

# Impact of Calif. drought could be felt nationwide

By Bruce Kennedy, MoneyWatch

The ongoing severe drought in California is much more than a statewide emergency or a local news story. It will likely have ripple effects nationwide, affecting grocery store receipts in all 50 states, and putting a dent in the nation's economy.

California is a major player in the country's economic engine. If California were its own country, it would be the world's eighth-largest economy – surpassing the GDP of Italy and Russia.

A big part of the Golden State's wealth comes from its agricultural base. The state's 80,500 farms reportedly generated a record \$44.7 billion for their production output in 2012 – making California the top U.S. state in cash farm receipts, accounting for more than 11 percent of the overall national total.

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