RR 24-001

Tennessee Agri-Industry Brief:
Tennessee County-Level Producers’ Average Age

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USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service’s (NASS) Census of Agriculture is published every five years and provides data at the U.S., state, and county levels. Online agriculture census versions go as far back as 1840 (USDA/NASS, 2024).[[1]](#footnote-1) One metric tracked is the change in the average age of agricultural producers. This information is provided at the county level for Tennessee for the Census reporting periods 2017 to 2022, along with the percentage change in average age for that timeframe (Figure 1 and Table 1).



Figure 1. Tennessee County-Level Percentage Change in Producers’
Average Age from 2017-2022 Census.

| **Table 1. Tennessee County-Level Percentage Change in Producers’ Average Age from 2017 to 2022 Census** |
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|  | **Age** |  |
| **County** | **2017** | **2022** | **% Change** |
| ANDERSON | 56.0 | 58.9 | 5.2% |
| BEDFORD | 58.9 | 58.6 | -0.5% |
| BENTON | 57.4 | 58.7 | 2.3% |
| BLEDSOE | 56.8 | 60.2 | 6.0% |
| BLOUNT | 60.1 | 59.6 | -0.8% |
| BRADLEY | 59.9 | 60.5 | 1.0% |
| CAMPBELL | 60.6 | 62.3 | 2.8% |
| CANNON | 56.4 | 59.1 | 4.8% |
| CARROLL | 58.1 | 60.2 | 3.6% |
| CARTER | 57.7 | 60.3 | 4.5% |
| CHEATHAM | 57.5 | 60.5 | 5.2% |
| CHESTER | 58.0 | 59.5 | 2.6% |
| CLAIBORNE | 57.1 | 58.6 | 2.6% |
| CLAY | 57.9 | 59.4 | 2.6% |
| COCKE | 59.0 | 60.8 | 3.1% |
| COFFEE | 57.7 | 60.0 | 4.0% |
| CROCKETT | 58.5 | 60.0 | 2.6% |
| CUMBERLAND | 56.3 | 56.5 | 0.4% |
| DAVIDSON | 57.2 | 59.0 | 3.1% |
| DE KALB | 58.8 | 59.0 | 0.3% |
| DECATUR | 57.8 | 58.6 | 1.4% |
| DICKSON | 57.9 | 58.0 | 0.2% |
| DYER | 55.3 | 59.4 | 7.4% |
| FAYETTE | 61.3 | 60.9 | -0.7% |
| FENTRESS | 55.8 | 59.2 | 6.1% |
| FRANKLIN | 58.5 | 59.3 | 1.4% |
| GIBSON | 55.9 | 58.6 | 4.8% |
| GILES | 58.7 | 58.8 | 0.2% |
| GRAINGER | 57.4 | 58.9 | 2.6% |
| GREENE | 58.8 | 59.9 | 1.9% |
| GRUNDY | 56.7 | 55.4 | -2.3% |
| HAMBLEN | 58.5 | 59.6 | 1.9% |
| HAMILTON | 58.9 | 59.5 | 1.0% |
| HANCOCK | 57.6 | 57.2 | -0.7% |
| HARDEMAN | 59.8 | 60.3 | 0.8% |
| HARDIN | 57.2 | 60.2 | 5.2% |
| HAWKINS | 59.2 | 59.9 | 1.2% |
| HAYWOOD | 58.6 | 60.3 | 2.9% |
| HENDERSON | 57.4 | 58.3 | 1.6% |
| HENRY | 55.9 | 60.1 | 7.5% |
| HICKMAN | 58.2 | 58.3 | 0.2% |
| HOUSTON | 57.6 | 58.5 | 1.6% |
| HUMPHREYS | 56.9 | 59.5 | 4.6% |
| JACKSON | 58.3 | 60.8 | 4.3% |
| JEFFERSON | 60.6 | 61.6 | 1.7% |
| JOHNSON | 59.4 | 62.1 | 4.5% |
| KNOX | 58.7 | 59.4 | 1.2% |
| LAKE | 56.8 | 57.6 | 1.4% |
| LAUDERDALE | 59.7 | 58.6 | -1.8% |
| LAWRENCE | 58.3 | 58.1 | -0.3% |
| LEWIS | 58.5 | 57.9 | -1.0% |
| LINCOLN | 57.8 | 59.0 | 2.1% |
| LOUDON | 59.7 | 59.0 | -1.2% |
| MACON | 57.7 | 57.6 | -0.2% |
| MADISON | 58.7 | 59.7 | 1.7% |
| MARION | 58.2 | 58.2 | 0.0% |
| MARSHALL | 57.1 | 58.7 | 2.8% |
| MAURY | 58.8 | 58.6 | -0.3% |
| MCMINN | 58.8 | 59.4 | 1.0% |
| MCNAIRY | 58.5 | 59.2 | 1.2% |
| MEIGS | 59.6 | 58.4 | -2.0% |
| MONROE | 57.3 | 57.2 | -0.2% |
| MONTGOMERY | 58.5 | 59.8 | 2.2% |
| MOORE | 58.3 | 60.6 | 3.9% |
| MORGAN | 56.0 | 56.8 | 1.4% |
| OBION | 57.8 | 59.9 | 3.6% |
| OVERTON | 55.5 | 55.7 | 0.4% |
| PERRY | 55.7 | 57.7 | 3.6% |
| PICKETT | 55.7 | 58.4 | 4.8% |
| POLK | 55.2 | 60.9 | 10.3% |
| PUTNAM | 57.8 | 58.7 | 1.6% |
| RHEA | 58.4 | 57.7 | -1.2% |
| ROANE | 57.1 | 57.7 | 1.1% |
| ROBERTSON | 56.1 | 56.4 | 0.5% |
| RUTHERFORD | 57.5 | 58.3 | 1.4% |
| SCOTT | 59.4 | 59.0 | -0.7% |
| SEQUATCHIE | 60.0 | 59.6 | -0.7% |
| SEVIER | 61.2 | 61.3 | 0.2% |
| SHELBY | 59.3 | 60.6 | 2.2% |
| SMITH | 58.4 | 58.3 | -0.2% |
| STEWART | 57.5 | 58.6 | 1.9% |
| SULLIVAN | 59.4 | 59.5 | 0.2% |
| SUMNER | 58.4 | 58.6 | 0.3% |
| TIPTON | 57.0 | 57.9 | 1.6% |
| TROUSDALE | 57.5 | 56.8 | -1.2% |
| UNICOI | 60.2 | 58.8 | -2.3% |
| UNION | 57.0 | 59.5 | 4.4% |
| VAN BUREN | 56.6 | 54.8 | -3.2% |
| WARREN | 55.3 | 56.5 | 2.2% |
| WASHINGTON | 58.8 | 58.5 | -0.5% |
| WAYNE | 56.6 | 56.1 | -0.9% |
| WEAKLEY | 57.1 | 57.0 | -0.2% |
| WHITE | 56.5 | 56.5 | 0.0% |
| WILLIAMSON | 59.4 | 60.4 | 1.7% |
| WILSON | 57.7 | 59.5 | 3.1% |

The overall average age for all producers for the state was 58.9 in 2022, a 1.6% increase from 2017’s average of 58.0. From 2017 to 2022, the Agricultural Census indicates the average age of producers declined in 23 of the 95 counties (24.2%). Two counties had no change in the average age (Marion and White). The top five counties having the largest decrease in the producers’ average age from 2017 to 2022, in order of magnitude, were Van Buren at -3.2%, followed by Unicoi (-2.3%), Grundy (-2.3%), Meigs (-2.0%), and Lauderdale (-1.8%) (Table 2). Conversely, the top five counties having the largest increase for this timeframe were Polk (10.3%), followed by Henry (7.5%), Dyer (7.4%), Fentress (6.1%), and Bledsoe (6.0%) (Table 3).

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| **Table 2. Top Five Tennessee Counties with Largest Decrease in Producers’ Average Age from 2017 to 2022 Census** |
|  | **Age** |  |
| **County** | **2017** | **2022** | **% Change** |
| VAN BUREN | 56.6 | 54.8 | -3.2% |
| UNICOI | 60.2 | 58.8 | -2.3% |
| GRUNDY | 56.7 | 55.4 | -2.3% |
| MEIGS | 59.6 | 58.4 | -2.0% |
| LAUDERDALE | 59.7 | 58.6 | -1.8% |

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| **Table 3. Top Five Tennessee Counties with Largest Increase in Producers’ Average Age from 2017 to 2022 Census** |
|  | **Age** |  |
| **County** | **2017** | **2022** | **% Change** |
| POLK | 55.2 | 60.9 | 10.3% |
| HENRY | 55.9 | 60.1 | 7.5% |
| DYER | 55.3 | 59.4 | 7.4% |
| FENTRESS | 55.8 | 59.2 | 6.1% |
| BLEDSOE | 56.8 | 60.2 | 6.0% |

For Census year 2022 only, the top five counties having the largest average age were Campbell at 62.3 years old, followed by Johnson, Jefferson, Sevier, and Polk (Table 4). The top five having the lowest average were Van Buren at 54.8 years old, followed by Grundy, Overton, Wayne, and Robertson (Table 5).

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| **Table 4. Based on 2022 Census, Top Five Tennessee Counties with Largest Average Age** |
| **County** | **2022** |
| CAMPBELL | 62.3 |
| JOHNSON | 62.1 |
| JEFFERSON | 61.6 |
| SEVIER | 61.3 |
| POLK | 60.9 |

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| **Table 5. Based on 2022 Census, Top Five Tennessee Counties with Lowest Average Age** |
| **County** | **2022** |
| VAN BUREN | 54.8 |
| GRUNDY | 55.4 |
| OVERTON | 55.7 |
| WAYNE | 56.1 |
| ROBERTSON | 56.4 |



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 and parental status.

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). 2024. Census of Agriculture. Available at [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/index.php). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)