

## Part- and Full-Time Workers

About 19 percent (162,000) of hired farmworkers were employed part-time (less than 35 hours per week) in 1998.<sup>5</sup> The percentage of hired farmworkers working part-time is not as high as for some other occupations (fig. 18). Percentages of part-time workers ranged from 5 percent for precision production, craft and repair occupations, to 57 percent for private household services occupations. Part-time hired farmworkers were more likely than full-time hired farmworkers to be female, never married, U.S. citizens, and located in the Midwest census region (table 9). Over 50 percent were less than 20 years old, compared with 7 percent of full-time workers. A higher proportion of part-time hired farmworkers were employed in livestock production.

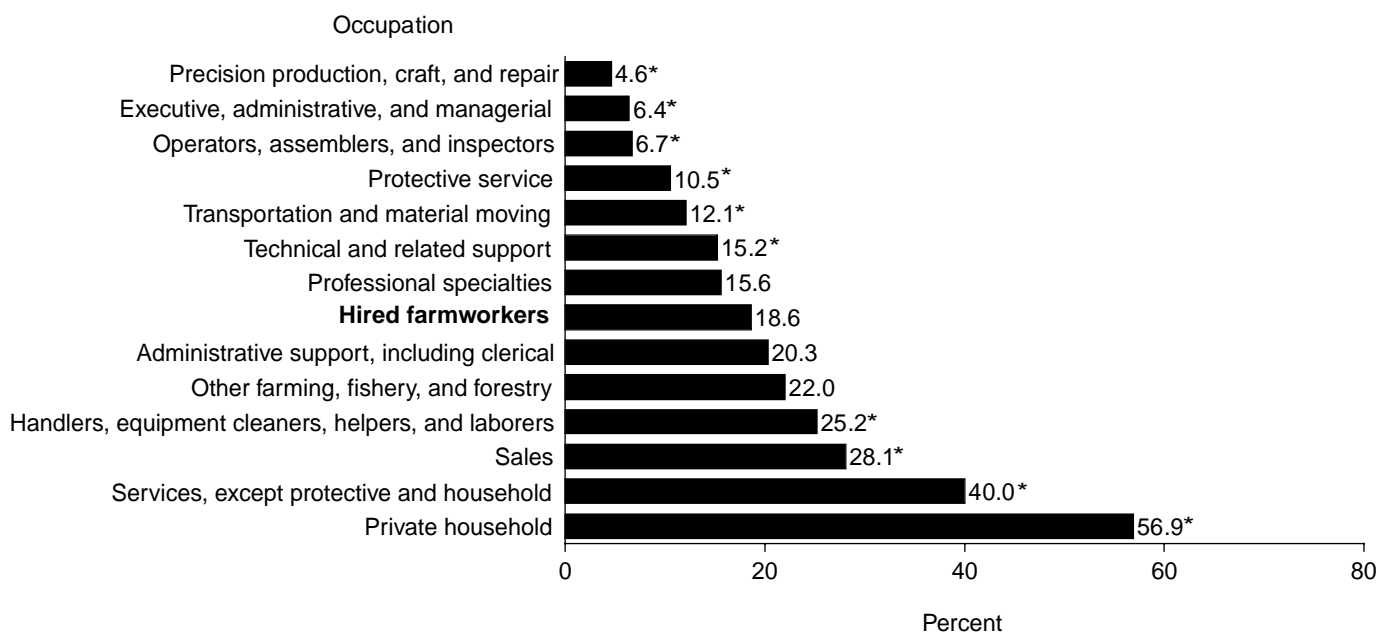
Survey enumerators asked part-time workers whether they worked part-time voluntarily for noneconomic reasons or because of economic reasons, such as slack

work or business conditions, or because they could find only part-time work. Almost 70 percent reported they worked part-time voluntarily. The number of hired farmworkers who reported working part-time for economic reasons was too small (base was less than 50,000) for statistically reliable analysis; therefore, only the noneconomic reasons will be discussed.

A large percent of both part-time hired workers and part-time wage and salary workers gave “school/training” as the major noneconomic reason for working part-time (table 10). The percentage of hired farmworkers giving this response was significantly higher than the percentage of all wage and salary workers, which is not surprising since more than half of the part-time hired farmworkers were less than 20 years old. The seasonal nature of farmwork frequently accommodates the need of students for flexible schedules.

<sup>5</sup> Part-time and full-time distinctions do not imply seasonality, since the data do not measure the number of weeks worked during the year.

Figure 18  
**Part-time workers, by occupation, 1998**



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

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

**Table 9—Demographic characteristics of part-time and full-time hired farmworkers and all wage and salary workers, 1998**

Characteristics	Annual averages							
	Hired farmworkers				All wage and salary workers			
	Part-time		Full-time		Part-time		Full-time	
	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent
All	162	100	713	100	21,252	100	95,630	100
Gender:								
Male	118	72.4****	616	86.4***	6,700	31.5	54,332	56.8
Female	44	27.6****	97	13.6***	14,552	68.5	41,298	43.2
Racial/ethnic group:								
White	134	82.5*	324	45.5***	16,445	77.4	69,385	72.6
Hispanic	22	14.0*	343	48.1***	1,859	8.7	10,538	11.0
Black and others	6	3.5*	45	6.3***	2,948	13.9	15,707	16.4
Age (years):								
Less than 20	83	51.2****	50	7.0***	5,078	23.9	2,249	2.4
20-24	12	7.6****	104	14.6***	3,380	15.9	8,836	9.2
25-34	19	11.9*	204	28.7	3,507	16.5	25,552	26.7
35-44	14	8.4****	171	24.0***	3,641	17.1	28,156	29.4
45-54	13	7.9*	110	15.4***	2,497	11.7	21,022	22.0
55 and over	21	13.1	74	10.3	3,149	14.8	9,815	10.3
Median age		19*****		34*****		31		38
Marital status:								
Married	48	29.4****	406	57.0	9,065	42.7	56,830	59.4
Widowed, divorced, or separated	8	5.0****	73	10.3***	2,380	11.2	14,815	15.5
Never married	106	65.6****	233	32.7***	9,807	46.1	23,985	25.1
Schooling completed: <sup>1</sup>								
0-4 years	7	4.1*	89	12.5***	141	0.7	769	0.8
5-8 years	15	9.3****	169	23.7***	656	3.1	2,553	2.7
9-11 years	76	46.8****	142	19.9***	4,633	21.8	7,280	7.6
12 years <sup>1</sup>	38	23.3	194	27.2***	5,762	27.1	31,362	32.8
13 or more years	26	16.4****	119	16.7***	10,060	47.3	53,666	56.1
Citizenship:								
U.S. citizen	150	92.3*	432	60.6***	20,042	94.3	88,310	92.4
Not U.S. citizen	12	7.7*	281	39.4***	1,210	5.7	7,320	7.6
Establishment:								
Crop production	64	39.1*	394	55.3	—	—	—	—
Livestock production	92	57.0*	275	38.6	—	—	—	—
Other	6	3.9	43	6.1	—	—	—	—
Census region:								
Northeast	16	10.2**	48	6.8***	4,409	20.7	17,892	18.7
South	39	24.3	235	33.0	6,181	29.1	34,632	36.2
Midwest	60	36.9****	107	15.0***	5,756	27.1	22,696	23.7

<sup>1</sup>Schooling completed: 12 years means that a person received a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent degree.

\*Significantly different from full-time hired farmworkers at the 95-percent confidence level.

\*\*Significantly different from part-time all wage and salary workers at the 95-percent confidence level.

\*\*\*Significantly different from full-time all wage and salary workers at the 95-percent confidence level.

\*\*\*\*Significantly different from full-time hired farmworkers and part-time all wage and salary workers at the 95-percent confidence level.

\*\*\*\*\*Significantly different from part-time all wage and salary workers and full-time all wage and salary workers at the 95-percent confidence level.

\*\*\*\*\*Significantly different from full-time hired farmworkers, part-time all wage and salary workers, and full-time all wage and salary workers at the 95-percent confidence level.

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

**Table 10—Reasons why part-time workers want to work part-time, 1998**

Reasons	Annual averages	
	Hired farmworkers	All wage and salary workers
		<i>Thousands</i>
Total workers <sup>1</sup>	112	13,998
		<i>Percent</i>
Child care problems	0.8*	4.3
Other family/personal obligations	12.2*	27.4
Health/medical limitations	6.2	3.7
School/training	64.1*	44.6
Retired/Social Security limit on earnings	9.5	10.2
Full-time work week less than 35 hours	3.9	2.6
Other	3.2*	7.2

<sup>1</sup>Those working part-time by choice.

\*Significantly different from all wage and salary workers at the 95-percent confidence level.

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