

FARM LABOR

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LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS DOWN 4 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Lake Region: There were 55,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) farms during the week of April 10-16, 2005, down by 4 percent from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.95 per hour during the April 2005 survey week, down by 15 cents from \$10.10 in April 2004. Field workers received an average of \$8.99 per hour, down 21 cents from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$10.05 per hour compared with \$9.95 a year earlier. The field and livestock workers combined wage rate at \$9.45 per hour was down by 15 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 34.8 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 35.5 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 978,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 10-16, 2005, down 10 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 746,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 232,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.34 per hour during the April 2005 reference week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.55 per hour, up 8 cents from last April, while livestock workers earned \$9.23 per hour compared with \$8.95 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.73 per hour, was up 14 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.8 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, APRIL 2005

| | Lake Region 1/ | | United States 2/ | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | April 11-17 2004 | April 10-16 2005 | April 11-17 2004 | April 10-16 2005 |
| | 1,000 Workers | | | |
| Workers on Farms All Hired Workers | 57 | 55 | 1,084 | 978 |
| | Hours Per Week | | | |
| Hours Worked All Hired Workers | 35.5 | 34.8 | 40.6 | 39.8 |
| | Dollars Per Hour | | | |
| Workers By Work Type | | | | |
| Field | 9.20 | 8.99 | 8.47 | 8.55 |
| Livestock | 9.95 | 10.05 | 8.95 | 9.23 |
| Field & Livestock | 9.60 | 9.45 | 8.59 | 8.73 |
| All Workers | 10.10 | 9.95 | 9.23 | 9.34 |

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