



## Wisconsin - Farm Labor

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### Farm Labor

The Lake Region (Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota) employed 67,000 agricultural workers during the week of October 11 - 17, 2009. The reference week was cool and damp in the Lake Region. In Wisconsin, lack of crop maturity and wet weather slowed crop harvest. There was some corn silage, soybeans, and fruits harvested during the reference week in Wisconsin.

The average number of hours worked per employee in the Lake States was 38.0. The average wage rate for all hired agricultural workers was \$11.24 per hour, down 25 cents from the October 2008 reference week. An employee is classified as a livestock worker if they are hired to primarily tend livestock, milk cows, care for poultry, or operate machinery on livestock farms. Livestock workers in the Lake Region earned an average of \$10.10 per hour during the reference week. If an employee is hired primarily to plant and harvest crops, including operating machinery on crop farms, they are considered a field worker. Field workers in the Lake Region averaged \$11.03 per hour during the October reference week.

There were 1,092,000 people hired on U.S. farms and ranches the week of October 11 - 17, 2009. Of these workers, 807,000 were hired directly by farm operators. The remaining 285,000 people were hired for agricultural services. Some examples of agricultural service workers would be custom harvesters, veterinarians, and artificial insemination technicians. The average number of hours worked for all hired workers was 39.0. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.91 per hour, up 21 cents from the October 2008 reference week. Field workers earned an average of \$10.25 per hour, while livestock workers averaged \$10.23 per hour.

### Hired Workers: Annual Average Wage Rates 1/

US and Region	2008	2009
	Dollars per hour	
Lake (MI, MN, WI)	11.25	11.22
Northeast I (CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT)	10.96	10.83
Northeast II (DE, MD, NJ, PA)	10.32	10.79
Appalachian I (NC, VA)	9.94	10.22
Appalachian II (KY, TN, WV)	10.30	10.59
Southeast (AL, GA, SC)	9.27	9.48
FL	10.06	10.42
Cornbelt I (IL, IN, OH)	11.10	11.09
Cornbelt II (IA, MO)	11.24	11.22
Delta (AR, LA, MS)	9.38	9.60
Northern Plains (KS, NE, ND, SD)	10.87	11.08
Southern Plains (OK, TX)	9.86	10.30
Mountain I (ID, MT, WY)	9.99	10.36
Mountain II (CO, NV, UT)	10.43	10.72
Mountain III (AZ, NM)	10.46	10.45
Pacific (OR, WA)	10.69	11.56
CA	11.03	11.14
HI	13.22	13.40
US (excluding AK)	10.59	10.82

1/Excludes agricultural service workers. Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. Source: USDA, NASS, WI FO

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