,517	7%	\$430,674,000	7%	20%
Total Southeast	\$4,783,923,068	-	\$5,744,173,000	-	20%

- Florida and Alabama had the largest proportional growth in inflation-adjusted Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture, and sod sales with 28% and 24% increases, respectively.
- Mississippi saw a decrease of 1%.
- The Southeast's 20% increase outpaced the nation's 10% increase in sales.

- North Carolina saw the largest increase in inflation-adjusted poultry and egg sales of 43% from 2017 to 2022.
- Florida had the least growth with a 7% increase.
- The Southeast's growth of 29% closely resembles the nation's 30% increase.

Market Value of Poultry and Eggs Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$4,956,145,616	20%	\$6,630,307,000	21%	34%
Florida	\$485,619,615	2%	\$519,174,000	2%	7%
Georgia	\$6,545,142,157	26%	\$7,964,354,000	25%	22%
Mississippi	\$3,708,743,078	15%	\$4,150,516,000	13%	12%
North Carolina	\$6,463,423,932	26%	\$9,241,236,000	29%	43%
South Carolina	\$1,973,038,175	8%	\$2,505,810,000	8%	27%
Tennessee	\$763,813,790	3%	\$1,073,851,000	3%	41%
Total Southeast	\$24,895,926,363	-	\$32,085,248,000	-	29%

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Market Value of Cattle and Calves Sold					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$518,877,602	15%	\$509,551,000	17%	-2%
Florida	\$623,046,401	19%	\$586,010,000	19%	-6%
Georgia	\$432,596,193	13%	\$380,120,000	12%	-12%
Mississippi	\$468,786,460	14%	\$398,875,000	13%	-15%
North Carolina	\$328,538,429	10%	\$305,982,000	10%	-7%
South Carolina	\$130,426,801	4%	\$112,857,000	4%	-13%
Tennessee	\$859,269,322	26%	\$784,152,000	25%	-9%
Total Southeast	\$3,361,541,207	-	\$3,077,547,000	-	-8%

- While nominal sales of cattle and calves increased from 2017 to 2022, inflation-adjusted sales decreased.
- Mississippi, South Carolina, and Georgia saw the largest decreases of 15%, 13%, and 12%, respectively.
- The 8% decrease in the Southeast was larger than the nation's 3%.

- Alabama and Tennessee had the largest decreases in government payments with 61% and 60% losses respectively.
- Florida saw the largest growth in government payments with a 44% increase.
- The Southeast's inflation-adjusted government payments decreased 32% while the nation's declined by 2% from 2017 to 2022.

Federal Government Payments					
	2017		2022		% Change
	\$	%	\$	%	
Alabama	\$160,766,834	14%	\$62,746,000	8%	-61%
Florida	\$70,584,871	6%	\$101,520,000	13%	44%
Georgia	\$295,410,580	27%	\$196,282,000	26%	-34%
Mississippi	\$255,243,347	23%	\$124,777,000	16%	-51%
North Carolina	\$128,424,588	12%	\$164,646,000	22%	28%
South Carolina	\$65,895,132	6%	\$53,943,000	7%	-18%
Tennessee	\$138,429,683	12%	\$55,693,000	7%	-60%
Total Southeast	\$1,114,755,035	-	\$759,607,000	-	-32%

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