

The Economic Impact Study of Plant-Based Industries and Agriculture in Rhode Island

Total Annual
Economic Impact

\$1.78 Billion

Total Green
Industry Businesses

2,812

Total Jobs
Impact

12,372

“ Rhode Island is the smallest state in the union, but among the most diverse in terms of agricultural production and plant-based industry. Despite the state’s small size, estimating the economic impact of these sectors has proven difficult. At the outset of this study, a number of public officials indicated that reliable estimates of economic impacts were unavailable, and local industry groups claimed that the relevant, published Federal government estimates were too low.

“ In addition, plant-based industry, as a group, defies standardized industry classification systems (e.g. SIC, NAICS) because these businesses reside under such disparate categories as retail, wholesale, services, and entertainment. As a result, the impact of these businesses may be both underestimated and improperly aggregated for the purpose of current policy discussions. This study attempts to fill the knowledge gap surrounding the economic impact of agriculture and plant-based industry in Rhode Island and to correct any misinformation or misconceptions that may exist.

“ Plant-based industries and agriculture are included together in this study because of their long interconnected histories in Rhode Island. While a common perception is that agriculture exists primarily to produce food, fiber and fuel, the 2007 Agricultural Census found that RI agriculture generated 61.8% of gross sales from nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod production, and our own data were roughly consistent with this percentage... Our conservative estimate of \$170.6 million in annual agricultural revenues is more than two and a half times the USDA’s 2007 estimate of \$65.9 million, implying that Rhode Island farmers may produce 60% of their economic impact via direct interaction with consumers.”

(From: The 2012 Economic Impact Study of Rhode Island Plant-Based Industries and Agriculture, January 16, 2013 – Dr. Thomas W. Sproul and Brandon Elsner, Department of Environmental & Natural Resource Economics, University of Rhode Island. A copy of the white paper can be found on www.rinla.org, www.goritf.org and www.rhodyag.com)



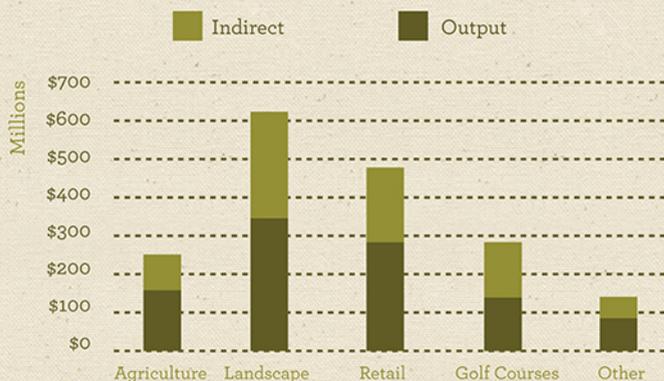
Study Findings

This study combined 1,100 green-related business listings from various sources with industry profile data and listings from the USDA Agricultural Census, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the Rhode Island Secretary of State.

All the missing businesses were extrapolated according to highly conservative practices to avoid any overconfidence in the estimates. The study also does not include many related businesses in Forestry, Wood Products, Fisheries, Aquaculture or Marine Resources. All estimated values are considered lower bounds.

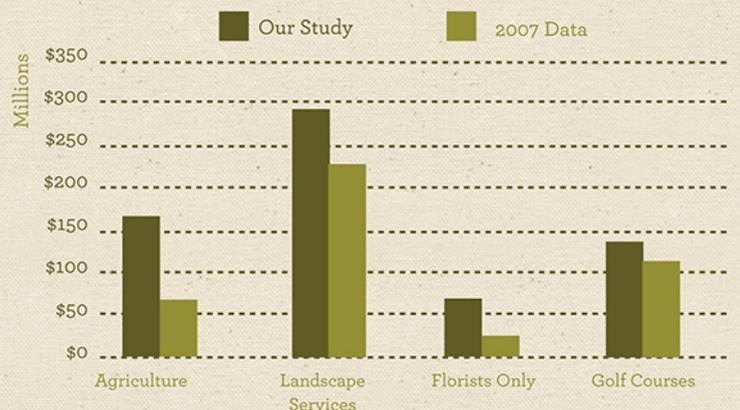
Economic Impact by Category

Category	Firms	Output	Indirect †	Total	Share
Agriculture	1,219	\$170,650,704	\$97,452,764	\$268,103,468	15.00%
Landscape	1,030	\$339,092,273	\$275,772,707	\$614,864,980	34.50%
Retail	454	\$290,565,507	\$206,010,945	\$496,576,452	27.90%
Golf Courses	62	\$144,562,489	\$120,709,686	\$265,272,184	14.90%
Other	47	\$82,420,500	\$55,000,858	\$137,421,358	7.70%
Total	2,812	\$1,027,291,483	\$754,946,959	\$1,782,238,442	100.00%



† - Indirect output created in other sectors

Our Study vs. Federal Estimates*, Select Sectors

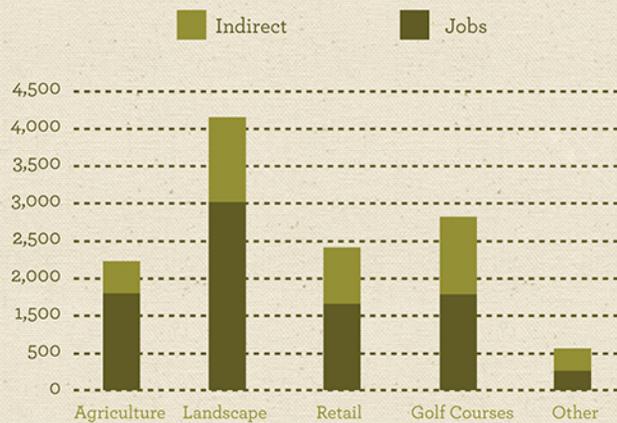


* - 2007 Data are sourced from the Census Bureau's 2007 Economic Census and the USDA's 2007 Agricultural Census

Study Findings

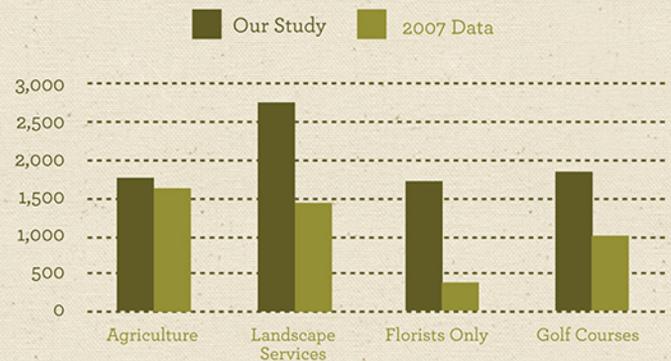
Jobs Impact by Category

Category	Firms	Jobs	Indirect Jobs [†]	Total Jobs	Share
Agriculture	1,219	1,792	542	2,334	18.90%
Landscape	1,030	3,034	1,203	4,237	34.20%
Retail	454	1,723	739	2,462	19.90%
Golf Courses	62	1,872	940	2,812	22.70%
Other	47	287	240	527	4.30%
Total	2,812	8,708	3,664	12,372	100.00%



[†] - Indirect output (jobs) created in other sectors

Our Study vs. Federal Estimates*, Select Sectors



* - 2007 Data are sourced from the Census Bureau's 2007 Economic Census and the USDA's 2007 Agricultural Census



What Makes Up Plant-Based Industries and Agriculture in RI?

For the purposes of this Economic Impact Study, Plant Based Industries and Agriculture are defined as Rhode Island businesses whose foundation is reliant on natural resources use and/or plants, including:

Agriculture



- Food / Feed / Fiber / Fuel crops
- Dairy & Livestock
- Nurseries
- Cut Flower Growers
- Sod Growers

Landscape



- Arborists
- Parks & Recreation
- Lawn & Landscaping Services
- Landscape Architects & Designers
- Masonry Contractors

Retail Supply & Florists



- Retail Lawn & Garden Centers
- Florists
- Landscape Supplies
- Outdoor Power Equipment
- Plant Brokers

Golf Courses



- Public Golf Courses
- Private Country Clubs

Other



- Agriculture Support Industries
- Farm Product Wholesalers
- Landscape-Related Contractors
- Cemeteries

This is the first consolidated effort to assess the true impact of green industry to Rhode Island by



Rhode Island Nursery & Landscape Association
Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation
Rhode Island Agricultural Partnership
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
URI College of Business and College of the Environment and Life Sciences
Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation

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