



Ka 'Oihana Mahi'ai

## 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, Second-Half 2023

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce remained consistent at 5,000 workers throughout the four reference weeks of calendar year, 2023.<sup>1</sup> The number of hours worked per hired worker in the two reference weeks increased by 3.7% when compared to the corresponding periods last year. Notably, the gross wage rate paid to hired workers reached a record high of \$20.83 per hour during the week of October 8-14, 2023.

Hawaii agribusinesses enlisted 340 guest workers through H-2A visas in the U.S. fiscal year ending 2023, reflecting a 27% increase from the 268 workers in the previous period. The gross wage rate at the high-end range paid to guest workers was \$3.58 an hour lower, marking a 17% difference compared to wages for all hired farm workers.<sup>2</sup> The distribution for H-2A workers employed locally by agricultural classification was as follows: coffee (60), apiculture (31), livestock (10), and general farm workers (239).

**Table 1: Farm Labor, Hours Worked, and Wage Rate by Reference Week in Hawaii, 2020-2023**

Reference Week and Year	Count of All Hired Workers	Number of Hours Worked (Hours per Week)	Gross Wage Rate (Dollars per Hour)
October 8-14, 2023	5,000	36.3	\$20.83
July 9-15, 2023	5,000	36.2	\$20.82
April 9-15, 2023	5,000	35.9	\$20.44
January 8-14, 2023	5,000	35.3	\$20.29
October 9-15, 2022	6,000	35.0	\$19.53
July 10-16, 2022	5,000	34.9	\$19.24
April 10-16, 2022	5,000	35.3	\$18.95
January 9-15, 2022	5,000	35.7	\$18.82
October 10-16, 2021	5,000	37.6	\$18.82
July 11-17, 2021	5,000	36.4	\$18.46
April 11-17, 2021	5,000	35.9	\$17.58
January 10-16, 2021	5,000	36.4	\$17.31
October 11-17, 2020	4,000	35.6	\$18.13
July 12-18, 2020	4,000	36.3	\$17.74
April 12-18, 2020	4,000	33.5	\$16.87
January 12-18, 2020	5,000	33.8	\$16.38

Source: USDA-NASS, *Pacific Region – Labor*, 2020-2023.

<sup>1</sup> USDA-NASS, *Pacific Region – Labor*, Nov. 22, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Labor. *Performance Data*, 2020-2023. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 11.25.2023).

**Table 2: H-2A Visa Farm Labor and Wage Range in Hawaii, 2010-2023**

Fiscal Year	Count of H-2A Visa Workers <sup>2, 3</sup>	Proportion of U.S. Total (Percent)	Gross Wage Rate Range <sup>4</sup> (Dollars per Hour)
2023 <sup>1</sup>	340	0.11	16.54 – 17.25
2022	268	0.09	15.56 – 16.54
2021	211	0.08	14.90 – 16.10
2020	135	0.06	14.73 – 14.90
2019	102	0.05	14.37 – 14.73
2018	106	0.05	13.14 – 14.37
2017	73	0.05	12.64 – 13.14
2016	50	0.04	12.64 – 12.98
2015	39	0.04	12.91 – 12.98
2014	38	0.04	12.91
2013	69	0.09	12.26 – 12.72
2012	114	0.17	12.01 – 12.26
2011	195	0.35	11.45 – 12.01
2010	70	0.13	10.86 – 11.45

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, *Performance Data*, 2010-2023.

<sup>1</sup> Data for second half of U.S. Federal Fiscal Year 2023 (April 1 through September 30, 2023) is included.

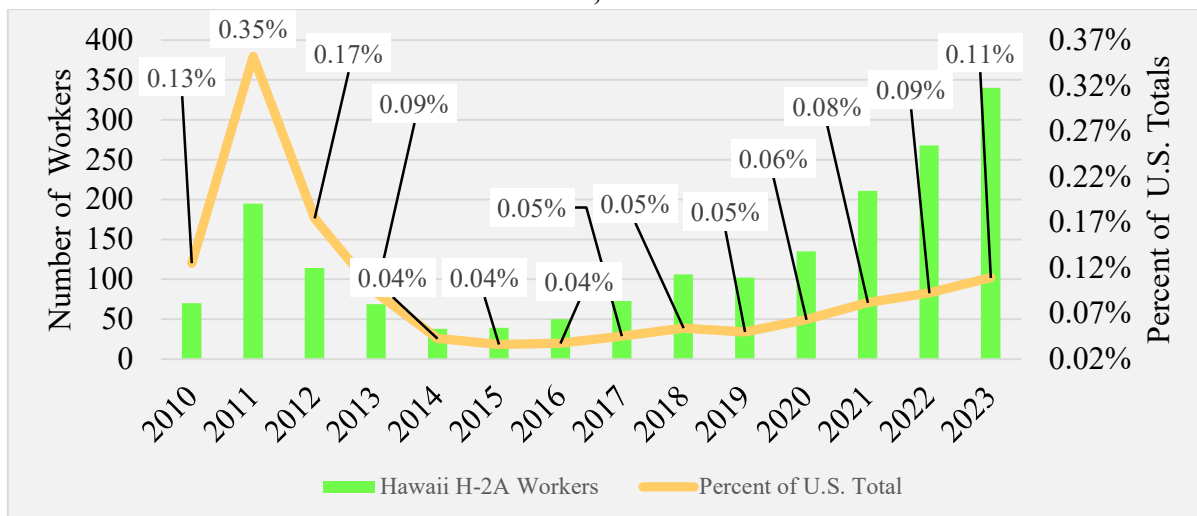
<sup>2</sup> Included in count of “All Hired Workers” in the previous table.

<sup>3</sup> H-2A visa program has no statutory limit within a fiscal year, 389,908 workers were petitioned, 378,513 were certified by the Department of Labor (certified rate was 97% in Fiscal Year 2023). The visa approval rate was up to 82% in the same period (311,217 H-2A visas were issued), which is the highest visas approval rate and number of issuance since FY 2010. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 11.25.2023). Monthly Nonimmigrant Visa Issuance Statistics at U.S.

Department of State, Available at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-statistics/nonimmigrant-visa-statistics/monthly-nonimmigrant-visa-issuances.html> (Accessed 11.25.2023)

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

**Chart 1: H-2A Visa Farm Labor in Hawaii, 2010-2023**



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