



Illinois Wine Industry 2005 Economic Impact Study – Key Findings

First established in the 1700s, Illinois' wine country is enjoying a growth resurgence. The number of wineries and vineyards in the Land of Lincoln has increased tremendously in recent years, and rapid growth is expected to continue in years to come.

Current Size

- There are 450 grape growers and more than 68 wineries throughout the state of Illinois
 - 69 counties within Illinois (68 percent) have at least one vineyard, and 38 counties (37 percent) have at least one winery
- 90 percent of Illinois vineyards and 83 percent of wineries were established in the last 10 years

Growth

- In the last 3 years, the number of wineries and vineyards has doubled

Economic Impact

- The total economic impact on wine and wine grapes in Illinois was more than \$253 million
- Illinois' revenues from wine sales totaled \$21 million
- In 2005, 155,000 people visited an Illinois winery
- Total winery-related tourism expenditures in 2005 was \$31 million
- In 2005, the state's wine and wine grape sectors paid at least \$22.9 million in state and local taxes

Production

- In 2005, grapes were growing on an estimated 1,200 bearing acres throughout Illinois
 - About 90 percent (1,100 acres) of these grapes are processed for wine
 - Vineyards typically produce three tons of grapes per acre
 - Average Illinois vineyard size is 4.6 acres
- Illinois wineries produce 500,000 gallons of wine per year
- 83 percent of all wine made in Illinois in 2005 was made with Illinois fruit
 - 53 percent of the wineries use Illinois fruit exclusively
- Top five varieties of grapes grown in Illinois in 2005:
 - Chardone (110 acres)
 - Chambourcin (94 acres)
 - Vignoles (72 acres)
 - Marchal Foch (66 acres)
 - Traminette (57 acres)

Work Force

- In 2005, the Illinois wine and winegrape sectors and allied industries provide employment, directly and indirectly, for nearly 2,300 full-time equivalent jobs, representing a total payroll of more than \$59.7 million
 - In 2005, the Department of Employment Security reported that state wineries employ a total of 186 persons, with wages totaling nearly \$2.8 million
 - In 2005, the Illinois State Department of Labor reported that state vineyards employ a total of 834 persons, with wages totaling nearly \$8.9 million

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