Thanksgiving Day Facts and Figures

Thanksgiving Dinner

15.1 million
The number of turkeys that Indiana produced in 2007. This mark ranked 7th among states and accounted for 5.6 percent of national production. This output was less than one-third of Minnesota’s leading production of 48 million turkeys.

$249.8 million
The total value of Indiana’s 2007 turkey production. This amount represented 6.7 percent of the total value of U.S. turkey production. Indiana had the 6th largest value of turkey production behind Minnesota, North Carolina, Missouri, Arkansas, and Virginia.

36 percent
The Dubois County share of Indiana’s turkey inventory in 2002 – far and away the state’s top turkey-raising county. In fact, Dubois County ranked 13th nationally in turkey inventories in 2002. Southwest Indiana is the center of Indiana’s turkey industry as the top four counties in 2002—Dubois, Daviess, Martin, and Greene—accounted for 70 percent of the state’s inventories.

Side Dishes

15.7 tons
Indiana’s 2007 production of snap, or green, beans for processing (as opposed to sold fresh). Indiana was the nation’s 6th largest producer of green beans for processing and its output accounted for 2 percent of the total.

1.6 percent
Indiana’s share of U.S. fresh sweet corn production with an output of 459,000 hundredweight in 2007. (Note that a hundredweight is equal to 100 pounds.)

495
The number of Indiana farms that produced pumpkins in 2002. These farms harvested 4,242 acres of pumpkins that year which accounted for 4.4 percent of the total harvested acres in the United States.

These data were compiled by the Indiana Business Research Center on 11/20/08
www.ibrc.indiana.edu
0 percent
It is unlikely that your Thanksgiving Day helpings of potatoes, sweet potatoes, or cranberries were produced in Indiana as a tiny amount of state’s agricultural acres relative to other states are dedicated to these crops.

Volunteerism

$4.2 billion
The estimated annual economic contribution of volunteerism in Indiana. Indiana’s volunteer rate in 2007 was 30.6 percent—greater than the national average of 26.2 percent.

26.5 percent
The share of Indiana’s volunteerism that was dedicated to the collection and distribution of food, a common activity on Thanksgiving Day.

Kickoff to the Shopping Season

3.3 percent
The growth in Indiana retail employment from October to November of 2007. The average growth between 2001 and 2007 was 3 percent.

Data Sources

- United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service
  http://www.nass.usda.gov/#top
- The Corporation for National and Community Service http://www.nationalservice.org/
- Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
  http://www.bls.gov/cew/