

Market Analysis and News Branch

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

Statistics on Farm Labor: Wage Rate Comparison State of Hawai'i, 2014 – 2024

The USDA NASS conducts the Agricultural (Farm) Labor survey to collect data on employment and wage estimates for all workers directly hired by farms and ranches for each of four quarterly reference weeks. The quarterly estimates, in turn, provide the basis for annual average estimates. Specifically, the survey collects data for field (crop) workers, livestock (animal) workers, supervisors/managers, and other workers.

In Hawai'i, the average wage of crop workers increased from \$12.85 per hour in 2014 to \$19.99 per hour in 2024, corresponding to an average annual growth rate (AAGR) of 4.52% over the 10-year period, whereas the average wage of livestock workers increased from \$16.18 per hour in 2019 to \$20.56 per hour in 2024, with a AAGR of 4.91% over the 5-year period. Additionally, the average wage of all farm workers, which include supervisors/managers and other workers, rose from \$24.32 per hour in 2014 to \$36.86 per hour in 2024, with a AAGR of 3.59% over the 10-year period. These figures suggest that the average annual nominal wage has grown faster than the average annual inflation rate as indicated by the consumer price index column in Table 1.

The average wage of farm workers has been significantly lower than the average wage of private non-farm workers, but substantially higher than the state minimum wage in Hawai'i. For example, in 2024, the average wage of farm workers was \$21.98, approximately 40% lower than the \$36.86 per hour earned by private non-farm workers, but 57% higher than the state minimum wage of \$14 per hour.

Table 1: Average Wage Rate by Type of Workers Hired, Minimum Wage Rate, and Consumer Price Index, Hawai'i, 2014 – 2024

	Field Workers	Livestock Workers	All Farm Workers	All Employees on Private Non-Farm Payrolls ¹	Hawai'i State Minimum Wage ²	Consumer Price Index ³
2014	12.85	-	15.45	24.32	7.25	258
2015	12.46	-	14.43	24.63	7.75	260
2016	12.83	-	14.91	25.42	8.50	265
2017	14.08	-	16.41	26.17	9.25	272
2018	14.45	-	16.43	27.74	10.10	277
2019	14.72	16.18	16.61	28.82	10.10	282
2020	15.15	17.83	17.25	31.26	10.10	286
2021	16.33	18.01	18.05	32.57	10.10	297
2022	17.10	18.11	19.15	33.58	12.00	316
2023	18.65	19.37	20.60	35.06	12.00	326
2024	19.99	20.56	21.98	36.86	14.00	340
AAGR	4.52%	4.91%	3.59%	4.25%	6.80%	2.54%

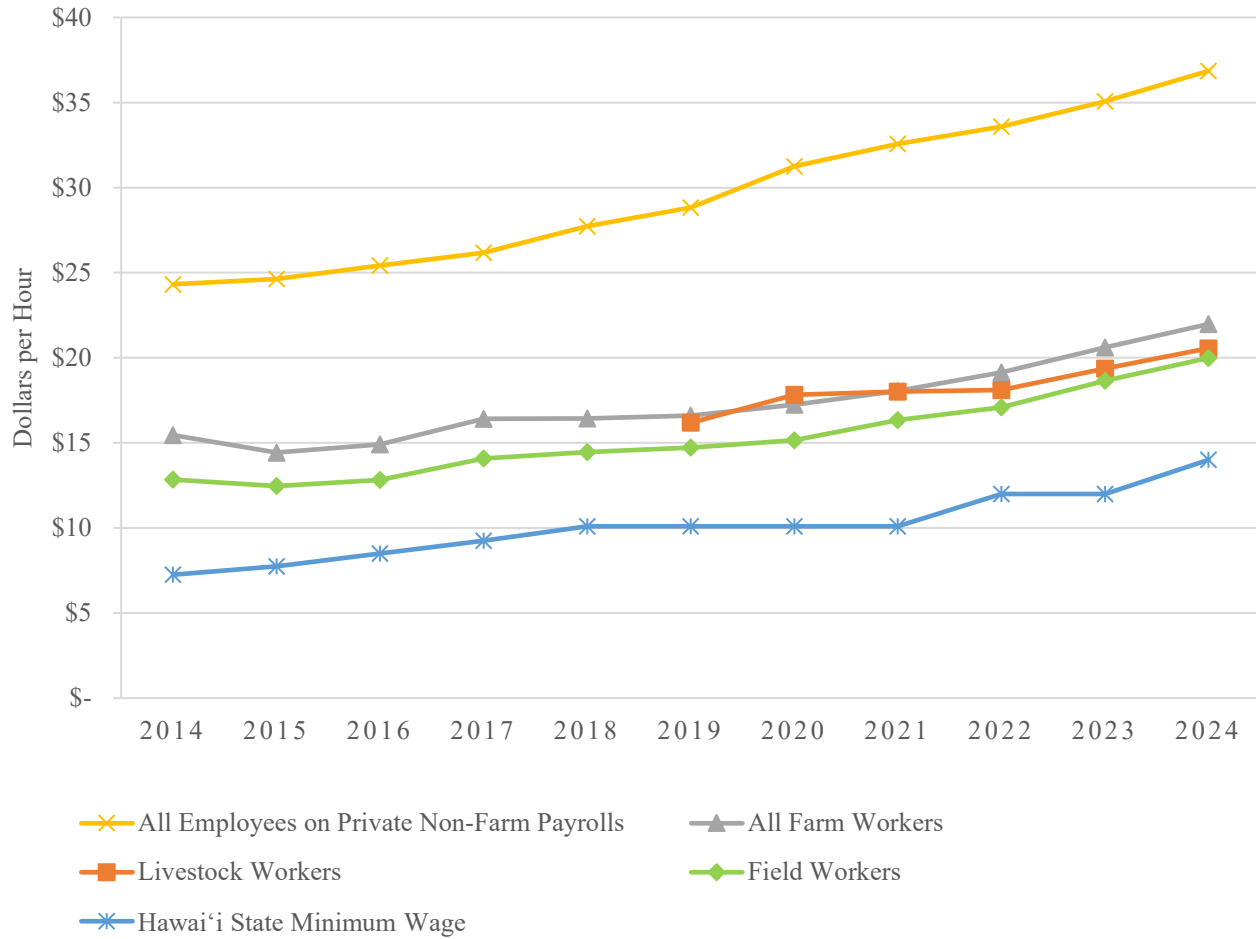
Source: USDA NASS Agricultural (Farm) Labor Surveys, 2014 – 2024. Available at: <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/results/AE07E31B-C1F4-368C-A478-6A5EF2DF594D>.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, State and Metro Area Employment, Hours, & Earnings. Available at: <https://www.bls.gov/sae/tables/annual-average/>

² State of Hawaii, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Wage Standards Division. Available at: www.labor.hawaii.gov/wsd/minimum-wage/

³ Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items in the Honolulu area. Available at: [https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/datawarehouse/Research & Economic Analysis | Economic Data Warehouse](https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/datawarehouse/Research%20&%20Economic%20Analysis%20Economic%20Data%20Warehouse)

Chart 1: Average Wage Rate by Type of Workers Hired, Minimum Wage Rate, and Consumer Price Index, Hawai'i, 2014 – 2024



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