



Hawaii Agricultural Labor

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In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Annual Hired Agriculture Workers Decline Four Percent in 2012

Quarterly agriculture labor data for July and October of 2012 was collected in October for the reference weeks of July 8-14 and October 7-13. Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce consisted of 7,100 workers in July and 7,400 workers in October. Combined with the estimates from January and April, this brings the annual average number of hired agricultural workers in Hawaii to 6,800. The annual average total number of workers for 2012 is down 300 workers or 4 percent from last year's average. Estimated hired workers in sugarcane and pineapple industries rose to 840 in July, than dropped to 810 in October. These estimates bring the annual average hired workers for these industries to 800 for 2012. All other diversified agriculture workers (all industries besides pineapple and sugarcane) were estimated at 6,260 for July and 6,590 in October, with an annual average of 6,000. Drought conditions persisted in many areas throughout the second half of 2012. Towards the end of the year, much

needed rain began returning to the state decreasing the severity of drought in windward areas while leeward areas remained very dry.

Agricultural Wage Rates Increase

Average wages for all hired agriculture workers in Hawaii was estimated at \$15.27 an hour for the July reference week, and \$15.17 an hour during the October reference week. These wages are up 36 cents and 34 cents respectively compared to the July and October 2011 estimates. Wage rates for all hired workers in Hawaii continue to be approximately 30 percent greater than the national average wage rate for all hired agricultural workers. Field and livestock worker combined wage rates for Hawaii are set at \$12.90 an hour in July, and \$12.85 an hour in October, representing an increase of 14 cents and 20 cents from their respective estimates in 2011. Wage rates for the field and livestock worker category are greater than the national average by a margin of approximately 18 percent. ■

FARM LABOR: Number of Workers on Farms, Quarterly and Annual Averages, State of Hawaii, 2011 and 2012 ^{1/}

Quarter	Hired Workers		
	Total	Sugarcane and Pineapple ^{2/}	Other
2011			
January	6,900	850	6,050
April ^{3/}			
July	7,000	850	6,150
October	7,300	830	6,470
Annual average	^{4/} 7,100	^{4/} 850	^{4/} 6,250
2012			
January	6,300	750	5,550
April	6,500	800	5,700
July	7,100	840	6,260
October	7,400	810	6,590
Annual average	6,800	800	6,000

^{1/} Estimates for each quarter are based on a survey week that includes the 12th day of the month. Annual averages are based on quarterly estimates. ^{2/} Data combined to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

^{3/} The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted. ^{4/} Average of 3 quarters.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers for Hawaii, California, and United States, October 7-13, 2012 with Comparison. ^{1/}

Quarter	All Hired Farm Workers			Field and Livestock Workers		
	Hawaii	California	United States ^{2/}	Hawaii	California	United States ^{2/}
<i>Dollars per hour</i>						
July 10-16, 2011	14.91	10.90	10.93	12.76	10.20	10.28
October 9-15, 2011	14.83	10.96	11.15	12.65	10.30	10.57
July 8-14, 2012	15.27	11.61	11.36	12.90	10.85	10.75
October 7-13, 2012	15.17	11.73	11.76	12.85	10.80	11.13

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Excludes Alaska.

U.S. Hired Workers Increase Over 5 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 906,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 8-14, 2012, up nearly 9 percent from the July 2011 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 872,000 for the reference week of October 7-13, 2012, up more than 5 percent from the October 2011 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.36 per hour during the July 2012 reference week, up nearly 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.71 per hour, up more than 4 percent, while livestock workers earned \$10.89 per hour compared with \$10.29 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.75 per hour, was up 47 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.4 for hired workers during the reference week, down a little over 2 percent from July 2011.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.76 per hour during the October 2012 reference week, up over 5 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.22 per hour, up over 6 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$10.83, up 16 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.13 per hour, was up 56 cents from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.5 for hired workers during the reference week, nearly the same as hours worked in October 2011.■

Source: *Farm Labor*, November 19, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.