



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 2022

Hawaii’s hired agricultural workforce remained unchanged at 5,000 in the first-half of the calendar year, 2022.¹ The number of hours worked in the two reference weeks declined slightly when compared to corresponding periods in the previous year. However, the gross wage rate paid to hired workers increased marginally to a historical high of \$18.95 per hour during the week of April 10-16, 2022.

Hawaii agribusinesses hired 132 guest workers on H-2A visas at the end of March 31, 2022, up 25% from the same period last year. In comparison, all H-2A visas issued in the U.S. were only 22% higher in the same period. The gross wage rate at the high-end range paid to guest workers was \$2.60 an hour lower than that for all hired farm workers.² The distribution for H-2A workers hired locally by agricultural classification were as follows: coffee (6), apiculture (17), livestock (3) and general farm workers (106).

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)
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.

¹ USDA-NASS, *Pacific Region – Labor*, May 25, 2022.

² U.S. Department of Labor. *Performance Data*, 2020-2022. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 05.25.2022).

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

Fiscal Year ¹	Count of H-2A Visa Workers ^{2,3}	Gross Wage Rate Range ⁴ (Dollars per Hour)
2022	132	15.56 - 16.35
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.

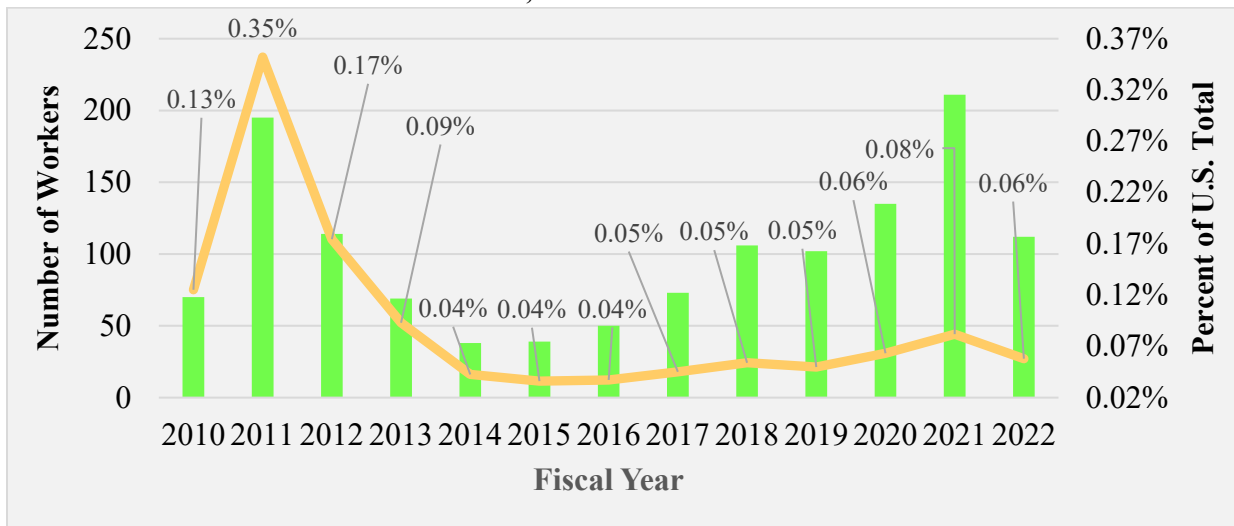
¹ U.S. Federal Fiscal Year 2022 is from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.

² Included in Count of Farm Labor in the previous table.

³ 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 97% in Fiscal Year 2022, Quarter 2; corresponding to a potential labor pool of 193,273 H-2A workers in the U.S. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 05.25.2022).

⁴ Included wage rates compiled on an hourly basis only.

Chart 1: Hawaii H-2A Farm Workers, FY 2010-2022



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, *Performance Data*, 2010-2022. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 05.25.2022).

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