

Q: Do you have any updates on the value of production for organic agriculture on the Central Coast?

A: Yes we do! A new report, Statistical Review of California’s Organic Agriculture 2009-2012¹, was recently made available. This report, the most up-to-date of its kind, can be downloaded from the UC Davis Agricultural Issues Center at http://aic.ucdavis.edu/publications/StatRevCAOrgAg_2009-2012.pdf. The report shows that, for the first time, the value of the state’s organic production passed the billion dollar mark in 2010. Moreover for 2012, the value of organic agriculture topped \$1.5 billion, another milestone. In all years the production values are dominated by fruit, nut, and vegetable crop production. As in the past, the Central Coast figured prominently in the state’s total value because of the prevalence of fruit and vegetable crop production in the region. Also notable was nursery production value. The Central Coast includes Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. There is much more detail in the full report, but for those partial to numbers, here is a sampling of the statistics.

Table 1. California & Central Coast Organic Agriculture, 2009-2012

	-----California-----			-----Central Coast-----			Sales Percent**
	Growers	Acres	Sales (\$)*	Growers	Acres	Sales (\$)*	
2009	2,320	434,295	973	298	46,510	224	23
2010	2,329	445,466	1,070	307	52,737	272	25
2011	2,534	518,852	1,275	337	57,786	268	21
2012	2,693	589,235	1,504	367	69,811	285	19

* Farm level sales value are stated in million dollars.

** Central Coast farm level sales value as a percent of the California total.

Table 2. California & Central Coast Organic Farm Level Sales Value By Selected Crop Group, 2009-2012*

	-----California-----			-----Central Coast-----		
	Fruit & Nut (\$)	Vegetable (\$)	Nursery** (\$)	Fruit & Nut (\$)	Vegetable (\$)	Nursery** (\$)
2009	333.3	413.3	13.6	60.9	152.6	8.4
2010	378.9	422.1	17.4	75.1	184.2	10.6
2011	477.0	461.2	18.7	92.0	159.0	12.3
2012	578.8	560.8	23.3	105.1	163.2	14.2

* All farm level sales are stated in million dollars.

** Includes nursery, greenhouse, and floriculture crops.

As you can see from this sampling of statistics, from 2009-2012 there was substantial growth in the organic industry at the state and regional levels, 55 percent and 27 percent, respectively. Central Coast fruit and nut and nursery production increased dramatically, 73 percent and 69 percent, respectively. Vegetable production, always a significant portion of the region’s production increased roughly 7 percent. The California Department of Food and Agriculture estimates the state’s total value of agricultural production for 2012 at \$44.7 billion. Total organic farm sales value in 2012 therefore represented roughly 3.4 percent of all agricultural production in California.

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