

# Hawaii

## Agricultural Labor

In cooperation with:



Agricultural Development Division

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### Number of workers unchanged from year ago

Hawaii's agricultural hired work force totaled 6,800 during the April 9-15, 2006 survey week, unchanged from a year ago, but down 4 percent from the previous survey week of January 8-14, 2006. The diversified agricultural sector accounted for 78 percent of the total hired force with 5,300 workers. The sugarcane industry employed 600 farm workers (does not include mill workers) during the survey week, down 8 percent from the previous survey week. Farm workers in the pineapple industry decreased 14 percent from the previous quarter to 900 (does not include cannery workers).

#### Average wage rate up 6 percent

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the April survey period was \$11.96 an hour (see table on next page), 63 cents more than April 2005. The combined average wage for field and livestock workers was \$9.93 an hour, 14 cents above a year ago.

Farms employing from 1 to 9 workers paid an average of \$10.30 per hour for all hired workers, while the combined average wage for field and livestock workers was \$9.16 an hour. ■

#### Hourly wage rates ..... page 2

Hourly wage rates by type of worker and size of farm, Hawaii, California, and U.S. averages.

#### U.S. hired workers..... page 2

Latest estimates and news on the U.S. agricultural work force.

#### Hired workers on farms State of Hawaii, quarterly and annual averages <sup>1/</sup>

Quarter	Number of hired workers			
	Total	Sugarcane	Pineapple	Other
<b>2005</b>				
January.....	7,300	550	1,150	5,600
April .....	6,800	700	1,050	5,050
July .....	7,000	700	1,100	5,200
October.....	6,800	650	1,100	5,100
Annual average	7,000	700	1,100	5,200
<b>2006</b>				
January.....	7,100	650	1,050	5,400
April.....	6,800	600	900	5,300
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.

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**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers for Hawaii, California, and United States, April 9-15, 2006 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		
Dollars per hour								
April 10-16, 2005	10.58	11.33	9.48	9.35	9.25	9.79	8.76	8.72
April 9-15, 2006	10.30	11.96	10.19	9.79	9.16	9.93	9.22	9.07

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

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

### U.S. hired workers down 4 percent from a year ago

There were 956,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2006, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 718,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 238,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.79 per hour during the April 2006 reference week, up 44 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.96 per hour, up 40 cents

from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.30 per hour compared with \$9.14 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.07 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 2 percent from a year ago. ■

Source: *Farm Labor*, May 19, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.