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NUMBER OF LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS UNCHANGED FROM JULY 2002

Lake Region: There were 62,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin) farms the week of July 6-12, 2003, unchanged from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Weather conditions during the survey week were moist with below-average temperatures in Minnesota. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.36 per hour during the July 2003 survey week, up by \$1.03 cents from \$8.33 in July 2002. Field workers received an average of \$8.34 per hour, a 49-cent increase from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$8.95 per hour compared with \$7.85 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$8.55 per hour rose 70 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 36.2 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 34.8 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 1.273 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2003, up 1 percent from a year ago. There were 953,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 320,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$8.88 per hour during the July 2003 survey week, up 31 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.18 per hour, up 28 cents from last July. Livestock workers earned \$8.62 per hour compared with \$8.38 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate was \$8.28 per hour, up 26 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, unchanged from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JULY 2003

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	July 7-13 2002	July 6-12 2003	July 7-13 2002	July 6-12 2003
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	62	62	1,262	1,273
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	34.8	36.2	40.0	40.0
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	7.85	8.34	7.90	8.18
Livestock	7.85	8.95	8.38	8.62
Field & Livestock	7.85	8.55	8.02	8.28
All Workers	8.33	9.36	8.57	8.88

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