

NUMBER OF LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS UP 8,000 FROM OCTOBER 2002

Lake Region: There were 72,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) farms the week of October 12-18, 2003, an increase of 8,000 from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Weather conditions during both the survey week and the previous week were mild and dry with above-average temperatures in Minnesota. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.70 per hour during the October 2003 survey week, down by 3 cents from \$9.73 in October 2002. Field workers received an average of \$9.25 per hour, a 3-cent decrease from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.11 per hour, unchanged from a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.20 per hour, was down 1 cent from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 37.7 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 34.7 hours a year ago, when the weather was cool and rainy.

United States: There were 1.197 million hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 12-18, 2003, down 1 percent from a year ago. There were 891,000 workers hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 306,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.05 per hour during the October 2003 reference week, up 10 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.42 per hour, up 8 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$8.64 per hour compared with \$8.42 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.47 per hour, was up 11 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.2 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down fractionally from 40.4 hours from a year ago.

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

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	October 6-12 2002	October 12-18 2003	October 6-12 2002	October 12-18 2003
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	64	72	1,211	1,197
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	34.7	37.7	40.4	40.2
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	9.28	9.25	8.34	8.42
Livestock	9.11	9.11	8.42	8.64
Field & Livestock	9.21	9.20	8.36	8.47
All Workers	9.73	9.70	8.95	9.05

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