

## Central Valley: The Food Basket of the World

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The Central Valley is unique. There is nowhere else in the United States, and few places in the world, with the combination of arable and irrigable land, rich soil, relatively mild and stable climate, and long growing seasons that allow for the large-scale production of climate-sensitive vegetables, nuts and fruit crops. The region is essentially the nation's produce aisle — providing a significant percentage of the total national production of many of the items found in most American supermarkets. For some crops, such as almonds, the area accounts for nearly all the crops produced globally.

California, the number one farm state in the nation, accounts for more than [20 percent of the total U.S. production of many crops](#). Nine out of the top 10 agricultural producing counties in the country are in California, most of them located in the Central Valley.

Sustaining domestic production of fresh fruits, produce and nuts serve critical national priorities, including national security, employment and wages, environmental protection, worker safety and using scarce water resources efficiently. California's irrigation technologies are among the best in the world, and its food supply is among the safest.

The positive effect of agriculture in the Valley is clear. Agriculture results in a strong local and state economy as well as supports the world food supply.

Crops for Which California Accounts for More than 20 Percent of Total U.S. Production, 2014	
Share of Total US Production	Crop
95% - 100%	Almonds, Artichoke, Broccoli, Celery, Dates, Figs, Garlic, Kiwifruit, Olives, Pistachios, Plums, Prunes, Processed Strawberries, Processed Tomatoes, Walnuts
85% - 95%	Nectarines, Lemons, Fresh Strawberries, Cauliflower, Apricots, Leaf Lettuce
65% - 85%	Avocados, Fresh Carrots, Tangerines & Mandarins, Honeydew Melons, Peaches, Head Lettuce, Romaine Lettuce, Fresh Spinach, Chile Peppers, Raspberries
45% - 65%	Cantaloupe, Bell Peppers, Asparagus
20% - 45%	Onions, Fresh Tomatoes, Fresh Cabbage, Pears, Fresh Market Corn

SOURCE: CA Department of Food and Agriculture, *California Agricultural Statistics Review 2014-15*; United States Department of Agriculture, *Agricultural Statistics 2014*