

Q: Is California still the leader in U.S. organic agriculture?

A: Yes we are, when measured in sales of certified organically produced commodities! Results from the USDA’s 2015 Certified Organic Survey were recently released and show that California is by far the nation’s leader in organic agriculture, with sales of \$2.4 billion or about 40 percent of the \$6.2 billion sales total nationwide. Washington was second with \$626 million, or 10 percent of total sales. Certified organic sales continued to rise in the U.S. in 2015, with a 13 percent increase over the value in 2014.

2015 Value of products sold in U.S. and California certified organic agriculture

Category	U.S. (\$1,000)	CA (\$1,000)	CA as percent of total U.S.
All products [†]	6,163,472	2,435,594	40
Crops [‡]	3,509,632	1,795,582	51
Vegetables, potatoes, melons [§]	1,361,747	904,009	66
Broccoli	70,919	63,713	90
Lettuce	262,246	236,624	90
Spinach	154,471	126,136	82
Fruits, tree nuts, berries [¶]	1,203,382	718,581	60
Berries	344,635	251,415	73
Apples	302,404	21,263	7

[†] Value of products sold is before taxes and/or production costs.

[‡] Value of crops sold includes nursery and greenhouse.

[§] For open (field) harvested crops.

[¶] Includes apples and grapes.

U.S. certified organic crops, at \$3.5 billion, accounted for over half of the total value of all certified organic products nationwide. Not surprisingly, the categories ‘vegetables, potatoes and melons’, and ‘fruits, tree nuts and berries’ combined accounted for almost \$2.6 billion in crop sales, or almost three-quarters of the total value of crops nationwide. This demonstrates the importance of fresh products to the organic industry.

California certified organic crops, at \$1.8 billion, accounted for about three-quarters of the total value of all certified organic products statewide. The ‘vegetable, potato, and melon’ category accounted for 50 percent of all organic crop sales in the state; ‘fruit, tree nuts and berries’ accounted for another 40 percent. Floriculture, nursery, field and other miscellaneous crops accounted for the other 10 percent of sales. California is the major supplier of many organically grown vegetable, melon, fruit, nut and berry crops; the table above shows just a few examples. Other examples include, but are not limited to, fresh snap beans, blackberries, carrots, cauliflower, celery, cantaloupes and muskmelons, raspberries, sweet potatoes and tomatoes.

There is much, much more information contained in the survey, which can be found at:
https://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Organic_Production/index.php.
 You are also welcome to contact our office with any other questions you may have.