



# 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 Down 8 Percent

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce totaled 5,900 workers during the October 12-18, 2008 survey week, down 8 percent from a year ago. Pineapple and sugarcane workers totaled 1,000 workers (does not include mill or cannery workers) during the October 12-18, 2008 survey week, down 13 percent from the same week a year ago due largely to layoffs at Maui Land and Pineapple Company and Gay and Robinson's decision to terminate their sugarcane operations. Other hired workers (livestock, field, supervisors, office workers, etc.) showed a 7 percent decline from a year ago at 4,900 workers during the survey week of October 12-18, 2008.

#### Total farm workforce

Hawaii's total farm workforce is estimated at 10,200 during the survey week of

October 12-18, 2008, down 6 percent from the same week a year ago. The number of self-employed remained unchanged and unpaid farm workers declined 18 percent.

#### Average wage rate higher than a year ago

The average wage paid to all hired workers during the survey week of October 12-18, 2008 was estimated at \$13.24 per hour. This was up fractionally than a year ago. The combined average wage for field and livestock workers was estimated at \$11.21 per hour, up 1 percent from October 2007.

Hawaii farms employing from 1 to 9 workers paid an average of \$11.39 per hour for all hired workers, while the combined average wage for field and livestock workers was \$10.90 an hour. ■

**FARM LABOR:** Number of workers on farms, quarterly and annual averages, State of Hawaii, 2007 and 2008 <sup>1/</sup>

Quarter	Total Farm Workforce	Number of Farm Workers by Type				
		Self-employed Farm Operators <sup>2/</sup>	Unpaid Workers <sup>2/ 3/</sup>	Hired Workers		
				Total	Sugarcane and Pineapple <sup>4/</sup>	Other
<b>2007</b>						
January <sup>5/</sup>	--	--	--	--	--	--
April	--	--	--	6,600	1,200	5,400
July	10,500	3,300	900	6,300	1,200	5,100
October	10,900	3,400	1,100	6,400	1,150	5,250
Annual average	--	--	--	6,500	--	--
<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

-- Not estimated.

<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> Self-employed and unpaid worker estimates were discontinued from July 2002 to April 2007 due to a change in the national labor statistics program.

<sup>3/</sup> Unpaid workers include family members and others working 15 or more hours per week.

<sup>4/</sup> Data combined to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

<sup>5/</sup> The January 2007 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted.

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**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers for Hawaii, California, and United States, October 12-18, 2008 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 7-13, 2007	11.39	13.19	10.74	10.38	10.49	11.13	9.89	9.73
October 12-18, 2008	11.39	13.24	10.95	10.70	10.90	11.21	10.21	10.08

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

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

### U.S. hired workers down 3 percent from a year ago

There were 1,117,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 801,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.70 per hour during the October 2008 reference week, up 32 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.05 per hour, up

43 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$10.19 per hour compared with \$10.02 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$10.08 per hour, was up 35 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 41.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.■

Source: *Farm Labor*, November 21, 2008, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture.