

November 18, 2005

NUMBER OF LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS UNCHANGED FROM A YEAR AGO

Lake Region: There were 72,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin) farms the week of October 9-15, 2005, unchanged from a year ago, according to the USDA-NASS Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.35 per hour during the October 2005 survey week, up by 58 cents from October 2004. Field workers received an average of \$9.96 per hour, a 90-cent increase from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.49 per hour compared with \$9.51 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.80 per hour was up 60 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.6 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 39.7 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 1,129,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 9-15, 2005, down 4 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 840,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 289,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.61 per hour during the October 2005 reference week, up 29 cents from last October. Field workers received an average of \$8.90 per hour, up 28 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.14 per hour compared with \$8.91 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.96 per hour, was up 27 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 42.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 4 percent from a year ago.

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

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	October 10-16 2004	October 9-15 2005	October 10-16 2004	October 9-15 2005
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	72	72	1,175	1,129
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	39.7	40.6	40.5	42.0
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	9.06	9.96	8.62	8.90
Livestock	9.51	9.49	8.91	9.14
Field & Livestock	9.20	9.80	8.69	8.96
All Workers	9.77	10.35	9.32	9.61

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