



# Hawaii Agricultural Labor

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

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In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

Hawaii Field Office · 1428 South King Street · Honolulu, HI 96814 · 1-(800)-804-9514 · www.nass.usda.gov

## Number of Hired Workers Increases 2 Percent

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce totaled 6,100 workers during the April 12-18, 2009 survey week, up 2 percent from January 2009 but down 3 percent from the same period a year ago. Pineapple and sugarcane workers totaled 900 workers (does not include mill or cannery workers) during the April 12-18, 2009 survey week, unchanged from January's survey week. Other hired workers (livestock, field, supervisors, office workers, etc.) showed a 2 percent increase in April 2009 compared to January 2009's 5,100 workers.

### Total farm workforce

Hawaii's total farm workforce is estimated at 10,300 during the survey week of April 12-18, 2009, down 1 percent compared to the same week a year ago and down 2 percent from the survey week in

January 2009. The number of self-employed operators totaled 3,300 during April 2009's survey week, unchanged from a year ago, but down 6 percent from January 2009.

### Average wage rate increases

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the survey week of April 12-18, 2009 was estimated at \$13.36 per hour. This was 1 percent higher than a year ago as wage rates increased for all categories of hired workers except for supervisors which were down 1 percent.

Hawaii farms having from 1 to 9 hired workers paid an average of \$10.97 per hour during the April 2009 survey week, while the combined average wage for field and livestock workers was \$10.28 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	10,300	3,300	900	6,100	900	5,200
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.

Mark E. Hudson, Director  
King Whetstone, Deputy Director

Ron Nakamura, Research Statistician  
Karen Lee, Statistical Assistant

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers for Hawaii, California, and United States, April 12-18, 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>								
April 6-12, 2008	11.76	13.28	11.05	10.57	10.42	10.91	10.16	9.84
April 12-18, 2009	10.97	13.36	11.07	10.84	10.28	11.40	10.14	10.07

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

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

### U.S. hired workers down 2 percent from a year ago

There were 903,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 680,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 223,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.84 per hour during the April 2009 reference week, up 27 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.99 per hour, up

34 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$10.25 per hour compared with \$10.24 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.07 per hour, was up 23 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 40.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.■

Source: *Farm Labor*, May 22, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.