

Fruit Labor

Fruit Farm Workers by Category - 2022

Category	Permanent	Seasonal
	(Number)	(Number)
AGRICULTURAL		
Full-time	1,455	1,385
Part-time	300	1,170
H2-A		
Full-time	355	3,080
CONTRACT		
Full-time	(¹)	2,000
Part-time	(¹)	885
TOTAL	2,300	8,520

¹ Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations or due to insufficient data.

Fruit Farm Worker Shortage by Primary Crop - 2022 ¹

Primary Crop	Permanent	Seasonal
	(Number)	(Number)
Apple & other ²	130	495
Cherry ³	60	75
TOTAL	190	570

¹ Primary crop determined by largest percentage of fruit acres.

² Apples, peaches, and plums.

³ Tart and sweet cherries.

Fruit Farm Workers by Primary Crop Acreage - 2022 ¹

Primary crop	Permanent	Seasonal	Migrant ²
	(Number)	(Number)	(Number)
Apple & other ³	1,550	5,900	3,910
Cherry ⁴	750	2,620	1,490
TOTAL	2,300	8,520	5,400

¹ Primary crop determined by largest percentage of fruit acres.

² Included in seasonal worker total.

³ Apples, peaches, and plums.

⁴ Sweet and tart cherries.

Migrant Workers - Fruit Farms - 2022

Category	Number
Farms hiring migrant workers	512
Total migrant workers	5,400

Recruiting Sources - 2022 ¹

Sources	Percent
Local labor force/want ads	22
Michigan Works! Ag employment	5
H-2A temporary Ag worker, Direct hire	18
H-2A temporary Ag worker, Contractor	14
Drive up labor	28
Word of mouth	17
Other	21

¹ For fruit farms with hired labor.

Farms With Paid Workers by Primary Crop - 2022 ¹

Number of Workers	Apple & other ²	Cherry ³	Total
	(Number)	(Number)	(Number)
None	180	40	220
1 - 9	145	105	250
10 or more	210	105	315
TOTAL	535	250	785

¹ Primary crop determined by largest percentage of fruit acres.

² Apples, peaches, and plums.

³ Tart and sweet cherries.

Unharvested Acres from Worker Shortage by Primary Crop - 2022 ¹

Primary crop	Acres
Apple & other ²	245
Cherry ³	275
TOTAL	520

¹ Primary crop determined by largest percentage of fruit acres.

² Apples, peaches, and plums.

³ Tart and sweet cherries.

Farms Needing Additional Workers by Month - 2022

Month	Farms
January	6
February	8
March	4
April	10
May	20
June	28
July	57
August	59
September	81
October	65
November	16
December	4

Definitions of Key Terms:

Full-time Worker: Employees who perform 30 hours or more per week.

Part-time Worker: Employees who perform 29 hours or less per week

Permanent Worker: Employees who worked 121 days or more in calendar year 2018.

Seasonal Worker: Employees who worked 120 days or less in calendar year 2018.

Migrant Worker: Employees who travel to work and are unable to return to permanent residence the same day.

Contract Worker: Workers whose services are negotiated through a third party and for whom no W-2 (IRS Wage and Tax Statement) is provided by the farm operator. Contract workers are paid by a crew leader, contractor, buyer, processor, cooperative, or other person who has an oral or written agreement with a farmer.

Agricultural Worker: Employees engaged in planting, tending and harvesting crops including operation of farm machinery on crop farms. Workers are classified as agricultural or non-agricultural based on the majority of time spent.

H2-A Worker: Nonimmigrant foreign workers brought to the U.S. to perform temporary or seasonal labor via the H-2A temporary agricultural program.

Shortage: The additional workers that would have been hired if available.