

What pet food manufacturing contributes to the US economy

U.S. pet food manufacturers directly contribute billions of dollars in added value, labor income and output to the economy, along with thousands of jobs.



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August 15, 2023



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Nearly US\$11 billion in added value, including US\$2.9 billion in labor income representing 32,938 jobs. Almost US\$35 billion in sales. These are among the direct [contributions made by pet food manufacturers to the U.S. economy](#), detailed in the American Feed Industry Association's (AFIA) [report](#), "Economic Contributions of the Animal Feed and Pet Food Industries, April 2023."

Conducted in 2022 by Decision Innovation Solutions, an economics research and analysis firm, the study also incorporates indirect contributions to the U.S. economy, including sales to and purchases from other industries. That expansion shows total pet food contributions of US\$40 billion in added value, including US\$8.6 billion in labor income; 283,736 jobs; and US\$102.3 billion in output (sales). Also of note, pet food manufacturing accounts for a total of US\$7.4 billion in federal, state and local taxes, with US\$1.6 billion of those being directly attributable.

"Five states consistently rank at the top of all reported measures of the economic contribution of their pet food manufacturing industries: Missouri, Kansas, Pennsylvania, California and Iowa," the report said. This is largely because these states have multiple pet food manufacturing facilities, from 18 in Iowa to 59 in Pennsylvania—the highest number in the country by far, despite losing 13 facilities

since 2017. The next highest number of pet food plants is in Michigan, at 33, while many states have 20-29 plants.

In total, the U.S. has 523 pet food manufacturing plants, up from 514 in 2017. The biggest gainer was Utah, which added nine facilities.

What makes the new study most interesting is that it is essentially an update to one conducted in 2016 (reported in 2017) commissioned by AFIA's Institute for Feed Education and Research (IFEEDER). Comparing the two sets of data shows strong growth for pet food and animal feed, at least in terms of direct contributions.

For example, pet food and animal feed together accounted for 80,344 direct jobs in 2023, 19,567 more than in 2017. Labor income was up US\$2.3 billion, from US\$4.6 billion in 2017 to US\$6.9 billion in 2022. The value added to the economy by both industries totaled US\$18.8 billion in 2023, US\$4.9 billion more than in 2017. The only decline was in sales (output), down US\$2.9 billion for a total of US\$85.2 billion in 2023.