



Hawaii Agricultural Labor

May 28, 2013

In Cooperation with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture

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Wage Rates, Number of Hired Workers Down

Hawaii's hired agricultural work force was estimated at 6,200 workers during the week of January 6-12, 2013, and 6,000 workers during the reference week of April 7-13, 2013. These totals correspond to a decrease of 100 workers in January, and 500 workers in April from the estimated number of agriculture workers in Hawaii during the respective reference weeks a year ago. The estimated number of sugarcane and pineapple workers in January 2013 was estimated at 800 workers, up 50 workers or 7 percent as compared to the previous January. This number of sugarcane and pineapple workers remained steady at 800 workers through April 2013. In January 2013, all other (diversified agriculture) hired workers decreased by 150 workers or 3 percent compared to January a year ago. During the second quarter of 2013, the number of workers hired in diversified agriculture industries declined by 200 workers or 4 percent compared to January 2013.

Weather was mostly dry leading up to January, with few isolated rain showers occurring during the labor survey reference week. Despite the showers, conditions remained favorable for performing agriculture activities and functions. During the reference week in April, approximately 85 percent of the state was classified with a drought rating of abnormally dry or drier. These drought conditions were spread across all four counties of Hawaii, and were most severe on leeward areas of the islands.

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the reference week of January 6-12, 2013 was estimated at \$14.84 an hour; down \$0.21 from the estimated wage rate in January 2012. In the second quarter of 2013, the wage rate decreased to an average of \$14.72 an hour. The drop in wage rates and hired workers can be attributed to the current status of the job market, and agricultural producers opting to hire more contract labor instead of maintaining workers on their payroll. ■

FARM LABOR: Number of Workers on Farms, Quarterly and Annual Averages, State of Hawaii, 2012 and 2013 ¹⁷

Quarter	Hired Workers		
	Total	Sugarcane and Pineapple ^{2/}	Other
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	^{3/} 6,800	^{3/} 800	^{3/} 6,000
2013			
January	6,200	800	5,400
April	6,000	800	5,200
July			
October			
Annual average			

¹⁷ 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/} Average of 3 quarters.

Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers for Hawaii, California, and United States, April 7-13, 2013 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 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
January 6-12, 2013	14.84	11.85	12.02	12.82	10.80	11.07
April 7-13, 2013	14.72	12.10	11.91	12.70	11.25	11.10

^{1/} Excludes agricultural service workers.

^{2/} Excludes Alaska.

April Hired Workers Down Over 2 Percent, Wage Rates Increase Over 4 Percent From Previous Year

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 732,000 for the reference week of April 7-13, 2013, down 2 percent from the April 2012 reference week. There were 596,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2013, up 4 percent from the January 2012 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.02 per hour during the January 2013 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.86 per hour, up 5 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.39 per hour compared with \$10.96 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.07 per hour, was up 49 cents from January 2012. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.7 hours during

the January 2013 reference week, compared with 39.6 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.91 per hour during the April 2013 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.92 per hour, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$11.46, up 51 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.10 per hour, was up 48 cents from a year earlier. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.3 hours during the April 2013 reference week, compared with 39.2 hours a year earlier.

Source: *Farm Labor*, May 21, 2013, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.