



# Minnesota Ag News - Labor

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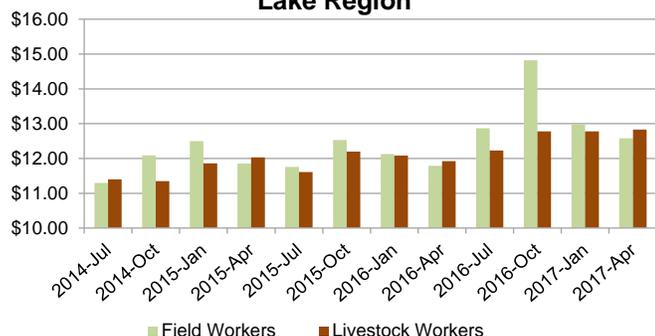
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Media Contact: Dan Lofthus

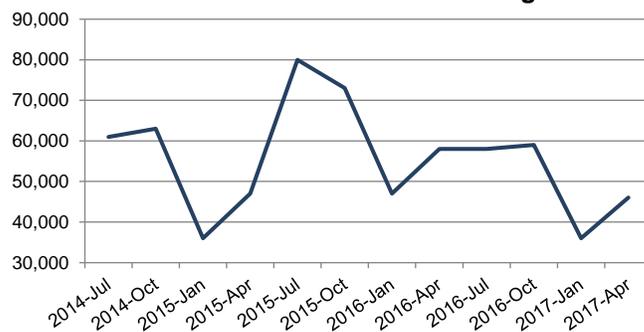
There were 36,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of January 8-14, 2017, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.60 per hour, up \$1.01 from January 2016. The number of hours worked averaged 39.0 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 34.6 hours in January 2016.

During the reference week of April 9-15 2017, there were 46,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.35 per hour during the April 2017 reference week, up \$1.04 from April 2016. The number of hours worked averaged 38.7 for hired workers during the reference week, up from 36.6 hours in April 2016.

**Wage Rates by Type of Worker  
Lake Region**



**Number of Workers - Lake Region**



## Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region and United States: 2016-2017

[Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin]

	Lake Region			United States		
	April 2016	January 2017	April 2017	April 2016	January 2017	April 2017
Hired workers on farms ..... 1,000 workers	58	36	46	703	533	673
Hours worked by hired workers .....hours per week	36.6	39.0	38.7	40.4	38.0	40.4
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined ..... dollars per hour	11.85	12.85	12.70	12.00	12.35	12.32
Field..... dollars per hour	11.79	12.98	12.58	12.00	12.15	12.22
Livestock..... dollars per hour	11.92	12.78	12.83	12.01	12.66	12.53
All hired workers..... dollars per hour	12.31	13.60	13.35	12.75	13.43	13.23

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

## UNITED STATES LABOR

There were 673,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 9-15, 2017, down 4 percent from the April 2016 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 533,000 during the week of January 8-14, 2017, down 8 percent from the January 2016 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.23 per hour during the April 2017 reference week, up 4 percent from the April 2016 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$12.22 per hour, an increase of 2 percent. Livestock workers earned \$12.53 per hour, up 4 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.32 per hour, was up 3 percent from the 2016 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.4 hours during the April 2017 reference week, equaling the hours worked during the April 2016 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.43 per hour during the January 2017 reference week, up 5 percent from the January 2016 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$12.15 per hour, up 3 percent, while livestock workers earned \$12.66 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.35 per hour, was up 4 percent from the January 2016 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.0 hours during the January 2017 reference week, compared with 38.8 hours worked during the January 2016 reference week.

For the April 2017 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2016 reference week occurred in the Florida, Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Southeast region saw the largest increase, with 36 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2016 reference week occurred in the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. Cornbelt I saw the biggest decline, with workers down 23 percent from the 2016 reference week. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Hawaii, and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) regions.

For the January 2017 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2016 reference week occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Southeast region saw the largest increase, with 41 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2016 reference week occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. Pacific saw the biggest decline, with workers down 27 percent from the 2016 reference week. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont), and Southern Plains regions.