

FARM LABOR

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LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS DOWN 14 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Lake Region: There were 43,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) farms during the week of January 9-15, 2005, down by 14 percent from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.61 per hour during the January 2005 survey week, down by 7 cents from \$10.68 in January 2004. Field workers received an average of \$9.65 per hour, a 46-cent decrease from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.67 per hour compared with \$9.41 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.66 per hour was up by 6 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 34.0 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 34.2 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 749,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2005, down 12 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 574,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 175,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.81 per hour during the January 2005 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.73 per hour, up 34 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.19 per hour compared with \$8.83 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.91 per hour, was up 36 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 36.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 2005

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	January 11-17 2004	January 9-15 2005	January 11-17 2004	January 9-15 2005
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	50	43	729	667
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	34.2	34.0	38.1	36.8
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	10.11	9.65	8.39	8.73
Livestock	9.41	9.67	8.83	9.19
Field & Livestock	9.60	9.66	8.55	8.91
All Workers	10.68	10.61	9.41	9.81

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