Research on California’s Farm Workers

Muhammad Akhtar, Ph.D.
Deputy Division Chief, EDD-LMID
California Agriculture: Water, Labor, and Immigration Conference
Friday, April 15, 2016
Employment Development Department’s Labor Market Information Division

• The Labor Market Information Division (LMID) is the official source for California Labor Market Information.

• The LMID promotes California's economic health by providing information to help people understand California's economy and make informed labor market choices.

• We collect, analyze, and publish statistical data and reports on California's labor force, industries, occupations, employment projections, wages and other important labor market and economic data.
EDD-LMID: Agricultural Statistics Program

- LMID agriculture staff surveys approximately 2,500 – 3,000 agricultural employers per month and produce monthly employment and average hourly earnings estimates for California and six regions (Desert, North Coast, Central Coast, South Coast, San Joaquin Valley, and Sacramento Valley).
California: Agricultural Jobs by Industry, Annual Average
Source: CA EDD-LMID

- Total Agriculture: 441,000
- Total Crop Production: 190,100
- Total Animal Production: 30,900
- Support Act. For Crop Prod.: 218,700

2011:
- Total Agriculture: 386,300
- Total Crop Production: 170,600
- Total Animal Production: 29,200
- Support Act. For Crop Prod.: 185,200

2015:
- Total Agriculture: 441,000
- Total Crop Production: 190,100
- Total Animal Production: 30,900
- Support Act. For Crop Prod.: 218,700

Source: CA EDD-LMID
California Agricultural Regions

Sacramento Valley
San Joaquin Valley
Desert
North Coast
Central Coast
South Coast
California: **Total Agriculture Jobs by Region, Annual Average**

Source: CA EDD-LMID

### 2011
- Desert: 24,700
- North Coast: 14,600
- Central Coast: 63,100
- South Coast: 67,300
- Sac Valley: 25,000

### 2015
- Desert: 26,800
- North Coast: 15,700
- Central Coast: 74,100
- South Coast: 71,100
- Sac Valley: 29,700

San Joaquin Valley Region: 190,300
San Joaquin Valley Region: 215,400
California: Crop Production Jobs by Region, Annual Average
Source: CA EDD-LMID
California: Animal Production and Aquaculture
Jobs by Region, Annual Average
Source: CA EDD-LMID

San Joaquin Valley Region
20,800

Desert
2,500
North Coast
1,600
Central Coast
800
South Coast
1,800
Sac Valley
1,600

San Joaquin Valley Region
22,100

Desert
2,200
North Coast
1,600
Central Coast
700
South Coast
1,800
Sac Valley
1,900

2011
2015
California: Support Activities for Crop and Animal Production
Jobs by Region, Annual Average
Source: CA EDD-LMID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Jobs 2011</th>
<th>Jobs 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Desert</td>
<td>12,900</td>
<td>14,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Coast</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>5,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast</td>
<td>29,900</td>
<td>36,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Coast</td>
<td>21,500</td>
<td>22,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Joaquin Valley Region</td>
<td>106,800</td>
<td>125,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sac Valley</td>
<td>8,300</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UC Davis and EDD-LMID Agricultural Research

• Since 2003, the EDD and UC Davis have partnered to conduct research related to the state’s agricultural workforce.

• EDD data has been used to identify how many unique individuals were employed in California agriculture and examine their employment and earnings patterns over time.

• The primary worker analyses on the following slides were conducted to analyze the industry where workers earn their HIGHEST wages.
Two EDD datasets were used for these primary worker analyses:

I. The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) database contains a quarterly count of employment and wages reported by primary worksite. It also contains industry codes for each employer.

II. The Base Wage file contains wages paid by SSN for all California workers covered by the UI program.
## Findings: UC Davis and EDD-LMID Agricultural Research

### Primary Worker Analysis: 2007-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Jobs in the Agriculture Sector*</td>
<td>381,900</td>
<td>395,400</td>
<td>410,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Workers**</td>
<td>780,400</td>
<td>802,600</td>
<td>829,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of Workers to Employment</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Jobs Held Per Worker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Job</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Jobs</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Jobs</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Jobs</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five or more jobs</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The estimates are the annual average number of jobs within the agriculture sector.

**The number of unique SSNs was tabulated from the QCEW and Base Wage file datasets used for this study.
## Findings: UC Davis and EDD-LMID Agricultural Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Title</th>
<th>Primary Workers</th>
<th>Net Difference</th>
<th>Earnings (in millions)</th>
<th>Net Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td></td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Industries</td>
<td>673,700</td>
<td>691,600</td>
<td>17,900</td>
<td>$10,324.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support activities for crop production</td>
<td>376,900</td>
<td>391,700</td>
<td>14,800</td>
<td>$4,437.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit and tree nut farming</td>
<td>153,300</td>
<td>154,000</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>$2,441.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable and melon farming</td>
<td>47,500</td>
<td>44,900</td>
<td>-2,600</td>
<td>$1,028.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse and nursery production</td>
<td>35,100</td>
<td>34,700</td>
<td>-400</td>
<td>$821.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle ranching and farming</td>
<td>25,700</td>
<td>25,200</td>
<td>-500</td>
<td>$705.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Industries</td>
<td>128,900</td>
<td>137,700</td>
<td>8,800</td>
<td>$3,798.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>802,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>829,300</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,700</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,122.4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDD-LMID Resources

• EDD-LMID Website
  - www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov

• California Agricultural Employment Information
  - www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/ca-agriculture.html