



U.S. TOBACCO PRODUCTION HAS DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY

All measurements of tobacco growing in all major tobacco growing states – number of tobacco farms, acres dedicated to tobacco farming, production – show significant declines since the early 1990s.

Number of tobacco farms

	1992	2002	2012	2017	% change 1992-2017
North Carolina	17,625	7,850	1,682	1,294	-92.7%
Kentucky	59,373	29,237	4,537	2,618	-95.6%
Virginia	8,444	4,184	558	306	-96.4%
Tennessee	22,953	8,206	935	598	-97.4%
Georgia	1,658	822	102	106	-93.6%
South Carolina	1,965	873	136	117	-94.0%
Pennsylvania	1,348	897	1,312	812	-39.8%
U.S.	124,270	56,977	10,014	6,237	-95.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, *2017 Census of Agriculture*, April 2019, and earlier editions (Census is done every five years), <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/index.asp>.

Tobacco farm acreage

	1992	2002	2012	2017	% change 1992-2017
North Carolina	283,900	167,677	167,443	167,781	-40.9%
Kentucky	268,140	110,734	87,931	80,544	-70.0%
Virginia	55,419	30,308	22,982	23,039	-58.4%
Tennessee	75,621	35,960	23,801	20,751	-72.6%
Georgia	40,403	25,060	9,882	12,905	-68.1%
South Carolina	50,194	30,241	12,155	12,176	-75.7%
Pennsylvania	8,445	5,470	9,532	7,476	-11.5%
U.S.	831,231	428,631	342,932	331,552	-60.1%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, *2017 Census of Agriculture*, April 2019, and earlier editions (Census is done every five years), <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/index.asp>.

Tobacco production (lbs)

	1990	2000	2010	2020	% change 1990-2020
North Carolina	639,639,000	406,710,000	352,625,000	178,727,000	-72.1%
Kentucky	442,253,000	283,065,000	181,760,000	102,395,000	-76.8%
Virginia	110,269,000	56,613,000	44,299,000	24,420,000	-77.9%
Tennessee	112,218,000	95,958,000	45,740,000	27,940,000	-75.1%
Georgia	103,845,000	68,820,000	26,790,000	19,355,000	-81.4%
South Carolina	109,905,000	81,260,000	36,000,000	6,600,000	-94.0%
Pennsylvania	19,780,000	10,170,000	19,965,000	13,440,000	-32.1%
U.S.	1,626,380,000	1,053,264,000	718,190,000	372,877,000	-77.1%

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture-National Agricultural Statistics Service Quick Stats.

Tobacco manufacturing jobs have declined as well and make up a tiny fraction of overall manufacturing jobs within states. In 2020, tobacco product manufacturing employment made up less than one-tenth of one percent of all manufacturing jobs in the U.S. Even in the two states with the most tobacco manufacturing (North Carolina & Virginia), related employment

makes up less than 2% of all state manufacturing jobs, and even smaller fractions of total employment.

	1997	2006	2017	2020	% change 1997-2020
North Carolina	12,268	8,760	6,333	4,605	-62.5%
Kentucky	3,185	Not Significant	500-999	1,080	-66.1%
Virginia	9,865	4,392	1,000-2,499	1,961	-80.1%
U.S.	33,635	19,649	13,031	10,697	-68.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of Manufactures, data for 2020 are the most recent available.

Domestic tobacco exports have also declined. However, exports should not be affected by the FDA's policy on menthol cigarettes or flavored cigars.

	1990	2000	2010	2020	% change 1990-2020
Unmanufactured tobacco leaf (HTS 2401) (kg)	223,413,853	182,518,523	178,725,980	102,784,772	-58.1%
Cigars, Cheroots, Cigarillos and Cigarettes (HTS 2402) (thousand units)	164,374,672,249	148,636,132	26,358,256	1,370,694	-100.0%
Tobacco And Tobacco Substitute Manufactures, Others; Homogenized or Reconstituted Tobacco; Tobacco Extracts and Essences (HTS 2403) (kg)	54,128,367	101,272,030	4,981,343	14,242,842	-73.7%

Source: USITC DataWeb.