



# 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 Up 8 Percent

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce totaled 6,400 workers during the October 11-17, 2009 survey week, up 5 percent from July's survey week, and 8 percent from last October. Number of hired sugarcane and pineapple workers decreased 6 percent from July, while all other hired workers increased by 7 percent.

Weather conditions were good for agriculture during the survey week. Trade winds returned after a little more than a week of very humid weather with little to no winds. Showers early in the week aided in promoting adequate soil moisture in a time when the State was suffering drought conditions. Later in the week, there were still intermittent showers for much of the State.

On October 30, Gay and Robinson Inc. ceased its sugarcane operations and on November 3, Maui Land and Pineapple Co. stopped planting pineapple. Both of these announcements came after the Ag. Labor

survey period and their impact will likely be reflected in next quarter's estimates.

### Total farm workforce

Hawaii's total farm workforce is estimated at 11,150 during the survey week of October 11-17, 2009, 7 percent higher than July, and up 9 percent from last October. The number of self-employed operators totaled 3,650 during October 2009's survey week, up 7 percent from a year ago and July 2009.

### Average wage rate increases

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the survey week of October 11-17, 2009 was estimated at \$13.60 per hour, down 3 percent from July, but up 3 percent from a year ago.

Hawaii farms having 1 to 9 hired workers paid an average of \$10.50 per hour, while the combined average wage for field and livestock workers was \$10.40 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	Unpaid Workers <sup>2/</sup>	Hired Workers		
				Total	Sugarcane and Pineapple <sup>3/</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	11,150	3,650	1,100	6,400	850	5,550
Annual average	10,600	3,500	1,000	6,200	900	5,300

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

<sup>3/</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, October 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>								
October 12-18, 2008	11.39	13.24	10.93	10.70	10.90	11.21	10.22	10.09
October 11-17, 2009	10.50	13.60	11.25	10.91	10.40	11.69	10.40	10.24

<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 1,092,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 807,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 285,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.91 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.25 per hour, up

20 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.23 per hour compared with \$10.21 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.24 per hour, was up 15 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 39.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 6 percent from a year ago. ■

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

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