



Hawaii Agricultural Labor

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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All-Farm Wage Declines While Small Farm Wages Rise

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce totaled 6,900 workers during the January 9-15, 2011 survey week, up 5 percent from October's survey week estimate, and 10 percent from January of last year. Number of hired sugarcane and pineapple workers increased by 50, while all other hired workers increased by 250 people from October.

Weather conditions were poor to fair for agriculture during the survey week. Heavy rains fell for part of the week with thunderstorms leaving drenching rains on Maui, Oahu, and Kauai. Heavy rains caused flooding and damage in some areas. Locations without adequate drainage experienced some flooding and pooling of water, while mud and rockslides also occurred in some areas.

Total farm workforce

Hawaii's total farm workforce was estimated at 12,300 during the survey week of January 9-15, 2011. This was an increase of 7 percent from October 2010 and a 10 percent

increase from January 2010.

The number of self-employed operators totaled 4,500 during January 2011's survey week, up 22 percent from the previous survey period in October, and up 18 percent from January a year ago.

Average wage rate increases

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the survey week of January 9-15, 2011 was estimated at \$13.51 per hour, down 6 percent from October, and down 4 percent from January a year ago.

Hawaii farms having 1 to 9 hired workers paid an average of \$12.42 per hour; up 4 percent compared to October's average wage and up 6 percent from last January's revised average wage. The combined average wage for field and livestock workers on operations with 1 to 9 hired workers was \$11.13 an hour. This was up 1 percent from October 2010, and 5 percent from the January 2010 wage. ■

FARM LABOR: Number of Workers on Farms, Quarterly and Annual Averages, State of Hawaii, 2010 and 2011 ^{1/}

Quarter	Total Farm Workforce	Number of Farm Workers by Type				
		Self-employed Farm Operators	Unpaid Workers ^{2/}	Hired Workers		
				Total	Sugarcane and Pineapple ^{3/}	Other
2010						
January	11,200	3,800	1,100	6,300	750	5,550
April	10,800	3,600	900	6,300	750	5,550
July	11,100	4,000	900	6,200	800	5,400
October	11,500	3,700	1,200	6,600	800	5,800
Annual average	11,200	3,800	1,000	6,400	800	5,600
2011						
January	12,300	4,500	900	6,900	850	6,050
April						
July						
October						
Annual average						

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

^{2/} Unpaid workers include family members and others working 15 or more hours per week.

^{3/} 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 9-15, 2011 with Comparison. ^{1/}

Quarter	All Hired Farm Workers				Field and Livestock Workers			
	Hawaii		California	United States ^{2/}	Hawaii		California	United States ^{2/}
	Farms With 1-9 Workers	All Farms			Farms With 1-9 Workers	All Farms		
	<i>Dollars per hour</i>							
January 10-16, 2010	11.76	14.14	11.68	11.08	10.55	11.82	10.56	10.18
January 9-15, 2011	12.42	13.51	11.05	11.29	11.13	11.48	10.05	10.35

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Excludes Alaska.

U.S. Hired Workers Up 1 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 807,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2011, up 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 602,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 205,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.29 per hour during the January 2011 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.23 per hour, up

13 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$10.52 per hour compared with \$10.31 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.35 per hour, was up 17 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 38.9 for hired workers during the survey week, up 5 percent from a year ago. ■

Source: *Farm Labor*, February 17, 2011, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.