The Economic Importance of Food and Fiber

A Spotlight on Whitfield County, Georgia

Prepared for
Whitfield County Cooperative Extension
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by:
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and Economic Development
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Trends in Whitfield County: Number of Farms

Number of Farms, Whitfield County

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

Source: 1992-2007 (quinquennial) Censuses of Agriculture
Agriculture in Georgia

- 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 Whitfield County

- 2012 Farm Gate Value in Whitfield Co. was $82.5 million. Adding $8.1 million of landscape services increased the total agricultural production value to $90.6 million.

- The highest value commodity group was poultry and eggs, representing 83.27% of the total agricultural production value.
Whitfield County

2012 Agricultural Production Value

- Poultry and Eggs: 83.27%
- Livestock: 9.96%
- Forestry: 0.6%
- Ornamental Horticulture: 4.0%
- Row and Forage Crops: 1.83%
- Other: 0.28%
- Vegetables: 0.03%
What We Did
County Economy Modeled

- 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?
Whitfield County Employment
Total Jobs = 62,133

- Manufacturing: 18,360 (29.5%)
- Trade: 11,258 (18.1%)
- Service: 21,116 (34.0%)
- State & Federal Government: 5,718 (9.2%)
- AG + Directly Related: 378 (0.6%)
- Mining: 32.4 (0.1%)
- Construction: 1,466 (2.4%)
- Transp, Info, Public. Util.: 3,805 (6.1%)

Primary data source: Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, UGA
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.
# Whitfield County

## Agriculture IMPACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Direct $</th>
<th>Total $</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>90,624,513</td>
<td>90,624,513</td>
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<td>Mining</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>90,624,513</strong></td>
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Total Impact of Production AG = $107.1 million
0.9% of total economy
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture + Direct</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>120,879,032</strong></td>
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Total Impact of AG + Directly Related = $120.9 million
1.2% of total economy
**Whitfield County**  
Production Agriculture + Directly Related Industries  
Employment *IMPACT*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Direct</th>
<th>Total</th>
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Total Impact of AG + Directly Related Employment = 761 Jobs  
1.2% of total employment
What These Numbers Mean: A Brief Explanation

- **Direct** impact is $90.6 million. This includes food and fiber production, processing and directly related manufacturing.

- **Indirect** impact from related sectors is $16.8 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.
Whitfield County Food and Fiber Impact Conclusions

- The total impact of food and fiber production, processing and direct manufacturing is $120.9 million.

- The total county output is $11,886.2 million.

- Thus, food and fiber (directly and indirectly) account for 1.2% of the total county output, considering the multiplier effects.
Contact Information

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“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
#14-6A