



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 Grading Standards for Hawai‘i’s Green Coffee State of Hawai‘i, 2023 – 2025

The Hawai‘i Administrative Rules, Chapter 4-143, outlines coffee standards and the certification process for Hawai‘i’s green coffee to safeguard the geographic identity of Hawai‘i-grown coffee and to ensure product quality and origin for buyers.¹ The Commodities Branch at the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity is responsible for inspecting and certifying green coffee produced in Hawai‘i. Grading is based on cleanliness, color, roasting quality, allowance for defects, size minimum, and moisture content. The standards for grades of green coffee include Extra Fancy, Fancy, Hawaii No.1, Select, Prime, Hawaii No.3, Natural Prime, Mixed Natural Prime, and Off Grade. Coffee with a quality lower than Prime is prohibited from using geographic terms such as “Hamakua”, “Kau”, “Kauai”, “Kona”, “Maui”, “Molokai”, or “Oahu” on its product label.²

Prime was the predominant grade produced by Hawai‘i’s green coffee producers, accounting for 72% of all green coffee certified by the Commodities Branch during the 2024-2025 season, followed by Select (13%) and Hawaii No.3 (8%). However, the share of major standard grades like Prime changed to some extent each season. For example, in the 2024-2025 season, the share of Prime decreased considerably, compared to the previous 2023-2024 season, largely due to the increase of Select. Additionally, according to the USDA NASS, utilized production of green coffee in Hawai‘i was estimated at 3.9 million pounds in the 2024-2025 season. It suggests that only about half of Hawai‘i’s utilized green coffee was graded and certified in the 2024-2025 season. However, as shown in Table 1, the share of utilized green coffee certified by the Commodities Branch may fluctuate from year to year. The certification of green coffee is a voluntary program in Hawai‘i; therefore, green coffee producers may or may not choose to certify their green coffee due to various reasons.

Table 1: Hawai‘i Green Coffee Production (Unit in Pounds) and Grading Standards, 2023 – 2025

Grading Standards	2023-2024	%	2024-2025	%
Extra Fancy	31,300	1.3	23,621	1.2
Fancy	36,500	1.5	34,352	1.7
Hawaii No.1	43,692	1.8	30,159	1.5
Select	26,047	1.1	270,356	13.3
Prime	1,870,583	78.3	1,453,974	71.7
Hawaii No.3	375,394	15.7	171,907	8.5
Natural Prime	1,187	0.0	4,075	0.2
Mixed Natural Prime	3,727	0.2	25,140	1.2
Off Grade	0	0.0	13,876	0.7
Total Volume of Green Coffee Certified	2,388,430	100	2,027,460	100
Total Utilized Production of Green Coffee ³	3,440,000		3,961,000	
Proportion of Hawai‘i Green Coffee Certified	69%		51%	

Source: Commodities Branch, Quality Assurance Division, Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

¹ <https://dab.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/AR-143.pdf>

² <https://dab.hawaii.gov/qad/files/2020/07/2020-Coffee-HAR-143-Summary-Defects-Allowance-back-to-15-eff-July1.pdf>

³ USDA NASS Hawaii Coffee: <https://esmis.nal.usda.gov/sites/default/release-files/3t945q80c/cn69nz03f/7w62h548q/cafean25.pdf>

Chart 1: Hawai'i Green Coffee Production and Grading Standards, 2023 – 2024 & 2024 – 2025

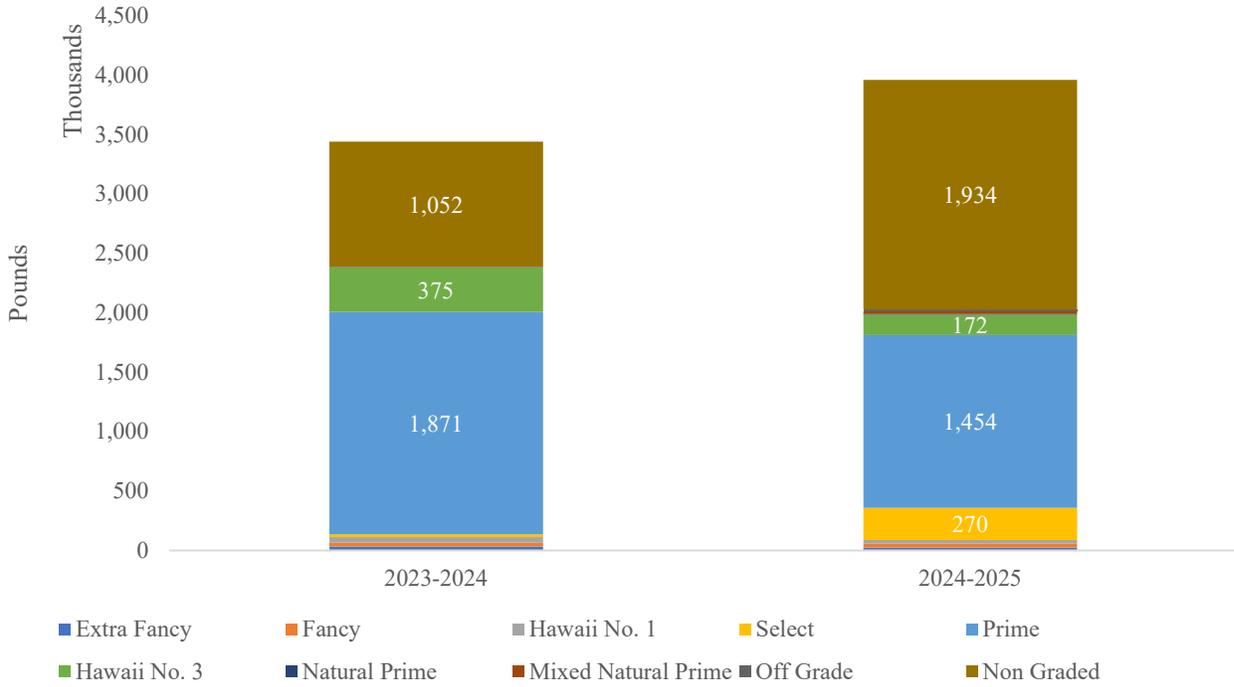
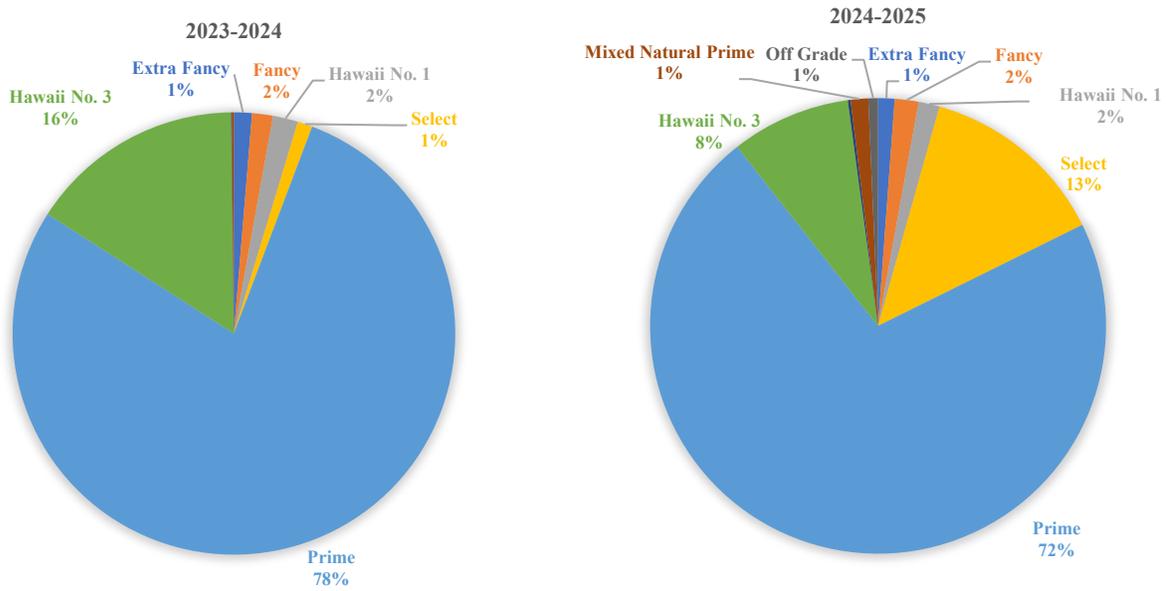


Chart 2: Distribution of Hawai'i Green Coffee Standards, 2023 – 2024 & 2024 – 2025



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