



Market Analysis and News Branch

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In Cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pacific Region

Farm Labor Statistics State of Hawaii, 2020

With the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Hawaii, the count of all hired workers dropped sharply by 20% to 4,000 in April 2020. The number of hours worked in the reference week also fell by 1.7 hours as compared to the corresponding week in 2019. Likewise, the average wage paid to hired workers was down 5 cents to \$16.87 an hour in the same comparable periods.

Hawaii agriculturalists also hired 135 guest workers on H-2A visas by June 30, 2020 (0.06% of U.S. total). The gross wage rate at the high-end range for guest workers was \$1.97 an hour lower than that for all hired workers.¹ The distribution of the hired H-2A workers in Hawaii into different agricultural classification is as follows: livestock (4), apiculture (19), coffee (21) and general farm workers (91).²

Count of Farm Labor, Hours Worked and Wage Rate by Reference Week in Hawaii, 2017-2020

Reference Week and Year	Count of All Hired Workers	Number of Hours Worked (Hours per Week)	Gross Wage Rate (Dollars per Hour)
Apr. 12-18, 2020	4,000	33.5	\$16.87
Jan. 12-18, 2020	5,000	33.8	\$16.38
Oct. 6-12, 2019	4,000	36.0	\$16.37
Jul. 7-13, 2019	4,000	35.9	\$16.46
Apr. 7-13, 2019	5,000	35.2	\$16.92
Jan. 6-12, 2019	5,000	36.9	\$16.62
Oct. 7-13, 2018	6,000	39.4	\$16.26
Jul. 8-14, 2018	6,000	36.1	\$16.58
Apr. 8-14, 2018	6,000	33.7	\$16.71
Jan. 7-13, 2018	7,000	32.8	\$16.20
Oct. 8-14, 2017	6,000	37.2	\$16.22
Jul. 9-15, 2017	6,000	36.8	\$16.46
Apr. 9-15, 2017	6,000	36.1	\$16.65
Jan. 8-14, 2017	6,000	36.1	\$16.32

Source: USDA-NASS, *Farm Labor*, 2017-2020.

¹ Difference between \$16.87 (Count of Farm Labor, Apr. 12-18, 2020) and \$14.90 (Count of H-2A Visa Farm Labor, 2020).

² U.S. Dept. of Labor (2020). *Performance Data*. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance>

Count of H-2A Visa Farm Labor and Wage Range in Hawaii, 2010-2019

Fiscal Year ¹	Count of H-2A Visa Workers ^{2,3}	Gross Wage Rate Range ⁴ (Dollars per Hour)
2020 ⁵	135	\$14.73 – \$14.90
2019	157	\$14.37 – \$14.73
2018	137	\$13.14 – \$14.37
2017	73	\$12.64 – \$13.14
2016	51	\$12.64 – \$12.98
2015	40	\$12.91 – \$12.98
2014	39	\$12.72 – \$12.91
2013	69	\$12.26 – \$12.72
2012	98	\$11.50 – \$12.26
2011	195	\$11.45 – \$12.01
2010	70	\$10.86 – \$11.45

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, *Performance Data*, 2010-2020.

¹ U.S. Federal Fiscal Year 2019 is from October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

² Included in Count of Farm Labor in the previous table.

³ H-2A visa program has no statutory limit within a fiscal year and its approval rate for all petitions are at 96%.

⁴ Includes wage rate compiled on an hourly basis only.

⁵ Includes most recent data ended June 30, 2020 (Quarter III). In the same period, a total of 224,290 H-2A workers were registered in the U.S. according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor (2020). Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance>

* No single H-2B visa worker was hired in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (ended June 30) by agriculturalists in Hawaii. This category of workers is usually hired to perform temporary work that are essential to the U.S. food supply chain such as in processing facilities, packing plants and food retail establishments.