



## 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, 2021

The count of all hired farm workers remained unchanged at 5,000 throughout the 2021 calendar year.<sup>1</sup> The number of hours worked in the reference weeks increased steadily during the year as compared to the corresponding periods in the previous year. Likewise, the gross wage rate paid to hired workers also increased progressively to a historical high of \$18.82 per hour during the week of October 10-16, 2021.

Additionally, Hawaii agriculturalists hired 211 guest workers on H-2A visas by the end of September 30, 2021, a 56% increase from the previous year. In contrast, overall H-2A visas issued in the U.S. were up by 21% in the same period. This trend reflects an ongoing national labor shortage of agricultural workers. The gross wage rate at the high-end range for guest workers was \$2.72 an hour lower than that for all hired farm workers.<sup>2</sup> The count for H-2A workers hired in Hawaii by agricultural classification were distributed as follows: coffee (6), apiculture (24), livestock (11) and general farm workers (170).

**Table 1: Count of Farm Labor, Hours Worked and Wage Rate by Reference Week, 2019-2021**

Reference Week and Year	Count of All Hired Workers	Number of Hours Worked (Hours per Week)	Gross Wage Rate (Dollars per Hour)
Oct. 10-16, 2021	5,000	37.6	\$18.82
Jul. 11-17, 2021	5,000	36.4	\$18.46
Apr. 11-17, 2021	5,000	35.9	\$17.58
Jan. 10-16, 2021	5,000	36.4	\$17.31
Oct. 11-17, 2020	4,000	35.6	\$18.13
Jul. 12-18, 2020	4,000	36.3	\$17.74
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

Source: USDA-NASS, *Farm Labor*, 2019-2021.

<sup>1</sup> USDA-NASS (2021). *Farm Labor*. November 24, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Labor (2021). *Performance Data*, 2019-2021. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 01.26.2022).

**Table 2: Count of H-2A Visa Farm Labor and Wage Range in Hawaii, 2010-2021**

Fiscal Year <sup>1</sup>	Count of H-2A Visa Workers <sup>2,3</sup>	Gross Wage Rate Range <sup>4</sup> (Dollars per Hour)
2021	211	\$14.90 - \$16.10
2020	135	\$14.73 - \$14.90
2019	102	\$14.37 - \$14.73
2018	106	\$13.14 - \$14.37
2017	73	\$12.64 - \$13.14
2016	50	\$12.64 - \$12.98
2015	39	\$12.91 - \$12.98
2014	38	\$12.72 - \$12.91
2013	69	\$12.26 - \$12.72
2012	114	\$12.01 - \$12.26
2011	195	\$11.45 - \$12.01
2010	70	\$10.86 - \$11.45

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, *Performance Data*, 2019-2021.

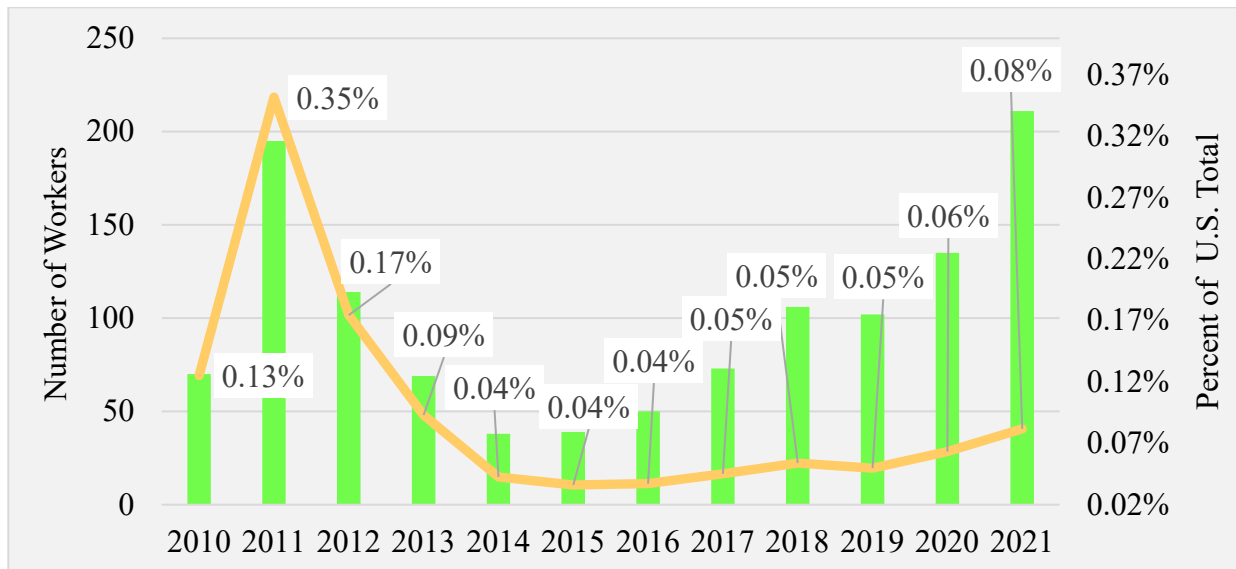
<sup>1</sup> U.S. Federal Fiscal Year 2021 is from October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Included in Count of Farm Labor in the previous table.

<sup>3</sup> H-2A visa program has no statutory limit within a fiscal year and its approval rate by the Department of Labor for all petitions was 96% in Fiscal Year 2021, corresponding to a potential labor pool of 317,619 H-2A workers in the U.S. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 01.26.2022).

<sup>4</sup> Included wage rates compiled on an hourly basis only.

**Chart 1: Hawaii H-2A Farm Workers, FY 2010-2021**



Source: U.S. Department of State, *Visa Statistics*, 2010–2021. Available at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-statistics/nonimmigrant-visa-statistics.html> (Accessed 01.26.2022).