

Distribution of Hired Farmworkers by Establishment

More than 52 percent of hired farmworkers were employed in crop production in 1998, 42 percent were employed in livestock production, and 6 percent were employed in other agricultural establishments (table 13).⁶ Throughout the 1990's, the portion of hired farmworkers employed in crop, livestock, and other establishments has remained fairly constant, although the percentage in the other category was lower in 1998 than for most of the decade (table 13).

The demographic characteristics of workers differed among the establishment types (table 14). Crop production workers tended to be Hispanic (59 percent), older (median age of 34), and less educated (44 percent had less than 9 years of education) than livestock workers. Over half of crop workers were employed in the West, and 86 percent were employed full-time.

⁶ The workers in the "other" establishment category were farm managers (10 percent), supervisors of farmworkers (6 percent), and were hired workers (84 percent), compared with 8 percent of all hired farmworkers being farm managers, 4 percent supervisors of farmworkers, and 88 percent hired workers.

Table 13—Number of hired farmworkers, by establishment, 1990-98

Year	Annual averages						
	Crop production		Livestock production		Other ¹		Totals
	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>
1990	419	47.3	390	44.0	77	8.7	886
1991	449	50.7	363	41.0	72	8.2	884
1992	409	48.2	354	42.9	75	8.9	848
1993	436	54.3	313	39.0	54	6.7	803
1994	411	51.8	315	39.8	66	8.4	792
1995	433	51.0	345	40.6	71	8.4	849
1996	451	49.8	369	40.7	86	9.5	906
1997	432	48.6	376	42.3	81	9.1	889
1998	458	52.3	368	42.0	49	5.7	875

Note: Data for 1994 and later years are not directly comparable with data for 1993 and earlier years because of changes to survey design.

¹Other establishments refer to agricultural services.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the Current Population Survey earnings microdata file.

Table 14—Demographic and earnings characteristics of hired farmworkers, by establishment, 1998

Characteristic	Annual averages			
	Crop production	Livestock production	Other ¹	All hired farmworkers
	<i>Thousands</i>			
Total	458	368	49	875
	<i>Percent</i>			
Gender:				
Male	85.0	84.3	— ²	83.8
Female	15.0	15.7	—	16.2
Racial/ethnic group:				
White	34.1*	75.0*	—	52.4
Hispanic	59.0*	20.0*	—	41.8
Black and others	6.8	5.0	—	5.8
Age (years):				
Less than 20	11.6	19.7	—	15.2
20-24	14.3	12.8	—	13.3
25-34	26.2	24.6	—	25.6
35-44	20.3	21.5	—	21.1
45-54	16.8	10.3	—	14.0
55 and over	10.7	11.0	—	10.8
Median age	34*	31*	—	33
Schooling completed:				
0-4 years	15.9*	4.9*	—	10.9
5-8 years	28.3*	12.6*	—	21.1
9-11 years	22.4	29.3	—	24.9
12 years ³	21.7	32.0	—	26.5
13 or more years	11.8*	21.3	—	16.6
Census region:				
Northeast	4.9	9.8	—	7.4
South	29.0	35.1	—	31.4
Midwest	8.9*	32.2*	—	19.1
West	57.3*	22.9*	—	42.2
Status:				
Part-time	13.9	25.2*	—	18.6
Full-time	86.1	74.8*	—	81.4
Weekly earnings:				
Less than \$100	8.0	16.1	—	11.1
\$100-\$199	11.2	18.3	—	14.3
\$200-\$299	44.8*	20.6*	—	34.7
\$300-\$399	18.9	18.1	—	18.1
\$499-\$499	8.0	12.5	—	9.8
\$500-\$599	3.9	6.8	—	5.2
\$600 and over	5.2	7.5	—	6.7

¹Other establishments refer to agricultural services.

²Percentages not shown where base is less than 50,000.

³Schooling completed: 12 years means that a person received a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent degree.

*Significantly different from all hired farmworkers at the 95-percent confidence level.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the Current Population Survey earnings microdata file.