



Upper Midwest Region - Wisconsin Field Office · 2811 Agriculture Drive · Madison WI 53718 · (608) 224-4848
fax (855) 271-9802 · www.nass.usda.gov

Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

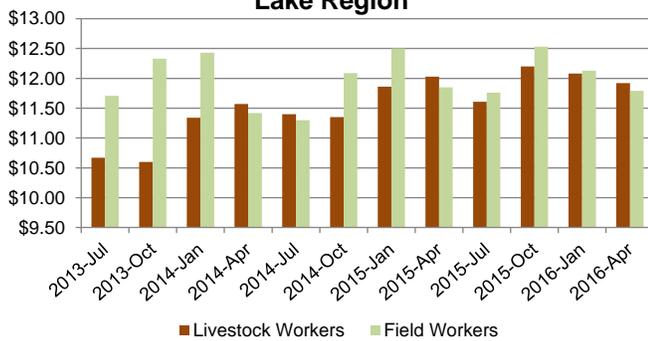
May 19, 2016

Media Contact: Greg Bussler

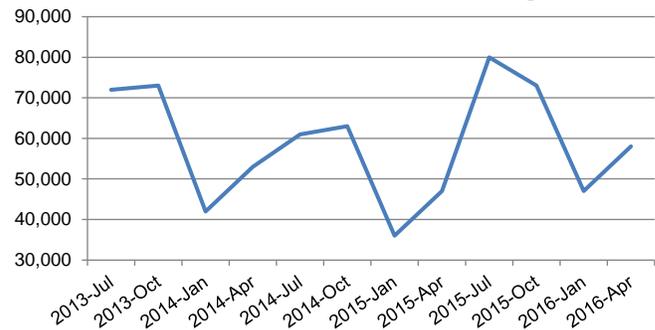
There were 47,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of January 10-16, 2016, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.59 per hour, down \$0.28 from January 2015. The number of hours worked averaged 34.6 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 36.5 hours in January 2015.

During the reference week of April 10-16, 2016, there were 58,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.31 per hour during the April 2016 reference week, down \$0.36 from April 2015. The number of hours worked averaged 36.6 for hired workers during the reference week, down from 37.1 hours in April 2015.

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



Number of Workers - Lake Region



Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region and United States: 2015-2016

[Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin]

	Lake Region			United States		
	April 2015	January 2016	April 2016	April 2015	January 2016	April 2016
Hired workers on farms 1,000 workers	47	47	58	687	582	703
Hours worked by hired workers .. hours per week	37.1	34.6	36.6	39.9	38.8	40.4
Wage rate ¹						
Field and livestock combined.... dollars per hour	11.95	12.10	11.85	11.43	11.91	12.00
Field dollars per hour	11.85	12.13	11.79	11.36	11.84	12.00
Livestock dollars per hour	12.03	12.08	11.92	11.58	12.02	12.01
All hired workers dollars per hour	12.67	12.59	12.31	12.28	12.83	12.75

¹ 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 703,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 10-16, 2016, up 2 percent from the April 2015 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 582,000 during the week of January 10-16, 2016, up 6 percent from the January 2015 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.75 per hour during the April 2016 reference week, up 4 percent from the April 2015 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$12.00 per hour, an increase of 6 percent. Livestock workers earned \$12.01 per hour, up 4 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.00 per hour, was up 5 percent from the 2015 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.4 hours during the April 2016 reference week, compared with 39.9 hours worked during the April 2015 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.83 per hour during the January 2016 reference week, up 2 percent from the January 2015 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$11.84 per hour, up 4 percent, while livestock workers earned \$12.02 per hour, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.91 per hour, was up 3 percent from the January 2015 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.8 hours during the January 2016 reference week, compared with 39.2 hours worked during the January 2015 reference week.

For the April 2016 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2015 reference week occurred in the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. The Cornbelt I region saw the largest increase, with 31 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2015 reference week occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. Appalachian II saw the biggest decline, with workers down 23 percent from the 2015 reference week. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Florida, Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.

For the January 2016 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2015 reference week occurred in the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania) regions. The Cornbelt I region saw the largest increase, with 35 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2015 reference week occurred in the Appalachian I (North Carolina and Virginia), Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), and Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri) regions. Appalachian II saw the biggest decline, with workers down 25 percent from the 2015 reference week. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the California and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.