



2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

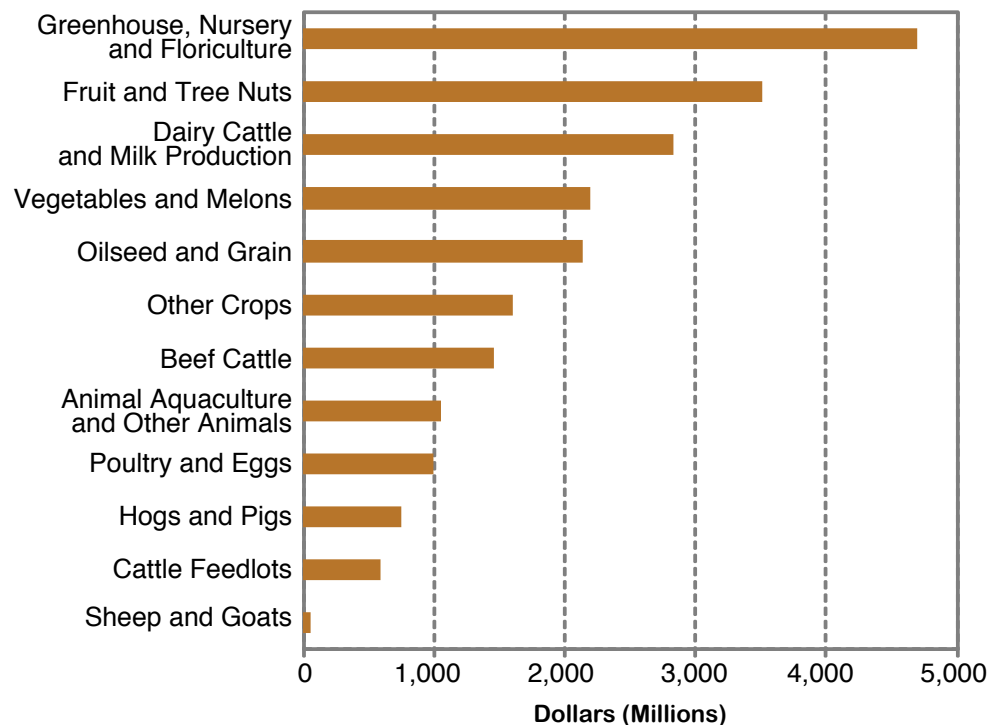
Farm Labor

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, hired farm labor expenses totaled \$21.9 billion in the United States. During 2007, hired farm labor was reported on 482,186 (22 percent) of the nation's farms and ranches.

Of those farms, greenhouse, nursery and floriculture operations had the highest costs at \$4.7 billion, accounting for 21 percent of all hired farm labor expenses in the United States in 2007. Hired farm labor expenses for these operations were higher because the crops which they produce are very labor intensive and require a large number of highly skilled employees.

Fruit and tree nut operations ranked second for farm labor expenses at \$3.5 billion. Dairy cattle and milk production farms had \$2.8 billion in hired farm labor expenses, followed closely by vegetable and melon farms and oilseed and grain farms, at \$2.2 and \$2.1 billion, respectively. The next highest livestock category was beef cattle farms, at \$1.5 billion, slightly more than half of the dairy cattle and milk production total.

Hired Farm Labor Expense by Farm Type, 2007



U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Agricultural Statistics Service



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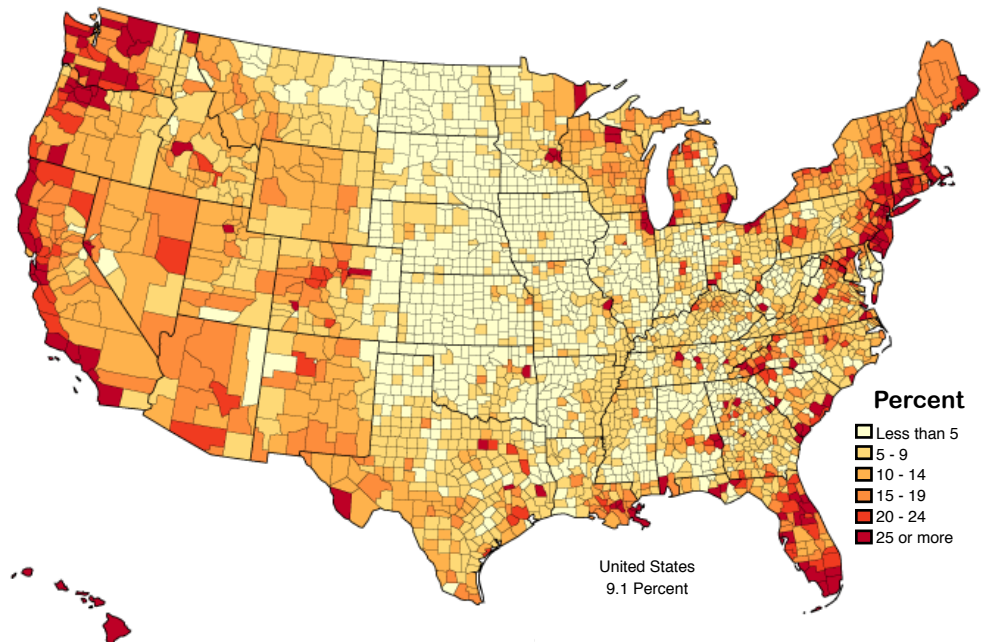


Concentration of Farm Labor Expenses

In 2007, expenses for hired farm labor as a percent of total farm production expenses were the highest in coastal states, including Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Washington. For most of these states (except Alaska), this was primarily due to the high concentration of fruit, vegetable, and nursery, greenhouse and floriculture operations. Alaska and Hawaii had higher percentages of hired farm labor expenses because overall labor expenses were proportionally higher in those states than in the 48 contiguous states.



Expenses for Hired Farm Labor as a Percent of Total Farm Production Expenses, 2007

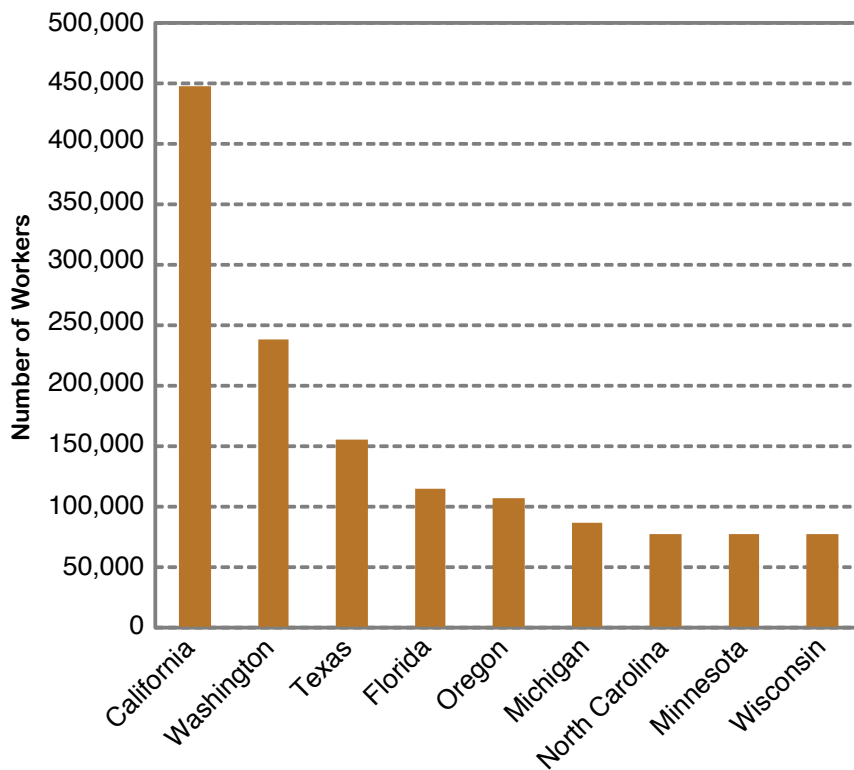


Concentration of Farm Workers

The 2007 Census of Agriculture counted 482,186 farms with 2,636,509 hired workers in the United States. Of the 2.6 million workers, about one-third worked for more than 150 days a year on the farm. The payroll expense for hired farm labor in 2007 was nearly \$22 billion.

Nine states accounted for just over half of all workers hired directly by farm operators. Farm operations in California employed almost 450,000 workers, nearly twice the number of the next largest state, Washington, which had approximately 240,000 workers. Other states with more than 75,000 hired farm workers included Texas, Florida, Oregon, Michigan, North Carolina, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Hired Farm Workers by State, 2007

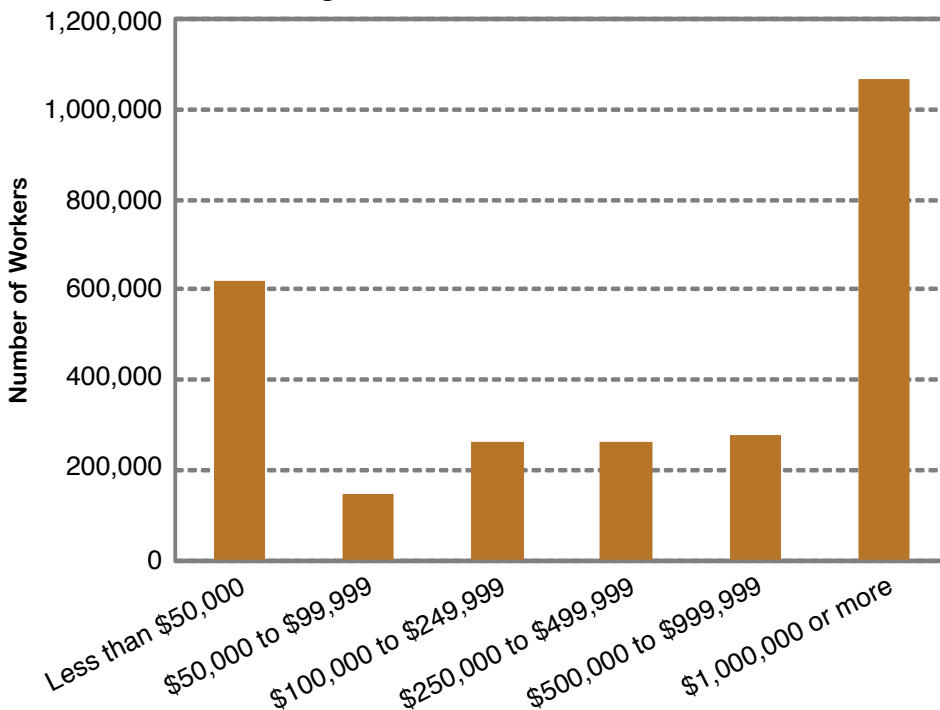


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Hired Farm Workers by Value of Sales

The majority of hired farm workers are evenly divided between large and small operations – as defined by value of sales. Forty percent of hired farm workers were employed by large operations with \$1,000,000 or more in agricultural product sales. Small farms, those with sales less than \$250,000, also employed 40 percent of hired farm workers in the United States.

Hired Workers by Market Value of Agriculture Products Sold, 2007



Additional Farm Labor Statistics

The Census of Agriculture also includes data at the county level on the number of workers, farms by the number of workers hired, and the presence of migrant workers on the operation. The census also includes data on contract labor expenses, which is for any worker not hired directly by the farm operation.



For more information:

www.nass.usda.gov

www.agcensus.usda.gov

Agricultural Statistics Hotline
(800) 727-9540

Farm Labor