

## Migrant Farm Labor in the Census of Agriculture

Summary: Specific questions about migrant farm works were asked in the three most recent Agricultural Censuses. In the 2012 Census of Agriculture, the number of migrant farm workers is asked. In 2007 and 2002, respondents are asked if any migrant farm workers were hired, but not the number of such workers. In 2002, this question was only asked of a sample of respondents ( approximately 25% of all operations on the mailing list). None of these questions asks the about the citizenship status of migrant workers.

2012: included in all 3 million forms mailed

SECTION 23 FARM LABOR		None	Number
1. How many HIRED farm or ranch workers, including paid family members and office workers –			
a. Worked less than 150 days on this operation in 2012? Exclude contract labor . . . . .	0941	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
b. Worked 150 days or more on this operation in 2012? Exclude contract labor . . . . .	0942	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. How many UNPAID farm or ranch workers, including family members and office workers, worked on this farm or ranch? . . . . .			
	3401	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
3. How many MIGRANT workers were on this operation in 2012? A migrant worker is a farm worker whose employment required travel that prevented the migrant worker from returning to his/her permanent place of residence the same day. Include hired and contract workers . . . . .			
	3402	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

2007: included in all 3.2 million forms mailed

SECTION 27 FARM LABOR		None	Number of Hired Workers
1. How many hired farm or ranch workers, including paid family members and office workers -			
a. Worked less than 150 days on this operation in 2007? Exclude contract labor. . . . .	0941	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
b. Worked 150 days or more on this operation in 2007? Exclude contract labor. . . . .	0942	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
2. Were any migrant workers on this operation in 2007? Include hired and contract workers. A migrant worker is a farm worker whose employment required travel that prevented the migrant worker from returning to his/her permanent place of residence the same day. . . . .			
	1573	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	3 <input type="checkbox"/> No

2002: Only included on A2 (long) form (733,000 of 2.8 million forms):

**SECTION 21 FARM LABOR -**

1. How many hired farm or ranch workers, including paid family members and office workers, on "THIS OPERATION" in 2002 -

a. Worked less than 150 days? (*Exclude contract labor.*)  None  941 

NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS			

b. Worked 150 days or more? (*Exclude contract labor.*)  None  942 

NUMBER OF HIRED WORKERS			

2. On "THIS OPERATION" in 2002, were any hired or contract workers migrant workers? (*A migrant worker is a farm worker whose employment required travel that prevented the migrant worker from returning to his/her permanent place of residence the same day.*)

1573 1  YES 3  NO

### Hired labor, in general:

1997: Only included on A2 (long) form (850,000 of 3.2 million forms):

**SECTION 27 Were any HIRED WORKERS, including paid family members, doing agricultural labor on this place in 1997? (DO NOT include contract labor.)**

S27 1  YES - Complete this section 2  NO - Go to section 28

1. Of the hired farm or ranch labor, including paid family members, how many -

a. Worked less than 150 days?  None  941

b. Worked 150 days or more?  None  942

Hired workers	

1992: Only included on A2 (long) and A3 (must) form (1million of 3.5 million forms):

**SECTION 27 HIRED FARM or RANCH LABOR - Did you have any paid workers doing agricultural labor on this place in 1992? (DO NOT include contract labor.)**

S27 1  YES - Complete this section 2  NO - Go to section 28

1. Of the hired farm or ranch labor (including paid family members), how many -

a. Worked less than 150 days?  None  941

b. Worked 150 days or more?  None  942

Hired workers	

1987: Number of workers not asked, only labor expenses on forms A2 and A3 (sample):

SECTION 233 PRODUCTION EXPENSES paid by you and others for this place in 1987			
523			
<p>Include your best estimates of expenses paid by you, your landlord, contractors, buyers, and others for production of crops, livestock, and other agricultural products in 1987. (DO NOT INCLUDE expenses connected with performing customwork for others; operation of nonfarm activities, businesses, or services; or household expenses not related to the farm business.)</p>			
	None	Dollars	Cents
1. Livestock and poultry purchased — cattle, calves, hogs, pigs, sheep, lambs, goats, horses, chicks, poults, started pullets, etc. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 871	00
2. Feed purchased for livestock and poultry — grain, hay, silage, mixed feeds, concentrates, etc. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 872	00
a. Commercially mixed formula feeds purchased — complete, supplement, concentrates, premixes. (Do not include ingredients purchased separately, such as soybean meal, cottonseed meal, and urea.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 873	00
3. Seed cost — for corn, other grains, soybeans, tobacco, cotton, etc. — include plants and trees purchased. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 874	00
4. Commercial fertilizer purchased — all forms, including rock phosphate and gypsum. Include cost of custom applications. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 875	00
5. Agricultural chemicals purchased — insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, other pesticides, etc. — include cost of custom applications. (Do not include lime.) ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 876	00
6. Gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil purchased for the farm business —			
a. Gasoline and gasohol .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 877	00
b. Diesel fuel .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 878	00
c. Natural gas .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 879	00
d. LP gas, fuel oil, kerosene, motor oil, grease, etc. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 880	00
7. Electricity for the farm business — (Do not include household expenses.) ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 881	00
8. Hired farm and ranch labor — also include employer's cost for social security, workman's compensation, insurance premiums, pension plans, etc. (See INFORMATION SHEET) ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 882	00
9. Contract labor — include expenditures for labor, such as harvesting of fruit, vegetables, berries, etc., performed on a contract basis by a contractor, crew leader, a cooperative, etc. ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$ 883	00

1982: Number of workers hired included in production expenses section of form A2 (sample):

SECTION 27		SELECTED PRODUCTION EXPENSES paid by you and others for this place in 1982				
S27						
Include your best estimates of expenses paid by you, your landlord, contractors, buyers, and others for production of crops, livestock, and other agricultural products in 1982. DO NOT INCLUDE expenses connected with performing customwork for others; operation of nonfarm activities, businesses, or services; or household expenses not related to the farm business.						
					Selected expenditures	
					Dollars	Cents
1. Livestock and poultry purchased — cattle, calves, hogs, pigs, sheep, lambs, goats, horses, chicks, poult, started pullets, etc. .... <input type="checkbox"/>					982	
					\$	
2. Total feed purchased for livestock and poultry — grain, hay, silage, mixed feeds, concentrates, etc. .... <input type="checkbox"/>					983	
					\$	
a. Commercially mixed formula feeds purchased — complete, supplement, concentrates, premixes.						
(Exclude ingredients purchased separately, such as soybean meal, cottonseed meal, and urea) .... <input type="checkbox"/>						
Tons	Tenths	Dollars	Cents			
984		985				
3. Seed cost — for corn, other grains, soybeans, tobacco, cotton, etc. — Include plants and trees purchased .... <input type="checkbox"/>					987	
					\$	
4. Hired farm or ranch labor (See Information Sheet) .... <input type="checkbox"/>					990	
					\$	
a. Of the hired workers, including paid family workers, how many —						
None						
Number of workers						
991						
(1) Worked 150 days or more? <input type="checkbox"/>						
992						
(2) Worked less than 150 days? <input type="checkbox"/>						
993						
5. Contract labor — Include expenditures primarily for labor, such as harvesting of fruit, vegetables, berries, etc., performed on a contract basis by a contractor, crew leader, a cooperative, etc. .... <input type="checkbox"/>					993	
					\$	

## Farm labor outside the Census of Agriculture

NASS also conducts the **Farm Labor Survey (FLS)** in partnership with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Details can be found here:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide\\_to\\_NASS\\_Surveys/Farm\\_Labor/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Surveys/Guide_to_NASS_Surveys/Farm_Labor/)

This survey collects information from employers about the number of workers and wages paid by class, but migrant is not a defined worker class. You can play with report totals from this data using the USDA quick stats website (<http://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>). To do so, set (double-click) in order:

Program: Survey; Sector: Economics; Group: Expenses; Commodity: Labor

The **Current Population Survey (CPS)** conducted by the Census Bureau asks about type of employment and US citizenship, but does not ask whether non-citizens are working without legal authorization.

The Department of Labor also collects information on farm laborers through the **National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS)**, which interviews workers at their place of employment (in contrast to FLS, which interviews employers):

<https://www.doleta.gov/agworker/naws.cfm>

NAWS only considers workers involved in crop production (not livestock production, which accounts for 44% of agricultural labor in the United States) and workers in agricultural support services for crop production. This survey asks workers about place of birth, length of time in US, movement across international borders in the past year, and family members located in other countries. *It also ascertains citizenship and whether non-citizens are working with legal authorization.*

