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HIRED LAKE REGION WORKERS WAGES UP FROM OCTOBER

Lake Region: There were 40,000 hired workers on farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of January 6-12, 2008, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.72 per hour during the January 2008 survey week, up 42 cents from October 2007. The number of hours worked averaged 33.1 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 38.9 hours in October 2007. During the survey week, temperatures averaged at least 20 degrees above normal in parts of the Midwest, with several locations reporting record highs.

United States: There were 778,000 employed workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 6-12, 2008. Of these workers, 599,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 179,000 workers. The number of workers employed by all farm types decreased from October, 2007, with the smallest drop seen in Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry type operation accounted for 42% of total agricultural workers in January 2008, up from 32% in October 2007. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.77 per hour during the January 2008 reference week. The number of hours worked averaged 38.4 hours for these hired workers during the survey week.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 2008

| | Lake Region ^{1/} | | United States ^{2/} | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | October 7-13 2007 ^{3/} | January 6-12 2008 | October 7-13 2007 ^{3/} | January 6-12 2008 |
| | 1,000 Workers | | | |
| Workers on Farms Hired Workers ^{4/} | 67 | 40 | 817 | 599 |
| | Hours Per Week | | | |
| Hours Worked Hired Workers ^{4/} | 38.9 | 33.1 | 42.2 | 38.4 |
| | Dollars Per Hour | | | |
| Workers By Work Type | | | | |
| Field | 10.75 | 10.93 | 9.62 | 9.64 |
| Livestock | 10.64 | 10.67 | 10.02 | 10.19 |
| Field & Livestock | 10.70 | 10.75 | 9.73 | 9.87 |
| All Workers ^{4/} | 11.30 | 11.72 | 10.38 | 10.77 |

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

2/ Excludes Alaska.

3/ Due to Agency budget constraints, the January 2007 Farm Labor Survey was not conducted. Therefore, year-to-year comparisons are not available in this report. Revised October 2007 values are provided.

4/ Excludes agricultural service workers.