

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, First Half 2024

Hawaii's agricultural workforce maintained a steady count of 5,000 workers in the first half of 2024.¹ The number of hours worked per hired worker during the two reference weeks increased by 4% and 3% respectively, compared to the same period in the previous year. Additionally, the gross wage rate paid to hired workers increased to a high of \$22.26 per hour during the week of April 7-13, 2024.

Hawaii agribusinesses hired 225 guest workers through H-2A visas at the end of March 31, 2024. This represents a 42% increase from the 158 workers hired during the same period last year. The gross wage rate at the high-end range paid to guest workers was \$3.52 per hour lower, a 17% difference compared to the wages for all hired farm workers. The distribution for H-2A workers employed locally by agricultural classification was as follows: apiculture (40), livestock (5), and general farm workers (180).

Table 1: Farm Labor, Hours Worked, and Wage Rate by Reference Week in Hawaii, 2020-2024

Reference Week and Year	Count of All Hired Workers	Number of Hours Worked (Hours per Week)	Gross Wage Rate (Dollars per Hour)
April 7-13, 2024	5,000	36.6	22.26
January 7-13, 2024	5,000	36.0	22.05
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*, 2020-2024.

¹ USDA-NASS, *Pacific Region – Labor*, May 24, 2024.

Table 2: H-2A Visa Farm Labor and Wage Range in Hawaii, 2010-2024

Fiscal Year	Count of H-2A Visa Workers ^{2, 3}	Proportion of U.S. Total (Percent)	Gross Wage Rate Range ⁴ (Dollars per Hour)
2024 ¹	225	0.16	17.25 – 18.74
2023	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*, 2010-2024.

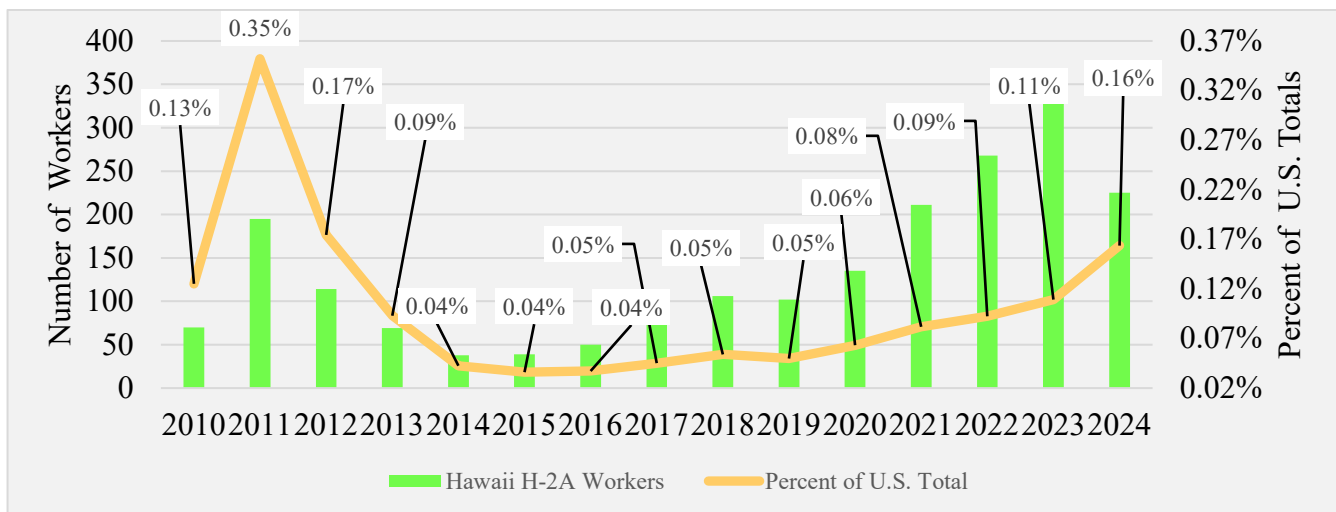
¹ Data in 2024 is for the first half of U.S. Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (October 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024).

² Included in count of “All Hired Workers” in the previous table.

³ H-2A visa program has no statutory limit within a fiscal year, 214,286 workers were petitioned, 210,350 were certified by the Department of Labor (certified rate was 98% in the first half of Fiscal Year 2024). The visa approval rate was down to 65% in the same period (137,457 H-2A visas were issued), which is the lowest visa approval rate since FY 2015. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 05.25.2024). 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 05.25.2024)

⁴ Wage rates compiled on an hourly basis only.

Chart 1: H-2A Visa Farm Labor in Hawaii, 2010-2024



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