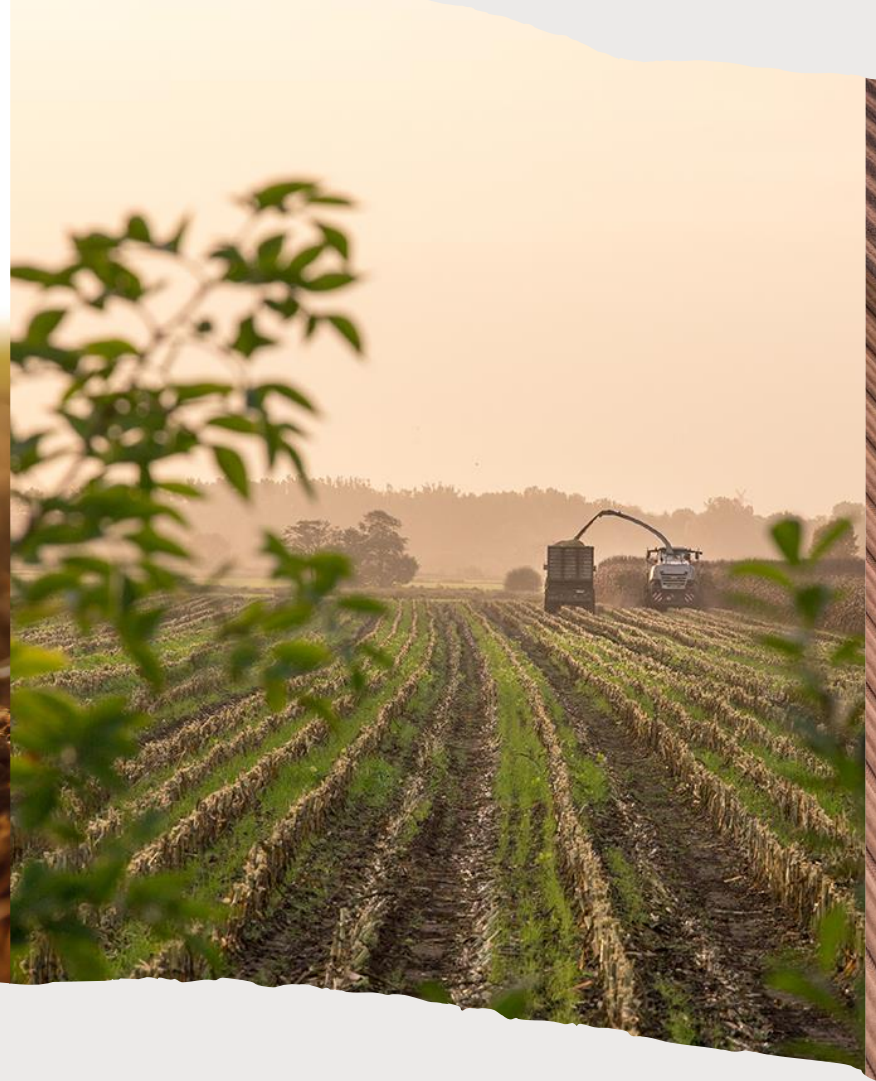


New Jersey's 2024 Agricultural Industry Sector

June 2024

Office of Research and Information

Table of Contents

- Overview
- Demographic Profile of Agriculture Workers
- Farmland Statistics
- Appendix
    - Glossary of Terms

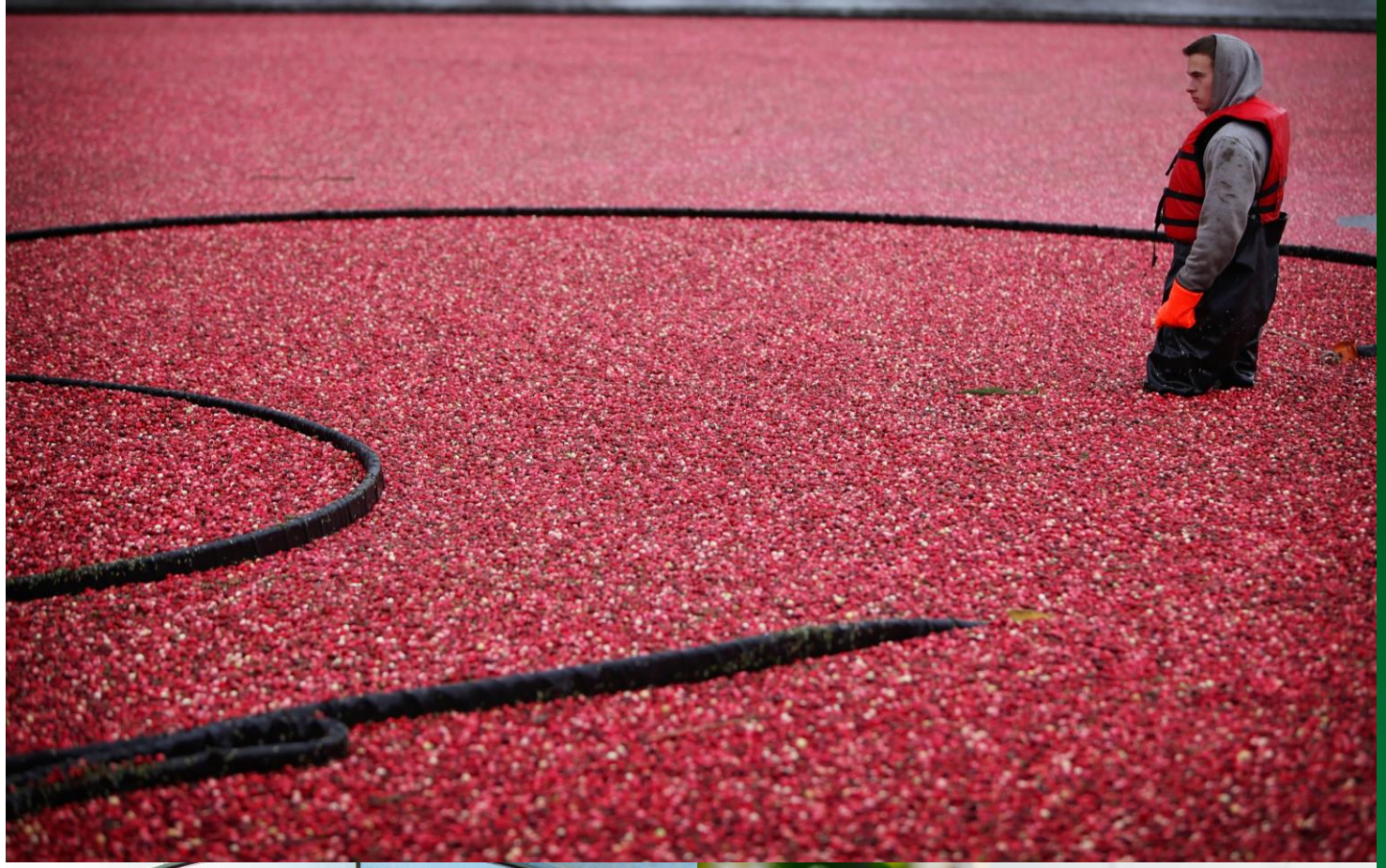
Overview

- **Employment has been stable in the past decade**
  - Approximately 25,000 employees, both seasonal and year-round employees
- **Wages have been increasing**
  - $7.25 in 2010
  - $12.81 in 2024
- **Demographics:**
  - Male
  - White

Overview (Continued)

- **Top 5 Industries by Employment**
  - Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production
  - Support activities for agriculture and forestry
  - All other crop farming[1]
  - Vegetable and melon farming
  - Commercial fishing

[1]Includes crops such as herbs, spices, hay seed, and grass seed



Top Agricultural Sub-Sectors in New Jersey 2022*

Employment Count by Agriculture Industry, Ranked Highest to Lowest, 2010 & 2022

Industry	2010	2022	Difference
Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production	5,973	6,945	972
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	4,456	4,580	124
All other crop farming	2,378	3,442	1,064
Vegetable and melon farming	3,059	2,838	(221)
Commercial fishing	1,469	1,907	438
Fruit farming	3,084	1,346	(1,738)
Animal production, except cattle and poultry and eggs	894	1,024	130
Total	**23,195**	**24,485**	**1,290**

Source: NJDOL, ORI and IMPLAN Software

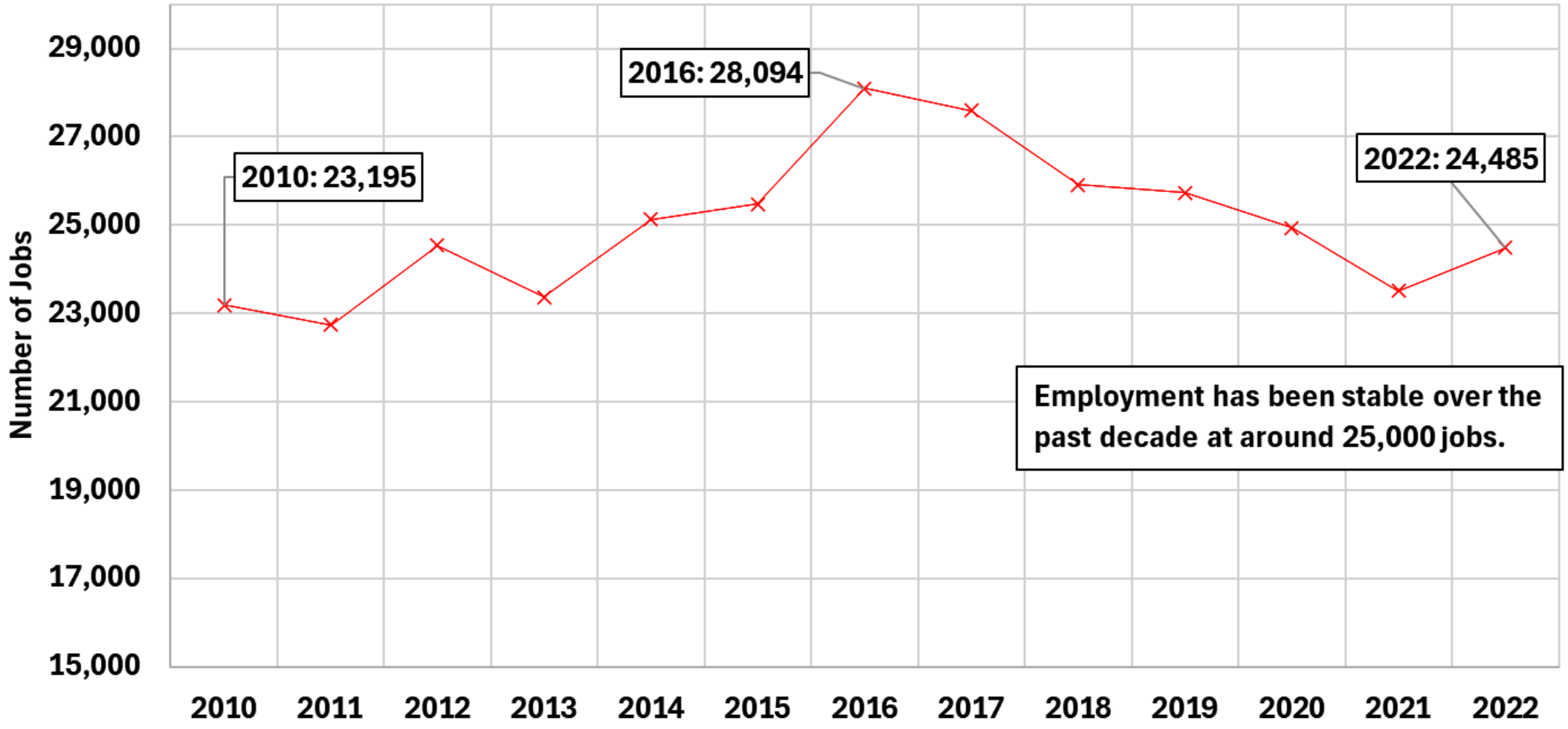
*Sub-Sectors with at least 1,000 jobs
** Totals from 2010 and 2022 include industries not listed, that had less than 1,000 jobs

Employment Count by Agricultural Industry Ranked Highest to Lowest, 2010, 2019 and 2022

Industry	2010	2019	2022
Greenhouse, nursery, and floriculture production	5,973	7,107	6,945
Support activities for agriculture and forestry	4,456	5,156	4,580
All other crop farming	2,378	3,823	3,442
Vegetable and melon farming	3,059	2,829	2,838
Commercial fishing	1,469	1,540	1,907
Fruit farming	3,084	2,539	1,346
Animal production, except cattle and poultry and eggs	894	706	1,024
Forestry, forest products, and timber tract production	474	469	615
Grain farming	304	355	419
Poultry and egg production	159	151	343
Commercial logging	426	434	316
Pesticide and other agricultural chemical manufacturing	98	268	295
Beef cattle ranching and farming, including feedlots and dual-purpose ranching and farming	134	170	193
Oilseed farming	104	91	122
Dairy cattle and milk production	87	62	64
Commercial hunting and trapping	87	19	19
Farm machinery and equipment manufacturing	5	7	16
Tree nut farming	3	3	1
Total	**23,195**	**25,729**	**24,485**

Source: NJDOL, ORI and IMPLAN Software

Agricultural Jobs, 2010-2022



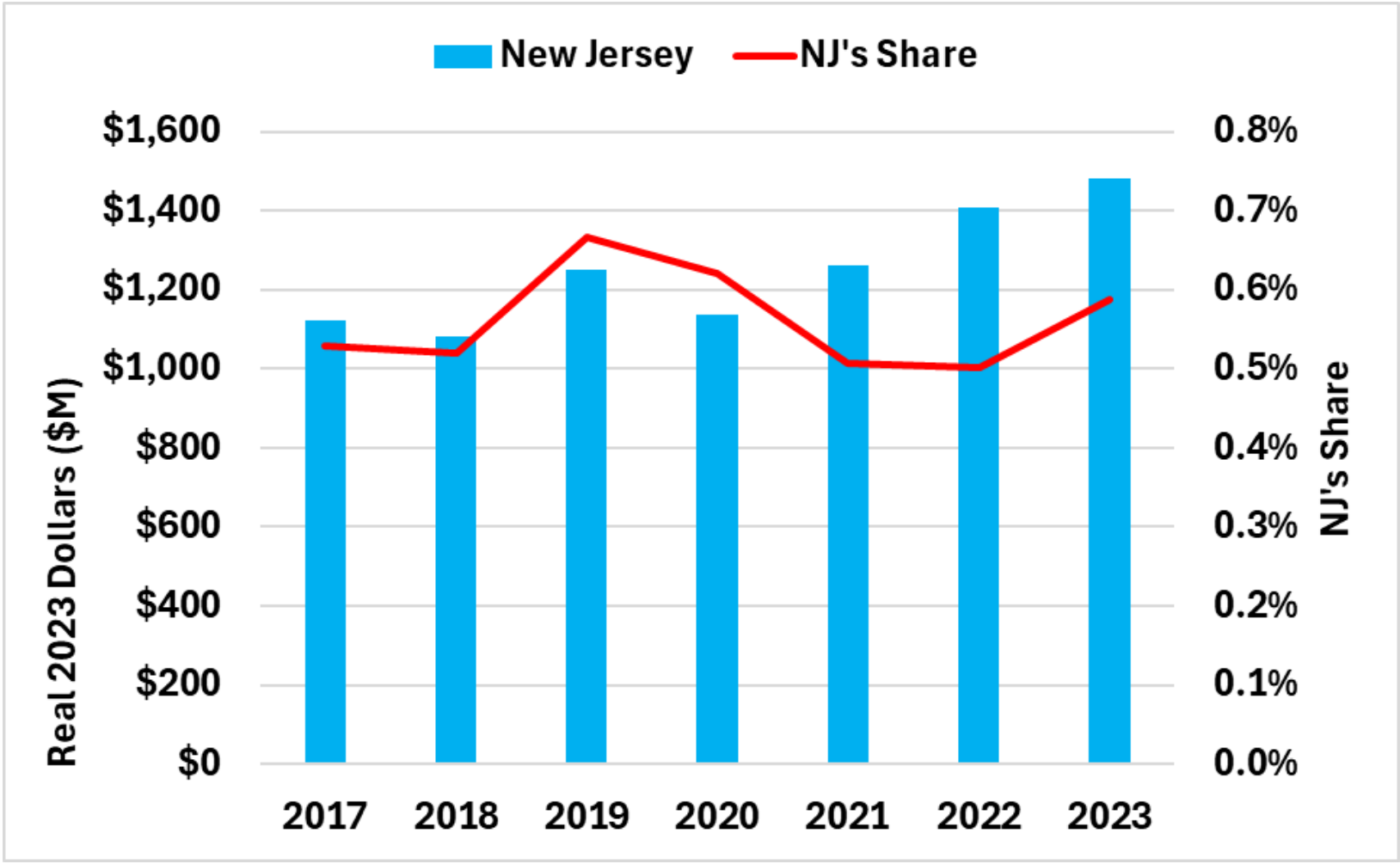
Source: NJDOL, ORI and IMPLAN Software

NEW JERSEY'S MINIMUM WAGE

Date	Most Employers	Seasonal & Small Employers *(fewer than 6)*	Agricultural Employers	Cash Wage for Tipped Workers	Wage for Long-Term Care Facility Direct Care Staff
January 1, 2020	$11	$10.30	$10.30	$3.13	$11; $14 as of 11/1/20
January 1, 2021	$12	$11.10	$10.30	$4.13	$15
January 1, 2022	$13	$11.90	$11.05	$5.13	$16
January 1, 2023	$14.13	$12.93	$12.01	$5.26	$17.13
January 1, 2024	$15.13	$13.73	$12.81	$5.26	$18.13

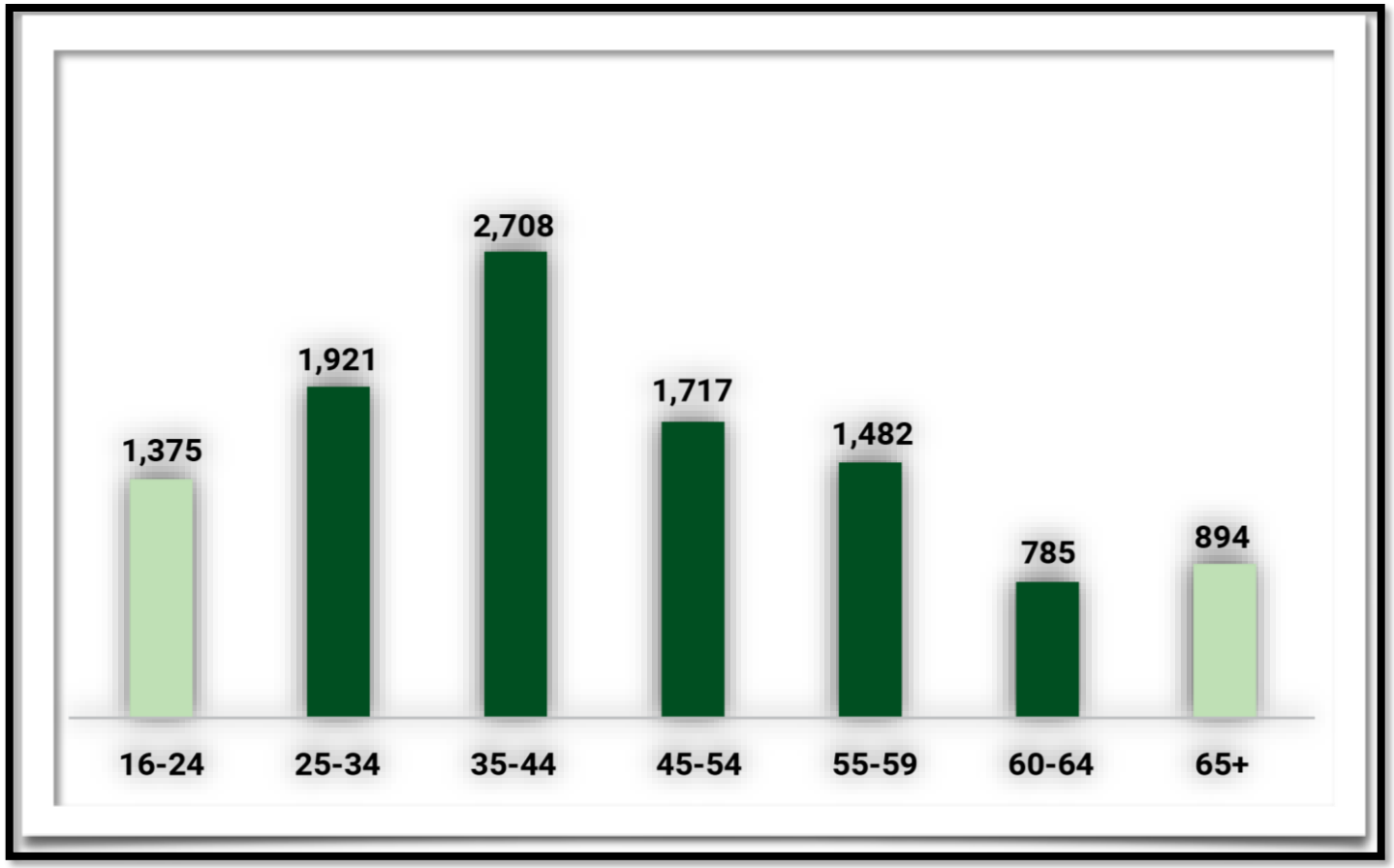
*Minimum wage may continue to increase each January 1 based on a measure of inflation.

New Jersey's GDP for Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting



American Community Survey, 2022
Demographic Profile

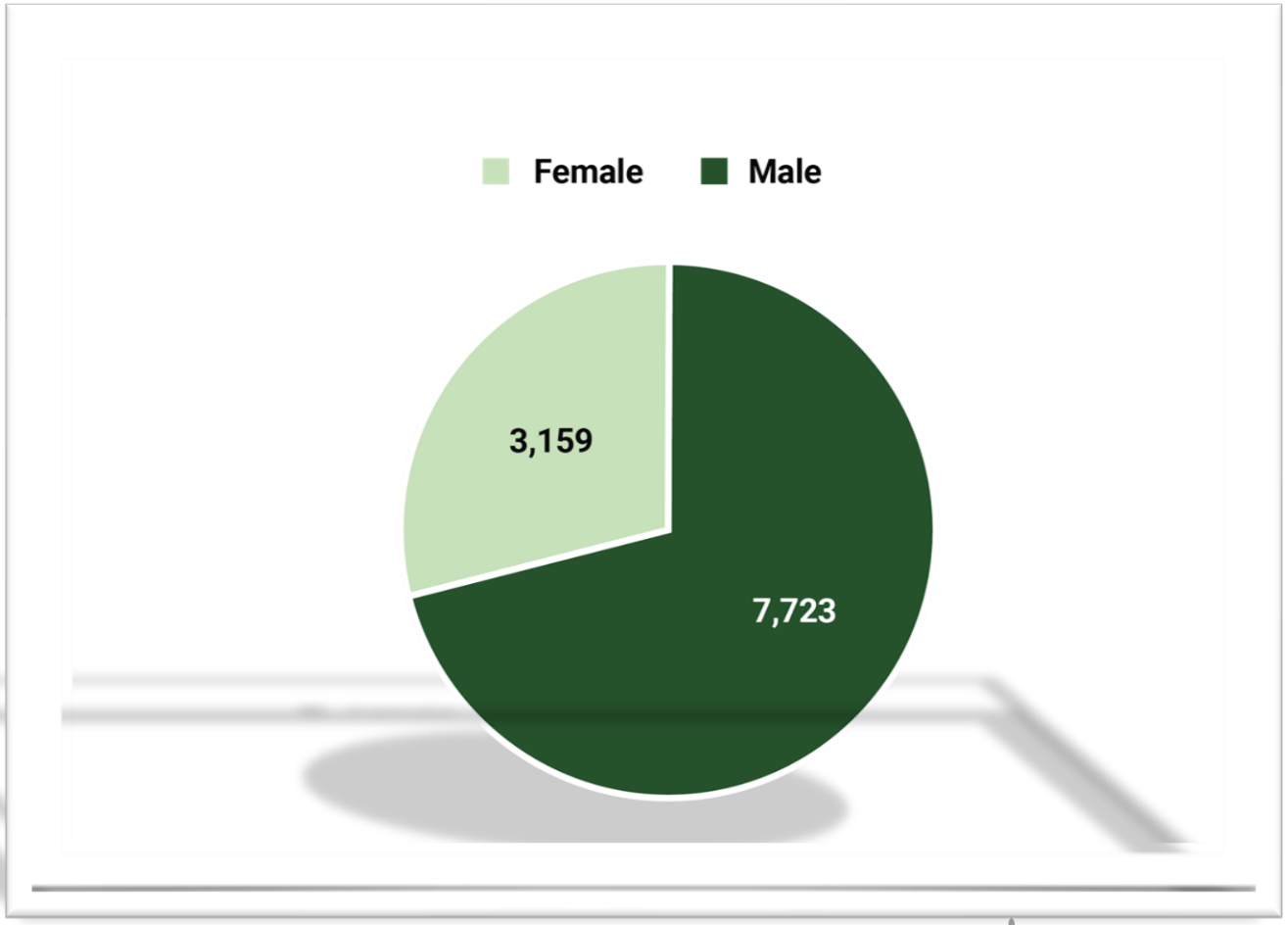
79% of the Workforce Falls Within the 25 to 64 Age Range



American Community Survey, 2022

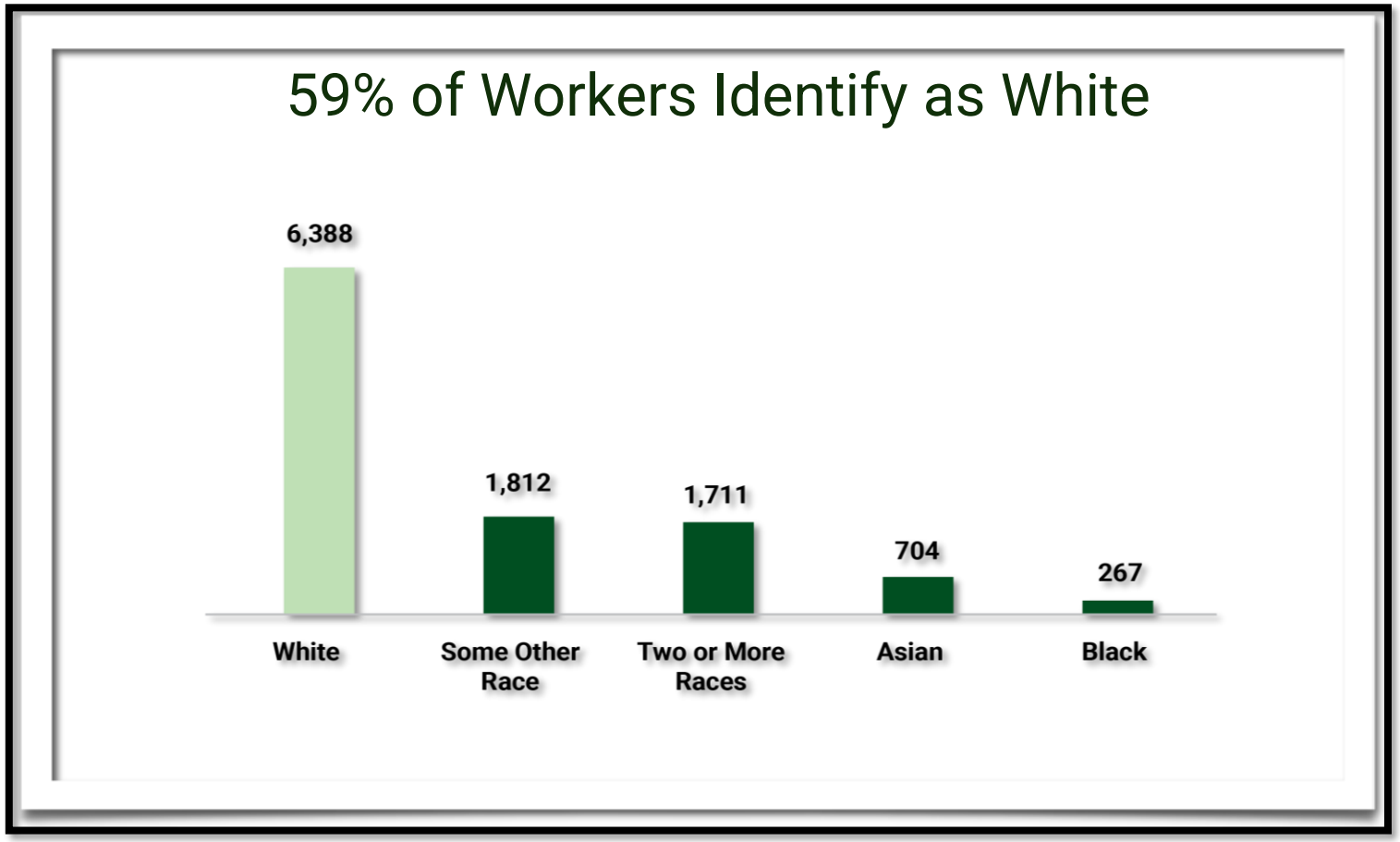
Demographic Profile (Continued)

71% of Workers Identify as Male



American Community Survey, 2022

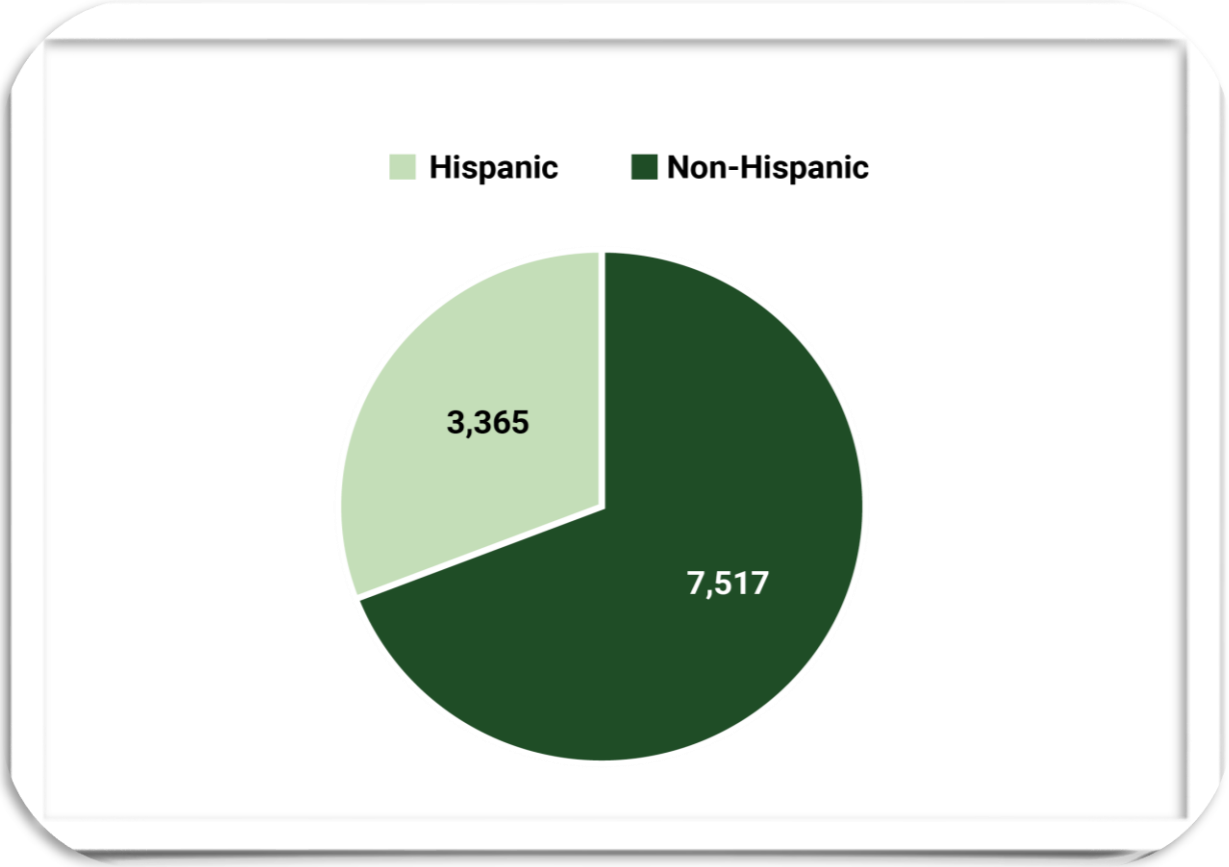
Demographic Profile (Continued)



American Community Survey, 2022

Demographic Profile (Continued)

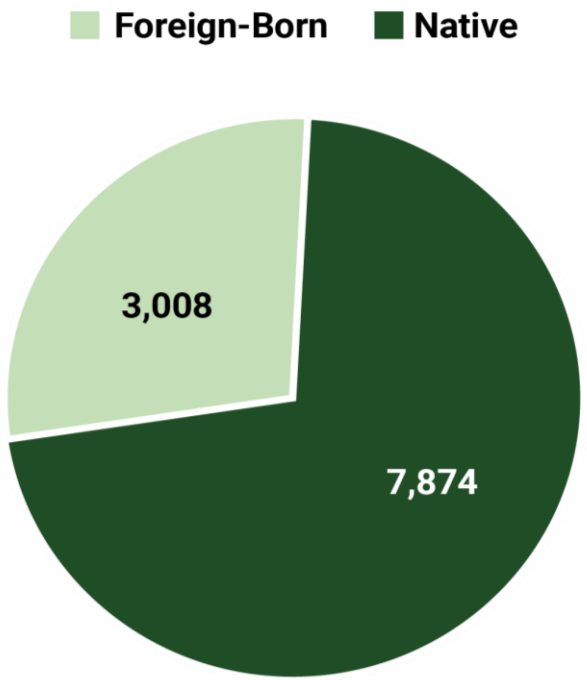
30% of Workers Identify as Hispanic



American Community Survey, 2022

Demographic Profile (Continued)

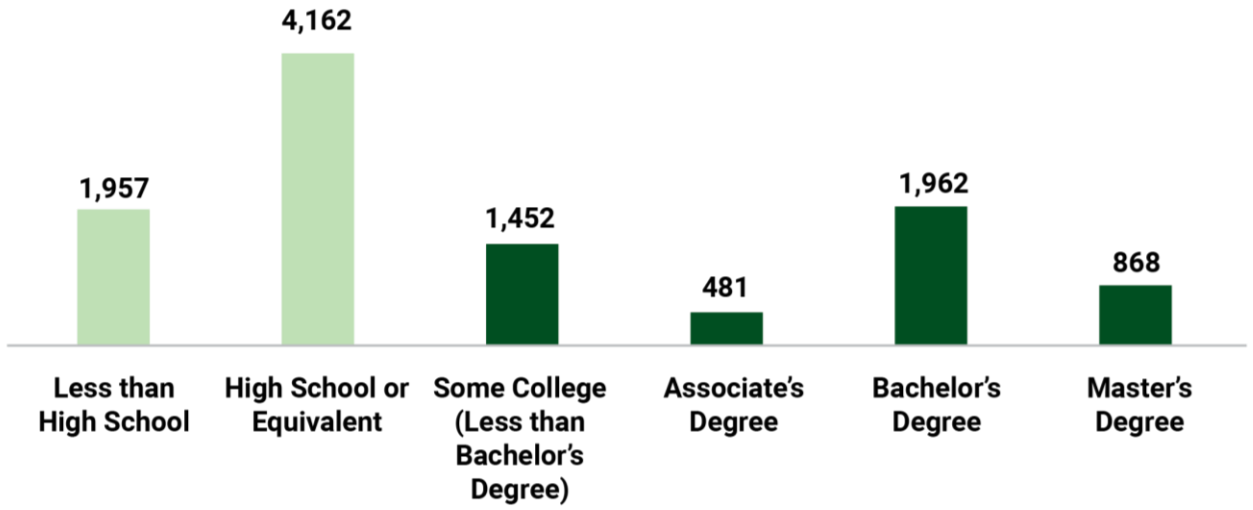
28% of Workers are Foreign-Born



American Community Survey, 2022

Demographic Profile (Continued)

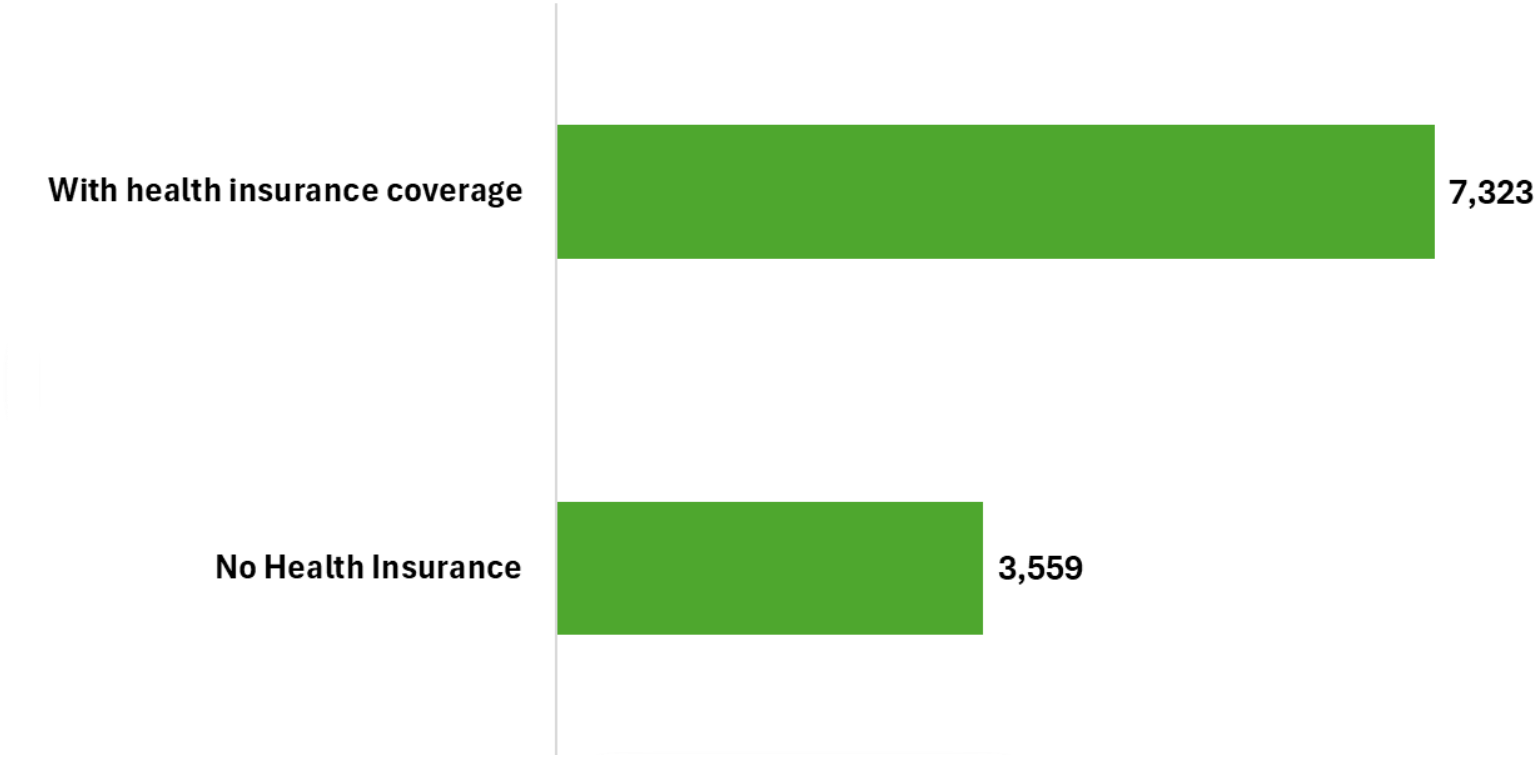
44% of Workers have Attained Some College or Higher Level of Education



American Community Survey, 2022

Demographic Profile (Continued)

33% of employees do not have health insurance coverage



Farmland Statistics

Census of Agriculture, 2022

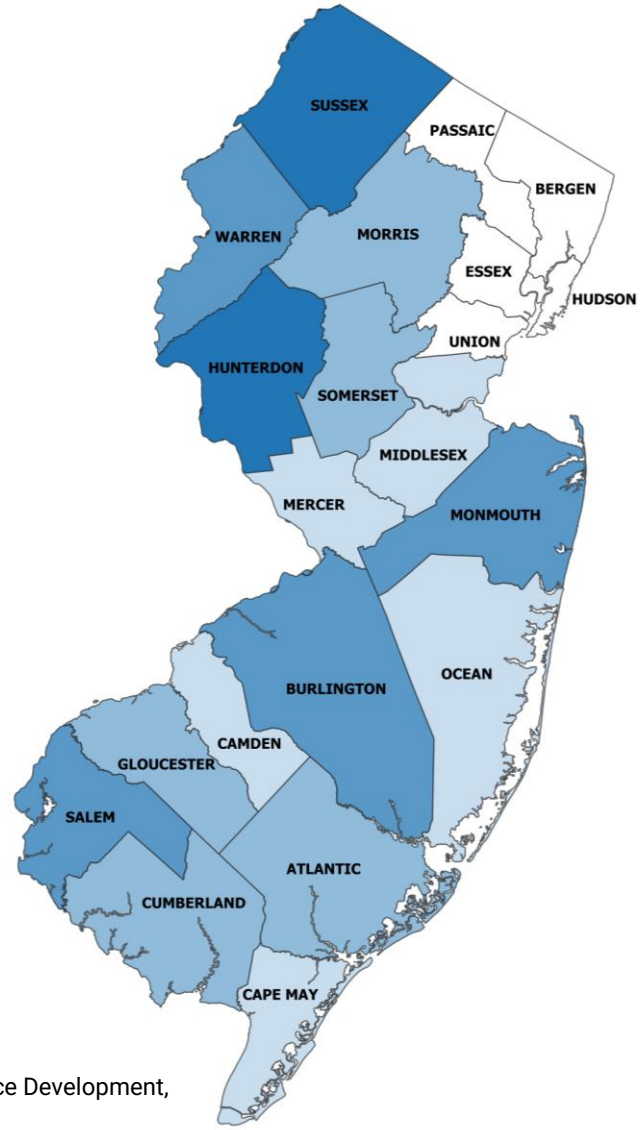
- **Approximately 10,000 farms**
  - 24,464 workers
  - 11,321 or 46% work 150+ days
  - 8,248 or 34% of workers are migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs, from other countries and states)

Number of Agricultural Farms in New Jersey by County, 2022

Number of Agricultural Farms

- 3-100
- 101-300
- 301-550
- 551-1,000
- 1,001-1,623

New Jersey: 9,998



Data Source: USDA Census of Agriculture
Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Research and Information, May 2024

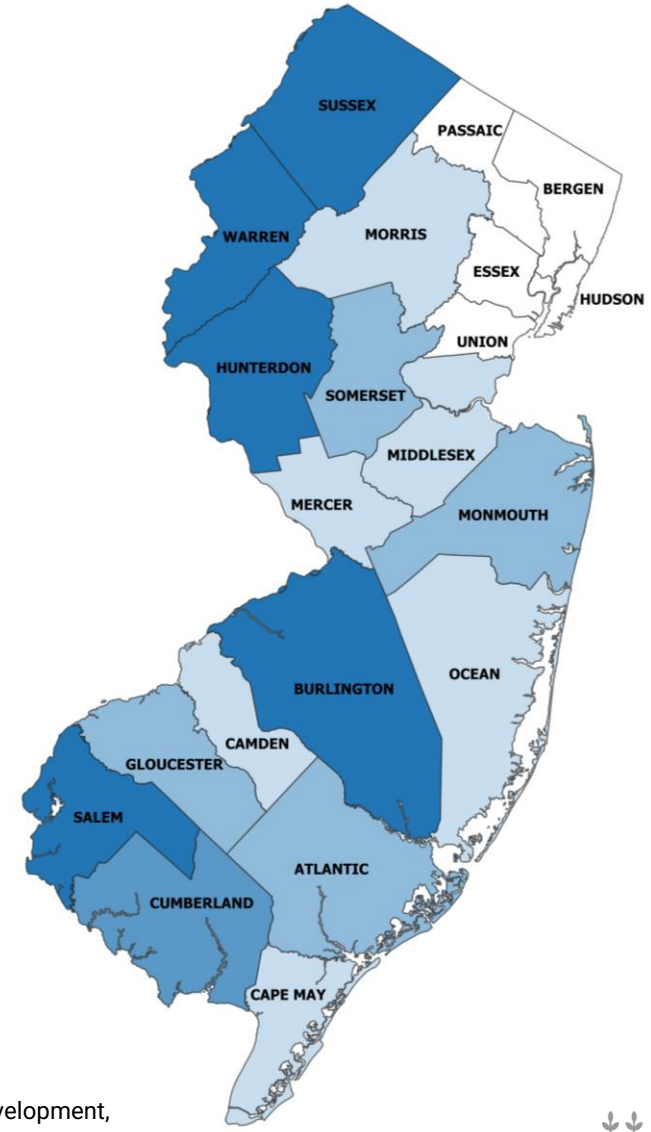
Agricultural Land Size (in Acres) in New Jersey by County, 2022

Agricultural Land Size (in Acres)

- 0-2,000
- 2,001-20,000
- 20,001-45,000
- 45,001-70,000
- 70,001-97,465

New Jersey: 711,401

*Essex County and Hudson County marked as “(D)”



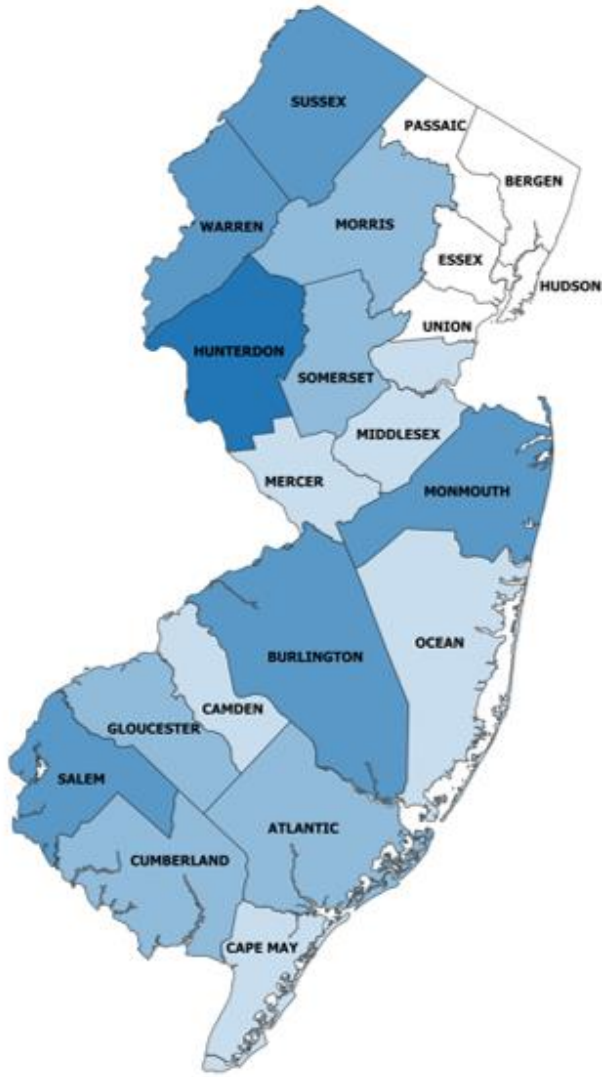
Data Source: USDA Census of Agriculture
Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Research and Information, May 2024

Number of Cropland Farms in New Jersey by County, 2022

Number of Cropland Farms

- 2-100
- 101-300
- 301-500
- 501-1,000
- 1,001-1,252

New Jersey: 7,758



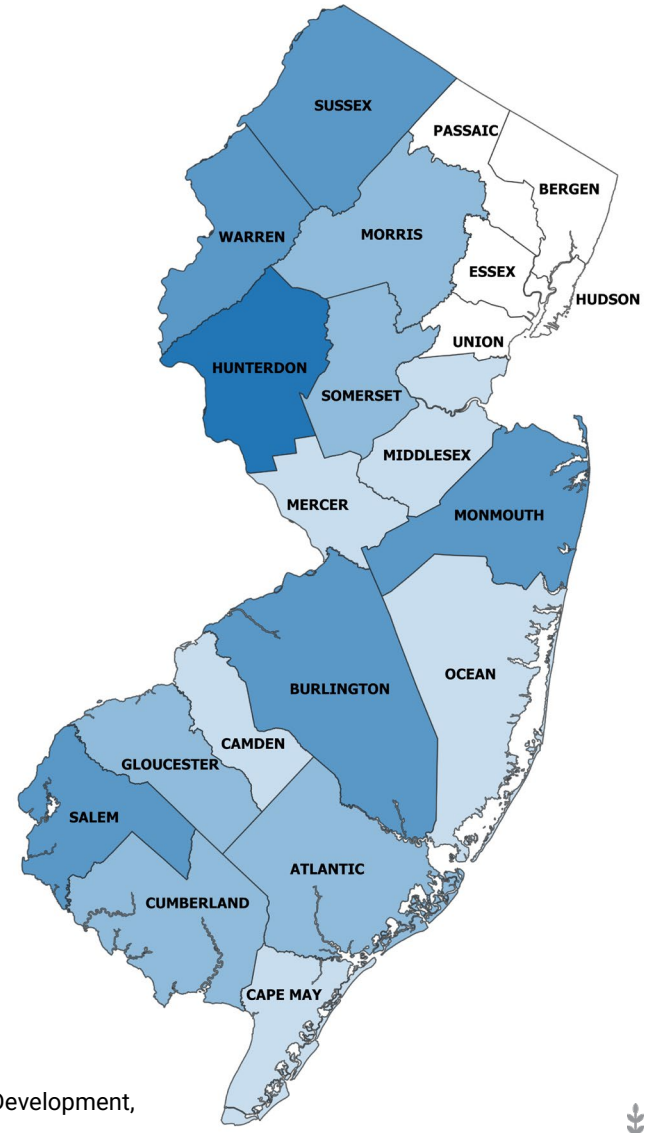
Data Source: USDA Census of Agriculture
Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Research and Information, May 2024

Number of Harvested Cropland Farms in New Jersey by County, 2022

Number of Harvested Cropland Farms

- 2-100
- 101-300
- 301-500
- 501-800
- 801-1,098

New Jersey: 7,051



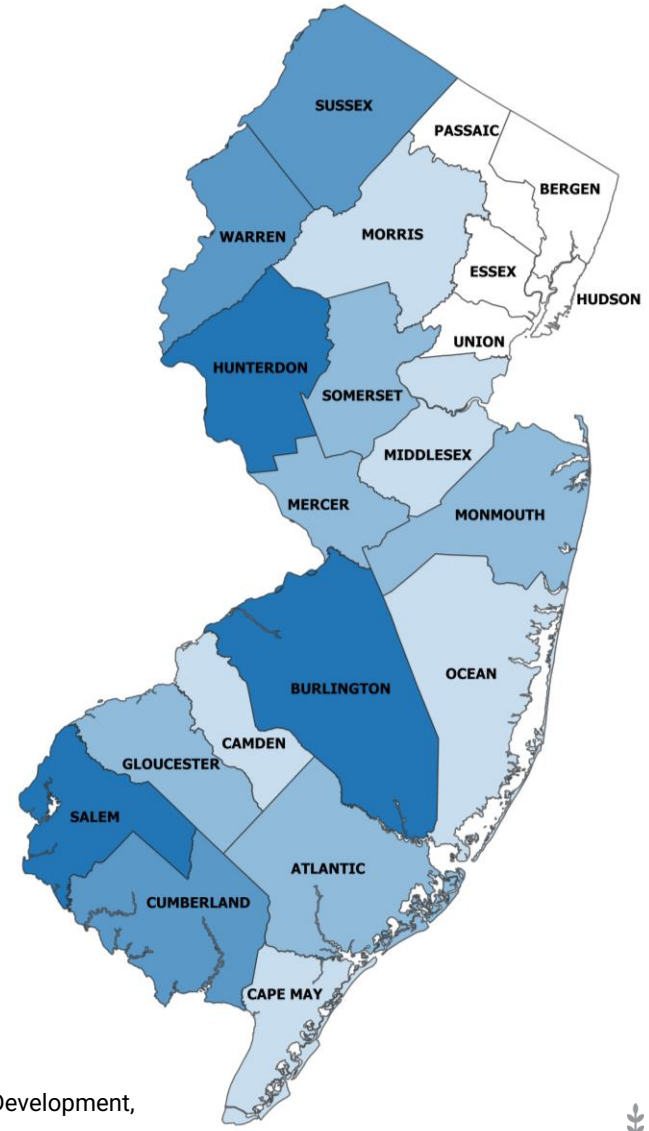
Data Source: USDA Census of Agriculture
Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Research and Information, May 2024

Acres of Harvested Cropland Farms in New Jersey by County, 2022

Acres of Harvested Cropland Farms

- 0-1,000
- 1,001-10,000
- 10,001-30,000
- 30,001-45,000
- 45,001-74,793

New Jersey: 395,232



*Essex County and Hudson County marked as "(D)"

Data Source: USDA Census of Agriculture
Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Research and Information, May 2024

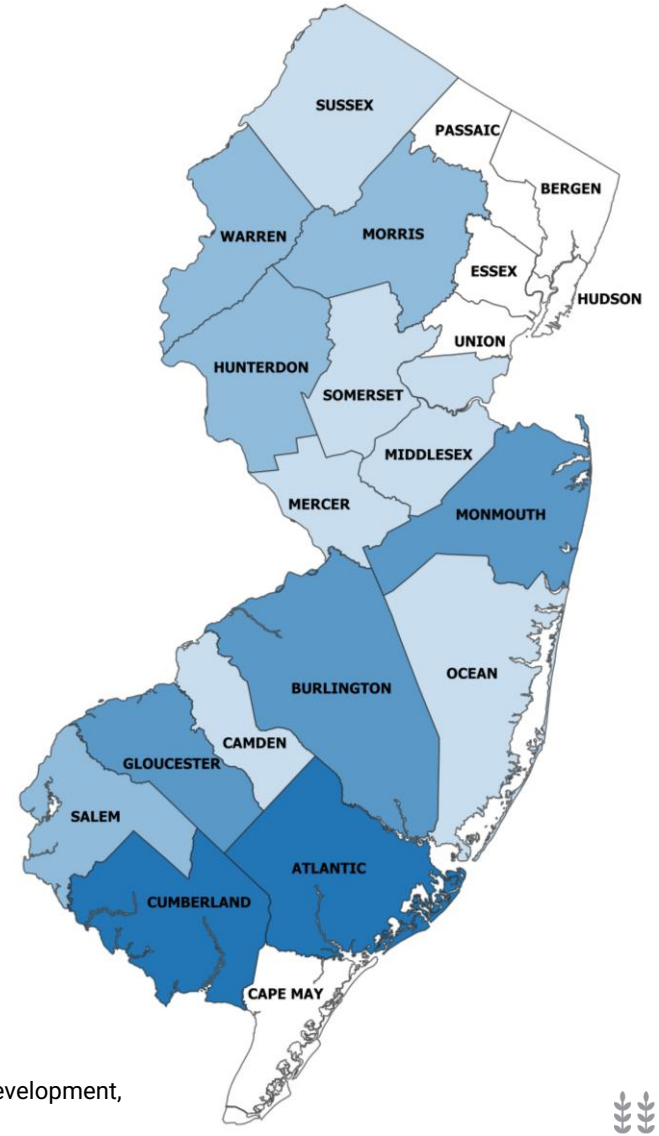
Hired Farm Labor in New Jersey by County, 2022
Ranked by Number of Laborers

Hired Farm Labor

- 0-300
- 301-700
- 701-1,500
- 1,501-3,000
- 3,001-5,713

New Jersey: 24,464

*Hudson County N/A



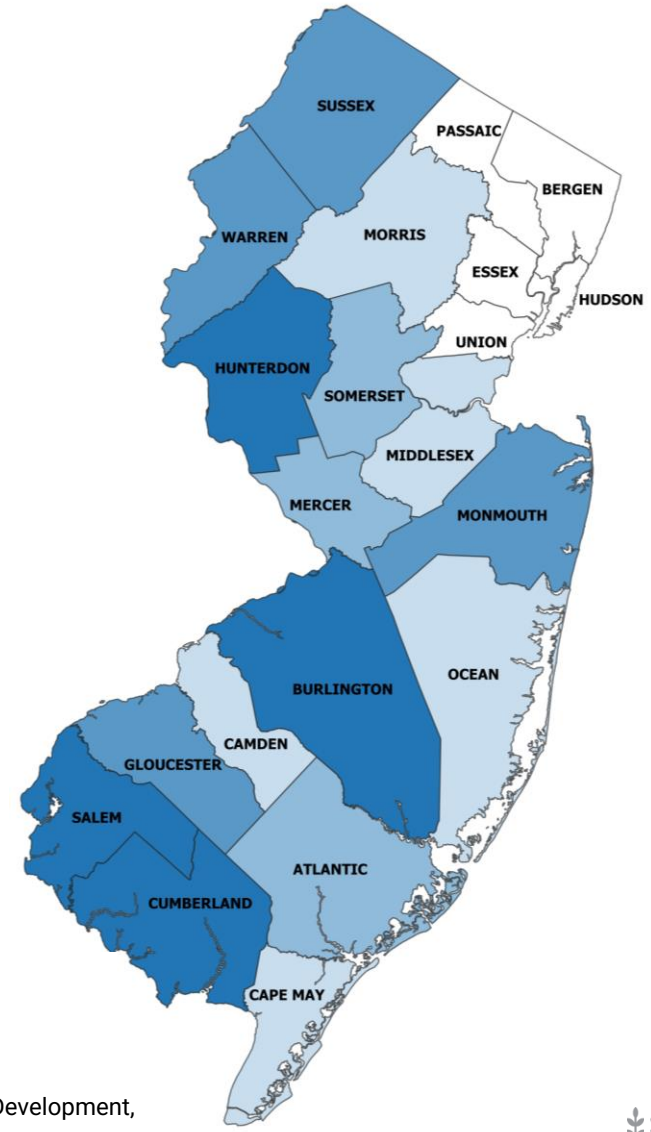
Data Source: USDA Census of Agriculture
Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Research and Information, May 2024

Hired Farm Labor in New Jersey by County, 2022
Ranked by Laborers per Acre

Acres of Cropland Farms

- 0-500
- 501-10,000
- 10,001-20,000
- 20,001-50,000
- 50,001-79,218

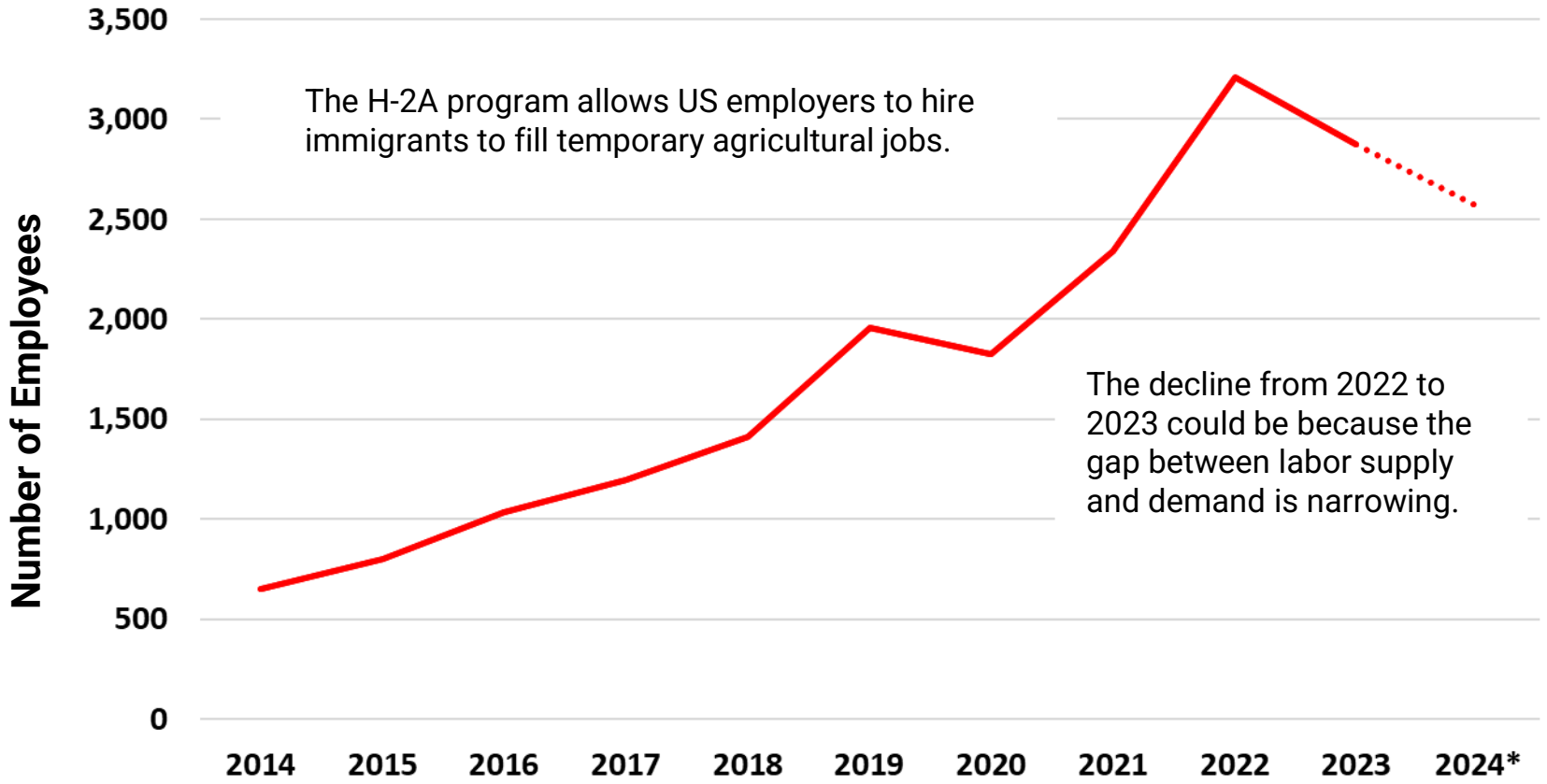
New Jersey: 449,682



*Essex County and Hudson County marked as "(D)"

Data Source: USDA Census of Agriculture
Prepared by: New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Office of Research and Information, May 2024

Total H-2A Workers: A Rising Trend Since 2014



*2024 data are incomplete

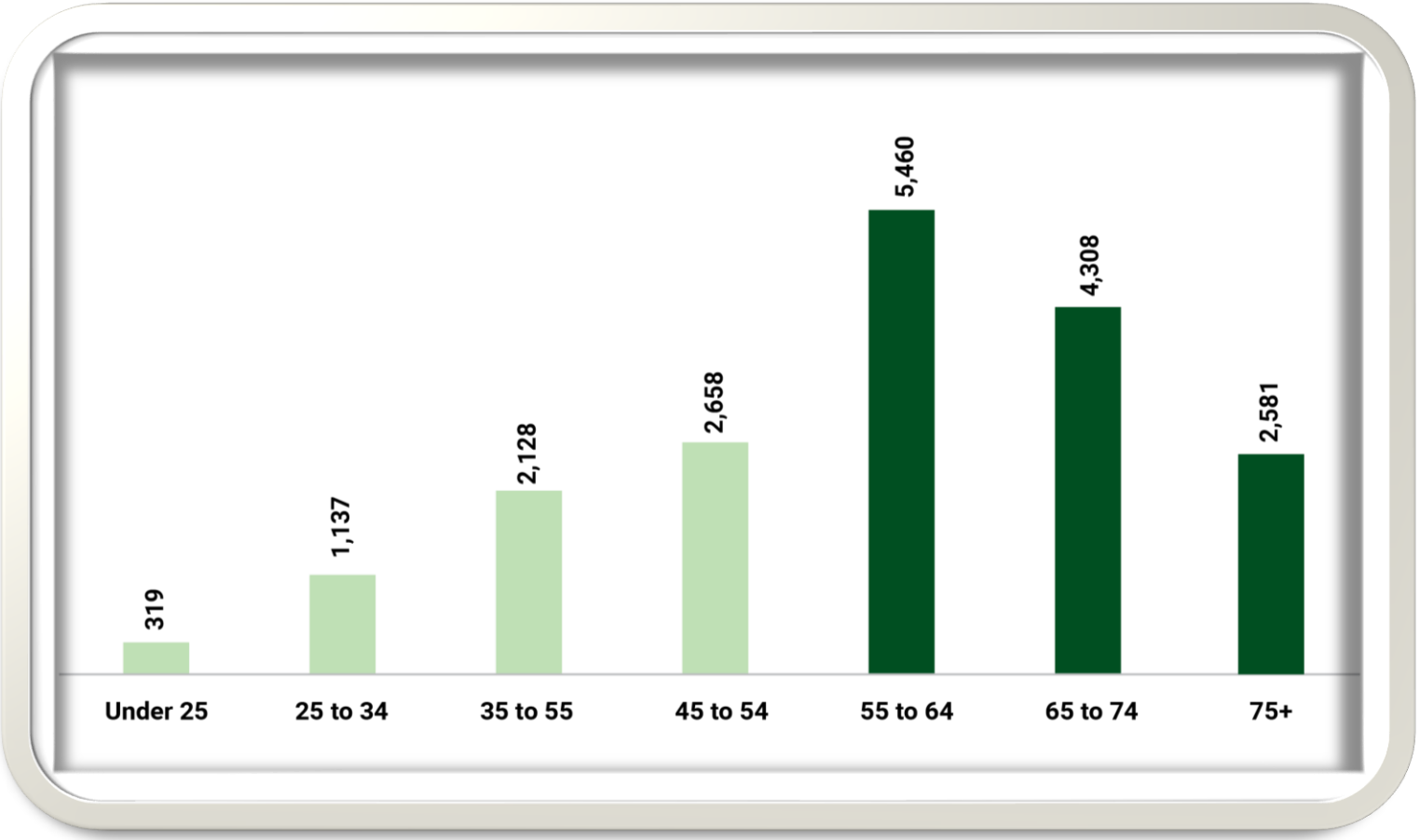
Migrant Workers by County: 2017 and 2022

County	2017	2022	Change
ATLANTIC	6,363	3,952	(2,411)
BERGEN	(D)	-	
BURLINGTON	739	879	140
CAMDEN	296	199	(97)
CAPE MAY	(D)	(D)	
CUMBERLAND	1,173	1,499	326
ESSEX	-	-	
GLOUCESTER	733	581	(152)
HUDSON	-	-	
HUNTERDON	287	125	(162)
MERCER	26	38	12
MIDDLESEX	(D)	42	
MONMOUTH	175	292	117
MORRIS	108	128	20
OCEAN	23	8	(15)
PASSAIC	(D)	(D)	
SALEM	479	379	(100)
SOMERSET	48	6	(42)
SUSSEX	-	(D)	
UNION	-	-	
WARREN	110	83	(27)
NEW JERSEY	**10,675**	**8,248**	**(2,427)**

Source: Census of Agriculture, Table 1.
County Summary Highlights: 2022 and 2017.

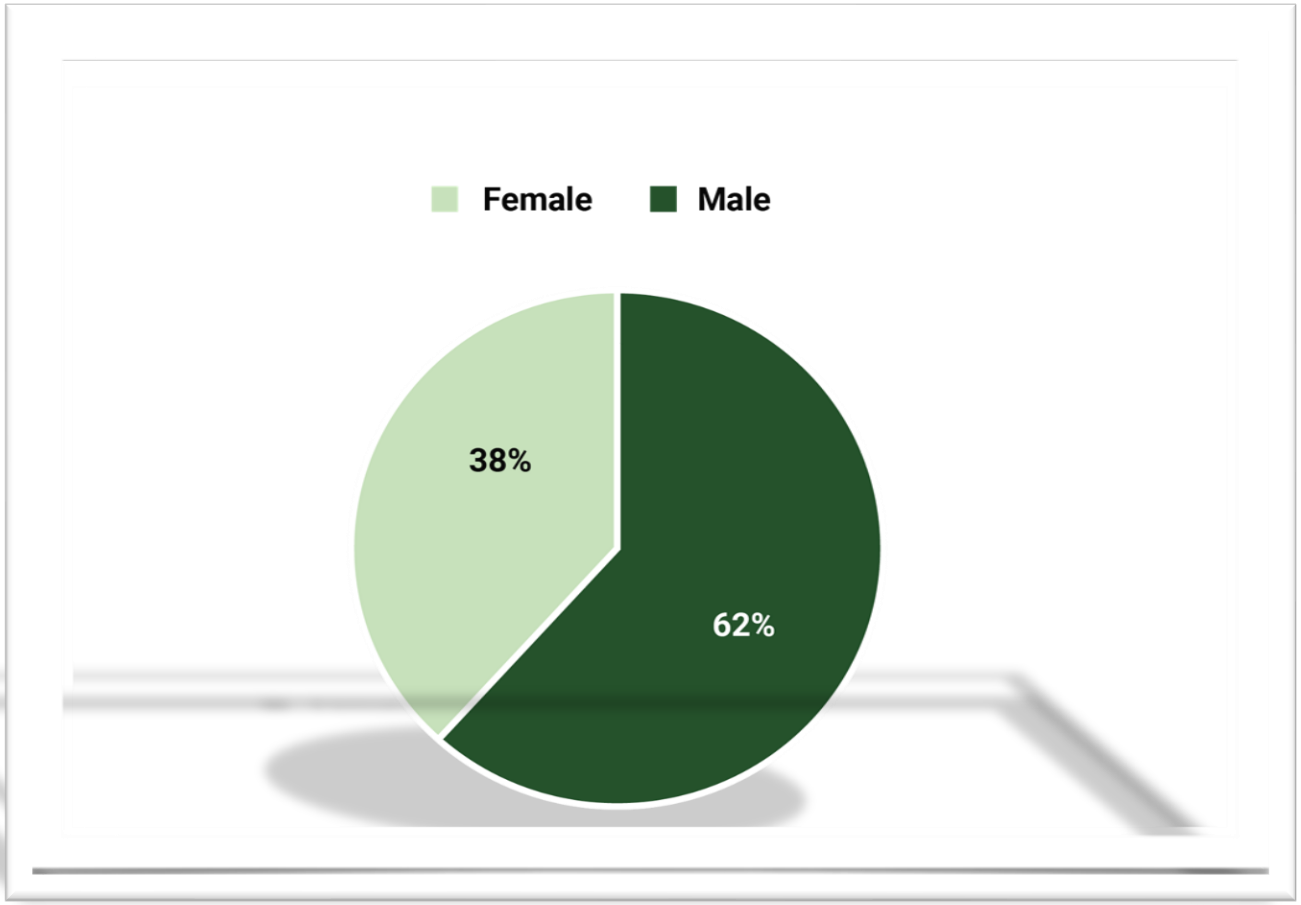
Census of Agriculture, 2022

66% of producers are aged 55 and over



Census of Agriculture, 2022 (Continued)

The number of female producers increased
by 5% between 2017 and 2022



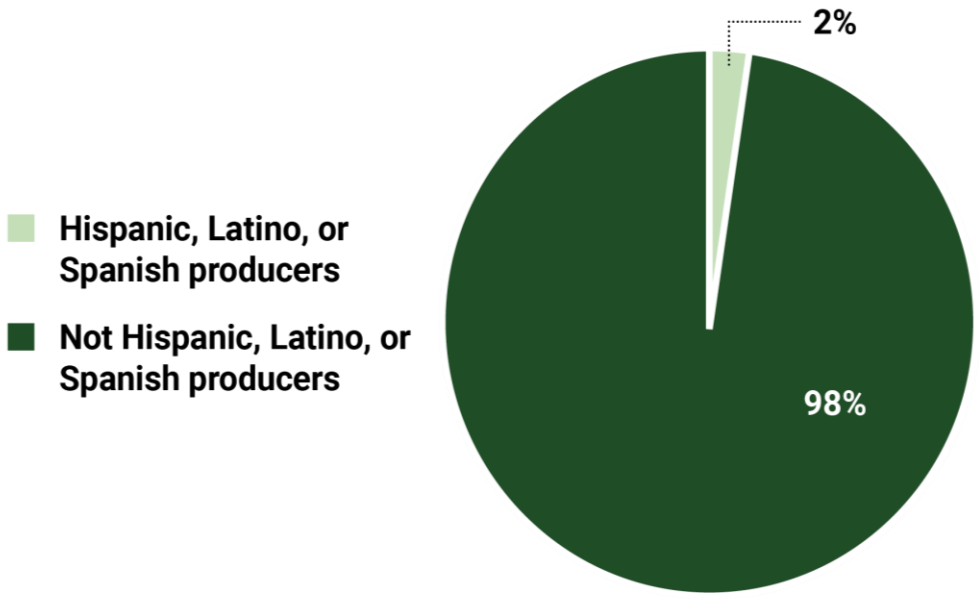
Census of Agriculture, 2022 (Continued)

Producer Demographics:
Rankings by Race Based on 2022 Percentages

CATEGORY	TOTAL
White	97.5%
Asian	1.7%
Black or African American	0.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1%
TOTAL	100%

Census of Agriculture, 2022 (Continued)

Only 2% (459) of producers identify as Hispanic, Latino or Spanish



Appendix

Sources

- The U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture data, 2017 and 2022
- U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
- IMPLAN Economic Impact Software

Glossary of Terms

Two or More Races: Individuals identifying as a combination of races, such as both White and Black

Some Other Race: Individuals identifying as a single race other than White, Black or Asian

Hired Labor: Anyone hired and compensated to perform work

Producer: Anyone involved with any kind of decision making with the establishment

Cropland Farm: Farms that potentially grow crops for harvest

Harvested Cropland Farm: Farms that grow and harvest crops

(D): The data point is not publishable to avoid identifying individual farms

A special thanks to our dedicated team members for their invaluable contributions to the agriculture profile:

- **Gerardo Benavides,** Office of Policy
- **Chief Len Preston,** State Data Center – Office of Research and Information
- **Chief Roseanne Elcenko,** Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs – Office of Research and Information
- **Chief Jason Timian,** Labor Market Information – Office of Research and Information