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LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS UP BY 7,000 FROM JULY 2003

Lake Region: There were 69,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin) farms the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 7,000 from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Weather conditions during the survey week were generally dry with below-average temperatures in Minnesota. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.30 per hour during the July 2004 survey week, down by 6 cents from July 2003. Field workers received an average of \$8.29 per hour, a 5-cent decrease from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.13 per hour compared with \$8.95 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$8.55 per hour was unchanged from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 36.4 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 36.2 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 1,293,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 11-17, 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 953,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 340,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.10 per hour during the July 2004 reference week, up 22 cents from a year ago. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 25 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$8.75 per hour compared with \$8.57 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.50 per hour, was up 24 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.3 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JULY 2004

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	July 6-12 2003	July 11-17 2004	July 6-12 2003	July 11-17 2004
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	62	69	1,263	1,293
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	36.2	36.4	39.8	39.3
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	8.34	8.29	8.17	8.42
Livestock	8.95	9.13	8.57	8.75
Field & Livestock	8.55	8.55	8.26	8.50
All Workers	9.36	9.30	8.88	9.10

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