



Wage Rates Increase While Number of Hired Agricultural Workers Declines

In cooperation with



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The timing of the agriculture labor survey was changed such that data were collected for both January and April simultaneously (in April). Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce consisted of 6,300 workers during the reference week of January 8-14, 2012, and 6,500 workers for April 8-14, 2012. These totals from both quarters represent a drop from last year's average of 7,100 workers. The estimated number of sugarcane and pineapple workers in January 2012 was down by 100 workers or 12 percent as compared to the previous January. However, these industries increased their work force again by 50 in the next quarter, April 2012. In January 2012, all other (diversified agriculture) hired workers also decreased by 500 workers or 8 percent compared to January a year ago. For the second quarter of 2012, the number of workers hired in diversified agriculture industries increased by 150 or 3 percent, compared to January 2012.

Mostly clear weather provided conditions which were favorable for agriculture activities and functions. During the reference week in April, 60 percent of the state was designated as being in some stage of drought (abnormally dry to extreme) according to The U.S. Drought Monitor. These drought areas were mostly confined to leeward areas of Hawaii and Maui Counties. Despite drought conditions, state irrigation reservoirs remained adequately full, and ensured proper crop development in areas where available.

Average Wage Rate Increases

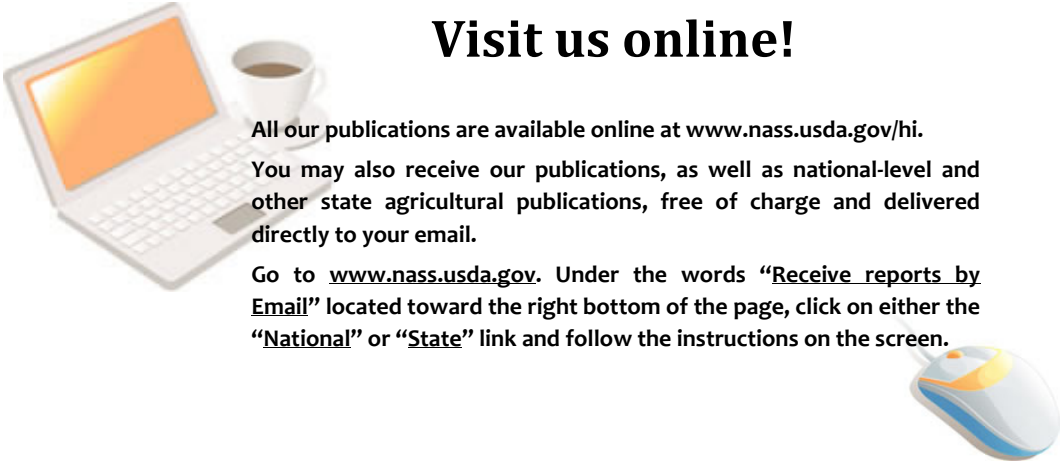
The average wage paid to all hired workers during the reference week of January 8-14, 2012 was estimated at \$15.05 an hour; up \$1.54 or 11 percent from the estimated wage rate in January 2011. In the second quarter of 2012, the wage rate increased again to an average of \$15.26 an hour. The jump in wage rates was primarily driven by an increased proportion of supervisory positions, and a higher demand for specialty labor. ■

Labor:

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			
October			
Annual Average			

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.



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Labor: U. S. Hired Workers

Beginning in 2012, two quarters of farm labor data are published semi-annually. Additionally, the agricultural service component was discontinued in 2012. Hired worker estimates exclude agricultural service employees.

There were 575,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2012, down nearly 5 percent from a year ago. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 748,000 for the following quarter's reference week of April 8-14, 2012. Because NASS did not publish estimates for the April 2011 quarter, no previous year comparison is available for April.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.52 per hour during the January 2012 reference week, up nearly 2 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.39 per hour, up more than 1 percent, while

livestock workers earned \$10.96 per hour compared with \$10.52 a year ago. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.58 per hour, was up 21 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.6 for hired workers during the reference week, up fractionally from a year ago.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.41 per hour during the April 2012 reference week, down 11 cents from the January quarter. Field workers received an average of \$10.50 per hour, up 11 cents from January. Livestock workers earned \$10.95, down just 1 cent from January. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.62 per hour, was up 4 cents from January. The number of hours worked averaged 39.2 for hired workers during the April reference week. ■

Source: *Farm Labor*, May 17, 2012, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers for Hawaii, California, and United States, April 8-14, 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>						
January 9-15, 2011	13.51	11.12	11.30	11.48	10.14	10.37
April 10-16, 2011 ³						
January 8-14, 2012	15.05	11.38	11.52	12.45	10.42	10.58
April 8-14, 2012	15.26	11.81	11.41	12.65	10.83	10.62

¹ Excludes agricultural service workers. ² Excludes Alaska. ³ The April 2011 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

Cattle: Monthly Slaughter and Exports

Cattle Marketings Up 3 Percent for the First Quarter of 2012

Cattle Marketings for the first quarter of 2012 totaled 10,700, up 3 percent compared to the first quarter of previous year. Cattle exports were up 6 percent compared to the first three months of 2011 while local slaughter was down 3.1 percent from the previous first three months of 2011.

Cattle marketings (sum of exports and local slaughter) totaled 4,100 head for March 2012, up 8 and 46 percent compared to January and February, respectively. Exports accounted for 76 percent of March's total marketings with steers making up 55 percent of the exported cattle. Local slaughter totaled 1,000 in March 2012, down 9 percent compared to February and the same as January 2012. ■

CATTLE: Monthly Commercial Production, State of Hawaii, 2011 and 2012



Slaughter Average Live Weight Up While Export Average Weight Unchanged

Average live weight was greater by 11 pounds or 1 percent compared to the first three months of 2011. Average export weight for the first three months of 2012 equaled the same time period the previous year. ■

CATTLE: Number and Weights of Total Marketing, Exports, and Local Slaughter by Months, State of Hawaii, 2012 with 2011 Year-to-date Comparisons

Month	Total marketings ¹	Marketings								
		Exports				Commercial (local) slaughter ³				
		Total exports ²	Type of cattle		Average live weight	Number slaughter	Average live weight	Total live weight	Total dress weight ⁴	
		Steers	Heifers							
		Head			Pounds	Head	Pounds	1,000 pounds		
January	3,800	2,800	1,800	950	468	1,000	1,122	1,081	593	
February	2,800	1,700	800	900	481	1,100	1,151	1,242	682	
March	4,100	3,100	1,700	1,400	453	1,000	1,134	1,112	610	
Year-to-date ⁵ :										
2012	10,700	7,600	4,300	3,250	465	3,100	1,136	3,435	1,885	
2011	10,400	7,200	4,150	2,900	465	3,200	1,125	3,573	1,962	
Change	2.9	5.6	3.6	12.1	-	-3.1	1.0	-3.9	-3.9	

¹ Sum of commercial (local) slaughter and exports. Totals may not add due to rounding. ² Cattle and calves shipped out-of-State include: steers, heifers, and all other classes. All other classes not shown separately, but are included in total exports. ³ Excludes non-inspected farm slaughter; includes custom slaughter. ⁴ Estimate based on 54.9 dressing percentage. ⁵ Includes revisions made to previous months.

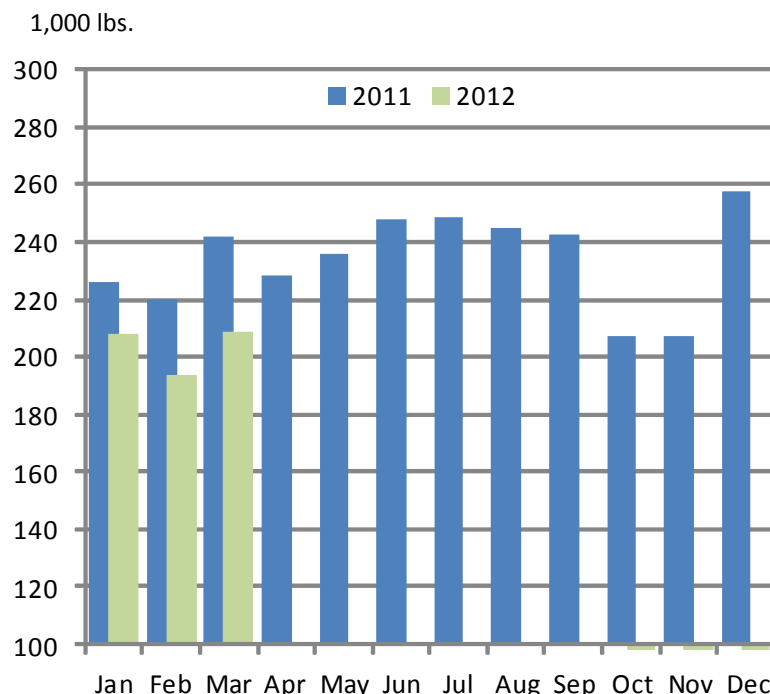
Hogs: Monthly Slaughter

Commercial Hog Slaughter Down 8 Percent from the Same Quarter Last Year

Cumulative number of hogs slaughtered through the first quarter of 2012 totaled 3,400 head, down 300 or 8 percent from the first quarter of 2011. Total live weight through March 2012 is estimated at 815,000 pounds down 11 percent from the same period a year ago.

Hawaii commercial pork production (local slaughter) during March 2012 totaled 279,000 pounds, up 1 and 8 percent from January and February, respectively. February's average dressed weight was the main contributing factor for lower pork production. ■

**HOGS: Monthly Commercial Production,
State of Hawaii, 2011 and 2012**



**HOGS: Number and Weights of Commercial Slaughter by Months,
State of Hawaii, 2012 with 2011 Year-to-date Comparisons ¹**

Month	Total commercial slaughter	Average live weight	Total live weight	Total dressed weight ²
	<i>Head</i>	<i>Pounds</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>	
January	1,200	240	277	208
February	1,100	241	259	194
March	1,100	249	279	209
Year-to-date:				
2012	3,400	243	815	611
2011	3,700	249	917	688
Change	-8.1	-2.4	-11.1	-11.2

¹ Excludes non-inspected farm slaughter; includes custom slaughter and live hog inshipments from the mainland for slaughter. ² Estimate based on 75.0 dressing percentage.