



# Minnesota Ag News - Labor

Minnesota Field Office · 375 Jackson St, Ste 610 · St. Paul, MN 55101 (651) 728-3113  
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

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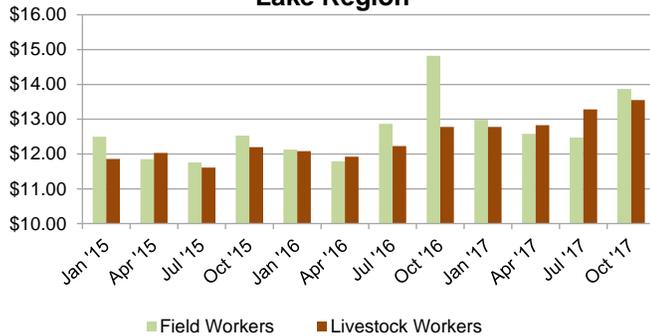
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Media Contact: Dan Lofthus

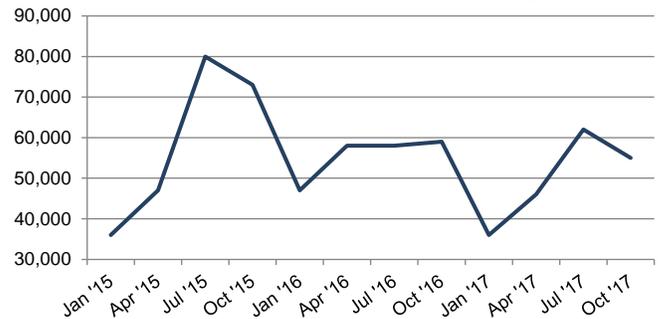
There were 62,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of July 9-15, 2017, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.63 per hour, up \$0.39 from July 2016. The number of hours worked averaged 34.4 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 38.5 hours in July 2016.

During the reference week of October 8-14 2017, there were 55,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$14.45 per hour during the October 2017 reference week, down \$0.22 from October 2016. The number of hours worked averaged 38.1 for hired workers during the reference week, down from 42.1 hours in October 2016.

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



**Number of Workers - Lake Region**



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

[Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin]

	Lake Region			United States		
	October 2016	July 2017	October 2017	October 2016	July 2017	October 2017
Hired workers on farms .....1,000 workers	59	62	55	798	879	840
Hours worked by hired workers .....hours per week	42.1	34.4	38.1	41.6	41.4	41.6
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined ..... dollars per hour	14.10	12.80	13.75	12.50	12.47	12.66
Field..... dollars per hour	14.82	12.47	13.87	12.59	12.57	12.83
Livestock..... dollars per hour	12.78	13.28	13.55	12.25	12.21	12.22
All hired workers..... dollars per hour	14.67	13.63	14.45	13.25	13.23	13.42

<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

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 840,000 for the reference week of October 8-14, 2017, up 5 percent from the October 2016 reference week. There were 879,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 9-15, 2017, up 5 percent from the July 2016 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.42 per hour during the October 2017 reference week, up 1 percent from the previous year. Field workers received an average of \$12.83 per hour, up 2 percent. Livestock workers earned \$12.22, down slightly from the previous year. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.66 per hour, was up 1 percent from October 2016. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.6 hours during the October 2017 reference week, unchanged from a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.23 per hour during the July 2017 reference week, up 2 percent from the previous year. Field workers received an average of \$12.57 per hour, up 2 percent. Livestock workers earned \$12.21 per hour, up slightly from the previous year. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.47 per hour, was up 2 percent from July 2016. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.4 hours during the July 2017 reference week, compared with 41.2 hours a year earlier.

The 2017 all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$13.32 per hour, up 3 percent from the 2016 annual average wage. The 2017 field worker annual average wage rate was \$12.51 per hour, up 2 percent from the 2016 annual average. The 2017 annual average combined wage for field and livestock workers was \$12.47, up 2 percent from the 2016 annual average of \$12.20 per hour.

For the October 2017 reference week, the largest increases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. Pacific saw the largest increase, with 37 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. The Appalachian I and Cornbelt II regions saw the largest decreases, with 17 percent less workers during the reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), California, and Hawaii regions.

For the July 2017 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. The Mountain I region saw the biggest increase, with 36 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. The Cornbelt II region saw the largest decrease, with 15 percent less workers during the reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Florida, and Hawaii regions.