



# 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 Workers and Wage Rates Continue to Increase

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce totaled 7,300 workers during the October 9-15, 2011 survey week, up 4 percent from July 2011 and up 11 percent from October of last year. Self-employed farm operator and unpaid worker data was not collected for the October 2011 survey due to budget constraints which required standardizing data collection. The number of estimated sugarcane and pineapple workers was down by 20 workers or 2 percent compared to July 2011, but was up 30 workers or 4 percent compared to October 2010. All other (diversified agriculture) hired workers increased by 320 or 5 percent compared to July 2011 and rose by 670 or 12 percent compared to October 2010.

Clear weather provided favorable weather conditions for agricultural functions and practices

as scattered showers did not disrupt planting, cultivating, spraying, and harvesting activities. Drought conditions prevailed as 95 percent of the state was rated in some stage of drought according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The U.S. Drought Monitor, at that point in time, predicted persistence drought tendencies for September through December 2011 for all leeward slopes and coasts except for Kauai.

### Average wage rate increases

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the survey week of October 9-15, 2011 was estimated at \$14.83 per hour; up 3 percent or \$0.45 from October 2010. The combined average wage of operations with 1 to 9 hired workers was \$14.20 an hour. This was up 19 percent or \$2.30 per hour compared to October 2010 wage rate. ■

**FARM LABOR: Number of Workers on Farms, Quarterly and Annual Averages, State of Hawaii, 2010 and 2011** <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>2010</b>						
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
<b>2011</b>						
January	12,300	4,500	900	6,900	850	6,050
April <sup>4/</sup>						
July	12,200	4,100	1,100	7,000	850	6,150
October	<sup>5/</sup>	<sup>5/</sup>	<sup>5/</sup>	7,300	830	6,470
Annual average	NA	NA	NA	<sup>6/</sup> 7,100	<sup>6/</sup> 850	<sup>6/</sup> 6,250

NA = Not available.

<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.

<sup>4/</sup> The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

<sup>5/</sup> Self-employed and Unpaid worker data not collected for October 2011 survey.

<sup>6/</sup> Average of 3 quarters.

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**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers for Hawaii, California, and United States, October 9-15, 2011 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 10-16, 2010	11.90	14.38	11.20	11.13	11.03	12.16	10.35	10.43
October 9-15, 2011	14.20	14.83	10.96	11.15	12.85	12.65	10.30	10.57

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

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

**U.S. Hired Workers Down 1 Percent From a Year Ago**

There were 1,141,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2011, down 1 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 828,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 313,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.15 per hour during the October 2011 reference week, up 2 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.54 per hour, up

5 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.67 per hour compared with \$10.28 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.57 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from a year ago.■

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

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