

U.S. Equine Industry Has \$122 Billion Economic Impact

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The American Horse Council Foundation (AHC) has announced the results of its 2017 Economic Impact Study of the U.S. Horse Industry, carried out in cooperation with The Innovation Group.

The study revealed that the U.S. equine industry generates approximately \$122 billion in total economic impact, an increase from \$102 billion in the 2005 Economic Impact Study.

The industry also provides a total employment impact of 1.74 million, and generates \$79 billion in total salaries, wages, and benefits.

The current number of horses in the United States stands at 7.2 million. Texas, California, and Florida continue to have the highest equine populations.

“Those involved in the equine industry already know how important it is to the U.S. economy,” said AHC President Julie Broadway. “Having these updated numbers is critical not only to the AHC’s efforts up on Capitol Hill, but also for the industry to demonstrate to the general public how much of a role the equine has in American households. While the number of horses in the U.S. has decreased, this was not entirely unexpected due to the decline in breed registration trends over the last few years.”

Another bright spot for the industry: 38 million, or 30.5%, of U.S. households contain a horse enthusiast, and 38% of participants are under the age of 18. Additionally, approximately 80 million acres of land is reserved for horse-related activities.

“For this update of the study we wanted to get a better picture of the number of youth in the pipeline, which is a number that we have not previously included in our economic impact studies,” Broadway said. “Additionally, being able to put a number of the amount of land use for equine-related activities

is essential to ensuring that we are able to continue to protect and preserve that land for its intended use.”

The National Economic Impact Study results are available for purchase through the AHC website at horsecouncil.org/horsecouncil-publications. Additionally, the 15 state breakouts will be available for purchase by the beginning of April.