


2014 Cluster Workforce Updates *Agriculture*

Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives



Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

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Introduction

Produced through a partnership between the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives (LMISI) and the Workforce Development Agency (WDA), the 2014 Cluster Workforce Updates are intended to revise the key occupation tables found in the [Cluster Workforce Analysis](#) publications released in January 2013.

Key occupations include job titles that show a favorable mix of employment indicators as measured by LMISI and that were identified by the WDA Industry Talent Directors as being important to their respective clusters today and in the future.



The Agriculture Cluster includes industries like *Crop production*, *Bakeries*, *Animal production*, *Fruit and vegetable preserving*, and *Animal slaughtering*. The key occupations identified in this report are heavily concentrated in these and other industries within the cluster.

With an emphasis on occupations, this report provides an analysis of important indicators, including employment, earnings, education and training requirements, and real-time and projected demand. For additional demographic or labor market information and resources, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/lmi.

The Agriculture Cluster

- The Agriculture Cluster employment reported comes primarily from employer tax records filed with the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency. This total does not reflect many small farmers unless their quarterly payroll is in excess of \$20,000. Additionally, these data capture paid workers but not self-employed or unpaid family members. Based on the USDA's survey on the agricultural sector that includes all paid, non-paid, full and part-time workers, as well as the self-employed farmers, Michigan counted about 137,300 farm laborers, including hired, migrant, and unpaid workers in 2012.
- Unlike some industries, the Agriculture Cluster in Michigan recorded employment growth during the Great Recession. Furthermore, between 2011 and 2013, the number of jobs in the cluster grew by an additional 3.4 percent.
- With the exception of *Farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers*, key occupations in the cluster are forecast to show job growth, ranging from two percent for *Farmworkers and laborers* to 21 percent for *Slaughterers and meat packers*.
- Many of the jobs in the cluster are generally lower paying, with 9 of 15 key agricultural occupations paying between \$9.00 to \$15.00 per hour. Additionally, the majority of these occupations (13 of 15) require lower levels of education (high school or less). Only one occupation (*Food scientists and technologists*) demands a bachelor's degree, and pays an above-average median hourly wage of \$25.15.
- Real-time online job vacancy data indicates strong demand for *First-line supervisors of production and operating workers, Farmworkers and laborers, Packaging and filling machine operators and tenders, and Industrial truck and tractor operators*. But with the exception of *Farmworkers*, much of this demand is in industries outside of the Agriculture Cluster.

“The Agriculture Cluster in Michigan recorded employment growth during the Great Recession.”

- Due to below-average pay and tough working conditions, agriculture could face challenges in finding workers. Efficient access to migrant labor is critical for many agricultural employers in helping them avoid short-term labor shortages.



AGRICULTURE

CLUSTER EMPLOYMENT

There are currently 83,100 jobs in the Agriculture Cluster. This represents an increase of 3.4 percent over the 2011 employment levels.

Key Occupations in the Agriculture Cluster

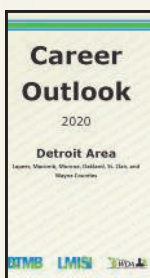
Occupation	Total Michigan Employment	Employment in Cluster	Median Wage	Total Annual Openings	Real-Time Demand	Education or Training Required
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	24,410	1,153	\$27.21	299	2,251	Postsecondary non-degree award
Packers and Packagers, Hand	16,590	1,026	\$9.65	717	64	Less than high school
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	11,210	773	\$14.61	499	228	Less than high school
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	10,690	3,061	\$12.62	138	229	High school diploma or equivalent
Bakers	5,120	1,566	\$11.34	131	20	Less than high school
Food Batchmakers	2,500	1,446	\$14.06	92	13	High school diploma or equivalent
Food and Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Machine Operators and Tenders	1,980	1,630	\$16.79	29	6	Less than high school
Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	1,360	1,173	\$10.20	536	182	Less than high school
Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products	1,000	661	\$11.01	45	10	Less than high school
Slaughterers and Meat Packers	700	696	\$15.22	24	2	Less than high school
Farmworkers, Farm and Ranch Animals	580	544	\$9.09	71	111	Less than high school
Food Scientists and Technologists	540	384	\$25.15	15	39	Bachelor's degree
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	340	198	\$25.48	34	27	High school diploma or equivalent
Agricultural Equipment Operators	320	298	\$14.70	59	56	Less than high school
Farm, Ranch, and Other Agricultural Managers	NA	NA	\$34.23	2,917	14	High school diploma or equivalent

Source: Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives / The Conference Board Help Wanted Online®

What's New from LMISI?

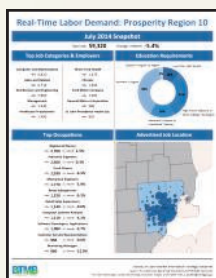
The *2014 Cluster Workforce Updates* are just one example of the many publications by the Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives. Serving a diverse group of customers, our products range from workforce data to customized products and publications. Highlighted below are some of our more recent products. These and more can be found on our website at: www.michigan.gov/lmi.

Regional Career Outlook Brochures (2010 - 2020)



Published for Michigan's 18 Economic Forecast Regions (EFRs), these Career Outlook Brochures use our occupational long-term forecasts to list the top 15 to 20 occupations in the region based on a variety of factors. The lists provided for each region are based on education, annual openings, and real-time demand using the data series from The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL).

Regional Prosperity Initiative: Real-Time Labor Demand Snapshots



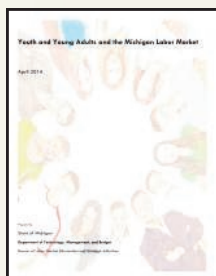
Published for the State's 10 Prosperity Regions, these monthly reports use The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) Data Series to provide a high-level overview of in-demand occupations, top advertising employers, education and training requirements, and the location of advertised vacancies for each of Michigan's 10 Prosperity Regions.

Michigan Economic and Workforce Indicators and Insights—Summer 2014



These profiles provide labor market information to support the Regional Prosperity Initiative. Included is information and analysis on the topics of population and demographics, labor force, employment, and unemployment, commuting patterns, industry employment and job trends, occupational employment and wages, and occupational demand, both real-time and forecasted.

Youth and Young Adults and the Michigan Labor Market



This study examines the important topic of teens and young adults in the labor market. This report provides workforce development professionals with timely, relevant, and accurate information on subjects including: demographics, labor force, and unemployment; industry and occupational employment; educational attainment and job market success; migration of youth; and employment and skill outlook.



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