



Food and Fiber's Role in the Economy of Georgia's New Congressional Districts

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Food and fiber production and processing are major sources of economic activity for many of Georgia's counties. With shifting political boundaries, it can be difficult to assess the value of food and fiber production and processing in newly defined regions. This paper presents the results of a brief study performed by the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development to discover the value of food and fiber production and processing in each new congressional district.

Food and fiber production includes all items published in the 2000 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report. This includes a wide range of items including: livestock, poultry, ornamental horticulture, fruits, nuts, vegetables, and forestry. Processing, for purposes of this report, is defined as activities that occur soon after harvesting and as activities that would remove themselves from the state if production were to cease. A clear example is cotton gins. If production of cotton dropped off, an immediate decline in cotton gins would occur. A complete list of what is included is in the appendix.

Figure 1: Farm Gate Value by Congressional District, Georgia 2000 (Millions of Dollars)

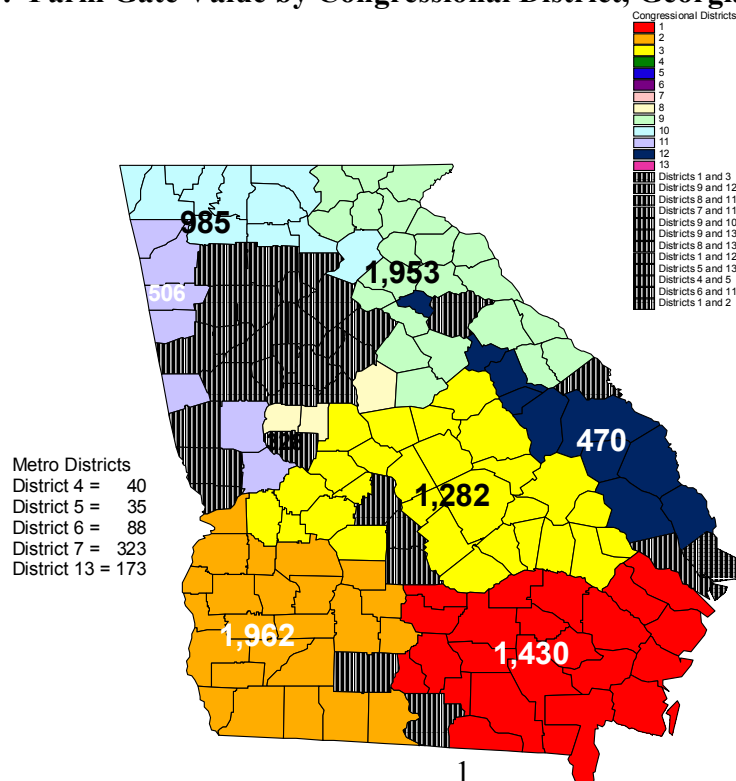
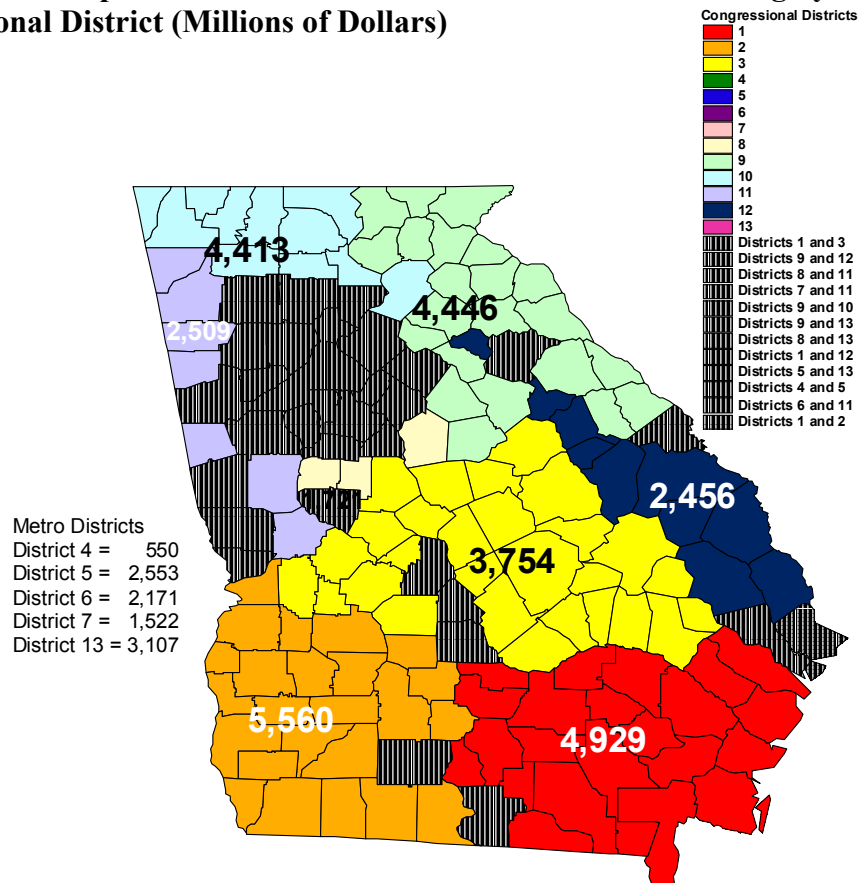


Figure one illustrates farm gate value by congressional district. The numbers in this map represent only production or farm value. It does not show the value of the processing associated with this production. Those familiar with the state of Georgia will recognize the highly agricultural sections of Georgia, mainly districts 1, 2, 3 and 9. The values shown in this graph will not sum to reported total farm gate value for the state. This is because counties in multiple districts are fully counted in each district.

Figure two shows the impact of food and fiber production and *processing* value by congressional district. This map differs from the previous in two ways. First, it adds the value of directly related processing. Second, it includes the impact of the production and processing. The values below reflect the direct value of production and processing within the industry *plus* the value created in other industries due to the existence of food and fiber. For example, the total figure includes not only the sales of the farmer, but also the sales of the local feed store that are attributable to the farmer. Thus, if the farmer were to cease production, the value of his local feed store's sales would decrease along with the loss of the farmer's direct sales.

Figure 2: The Impact of Food and Fiber Production and Processing by Congressional District (Millions of Dollars)



This map reveals a slightly different picture of agriculture and food and fiber in Georgia. The areas of high concentration in agricultural production are still evident. However, it becomes clear that agricultural processing and services are significant in areas typically not considered agricultural. The value of production and processing in the area labeled “metro” totals \$9,903 million.

The value of food and fiber production and processing has been established. However, this does not give us a clear picture of the relative importance of agriculture in these areas. There are two ways to examine the relative importance of food and fiber production and processing. First, one can examine the breakdown by major Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) of the economy by congressional district. Second, one can do a similar breakdown on the county level.

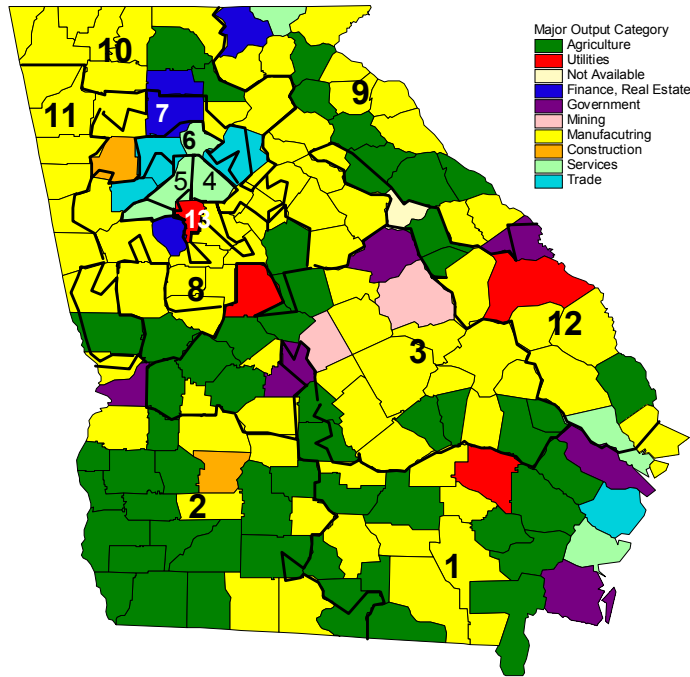
Table 1 lists the components of each congressional district’s economy. The major category areas are equivalent to the Standard Industrial Classification scheme. Agriculture here is defined as food and fiber production and processing. It does not include the impacts as in figure 2. The table reveals that manufacturing and services are the major components of most of the districts. The columns here cannot be totaled since some counties are contained in multiple districts and thus counted more than once.

Table 1: The Economic Components of Congressional District (Millions of Dollars)

	Agriculture	Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Utilities	Trade	Finance	Services	Government	Other	Total
District 1	3,497	10	3,617	11,893	3,790	4,836	3,938	6,452	7,760	36	45,831
District 2	3,888	124	2,550	9,648	2,122	4,050	3,551	5,329	5,066	48	36,375
District 3	2,679	776	2,266	6,737	1,940	3,077	3,164	4,251	3,849	35	28,774
District 4	373	47	3,108	7,721	6,673	7,244	6,753	10,084	2,920	18	44,941
District 5	1,813	102	11,983	28,334	36,838	34,639	34,067	44,918	11,573	101	204,368
District 6	1,567	56	8,731	19,840	24,855	25,953	27,319	33,651	8,182	82	150,236
District 7	1,113	77	6,035	11,358	2,735	11,210	6,731	8,131	1,925	13	49,328
District 8	1,224	78	4,605	13,416	3,280	5,247	5,381	6,521	3,177	34	42,963
District 9	3,252	99	3,981	9,805	2,044	3,654	3,763	4,771	3,753	33	35,154
District 10	3,246	122	7,294	23,155	4,019	13,512	8,152	10,427	2,759	24	72,711
District 11	1,804	92	7,887	20,849	6,788	14,042	11,206	14,231	4,605	50	81,555
District 12	1,748	66	3,019	11,055	2,981	4,377	3,515	6,532	4,992	39	38,323
District 13	2,172	136	14,150	34,363	36,388	36,637	34,505	45,450	12,348	106	216,256

This table can be slightly misleading. When taken as a whole, food and fiber production and processing (labeled agriculture) may appear to be less significant. However, for many individual counties, agriculture is the number one sector of the economy. A previous study by the Center produced figure 3. The map in figure 3 shows that all the non-metro congressional districts have at least one county where agriculture is the leading source of economic activity. Districts 1, 2, and 9 have multiple counties where food and fiber is the most important source of economic activity.

Figure 3: Major Economic Output Sector Divided by Congressional District



Food and fiber production and processing is a key sector in all of Georgia's economy, regardless of congressional district. This report details where food and fiber production is concentrated and reveals where processing is located. It also shows the total value of food and fiber production and its impact on Georgia's economy.

Appendix: Definitions and Explanations

Congressional Districts: The congressional districts were defined as shown on the map obtained from the following website:

www.thinkmajority.com/maps/congress/finalstate.shtml.

Food and Fiber Production: Includes traditional crops and livestock as well as forestry, ornamental horticulture, fruits and vegetables, non-traditional commodities (bees, catfish, etc) and agricultural and landscape services.

Food and Fiber Processing: Includes meat and poultry processing, milk processing, vegetable and fruit processing, salting and roasting of nuts, vegetable and animal oil mills, logging camps and sawmills, fertilizer and agricultural chemical manufacturing and farm equipment manufacturing.