



Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

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Hired Workers Down 18 Percent in Lake Region; Wage Rates Up 49 Cents from One Year Ago

Lake Region: There were 64,000 hired workers on farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of July 6-12, 2008, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.75 per hour during the July 2008 survey week, up 49 cents from July 2007. The number of hours worked averaged 36.5 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 40.2 hours in July 2007. In Minnesota, part of the Lake Region, there were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork during the week.

United States: There were 1,173,000 employed workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2008, down 3 percent from a year ago. Of these workers, 828,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 345,000 workers. The largest decreases in workers were seen in California, where a lack of irrigation water resulted in acreage left fallow, and the Lake Region, where rain and wet conditions hampered fieldwork.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.34 per hour during the July 2008 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 2 percent from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JULY 2008							
	Lake Region ^{1/}			United States ^{2/}			
	July 8-14 2007	April 6-12 2008	July 6-12 2008	July 8-14 2007	April 6-12 2008	July 6-12 2008	
Workers on Farms Hired Workers ^{3/}	1,000 Workers						
	78	52	64	843	700	828	
Hours Worked Hired Workers ^{3/}	Hours Per Week						
	40.2	39.0	36.5	41.4	40.8	40.5	
Workers By Work Type	Dollars Per Hour						
	Field	9.52	10.57	10.10	9.24	9.65	9.66
	Livestock	9.33	10.78	10.09	9.73	10.24	9.98
	Field & Livestock	9.44	10.70	10.10	9.37	9.84	9.74
	All Workers ^{3/}	10.26	11.25	10.75	9.99	10.57	10.34

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