Characteristics of the Foreign-Born Population Working in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting Industry: Analysis of the American Community Survey, 2009-2013

By Yesenia D. Acosta and Eric Jensen

ABSTRACT

According to the 2009–2013 American Community Survey (ACS), 40.3 million foreign born lived in the United States, representing 12.9 percent of the total U.S. population. Of the 25.8 million foreign born who were in the labor force, 696,000 (2.7%) worked in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry. The ACS classifies those working in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry by type of employment. The five major types of employment for this industry include: crop production; animal production; forestry and logging; fishing, hunting, and trapping; and support activities for agriculture and forestry. This poster will analyze various demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the foreign born working in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry by type of employment.

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

According to the 2009–2013 American Community Survey (ACS), 40.3 million foreign born lived in the United States, representing 12.9 percent of the total U.S. population. Of the 25.8 million foreign born who were in the labor force, 696,000 (2.7%) worked in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry. The ACS classifies those working in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry by type of employment. The five major types of employment for this industry include: crop production; animal production; forestry and logging;

fishing, hunting, and trapping; and support activities for agriculture and forestry. This poster will analyze various demographic, social, and economic characteristics of the foreign born working in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry by type of employment.

It is important to note the diverse composition of the foreign-born population working in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry. While some of the foreign born working in the industry are naturalized citizens, some are legal permanent residents ("green card" holders), others are temporary migrants—such as international students or temporary workers—who may stay for several years and then return home. Foreign born also include humanitarian migrants, such as refugees and asylees, and unauthorized immigrants residing in the United States.

PLANNED ANALYSIS

The 2009-2013 ACS data will be released in the fall of 2014. This poster will use 2009-2013 microdata to examine the following:

- Demographic characteristics by nativity of those working in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employment at the national level
- Demographic characteristics of the foreign-born population by type of agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employment at the national level
- Social characteristics of the foreign-born population by type of agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employment at the national level
- Economic characteristics of the foreign-born population by type of agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employment at the national level
- Foreign-born population working in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting industry by state.

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

The data presented in this poster are based on the ACS sample interviewed from January 2009 through December 2013. The estimates based on this sample describe the actual average values of person, household, and housing unit characteristics over this period of collection. Sampling error is the uncertainty between an estimate based on a sample and the corresponding value that would be obtained if the estimate were based on the entire population (as from a census). Measures of sampling error are provided in the form of margins of error for key estimates included in this poster. All comparative statements in this poster will undergo statistical testing, and comparisons are significant at the 90 percent level unless otherwise noted. In addition to sampling error, nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the operations used to collect and process survey data such as editing, reviewing, or keying data from questionnaires.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic, social, economic, and housing data for the nation, states, congressional districts, counties, places, and other localities every year. It has an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses across the United States and Puerto Rico and includes both housing units and group quarters (e.g. nursing facilities and prisons). The ACS is conducted in every county throughout the nation, and every municipio in Puerto Rico, where it is called the Puerto Rico Community Survey.