Kentucky’s Horse Industry by the Numbers

$4 billion -- Estimated economic impact of Kentucky's horse economy

80,000 - 100,000 -- Direct and indirect jobs generated by the horse industry

#1 -- The horse industry is Kentucky's top agricultural cash crop

$10 billion -- Economic impact of the state's tourism industry, which features the horse industry as its signature promotional attraction.

14,600 -- Tourism-related jobs attributed to the equine industry

320,000* -- Horses in Kentucky

$240 million -- Economic impact of the Kentucky Horse Park

$217 million -- Economic impact of the Kentucky Derby

$650 million -- Value of horses sold at auction in Kentucky in 2003

140,000 acres -- Acres preserved through the state's Thoroughbred industry

$127 million -- Estimated Kentucky horse industry exports

*American Horse Council
Kentucky’s Horse Industry and Jobs

Kentucky’s horse industry employs 80,000 to 100,000 people across the state, has cash receipts of $950 million and an annual economic impact of $4 billion.

For comparison, Toyota Motor Manufacturing in Georgetown employs 7,000 people and has an annual payroll of $517 million.

The UPS International Hub in Louisville is the state’s largest private employer with 22,300 employees statewide.

Just like manufacturing or service industry jobs, the horse industry helps create jobs through suppliers statewide. For every horse we can keep in the state or recruit here, that means jobs and economic prosperity.
The horse industry is an agri-business. It's the state's leading cash crop and a leading driver of tourism for the state. It is a business that impacts our state's character and provides us with a quality-of-life setting unlike anywhere else in the world.

Did you know...that the horse is not classified as an agricultural product therefore it does not receive the tax exemption that cattle, hogs, goats and other livestock receive?
The average annual cost for care is $4,510 per animal.*

$4 billion dollar impact annually across Kentucky.

* American Horse Council
Kentucky’s Thoroughbred Market

Five Thoroughbred Racetracks

World-Renowned Sales Facility – Keeneland

Host of the Premiere Racing Event in the World – The Kentucky Derby

76% of the Kentucky Derby winners are KY Bred and 8 out of 11 Triple Crown winners (KY Derby, Preakness, Belmont) are KY Breds

29% share of the registered foal crop in U.S. in 2006

365 stallions standing in Kentucky in 2006 bred 21,104 mares
Impact of Casino-style Gaming on Racing