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## 2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Labor

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Hired Labor					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Total Operations w/ Hired Labor expense	11,737	28%	9,891	25%	-16%
Hired Labor Expense	\$619,101,671	8.7%	\$ 691,014,000	7%	12%

- The drop in the number of farm operations that directly hired farm workers between 2017 and 2022 is consistent with the overall national and state declining trends in the number of farm businesses registered in the past decades.
- Despite the decrease in number of hired workers, total hired workers' wage payments, increased by 12% over the five-year period; this could be attributed to adjustments in real wage rates as state annual minimum wages were upgraded and possibly due to an increasing proportion of skilled to total hired worker population.
- The slight drop in the share of farms with direct hires to 25% in 2022 (from 28% in 2017) reflects that farms could have resorted to other labor substitution strategies (such as optimizing family labor inputs) or input substitution schemes.

- Hired labor expenses for operations with revenues less than \$100,000 in 2022 decreased from their 2017 levels.
- In contrast, larger farms (with revenues of \$100,000 and over) could have employed more skilled workers in 2022 (compared to 2017) that were paid higher wages or hired more workers, regardless of skill level.

Operations with Hired Labor Expense					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
< \$1,000	2,218	19%	1,474	15%	-34%
\$1,000-\$4,999	2,919	25%	2,415	24%	-17%
\$5,000-\$9,999	1,241	11%	1,051	11%	-15%
\$10,000-\$24,999	1,782	15%	1,305	13%	-27%
\$25,000-\$49,000	1,662	14%	1,135	11%	-32%
\$50,000-\$99,999	1,030	9%	1,006	10%	-2%
\$100,000-\$249,999	567	5%	1,033	10%	82%
\$250,000-\$499,999	183	2%	289	3%	58%
\$500,000+	135	1%	183	2%	36%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars



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Contract Labor					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Total Operations w/ Contract Labor expense	5,983	14%	4,637	12%	-22%
Contract Labor Expense	\$181,685,601	2.6%	\$211,062,000	2%	16%

- The number of operations with contract workers supplied by third party farm labor contractors (FLCs) decreased in 2022 by 22%, but the total contract wages expense increased by 16%.
- The rise in total contract wages could suggest either annual increases in average real contract wages per worker and/or an increasing competition in the farm labor contracting market that induced FLCs to maximize hiring opportunities through recruitment of more workers in each production cycle that will be outsourced to a growing farm business clientele.

- Larger operations (with revenues of \$50,000 and above) increased their patronage of contract workers as these farms could have expanded their operations in size and scale.
- Possibly, as FLC commissions and other intermediation fees could have increased contract wage rates, larger farms could relatively afford these rates than their smaller business peers.

Operations with Contract Labor Expense					
	2017		2022		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
< \$1,000	816	14%	518	11%	-37%
\$1,000-\$4,999	1,673	28%	1,515	33%	-9%
\$5,000-\$9,999	887	15%	569	12%	-36%
\$10,000-\$24,999	1,489	25%	726	16%	-51%
\$25,000-\$49,000	625	10%	502	11%	-20%
\$50,000-\$99,999	296	5%	331	7%	12%
\$100,000+	197	3%	476	10%	142%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by authors, adjusted to 2022 dollars