



Wisconsin Ag News – Labor



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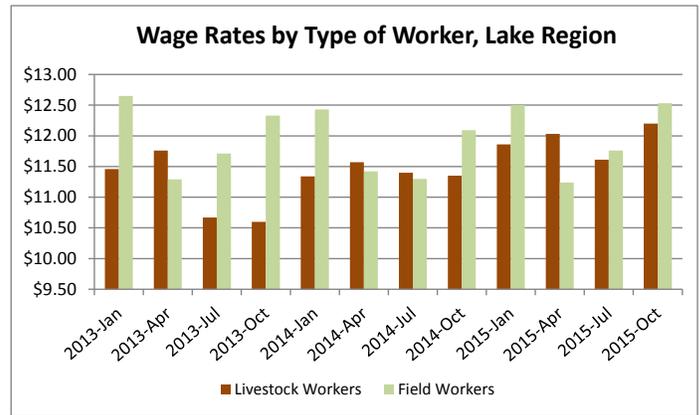
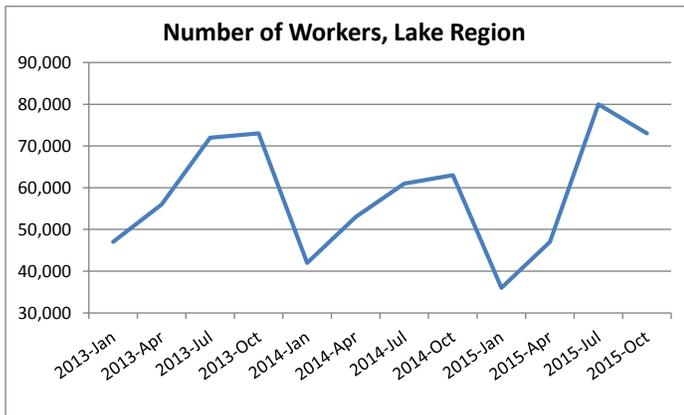
Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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There were 73,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of October 11-17, 2015, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.28 per hour, up \$1.04 from October 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 41.5 for hired workers during the reference week, up 3.0 hours from October 2014.

During the reference week of July 12-18, 2015, there were 80,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.56 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, up \$0.69 from July 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 38.3 for hired workers during the reference week, down slightly when compared to 38.4 hours in July 2014.



Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region and United States: 2014-2015

[Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin]

	Lake Region			United States		
	October 2014	July 2015	October 2015	October 2014	July 2015	October 2015
Hired Workers on Farms 1,000 workers	63	80	73	782	872	841
Hours worked by Hired Workers hrs/wk	38.5	38.3	41.5	41.3	41.0	41.7
Wage Rate by Work Type ¹						
Field \$/hr	12.09	11.76	12.53	11.52	11.73	12.11
Livestock \$/hr	11.35	11.61	12.20	11.29	11.80	12.02
Field & Livestock \$/hr	11.75	11.70	12.40	11.46	11.75	12.09
All Hired Workers \$/hr	12.24	12.56	13.28	12.12	12.47	12.82

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

Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 841,000 for the reference week of October 11-17, 2015, up 8 percent from the October 2014 reference week. There were 872,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2015, up 4 percent from the July 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.82 per hour during the October 2015 reference week, up 6 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$12.11 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$12.02, up 6 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.09 per hour, was up 5 percent from October 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.7 hours during the October 2015 reference week, compared with 41.3 hours a year earlier.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.47 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.73 per hour, up 3 percent. Livestock workers earned \$11.80 per hour, up 5 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.75 per hour, was up 4 percent from July 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.0 hours during the July 2015 reference week, compared with 40.5 hours a year earlier.

The 2015 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$12.54 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average wage. The 2015 U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$11.72 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average. The 2015 U.S. annual average combined wage for field and livestock workers was \$11.74, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average of \$11.29 per hour.

October Reference Week

For the October 2015 reference week, the largest increases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. Corn Belt I saw the largest increase, with 42 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), Florida, and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. The Southern Plains region saw the largest decrease, with 18 percent less workers during the reference week.

Average wage rates increased from the previous year, in nearly all regions. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Corn Belt I, Florida, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Southern Plains regions.

July Reference Week

For the July 2015 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the previous year occurred in the Corn Belt II (Iowa and Missouri), Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi), and Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) regions. The Corn Belt II region saw the biggest increase, with 32 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 Florida, Pacific (Oregon and Washington), and Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas) regions. The Pacific region saw the largest decrease, with 12 percent less workers during the reference week.

Average wage rates increased from the previous year, in nearly all regions. The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Florida, Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southern Plains regions.