The horse industry contributes almost 24,000 jobs to Alabamians which represent $706 million in total labor income.

There are approximately 154,000 horses in Alabama. More than 186,000 total equines (horses, donkeys and mules) call Alabama home.

The horse business accounts for more than $2 billion spending annually in Alabama.

The racking horse is the official Alabama state horse.

The dominant breed in Alabama is the quarter horse, accounting for almost 36.5 percent of the horse population.

Horse height is measured in hands. One hand equals 4 inches.

A mare, or female horse, can give birth to one foal, or baby, per year. Gestation lasts approximately 11 months.

A colt is a young male horse that has not been gelded, or neutered. A filly is a young female horse that has not yet given birth to a foal.

A stallion is an intact male horse. A stud is a stallion used for breeding.

The equine industry provides numerous competition opportunities for adults and children through 4-H, FFA and school rodeo clubs.

Trail riding is the No. 1 equine activity in the state.

The horse industry contributes approximately $39 billion in direct economic impact to the U.S. economy and supports 1.4 million full-time jobs.

When indirect and induced spending are included, the industry's economic impact reaches $102 billion.

Forty-five of 50 states have at least 20,000 horses.

There are an estimated 9.2 million horses in the U.S.

Sorted by activity, there are almost 4 million recreation horses; 2.7 million show horses; 844,531 racing horses; and 1.7 million other horses.

An average horse's top speed is 27 miles per hour, but the fastest horse ever recorded could reach 55 miles per hour.

Sources:
Auburn University
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