

# 1997 Census of Agriculture County Profile

United States Department of Agriculture  
California Agricultural Statistics Service



## MERCED CALIFORNIA

### Land in farms

Decreased 10 percent from 978,831 acres in 1992 to 881,696 acres in 1997.

### Average size of farms

Decreased 9 percent from 340 acres in 1992 to 311 acres in 1997.

### Full time farms

Decreased 1 percent from 1,770 farms in 1992 to 1,752 farms in 1997.

### Market value of agricultural products sold

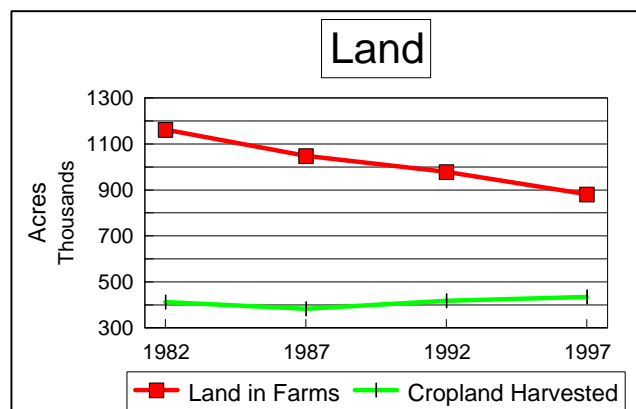
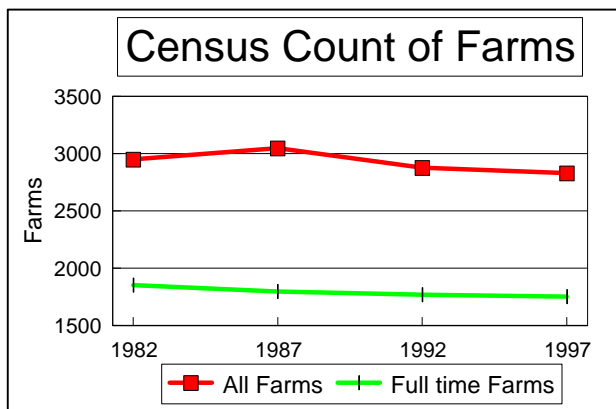
Increased 40 percent to \$1,273,475,000 in 1997.

Crop sales accounted for 45 percent of the market value.

Livestock sales accounted for 55 percent of the market value.

### Market value of agricultural products sold, average per farm

Increased 43 percent from \$315,248 in 1992 to \$449,832 in 1997.



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### Ranked Items Within State and U.S., 1997

Item	Quantity	State		U.S.	
		Rank	Universe*	Rank	Universe*
<b>MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)</b>					
Total value of agricultural products sold	1,273,475	5	58	6	3,076
Value of livestock and poultry	695,581	2	57	3	3,069
Value of crops including nursery	577,894	9	58	11	3,070
<b>TOP FIVE ALL COMMODITIES - VALUE OF SALES (\$1,000)</b>					
Dairy products	426,289	2	47	2	2,563
Fruits, nuts, berries	278,626	9	55	10	2,547
Poultry & poultry products	212,339	2	55	9	2,901
Vegetables, sweet corn, and melons	98,033	13	56	18	2,739
Cotton, cottonseed	81,190	4	17	9	709
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK SOLD (number)</b>					
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	(D)	1	43	9	1,882
Turkeys sold	4,822,122	1	38	11	1,353
Layers, pullets, and pullet chicks sold	(D)	5	47	50	2,203
Cattle and calves sold	137,645	7	57	66	3,063
Ducks, geese, and other poultry sold	(D)	13	51	130	2,200
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - LIVESTOCK INVENTORY (number)</b>					
Broiler inventory	(D)	1	50	12	2,620
Layers 20 weeks and older inventory	2,931,165	6	56	17	3,002
All turkeys inventory	1,532,570	2	52	15	2,361
Cattle and calves inventory	407,376	3	57	6	3,064
Pullets 13 to less than 20 weeks inventory	(D)	6	53	104	2,549
<b>TOP FIVE COMMODITIES - CROP AREA</b>					
Hay crops-acres	140,744	2	57	11	3,061
Land in orchards-acres	123,709	7	56	7	2,693
Cotton-acres	74,620	5	17	43	713
Corn for silage-acres	49,966	2	36	3	2,473
Land used for vegetables-acres	31,777	10	56	18	2,741

Some counties do not have five commodities in a group.

### Other County Summary Highlights

Item	1997	1992	Percent Change
<b>Farms by value of sales:</b>			
Less than \$10,000 .....	785	865	-9
\$10,000 or more .....	2,046	2,014	2
Total farm production expenses .....\$1,000..	978,088	741,026	32
Average per farm .....dollars..	345,248	257,390	34
<b>Net cash return from agricultural sales</b>			
for the farm unit .....\$1,000..	293,785	162,137	81
Average per farm .....dollars..	103,701	56,317	84
<b>Farms by type of organization:</b>			
Individual or family .....	2,141	2,201	-3
Partnership or corporation .....	650	651	
Other .....	40	27	48
<b>OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS</b>			
<b>Operators by principal occupation:</b>			
Farming .....	1,752	1,770	-1
Other .....	1,079	1,109	-3
<b>Operators by sex:</b>			
Male .....	2,621	2,699	-3
Female .....	210	180	17
<b>Operators by race:</b>			
White .....	2,513	2,660	-6
Black and other races .....	318	219	45
Average age of operator .....	54.6	54.0	1

(D) Cannot be disclosed. See "Census of Agriculture Volume 1 Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

\* Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.