California Agriculture: Primary Worker Research Dashboard

Introduction

The California Employment Development Department's (EDD) Labor Market Information Division (LMID) and the University of California-Davis's College of Agriculture and Environmental Science have partnered for several years to conduct research related to the state's agricultural workforce. The data outlined in this dashboard reflect the results of research related to the industries in which California's farmworkers earn their highest wages (primary job). This robust analysis of farm workers differentiates itself from the published monthly agricultural employment estimates because it is inclusive of farm workers that are not captured outside of the agricultural survey collection week.

The EDD's LMID conducted a longitudinal study of agriculture workers using EDD administrative data to analyze the highest earnings (primary job) of farm workers at the industry sector and county levels. These data also allowed for analyses of the ratio of unique farm workers to annual average farm employment. In addition, research was conducted to estimate the number of jobs held by members of the state's agricultural workforce within a given year.

The most recent research was published in California Agriculture magazine.
California Agriculture Magazine, Volume 78, Issue 1, 2024: https://californiaagriculture.org/article/94420-california-has-882-000-farmworkers-to-fill-413-000-jobs

Components of the Dashboard

· **Map of Agriculture Workers** The number of workers that were employed by an employer within the North American Industry Classification System's (NAICS) Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting industry within a given year. The agricultural workers' county designations were based upon the location of the employer.

· **Earnings Analysis** The data outlines the average earnings of workers within the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting industry by NAICS code and calendar year.

· **Industry Analysis** The data outlines the number of agricultural workers by their highest earning industry. For example, among all of the agricultural workers included in the study in 2022, 42,379 earned their highest earnings within the Strawberry Farming industry (NAICS 111333).

· **Agriculture Workforce: Comparative Analysis** The number of agricultural workers data highlight the number of workers included in the EDD/UC Davis Longitudinal study in which EDD administrative data were used to provide a count of agricultural workers. The average agriculture employment data are survey-based data that are statistically weighted to provide an estimate of farm workers during a specific survey week only. Unlike the EDD/UC Davis agricultural worker job estimates, these data are not inclusive of workers outside of that specific survey week.

  · **Average Agriculture Employment:** the state of California requires all employers who pay one hundred dollars or more in wages to enroll in the state's unemployment insurance system. Employers report the names and social security numbers of all their employees for the payroll period that includes the twelfth of the month. Summing these monthly employment totals and dividing them by twelve months generates average employment.

  · **Unique Agriculture Workers:** the sum of unique social security numbers reported by agriculture industry employers to the Employment Development Department's (EDD) unemployment insurance program within a calendar year. This total includes all SSNs reported by agriculture employers during each week of a given month.

· **Multiple Job Holder Analysis** The data are drawn from the results of the EDD/UC Davis agricultural job estimates and provide a count of the number of jobs held by workers within agriculture and outside of agriculture industries within a given year.

Dashboard Last Updated: December 16, 2025

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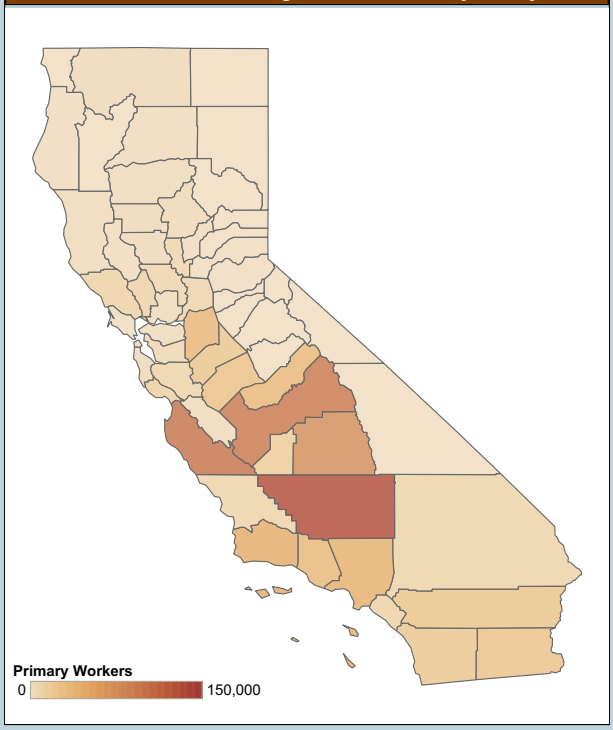
Introduction | **Map of Ag. Workers** | Earnings Analysis | Industry Analysis | Workforce Analysis | Job Holder Analysis | Resources

Map of Agriculture Workers

California: Number of Agriculture Workers by County



County	Primary Workers
Alameda	5,399
Alpine	0
Amador	682
Butte	4,694
Calaveras	303
Colusa	3,804
Contra Costa	3,457
Del Norte	598
El Dorado	1,139
Fresno	93,967
Glenn	3,679
Humboldt	1,944
Imperial	24,768
Inyo	67
Kern	131,821
Kings	15,883
Lake	1,939
Lassen	367
Los Angeles	42,339
Madera	34,568
Marin	935
Mariposa	105
Mendocino	3,118
Merced	25,633
Modoc	602
Mono	177
Monterey	97,940
Napa	10,755
Nevada	593
Orange	10,922
Placer	1,677

Year
- ○ 2016
- ○ 2017
- ○ 2018
- ○ 2019
- ○ 2020
- ○ 2021
- ○ 2022
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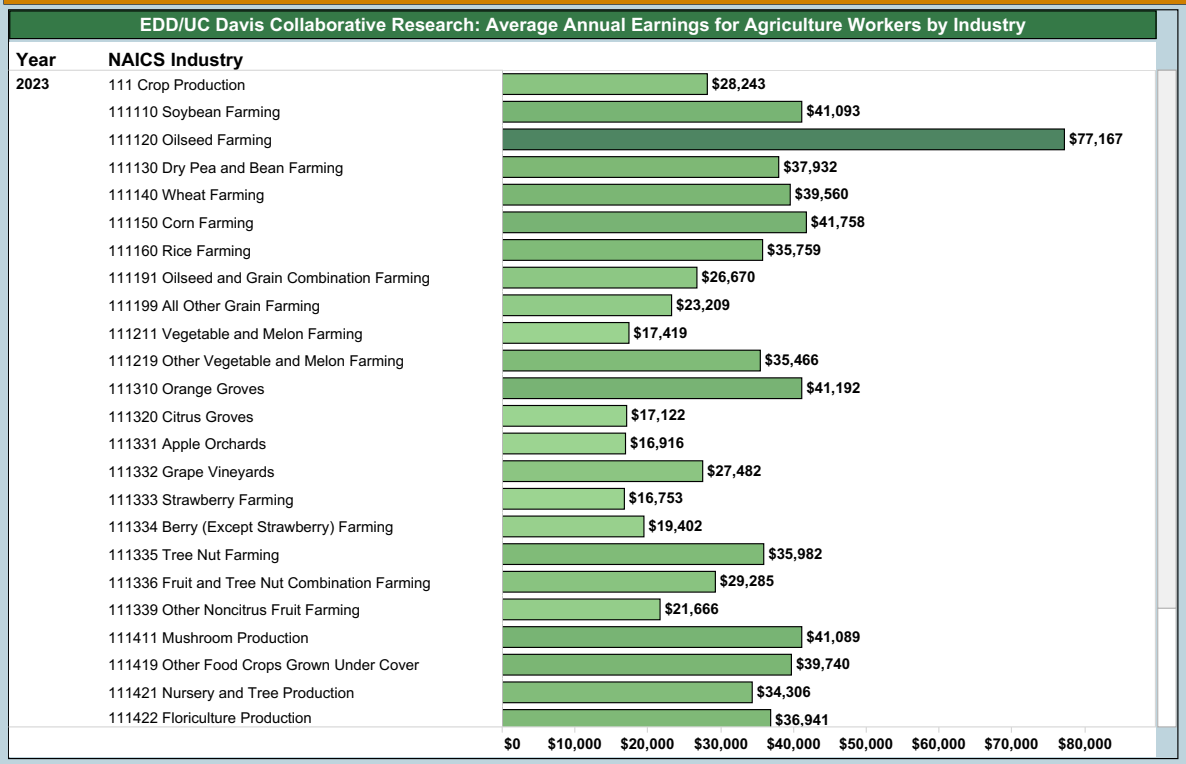
Earnings Analysis



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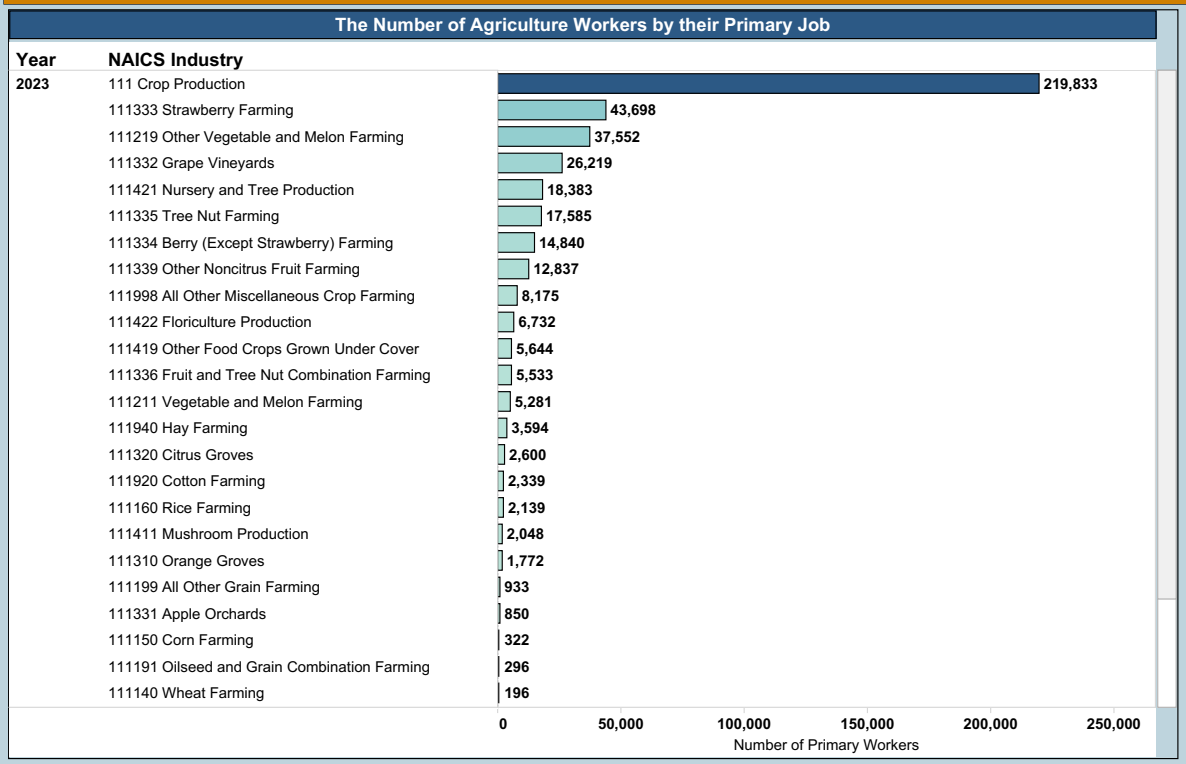
Industry Analysis



Year
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- ☐ 2021
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- ☑ 2023

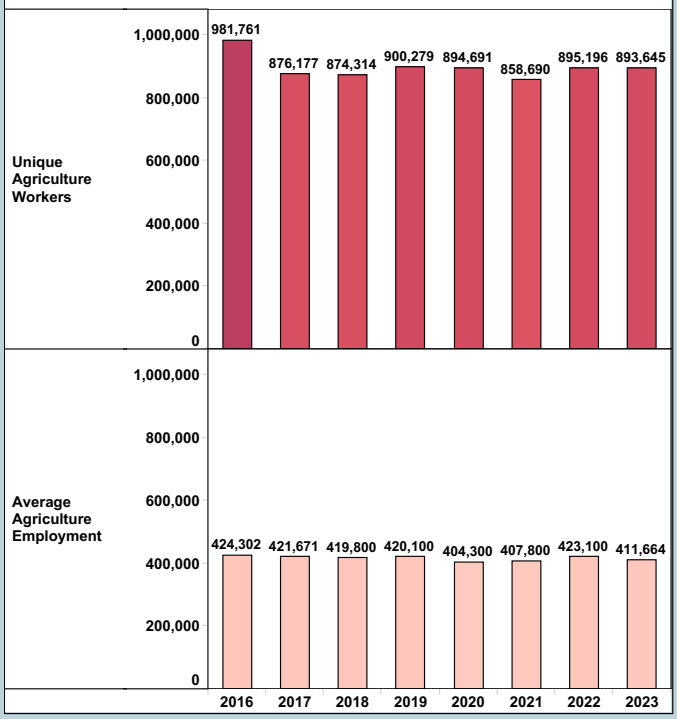
Industry Subcode
- ◉ 111
- ○ 112
- ○ 113
- ○ 114
- ○ 115
- ○ Non-Agriculture Industry

California Agriculture: Primary Worker Research Dashboard

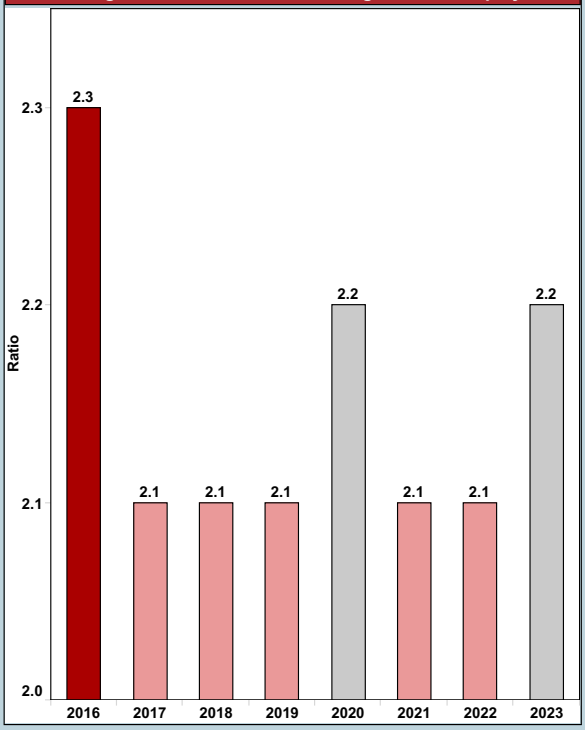
Introduction | Map of Ag. Workers | Earnings Analysis | Industry Analysis | **Workforce Analysis** | Job Holder Analysis | Resources

Agriculture Workforce: Comparative Analysis

Number of Agriculture Workers and Average Annual Employment



Ratio of Agriculture Workers and Average Annual Employment



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California Agriculture: Primary Worker Research Dashboard

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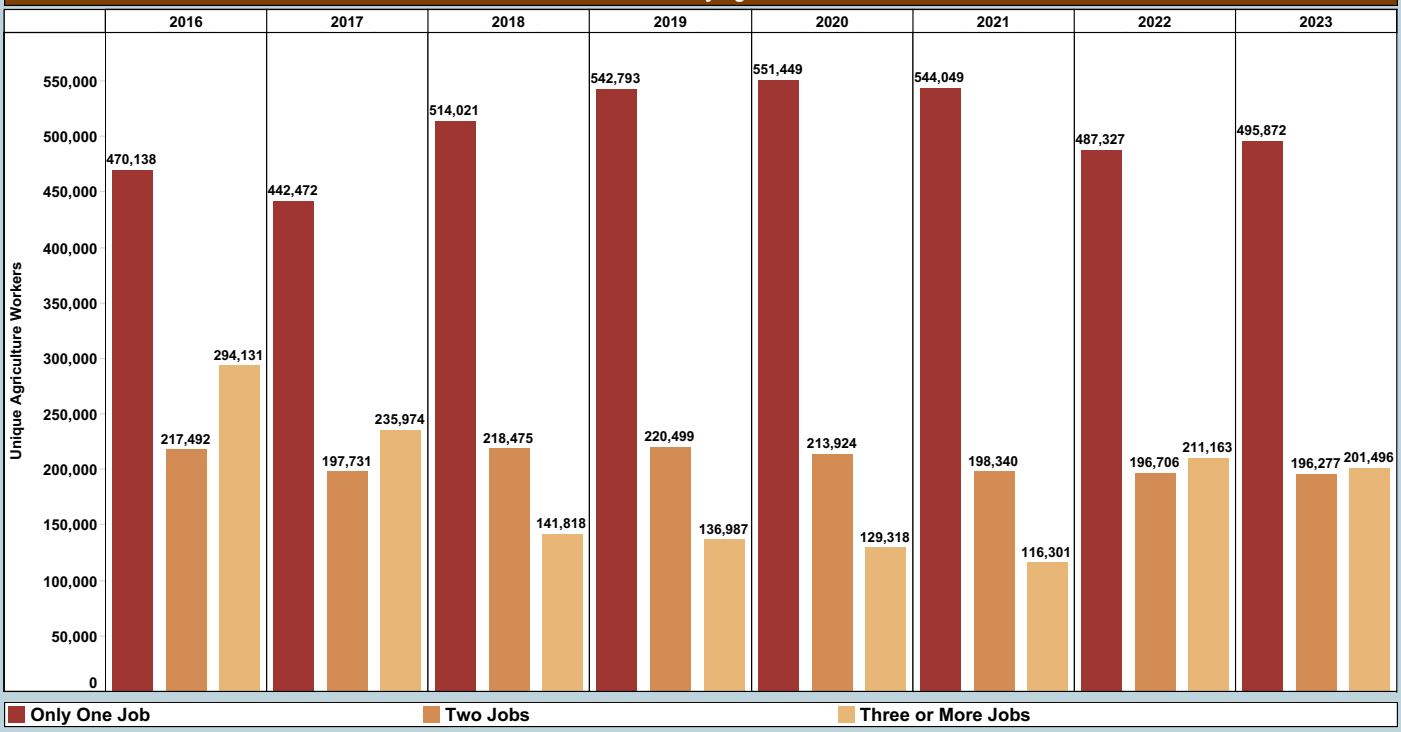
Multiple Job Holder Analysis

Number of Jobs Held by Agriculture Workers



California Agriculture: Primary Worker Research Dashboard

Resources

Primary Data Sources Used for This Research

• **North American Industry Classification System (NAICS):** The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy.

Hyperlink to additional NAICS information: https://www.census.gov/naics/

• **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW):** The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program is a federal/state cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (https://www.bls.gov/cew/) and the California EDD's Labor Market Information Division (LMID). The QCEW program produces a comprehensive tabulation of employment and wage information for workers covered by California Unemployment Insurance (UI) laws and Federal workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program.

Hyperlink to additional QCEW information: https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/qcew_about_the_data.html

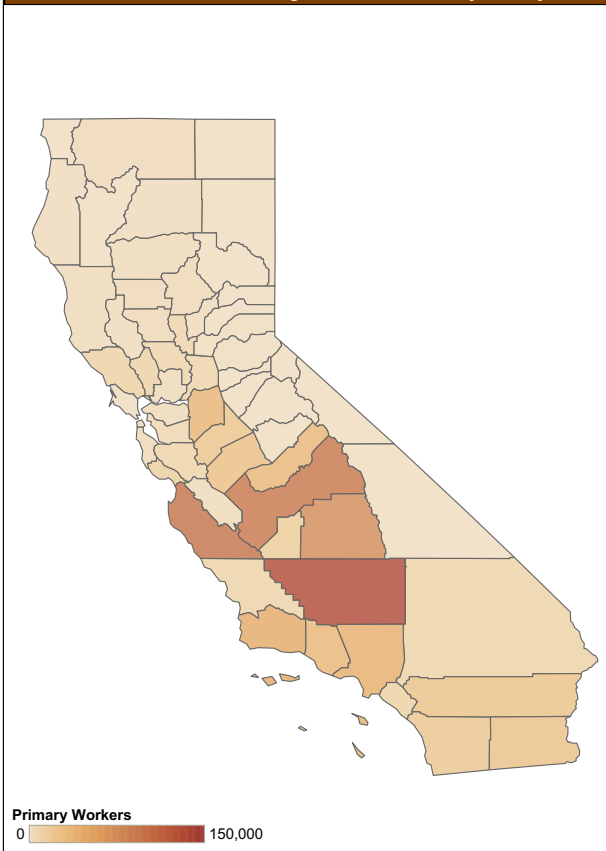
• **California Employment Development Department (EDD) Agriculture Employment Data:** The California Employment Development Department - Labor Market Information Division produces monthly employment and earnings estimates which provides detailed statistical information for this industry sector.

Hyperlink to additional EDD Agriculture Employment information: https://labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/ca-agriculture.html

• **EDD Base Wage File (BWF):** The BWF is the repository for the wage data submitted by employers for use in the administration of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Program, Employment Training Tax (ETT) Program, State Disability Insurance (SDI) Program, and California's Personal Income Tax (PIT) Wage Withholding Program.

Map of Agriculture Workers

California: Number of Agriculture Workers by County



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Modoc	602
Mono	177
Monterey	97,940
Napa	10,755
Nevada	593
Orange	10,922
Placer	1,677
Plumas	221
Riverside	23,654
Sacramento	9,190
San Benito	3,255
San Bernardino	9,840
San Diego	20,624
San Francisco	2,788

Year
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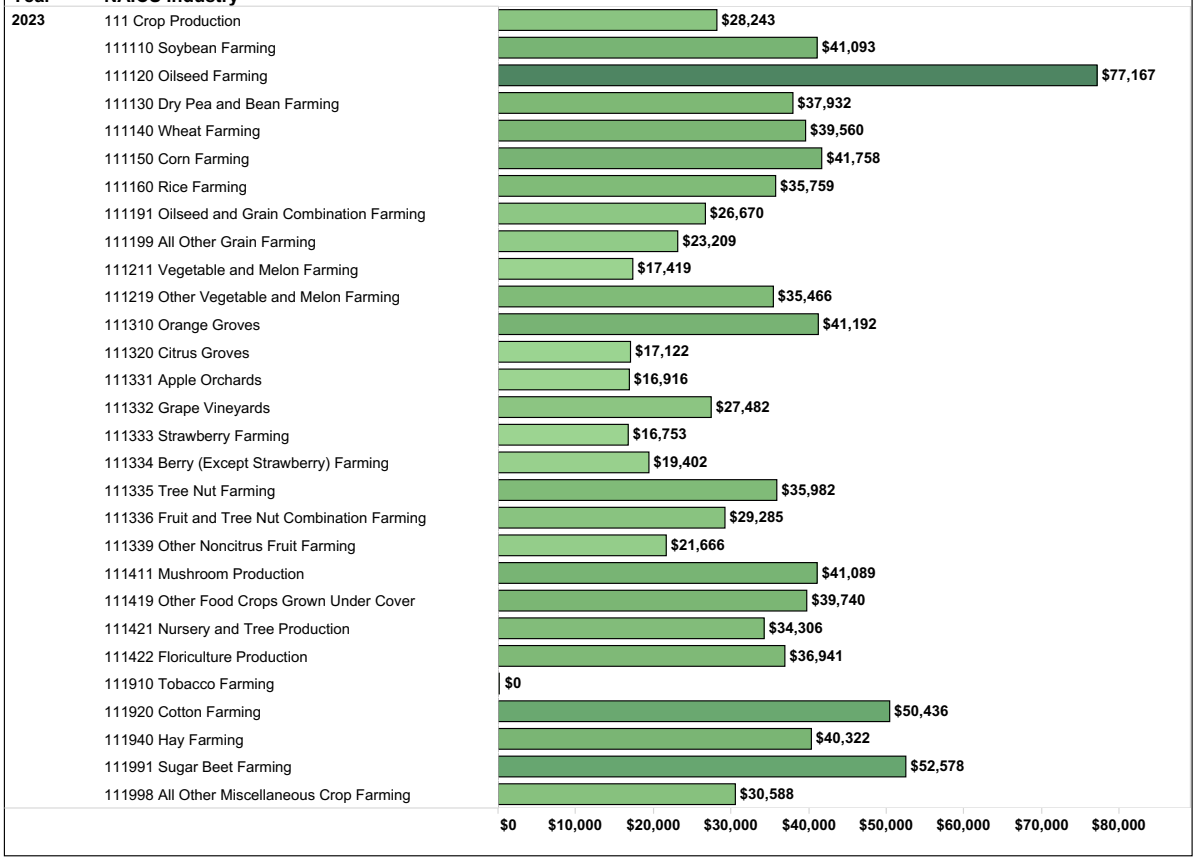
Earnings Analysis

EDD/UC Davis Collaborative Research: Average Annual Earnings for Agriculture Workers by Industry



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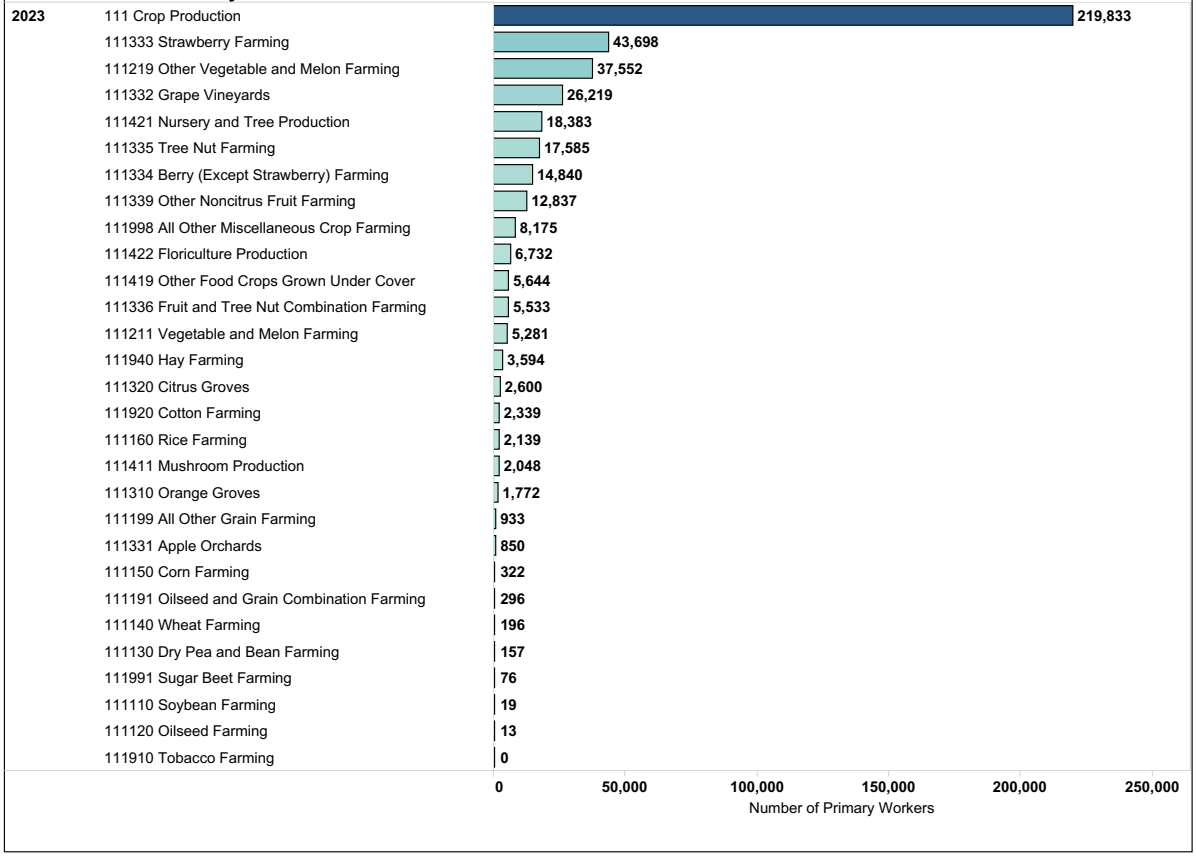
Average Earnings
$0 — $77,167

Industry Analysis

The Number of Agriculture Workers by their Primary Job



Year

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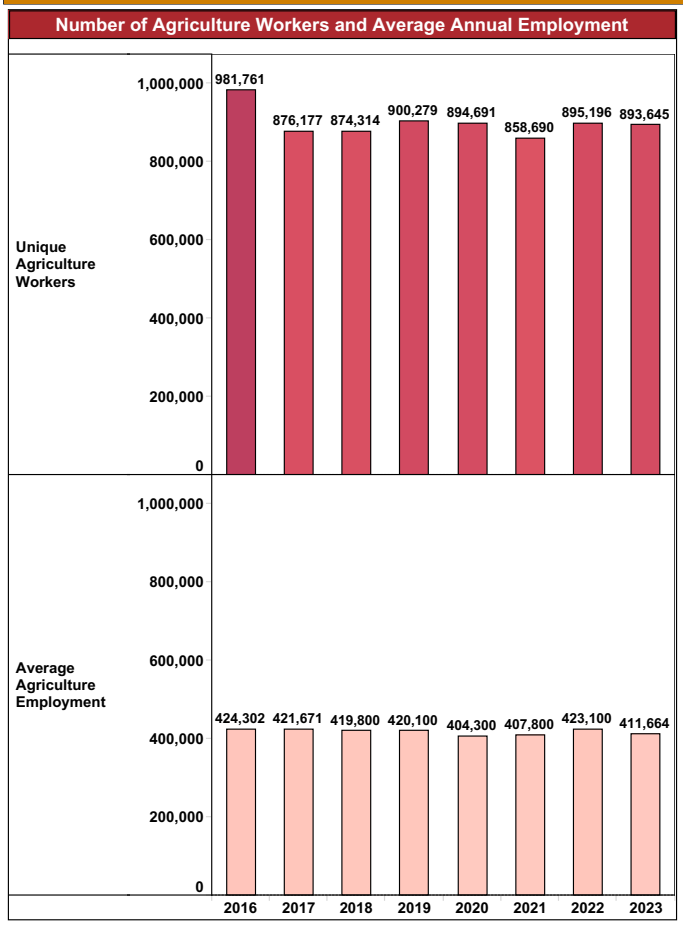
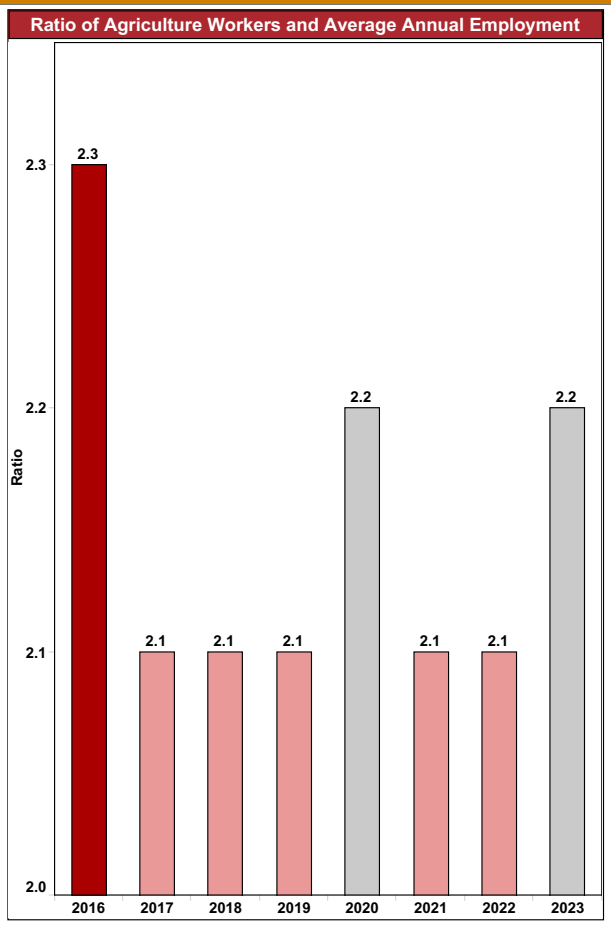
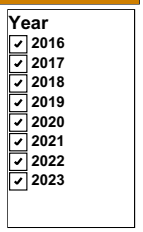
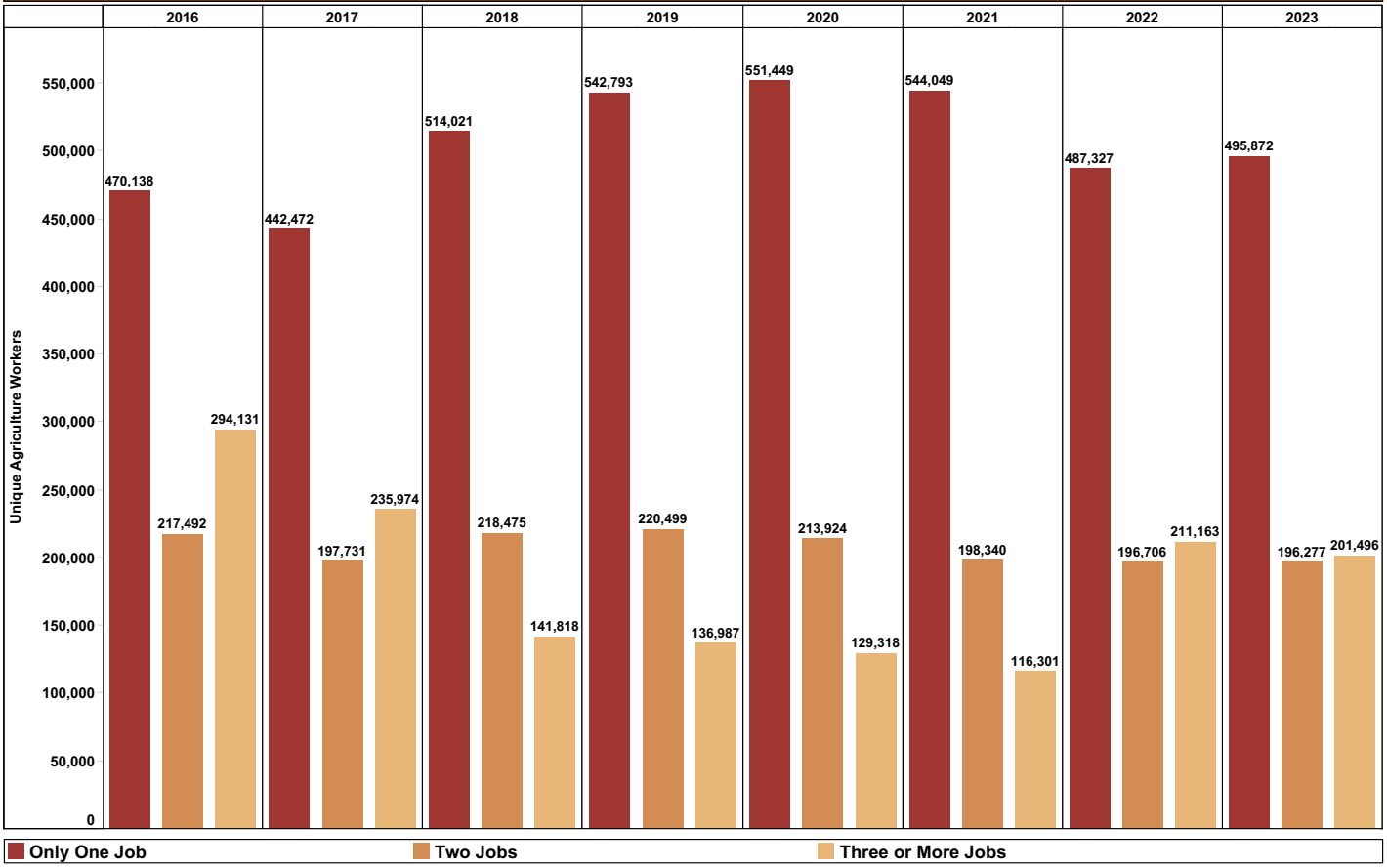
Agriculture Workforce: Comparative Analysis







Multiple Job Holder Analysis

Number of Jobs Held by Agriculture Workers