

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 2022

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce increased to 6,000 in the fourth quarter of the calendar year, 2022.<sup>1</sup> The number of hours worked in the two reference weeks declined by 7% when compared to corresponding periods in the previous year. However, the gross wage rate paid to hired workers increased marginally to a high of \$19.53 per hour during the week of October 9-15, 2022.

Hawaii agribusinesses hired 268 guest workers on H-2A visas at the end of September 30, 2022, 27% higher compared to the same period in the previous year. The gross wage rate at the high-end range paid to guest workers was \$2.99 an hour lower than that for all hired farm workers.<sup>2</sup> The distribution for H-2A workers employed locally by agricultural classification were as follows: coffee (80), apiculture (21), livestock (11), general farm workers (155) and administrative support (1).

**Table 1: Count of Farm Labor, Hours Worked, and Wage Rate by Reference Week, 2020-2022**

Reference Week and Year	Count of All Hired Workers	Number of Hours Worked (Hours per Week)	Gross Wage Rate (Dollars per Hour)
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*, 2020-2022.

<sup>1</sup> USDA-NASS, *Pacific Region – Labor*, November 23, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Labor. *Performance Data*, 2020-2022. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 11.25.2022).

**Table 2: Count of H-2A Visa Farm Labor and Wage Range in Hawaii, 2010-2022**

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)
2022	268	15.56 – 16.54
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	12.91
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*, 2010-2022.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Federal Fiscal Year 2022 is from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

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

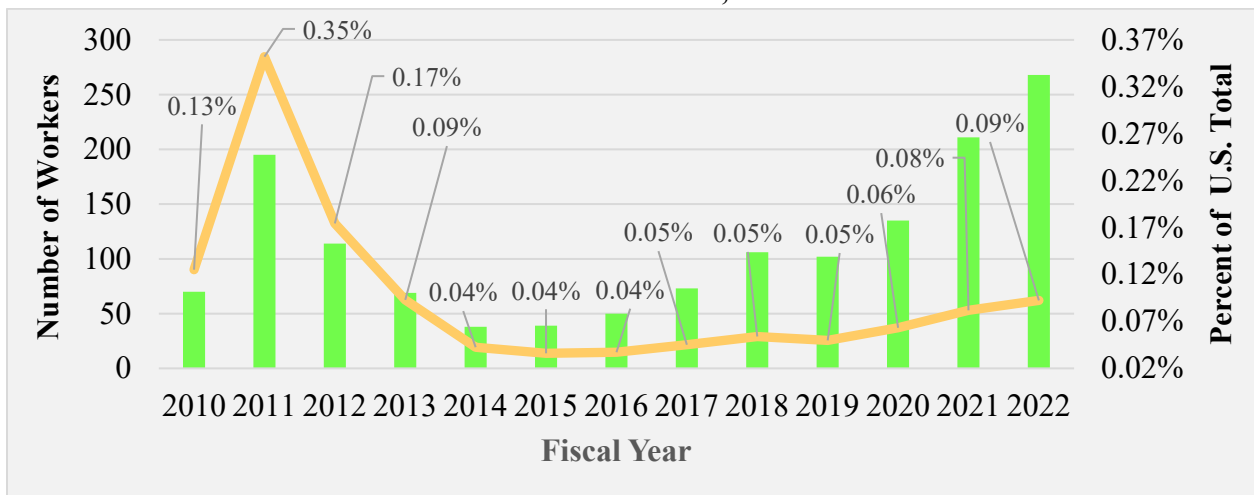
<sup>3</sup> H-2A visa program has no statutory limit within a fiscal year, 382,354 workers were petitioned and 371,619 were certified by the Department of Labor (certified rate was 97% in Fiscal Year 2022). The visa approval rate was 78% in the same fiscal year (289,996 H-2A visa were issued). Available at:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 11.25.2022). 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 11.25.2022)

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

**Chart 1: Count of H-2A Visa Farm Labor in Hawaii, 2010-2022**



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, *Performance Data*, 2010-2022. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 11.25.2022).

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