



# Hawaii Agricultural Labor

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

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In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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## Sugarcane and Pineapple Workforce Declines Further

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce totaled 6,000 workers during the January 11-17, 2009 survey week, down 6 percent from a year ago. Pineapple and sugarcane workers totaled 900 workers (does not include mill or cannery workers) during the January 11-17, 2009 survey week, down 22 percent from the same period a year ago as layoffs continued at Maui Land and Pineapple Company and Gay and Robinson on Kauai. Other hired workers (livestock, field, supervisors, office workers, etc.) showed a 3 percent decrease from a year ago at 5,100 workers during the survey week in January 2009.

### Total farm workforce

Hawaii's total farm workforce is estimated at 10,500 during the survey week of

January 11-17, 2009, unchanged compared to the same week a year ago. The number of self-employed operators totaled 3,500 during January 2009's survey week, up 9 percent from a year ago.

### Average wage rate declines

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the survey week of January 11-17, 2009 was estimated at \$12.69 per hour. This was 3 percent lower than a year ago as wage rates for supervisors (include owner) declined.

Hawaii farms employing from 1 to 9 workers paid an average of \$10.71 per hour for all hired workers, while the combined average wage for field and livestock workers was \$10.36 an hour. ■

**FARM LABOR:** Number of workers on farms, quarterly and annual averages, State of Hawaii, 2008 and 2009 <sup>1/</sup>

Quarter	Total Farm Workforce	Number of Farm Workers by Type				
		Self-employed Farm Operators <sup>2/</sup>	Unpaid Workers <sup>2/ 3/</sup>	Hired Workers		
				Total	Sugarcane and Pineapple <sup>4/</sup>	Other
<b>2008</b>						
January	10,500	3,200	900	6,400	1,150	5,250
April	10,400	3,300	800	6,300	1,150	5,150
July	10,500	3,400	900	6,200	1,150	5,050
October	10,200	3,400	900	5,900	1,000	4,900
Annual average	10,400	3,300	900	6,200	1,100	5,100
<b>2009</b>						
January	10,500	3,500	1,000	6,000	900	5,100
April						
July						
October						
Annual average						

<sup>1/</sup> Estimates for each quarter are based on a survey week that includes the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Annual averages are based on quarterly estimates.

<sup>2/</sup> Self-employed and unpaid worker estimates were discontinued from July 2002 to April 2007 due to a change in the national labor statistics program.

<sup>3/</sup> Unpaid workers include family members and others working 15 or more hours per week.

<sup>4/</sup> Data combined to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

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**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers for Hawaii, California, and United States, January 11-17, 2009 with Comparison. <sup>1/</sup>**

Quarter	All Hired Farm Workers				Field and Livestock Workers			
	Hawaii		California	United States <sup>2/</sup>	Hawaii		California	United States <sup>2/</sup>
	Farms With 1-9 Workers	All Farms			Farms With 1-9 Workers	All Farms		
<i>Dollars per hour</i>								
January 6-12, 2008	11.46	13.04	11.56	10.81	10.22	10.92	10.32	9.88
January 11-17, 2009	10.71	12.69	11.16	10.93	10.36	10.93	10.10	10.08

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes agricultural service workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Excludes Alaska.

**U.S. hired workers up 2 percent from a year ago**

There were 785,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2009, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 595,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 190,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.93 per hour during the January 2009 reference week, up 12 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.96 per hour, up

29 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$10.27 per hour compared with \$10.18 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.08 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.■

Source: *Farm Labor*, February 20, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.