



# Hawaii

## Agricultural Labor

National  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

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In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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### Number of Hired Agricultural Workers Remain Steady

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce totaled 6,100 workers during the July 12-18, 2009 survey week, unchanged from April's survey week, but down 2 percent from last July. Number of hired sugarcane and pineapple workers remained unchanged from April at 900, while all other hired workers held at 5,200.

Weather conditions were generally good for agriculture as trade winds and scattered showers prevailed for most of the survey week. Sections of Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island were under voluntary water conservation. On Oahu, users of the State's Waimanalo Irrigation System were under a mandatory 20 percent cutback in water usage. At the end of July, approximately 34 percent of the State was experiencing severe, or worse, drought conditions.

### Total farm workforce

Hawaii's total farm workforce is estimated at 10,400 during the survey week of July 12-18, 2009, 1 percent higher than April, but down 1 percent from last July. The number of self-employed operators totaled 3,400 during July 2009's survey week, unchanged from a year ago, but 3 percent more than in April 2009.

### Average wage rate increases

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the survey week of July 12-18, 2009 was estimated at \$13.97 per hour; up 5 percent from April and a year ago.

Hawaii farms having 1 to 9 hired workers paid an average of \$12.50 per hour during the July 2009 survey week, while the combined average wage for field and livestock workers was \$11.40 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	10,400	3,400	900	6,100	900	5,200
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, July 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>							
July 6-12, 2008	11.86	13.33	10.74	10.34	11.10	11.21	10.00	9.74
July 12-18, 2009	12.50	13.97	10.98	10.64	11.40	11.81	10.28	10.04

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

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

### U.S. hired workers up 6 percent from a year ago

There were 1,238,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2009, up 6 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 875,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 363,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.64 per hour during the July 2009 reference week, up 30 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.04 per hour, up

38 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$10.03 per hour compared with \$9.98 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.04 per hour, was up 30 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago. ■

Source: *Farm Labor*, August 21, 2009, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.