

Ka 'Oihana Mahi'ai

Market Analysis and News Branch

1428 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814-2512

In Cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pacific Region

Farm Labor Statistics State of Hawaii, First Half 2023

Hawaii's hired agricultural workforce remained unchanged at 5,000 workers in the first half of the calendar year, 2023.¹ The number of hours worked per hired worker in the two reference weeks increased marginally by 1.7% when compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. However, the gross wage rate paid to hired workers increased to a high of \$20.44 per hour during the week of April 9-15, 2023.

Hawaii agribusinesses hired 158 guest workers on H-2A visas at the end of March 31, 2023, 20% higher compared to 132 workers in the same period last year. The gross wage rate at the high-end range paid to guest workers was \$3.19 an hour lower (16%) than that for all hired farm workers.² The distribution for H-2A workers employed locally by agricultural classification was as follows: apiculture (26), coffee (6), livestock (3), and general farm workers (123).

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)
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.

¹ USDA-NASS, *Pacific Region – Labor*, May 24, 2023.

² U.S. Department of Labor. *Performance Data*, 2020-2023. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 05.25.2023).

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

Fiscal Year	Count of H-2A Visa Workers ^{2, 3}	Proportion of U.S. Total (Percent)	Gross Wage Rate Range ⁴ (Dollars per Hour)
2023 ¹	158	0.12	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.

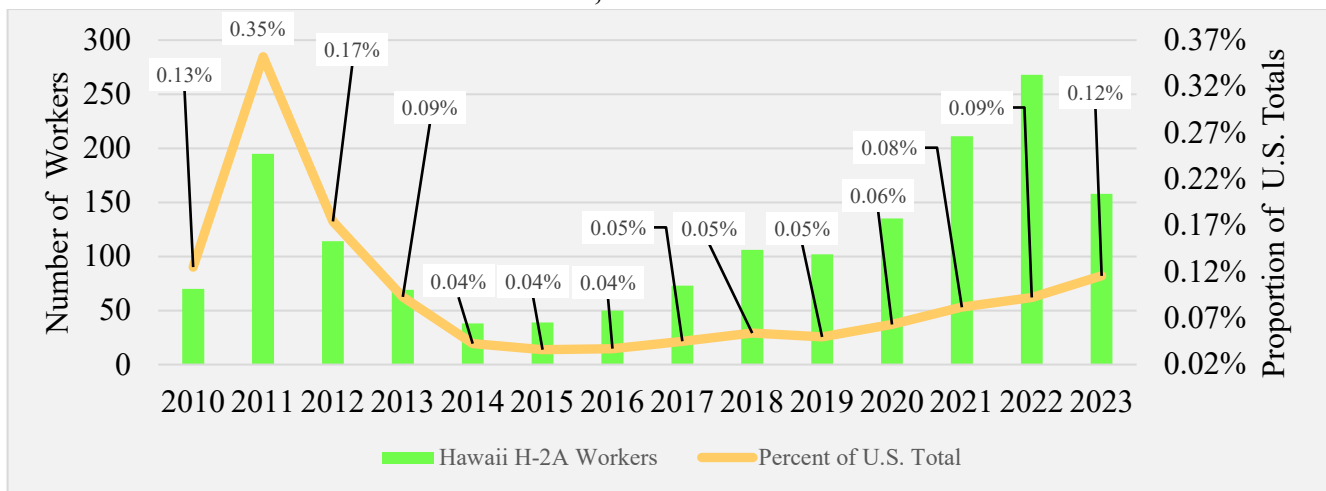
¹ Data in 2023 is for the first half of U.S. Federal Fiscal Year 2023, which is October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.

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, 212,162 workers were petitioned, 206,039 were certified by the Department of Labor (certified rate was 99% in the first half of Fiscal Year 2023). The visa approval rate was down to 66% in the same period (136,598 H-2A visas were issued), which is the lowest visa approval rate since FY 2014. Available at: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/foreign-labor/performance> (Accessed 05.25.2023). 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 05.25.2023)

⁴ Wage rates compiled on an hourly basis only.

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



###

HDOA is committed to maintaining an environment free from discrimination, retaliation, or harassment on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability, or any other class as protected under federal or state law, with respect to any program or activity. More information is available at HDOA’s website: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>.