

Hawaii Taro Millings

April 16, 2008

Taro for poi production remain below year ago levels

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 1.1 million pounds for the fourth quarter of 2007. This was 15 percent above the third quarter of 2007 but 5 percent lower than the fourth quarter of 2006.

Taro millers used 415,000 pounds of taro in October, a 24-percent increase from September 2007. Taro for poi millings then decreased 18 percent to 340,000 pounds in November. The amount of taro used for poi milling then increased 9 percent in December to 370,000 pounds. Much of this increase can be attributed to the drier weather conditions experienced during much of 2007, however, wetter conditions returned during November and December.

Weather conditions during the fourth quarter of 2007 began dry but ended wet. The month of October saw many locations with below normal rainfall totals. A Kona storm in early November caused some flooding in low-lying areas. Drier conditions prevailed until the end of the month, when thunderstorms produced flash flooding in several locations. Much of December was wet and windy as several different storm systems blanketed the State. Nearly all locations recorded above normal rainfall totals. Some of the weather events produced flash floodings and overflowing stream banks. Most of the heaviest rainfall occurred during the early part of the month. ■

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2006, and 2007.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average ¹	389	372	390	359	364	370	405	425	415	434	419	447	4,789
2006 ²	380	365	365	300	355	315	350	395	385	405	390	395	4,400
2007	335	320	300	265	280	275	320	325	335	415	340	370	3,900
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2007/5-year	86	86	77	74	77	74	79	76	81	96	81	83	81
2007/2006.....	88	88	82	88	79	87	91	82	87	102	87	94	89

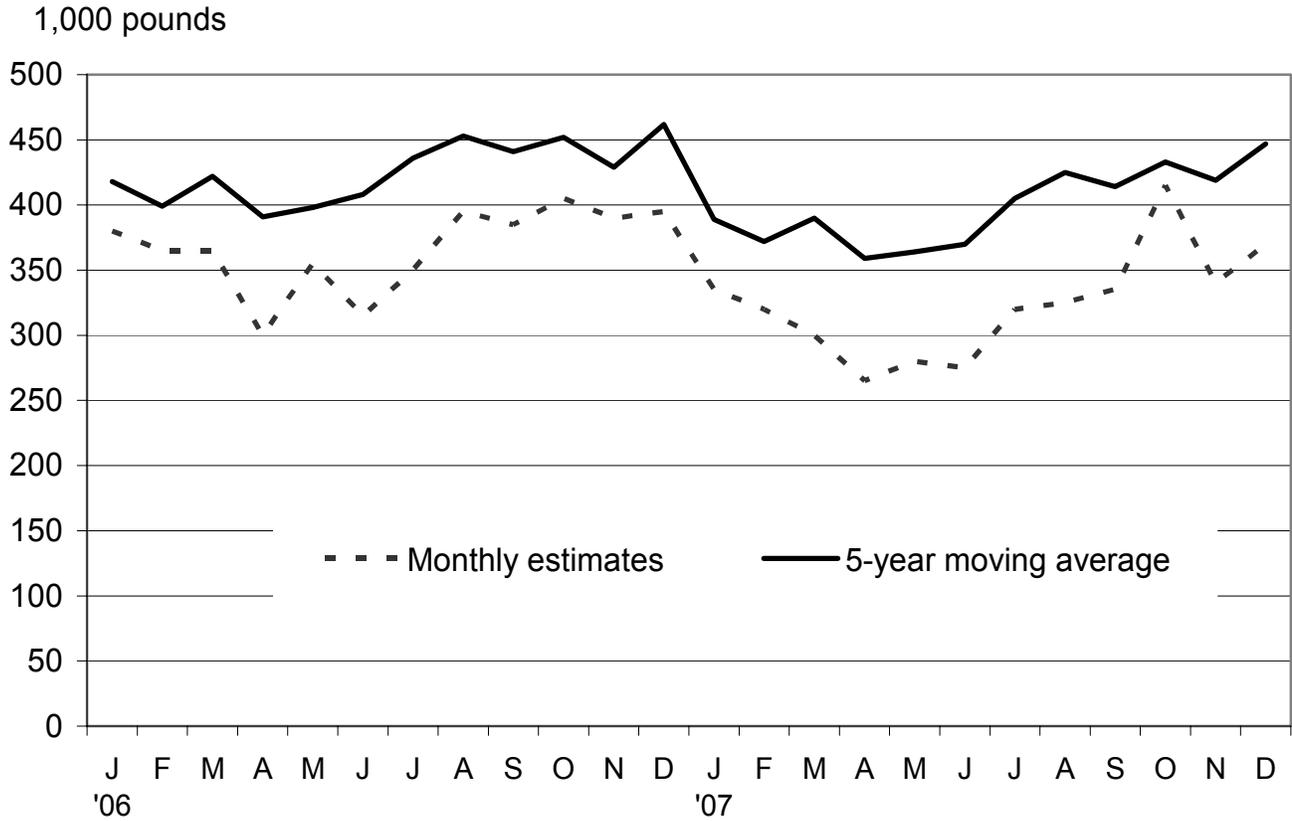
¹ Years: 2002-2006.

² Revised.

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Monthly Taro for Poi Millings State of Hawaii: 2006, 2007, and 5-year averages



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