

Ka 'Oihana Mahi'ai

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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 2024

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce remained steady at 5,000 workers in both reference weeks in the second half of 2024.¹ However, the average working hours per hired worker during the reference weeks of October 6-12 and July 7-13, 2024, declined by 2% compared to the corresponding periods in the previous year. Gross wage rates for all hired workers decreased slightly from April 7-13 and January 7-13, 2024.

In the U.S. fiscal year ending 2024, Hawaii agribusinesses hired 465 guest workers through the H-2A visa program, a 37% increase from the 340 workers in the prior year. The gross hourly wage for guest workers was \$3.13 lower at the higher end of the range, compared to the average wage for all hired workers.² The distribution of locally employed H-2A workers was as follows: coffee (93), apiculture (47), livestock (10), and general farm labor (315).

Table 1: Farm Labor, Hours Worked, and Wage Rate by Reference Week in Hawaii, 2021-2024

Reference Week and Year	Count of All Hired Workers	Number of Hours Worked (Hours per Week)	Gross Wage Rate (Dollars per Hour)
October 6-12, 2024	5,000	35.7	\$21.87
July 7-13, 2024	5,000	35.3	\$21.73
April 7-13, 2024	5,000	36.6	\$22.26
January 7-13, 2024	5,000	36.0	\$22.05
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

Source: USDA-NASS, *Pacific Region – Labor*, 2021-2024.

¹ USDA-NASS, *Pacific Region – Labor*, Nov. 25, 2024.

² U.S. Department of Labor. *Performance Data*, 2020-2024. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance>.

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	465	0.15	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.

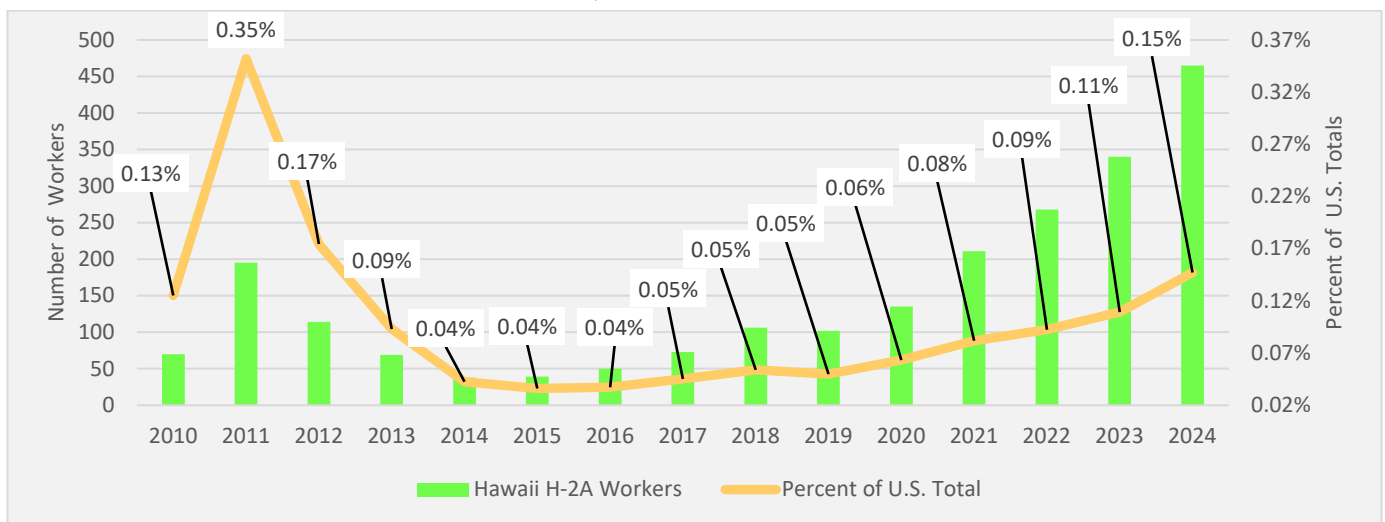
¹ Data for second half of U.S. Federal Fiscal Year 2024 (April 1 through September 30, 2024) is included.

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, 391,555 workers were petitioned, 384,865 were certified by the Department of Labor (certified rate was 98% in Fiscal Year 2024). The visa approval rate was up to 82% in the same period (315,953 H-2A visas were issued), which is the second highest visa approval rate and the highest number of issuance since FY 2010. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 11.25.2024). 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 11.25.2024)

⁴ Wage rates compiled on an hourly basis only.

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



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