



# What's up on work in agriculture?

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## 2021: International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

The joint initiative encourages regional, national and organizational stakeholders and individuals to identify concrete actions that they will take by December 2021, to help end child labour. The deadline to submit these Action Pledges is 30 March. Pledge makers are invited to document their efforts and progress throughout the year, through videos, interviews, blogs and impact stories.

In the last 20 years almost 100 million children have been removed from child labour, bringing numbers down from 246 million in 2000 to 152 million in 2016.

However, progress across regions is uneven. Almost half of child labour happens in Africa (72 million children), followed by Asia and the Pacific (62 million). 70 per cent of children in child labour work in agriculture, mainly in subsistence and commercial farming and livestock herding. Almost half of all these children work in occupations or situations considered hazardous for their health and lives.

The COVID-19 crisis has brought additional poverty to these already vulnerable populations and may reverse years of progress in the fight against child labour. School closures have aggravated the situation

and many millions of children are working to contribute to the family income. The pandemic has also made women, men and children more vulnerable to exploitation.

Links : [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_766351/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_766351/lang--en/index.htm)

Tags : Child labour

## COVID-19 Risk & Unemployment Rates Lower Number Of Migrant Workers



The number of migrant farmworkers in the U.S. dropped 42% in 2020, likely because of the risk of COVID-19 coupled with high unemployment rates.

H-2A farmworkers, who are hired to help with seasonal harvests, make up 10% of farmworkers in the United States. Last year, there were 150,000 H-2A farmworkers in the field from January through July. According to the Economic Policy Institute, it's a decrease from 2019, which had 257,667 H2-A certified jobs.

High unemployment rates decrease the demand for H-2A workers. Diane Charlton, a professor of agricultural economics at Montana State University, says a 1% increase in a state's unemployment rate is associated with a 5% decrease in demand for H-2A workers.

Links : <https://www.tspr.org/post/covid-19-risk-unemployment-rates-lower-number-migrant-workers>

Tags : Rural Employment

## ILO to release new report on the effects of COVID-19 on labour markets

The ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Seventh edition, and accompanying press release, will be published on Monday 25 January.

It presents the latest data on workplace closures and losses in working hours, labour income and employment in 2020, comparing the findings with the previous year. The report also gives labour market projections for 2021, including an assessment of the type of recovery we are likely to see in the coming year and recommendations for the way ahead.

Data by region, age, gender, income group and sector, are also included in the report, as well as some country-specific statistics.

Links : [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_766644/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_766644/lang--en/index.htm)

## ILO sees labour market recovery in the second half of 2021

Tentative signs of recovery are emerging in global labor markets following an unprecedented disruption in 2020, according to the latest report from the International Labor Organization (ILO).

The report notes that the estimated recovery in the second half of 2021 is mainly thanks to vaccination programs taking effect.

Data showed that 8.8 percent of working hours globally were lost in 2020 - equaling 255 million full-time jobs. The quantum of job loss was approximately four times greater than in the 2009 global financial crisis.

Sangheon Lee, director of Employment Policy Department at ILO, said that lockdown measures and restrictive policies in containment of the coronavirus pandemic were responsible for the drop.

The massive disruption resulted in an 8.3-percent decline in global labor income (before support measures are included), equivalent to \$3.7 trillion or 4.4 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP).

Links : [http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/ilo-in-the-media/WCMS\\_767803/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/ilo-in-the-media/WCMS_767803/lang-en/index.htm)

## Potential Impacts of a Pandemic on the U.S. Farm Labor Market

In the recently released article "Potential Impacts of a Pandemic on the U.S. Farm Labor Market" Diane Charlton from Montana State University and Marcelo Castillo from USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) examine the potential effects of increasing unemployment rates on demand for H-2A guest workers and changes in the number of H-2A visas issued in 2020 compared to previous years.

Charlton says, "We illustrate that disruptions in the food supply chain due to the pandemic could reduce the demand for farm workers in upstream markets while worker sickness and barriers to labor migration could reduce the supply of worker to farms. Historically high unemployment rates during the pandemic could reduce labor supply constraints if workers laid off from other industries are willing to work in agriculture. We find that a 1-percentage point increase in the state unemployment rate from 2007-2019 was associated with a 5 percent decrease in H-2A demand. Considerably fewer H-2A guest worker visas were issued in April 2020 compared to previous years. Nevertheless, nearly 150,000 H-2A visas were issued from January-July, 2020 indicating that H-2A remained an important source of labor for U.S. farms during the pandemic."

Links : [http://business.dailytimesleader.com/dailytimesleader/news/read/40725762/potential\\_impacts\\_of\\_a\\_pandemic\\_on\\_the\\_u.s.\\_farm\\_labor\\_market](http://business.dailytimesleader.com/dailytimesleader/news/read/40725762/potential_impacts_of_a_pandemic_on_the_u.s._farm_labor_market)

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