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NUMBER OF LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS DOWN FROM A YEAR AGO

Lake Region: There were 57,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin) farms the week of October 8-14, 2006, down 15,000 workers from a year ago, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.35 per hour during the October 2006 survey week, unchanged from October 2005. Field workers received an average of \$9.89 per hour, a 7 cent decrease from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.61 per hour compared with \$9.49 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.80 per hour was unchanged from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.4 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 40.6 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 2006, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 797,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 280,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.95 per hour during the October 2006 reference week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.25 per hour, up 35 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.41 per hour compared with \$9.15 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.29 per hour, was up 33 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 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, OCTOBER 2006

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	October 9-15 2005	October 8-14 2006	October 9-15 2005	October 8-14 2006
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	72	57	1,136	1,077
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	40.6	39.4	42.0	41.6
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	9.96	9.89	8.90	9.25
Livestock	9.49	9.61	9.15	9.41
Field & Livestock	9.80	9.80	8.96	9.29
All Workers	10.35	10.35	9.61	9.95

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

2/ Excludes Alaska.