



Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office
P.O. Box 7068 – St. Paul, MN 55107
(651) 296-2230 · (651) 296-3192 FAX

Email: nass-mn@nass.usda.gov - Homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Released: May 19, 2008

Hired Workers down 7 Percent in Lake Region; Wage Rates up 17 cents from One Year Ago

Lake Region: There were 52,000 hired workers on farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of April 6-12, 2008, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.25 per hour during the April 2008 survey week, up 17 cents from April 2007. The number of hours worked averaged 39.0 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 38.0 hours in April 2007. During the survey week, snowfall was recorded throughout the state and only 0.2 days were deemed suitable for fieldwork.

United States: There were 919,000 employed workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 6-12, 2008, down 7 percent from a year ago. Of these workers, 700,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 219,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.60 per hour during the April 2008 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, APRIL 2008						
	Lake Region ^{1/}			United States ^{2/}		
	April 8-14 2007	January 6-12 2008	April 6-12 2008	April 8-14 2007	January 6-12 2008	April 6-12 2008
	1,000 Workers					
Workers on Farms Hired Workers ^{3/}	56	40	52	736	594	700
	Hours Per Week					
Hours Worked Hired Workers ^{3/}	38.0	33.1	39.0	40.7	38.4	41.0
	Dollars Per Hour					
Workers By Work Type						
Field	10.11	10.93	10.57	9.35	9.67	9.65
Livestock	9.99	10.67	10.78	9.59	10.18	10.32
Field & Livestock	10.05	10.75	10.70	9.42	9.88	9.87
All Workers ^{3/}	11.08	11.72	11.25	10.20	10.81	10.60

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