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NUMBER OF HIRED LAKE REGION WORKERS UP FROM A YEAR AGO

Lake Region: There were 67,000 hired workers on farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin) the week of October 7-13, 2007, up 10,000 workers from a year ago, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.30 per hour during the October 2007 survey week, up 95 cents from October 2006. Field workers received an average of \$10.75 per hour, an 86 cent increase from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$10.64 per hour compared with \$9.61 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$10.70 per hour was up 90 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.9 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 39.4 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 1,122,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 7-13, 2007, up 3 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 806,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 316,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.33 per hour during the October 2007 reference week, up 37 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.62 per hour, up 36 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.98 per hour compared with \$9.42 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.72 per hour, was up 42 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 42.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up fractionally from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 2007

| | Lake Region 1/ | | United States 2/ | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | October 8-14 2006 | October 7-13 2007 | October 8-14 2006 | October 7-13 2007 |
| | 1,000 Workers | | | |
| Workers on Farms All Hired Workers | 57 | 67 | 1,086 | 1,122 |
| | Hours Per Week | | | |
| Hours Worked All Hired Workers | 39.4 | 38.9 | 41.9 | 42.1 |
| | Dollars Per Hour | | | |
| Workers By Work Type | | | | |
| Field | 9.89 | 10.75 | 9.26 | 9.62 |
| Livestock | 9.61 | 10.64 | 9.42 | 9.98 |
| Field & Livestock | 9.80 | 10.70 | 9.30 | 9.72 |
| All Workers | 10.35 | 11.30 | 9.96 | 10.33 |

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

2/ Excludes Alaska.