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 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).

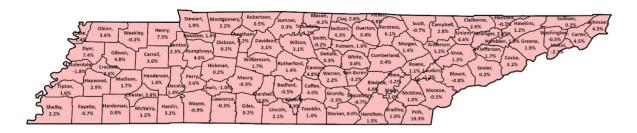


Figure 1. Tennessee County-Level Percentage Change in Producers' Average Age from 2017-2022 Census.



¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). 2024. Census of Agriculture. Available at nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/index.php.

Table 1. Tennessee County-Level Percentage Change in Producers' Average Age from 2017 to 2022 Census

Census	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%

Table 1. Tennessee County-Level Percentage Change in Producers' Average Age from 2017 to 2022 Census

Census	Age		
County	2017	2022	% Change
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%

Table 1. Tennessee County-Level Percentage Change in Producers' Average Age from 2017 to 2022 Census

	Α	ge	
County	2017	2022	% Change
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).

Table 2. Top Five Tennessee Counties with Largest Decrease in Producers' Average Age from 2017 to 2022 Census

	А	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%

Table 3. Top Five Tennessee Counties with Largest Increase in Producers' Average Age from 2017 to 2022 Census

	A	ge	
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).

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	

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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