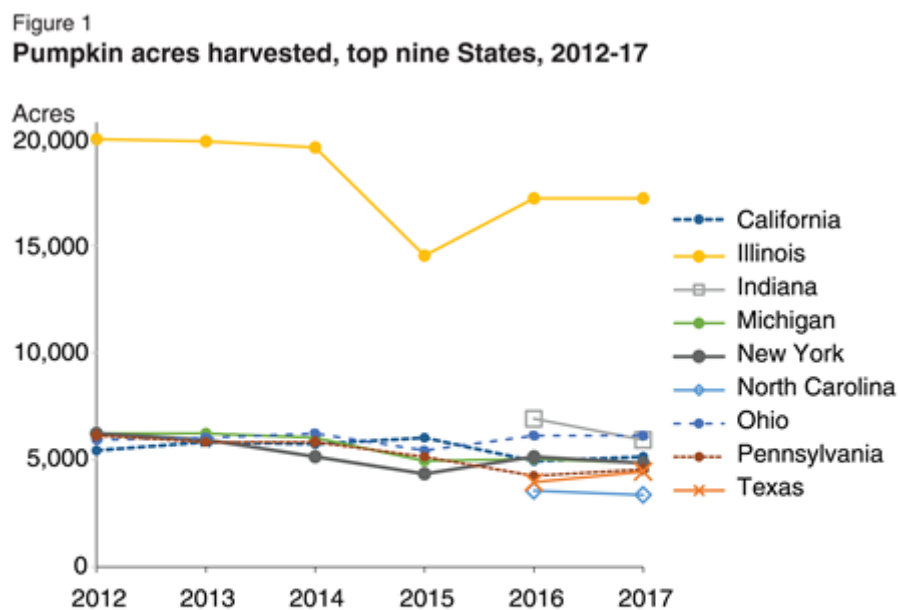


Pumpkins: Background & Statistics

Pumpkin production is widely dispersed throughout the United States, with crop conditions varying greatly by region. All States produce some pumpkins but in 2012, about half of pumpkin acres were grown in 6 States and about 80 percent were grown in 16 States (2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)). In 2017, Illinois remained the largest producer, harvesting about 3-5 times as many pumpkin acres as any of the other top States (Figure 1). From year to year, the amount of pumpkin acres that U.S. farmers harvest changes up to 25 percent in top States, but averages since 2012 have been fairly stable to slightly declining.



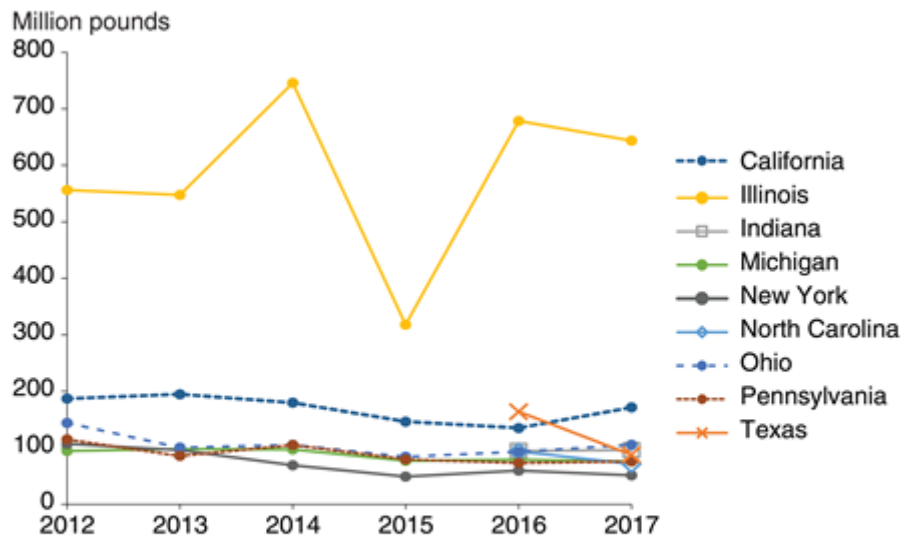
Note: From 2012 to 2015, NASS reported annual pumpkin data for the top six States. In 2016, NASS began reporting pumpkin data for the top 16 States. We report data for the six States reported from 2012-2017 and three additional top States starting in 2016. Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service's 2012-17 Vegetables Annual Survey and QuickStats.

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In 2017, farmers in the top 16 pumpkin-producing States harvested 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkins, implying about 2 billion pounds harvested altogether in the United States. Production decreased 7 percent from 2016 but remained far above that of 2015 when late rains severely damaged the pumpkin crop. Illinois production, though highly variable, is seven times the average of the other top eight pumpkin-producing States (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Pumpkin production, nine States, 2012-17



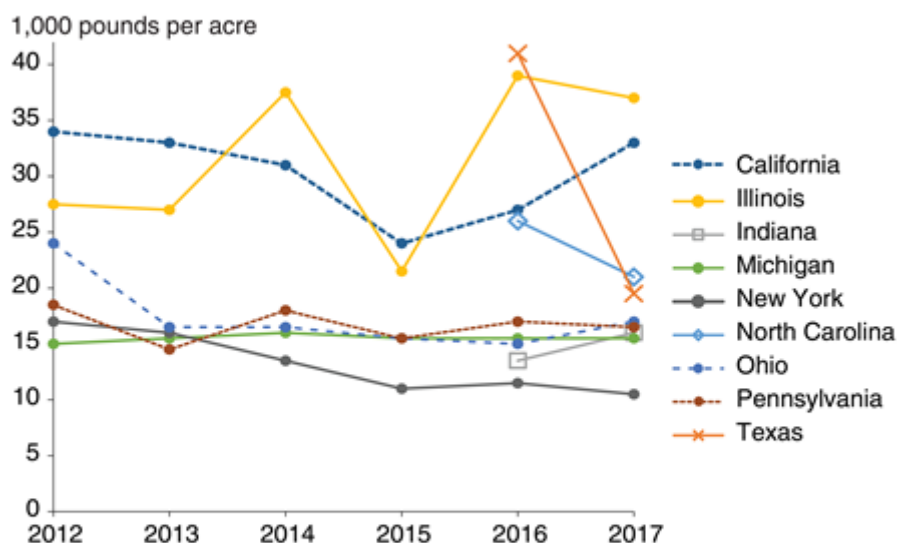
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Yield varies between years, especially for Illinois, California, and Texas (Figure 3). (In 2017 late rains impeded the harvest of pumpkins in Texas.) On average, Illinois, California, and Texas grow about 30,000 pounds per acre, North Carolina about 25,000 pounds per acre, while other reported states average about 15,000 pounds per acre.

Figure 3
Pumpkin yield, nine States, 2012-17



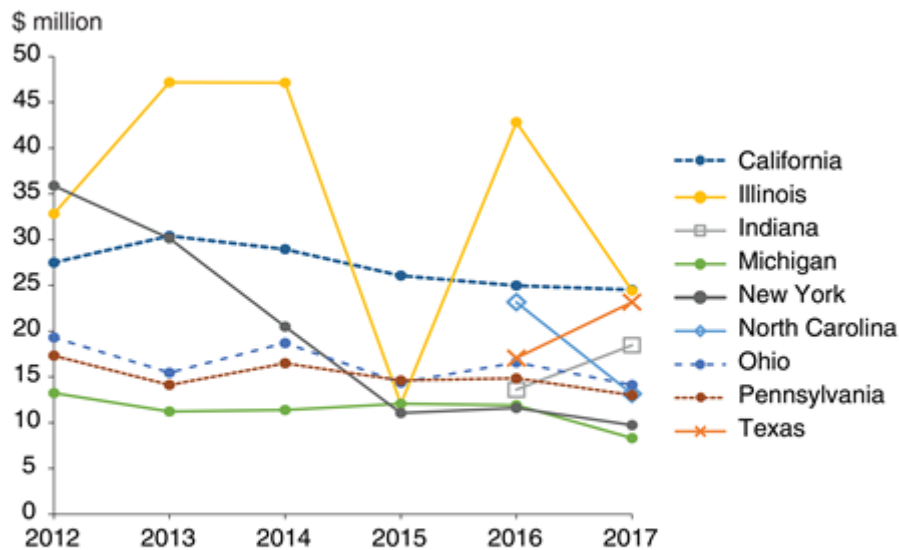
Note: From 2012 to 2015, NASS reported annual pumpkin data for the top six States. In 2016, NASS began reporting pumpkin data for the top 16 States. We report data for the six States reported from 2012-2017 and three additional top States starting in 2016. Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service's 2012-17 Vegetables Annual Survey and QuickStats.

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The value of pumpkin production has been highly variable for Illinois and New York (Figure 4). The value of Illinois' production has exhibited wide swings since 2012, but New York has seen production value drop every year since then. Compared to acreage, output, and yield, Illinois' advantage over other top-producing States (in terms of production value) is slight because processing pumpkins typically grown in Illinois receive a lower price compared to fresh pumpkins grown elsewhere.

Figure 4
Pumpkin production value, nine States, 2012-17



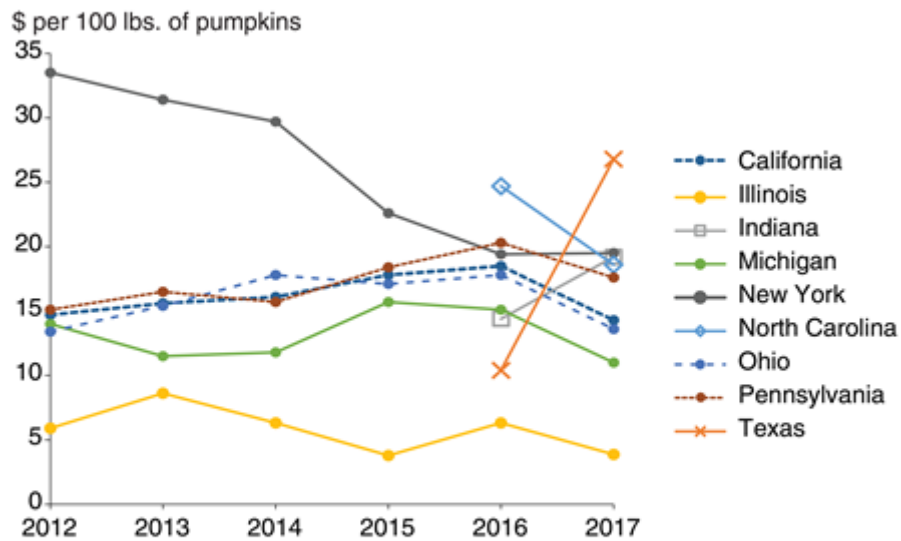
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While all States see year-to-year changes in price, New York—where prices steeply declined from 2012 to 2016—and Texas—where prices more than doubled from 2016 to 2017 after late rains made harvest challenging—have experienced the most stark trends. Illinois growers consistently receive the lowest price because the majority of their pumpkins are sold for processing.

Figure 5
U.S. farm price, nine States, 2012-17



Note: From 2012 to 2015, NASS reported annual pumpkin data for the top six States. In 2016, NASS began reporting pumpkin data for the top 16 States. We report data for the six States reported from 2012-2017 and three additional top States starting in 2016. Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service's 2012-17 Vegetables Annual Survey and QuickStats.

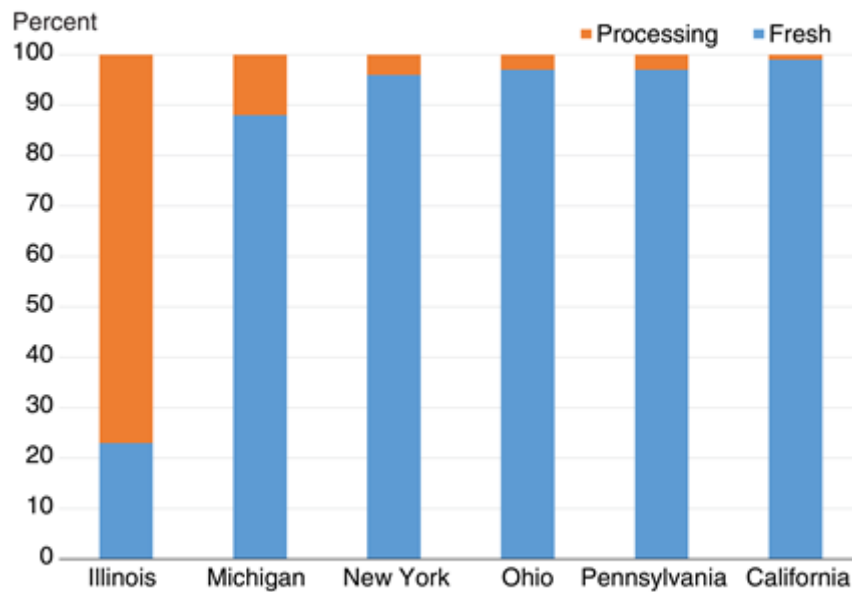
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Illinois harvests the largest share of pumpkin acreage among all States and an even larger share of processing acres. Almost 80 percent of pumpkin acres in Illinois are devoted to pie filling or other processing uses, compared to a little over 10 percent in Michigan (Figure 5).

Figure 6

Processing versus fresh pumpkin share of U.S. pumpkin area harvested in top six States, 2012



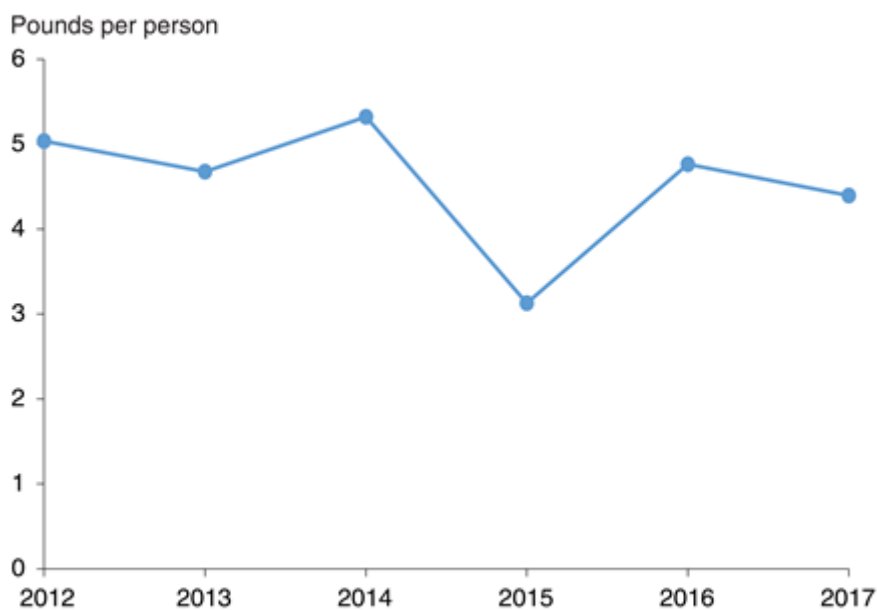
Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service's 2012 Census of Agriculture and QuickStats.

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Annual per capita use of fresh pumpkins averaged 4.5 pounds per person over 2012-17 (Figure 7). Reduced use in 2015 correspond to reductions in supply.

Figure 7
U.S. per capita use of fresh pumpkins, 2012-17



Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service based on data from the 2018 Vegetables and Pulses Yearbook.

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Initial reports for 2018 pumpkin production indicate healthy crops in Illinois and California. However, some reports from Michigan indicate a challenging year for pumpkins due to early drought, recent downpours, and disease. In some areas of North Carolina with excessive rain during the summer, the pumpkin crop was reduced somewhat due to disease, but Hurricane Florence missed the top producing county, Chowan.

Pumpkin supplies from most States are targeted toward the seasonal fresh market for ornamental uses and home processing. Growers mainly produce jack-o'-lantern type pumpkins (Howden), but demand for specialty pumpkins—like White Howden, Blue, Cinderella, and Fairytale—continues to expand as consumers look for new and interesting varieties (Table 1). In the first week of September 2018, retail prices were up 6 percent from the same time last year (Table 2). The 12 percent, September 2nd week drop in national prices was associated with a large drop in prices in the southeast region, where Hurricane Florence impacted both producers and consumers.

(Wholesale and retail advertised prices will continue to be updated during the 2018 fall season as they become available.)

Table 1. U.S. wholesale price for pumpkins, \$ per 24 inch bin, September–October 2018

Week, 2018	Pie (Medium)	Howden (Medium)	Howden (Large)	White Howden (Large)	Blue (Large)	Cinderella (Large)	Fairytale (Large)
September, 1st Week	\$175	N/A	N/A	\$180	N/A	\$257	\$252
September, 2nd Week	\$199	N/A	N/A	\$180	\$175	\$208	\$227
September, 3rd Week	\$224	\$122	\$128	\$180	\$175	\$208	\$227
September, 4th Week	\$224	\$121	\$130	\$180	\$175	\$220	\$227
October, 1st Week	\$219	\$126	\$130	\$180	\$175	\$220	\$227
October, 2nd Week	\$219	\$131	\$130	\$180	\$175	\$208	\$227
October, 3rd Week	\$224	\$131	\$130	\$180	\$175	\$208	\$227

Note: Price is a weekly average of all quoted markets (excluding organic) for the listed type.

Source: [Market News](#), Terminal Market Report. USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

Table 2: U.S. advertised retail prices,
\$ per pumpkin, September–October 2018 and
2017

Date	2018	2017
September, 1st Week	\$4.42	\$4.15
September, 2nd Week	\$3.89	\$4.32
September, 3rd Week	\$4.39	\$4.51
September, 4th Week	\$4.29	\$4.12
October, 1st Week	\$3.32	\$4.38
October, 2nd Week	\$4.00	\$4.12
October, 3rd Week	\$3.67	\$3.89
Source: Market News , Retail Report. USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).		