

NASDA Survey Training

Agricultural Labor Survey – October 2022 (AG LABOR)



**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



NOD-Training Group
September 2022



Ag Labor Survey Overview

- Legislators and USDA use farm worker data in making farm policy decisions.
 - Agencies responsible for administering farm labor recruitment and placement programs use the statistics in their planning and evaluation.
- Labor data are used in the formulation of farm productivity indexes.
 - The inclusion of wage rate data in the Parity Index (Index of Prices Paid by Farmers) is required by law.
- Farm worker data are an important component of the agricultural sector in the Gross Domestic Product.

Survey Information

- Questionnaires:
 - Mailed September 29th
 - Web option and instructions in mail package.
- Release:
 - *Farm Labor Report*
 - November 23rd, 3PM (eastern)

2021 October Ag Labor Data

- October Reference Week:
 - 772,000 workers on farms
 - Average Wage: \$16.59 per hour
 - Average Hours worked: 42.0
- July Reference Week:
 - 797,000 workers on farms
 - Average Wage: \$16.59
 - Average Hours worked: 401.0

Screening/Initial Questions

- Name, address, and phone verification.
- In-business/ag activity screening questions.
 - Grow Crops?
 - Livestock or Poultry?
 - Sell any Ag products?
 - Receive government agricultural payments?
 - More than 19 acres idle cropland or 99 acres pasture?
- Who makes the day-to-day decisions?
 - Individual, Hired Manager, or Partners?
 - Verify name, address, and phone number of any partners.

Paid Workers

- Survey asks for hired worker data for two separate weeks. Questions are the same, only the reference period changes.

October 9th – 15th

July 10th – 16th

Paid Workers for October

- Did this operation have anyone on the payroll to do agricultural work the week of October 9th – 15th?
 - Include:
 - Workers directly hired and paid by the operation, regardless of method of pay.
 - Part-time workers, paid family members, and hired managers.
 - Workers on paid leave.
 - Exclude:
 - Contract or custom workers.
 - Workers primarily engaged in retail sales or value-added work
 - Value-added work: the material alteration of products – production of jam, wine, cheese, cider, etc.

Paid Workers for October

- How many workers did you have on the payroll to do agricultural work the week of October 9th-15th?
- How many workers on the payroll that week will be paid for 150 days or more in 2022?

Paid Workers for October

- Fill out the table for all paid workers during the reference week.
- Report workers who fall under the same worker code on a single line.
- Report each worker only once.
- For salaried employees, report the standard amount of hours worked on your operation

Paid Workers for October

- Recording paid workers:
 - Select the appropriate worker code from the list.
 - Record number of paid workers
 - Record total hours worked by all paid workers in that category
 - Record total gross wages paid to all workers in that category

Worker Type Categories (And Subcategories)

MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS:

Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers: Plan, direct, or coordinate the management or operation of farms, ranches, greenhouses, aquacultural operations, nurseries, tree farms, or other agricultural establishments.

First-Line Supervisors of Farm Workers: Directly supervise and coordinate the activities of agricultural, aquacultural, and related workers.

LIVESTOCK WORKERS:

Graders and Sorters – Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals: Grade, sort, or classify unprocessed food and other agricultural products by size, weight, color, or condition

Hand Packers and Packers – Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals: Pack or package by hand a wide variety of products and materials.

Ag Equipment Operators – Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals: drive and control heavy farm machinery while attending to live farm, ranch, or aquacultural animals and in harvest of unprocessed animal products

Farmworkers – Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals: Attend to live farm animals.

All Other Livestock Workers: All agricultural workers working with farm, ranch, and aquacultural animals or products not included in previous codes.



Worker Type Categories (And Subcategories)

CROP, NURSERY, and GREENHOUSE:

Graders and Sorters - Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse Products: grade, sort, or classify crop

Hand Packers and Packagers - Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse Products: Pack or package by hand a variety of products

Ag Equipment Operators – Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse: Drive and control farm equipment while Attending to crops

Farmworkers - Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse: manually plant, cultivate, and harvest crops

All Other Field Workers: All agricultural workers working with crops, nursery, or greenhouse products not included in previous codes

AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS:

Agricultural Inspectors: Inspect agricultural commodities, processing equipment and facilities, and aquacultural operations, to ensure compliance with regulations and laws governing health, quality, and safety.

OTHER WORKERS:

Any Other Worker Not Listed Above: Including, but not limited to, mechanics, shop workers, truck drivers, accountants, bookkeepers, office workers. Excluding contract & custom workers, retail workers, and “value-added” workers.



Paid Workers

- **Note:** For field and livestock workers, the type of work they were ***hired to do*** determines the category of work they go in
 - For example: A worker may normally work with livestock, but during the reference week, he helped harvest hay. He is considered a livestock worker.
- If unsure or if operator has additional remarks, leave a note

Paid Workers for July

- After the October reference week, survey asks the exact same series of questions BUT reference date is July 10th-16th.
 - All includes/excludes are the same as October reference week.

Other Ag Labor Information

- During 2022 what was or will be the largest number of hired workers on the payroll on **any one day**?
 - Include all workers directly hired and paid by the operation.
 - Exclude contract or custom workers
- During 2022 did or will the operation have any H-2A temporary agricultural workers on the payroll?

H-2A Temporary Ag Worker Program

- Program allows U.S. employers to hire foreign nationals to fill temporary agriculture jobs.
- To qualify, an employer must:
 - Offer a job that is temporary or seasonal in nature.
 - Demonstrate that there are not sufficient U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available to do the temporary work.
 - Show that the employment of H-2A workers will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers.

Value of Sales

- Total **gross value of sales** for 2021. Report by general range of sales
 - If no sales in 2021, or sales <\$1,000:
 - Record all 2022 crops, land uses, and livestock or poultry now on the total acres operated
- Type of operation category
 - Which category represents the largest portion of gross income from the operation
 - 16 Categories (Grains, Fruit, Hogs, Aquaculture, etc)
 - Can only choose *one*

Watch For:

- Total workers not equal to sum of categories
- Sum of workers paid is not equal to total number of workers reported
- High/low wages
- High/low hours worked
- Paid supervisors out of line with number of other workers
- Hours incorrectly reported
- Livestock operations without livestock workers
 - Stock operations will usually have workers year-round
 - Crop operations may have more seasonal workers

Be Aware Of:

- Workers are commonly misreported by type. In many regions, farmer workers usually fall into the “Equipment Operators” category and not the “Farmworkers” category as they are likely operating a tractor or some other large piece of equipment and not manually planting or harvesting by hand.
- Nursery Operations: A number of greenhouse workers may get reported as “Other,” when really they should be included in “Field Workers.” Landscape workers, florists, etc. and non-ag income, should be excluded from the data. Nurseries should report only what is produced on the operation as gross value of sales.
- Supervisors: You need to watch out for operations paying their CEOs and upper management large salaries when they are not involved in the day-to-day decision making process of the operation. We want to collect data on supervisors who are making the day-to-day decisions on the farm, not someone who is in a corporate office away from the day-to-day decision making.

Out of Business? No Paid Workers?

- ‘No’ to all screening questions?
 - Has operation been sold/rented/turned over?
- ‘Yes’ to screening questions but ‘No’ to paid workers on operation? Asks for:
 - Largest # of workers on any one day in 2022?
 - Any H-2A Workers in 2022?
 - Total Gross Value of Sales in 2021?
 - Type of Operation?

Conclusion

- Make notes for anything odd or unusual
- Any questions, comments?
- Practice exercises

