



February 17, 2006

NUMBER OF LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS UNCHANGED FROM A YEAR AGO

Lake Region: There were 43,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin) farms the week of January 8-14, 2006, unchanged from a year ago, according to the USDA-NASS Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.73 per hour during the January 2006 survey week, up by 12 cents from January 2005. Field workers received an average of \$10.33 per hour, a 68-cent increase from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.30 per hour compared with \$9.67 a year earlier. The field and livestock workers combined wage rate at \$9.69 per hour was up 3 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 37.8 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 34.0 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 796,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 8-14, 2006, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 616,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.11 per hour during the January 2006 reference week, up 33 cents from last January. Field workers received an average of \$9.15 per hour, up 44 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$9.20 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.19 per hour, was up 29 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 3 percent from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 2006

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	January 9-15 2005	January 8-14 2006	January 9-15 2005	January 8-14 2006
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	43	43	774	796
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	34.0	37.8	37.0	38.2
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	9.65	10.33	8.71	9.15
Livestock	9.67	9.30	9.20	9.25
Field & Livestock	9.66	9.69	8.90	9.19
All Workers	10.61	10.73	9.78	10.11

1/Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/Excludes Alaska.