



Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

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Cooperating with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

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Hired Workers Down 2 Percent in Lake Region; Wage Down 25 Cents from One Year Ago

Lake Region: There were 67,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of October 11-17, 2009, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$11.24 per hour during the October 2009 survey week, down 25 cents from October 2008. The number of hours worked averaged 38.0 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 36.2 hours in October 2008. In Minnesota, part of the Lake Region, less than 2 days were suitable for fieldwork during the week, compared to 3.9 days during the 2008 reference week.

United States: There were 1,092,000 employed workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 11-17, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these workers, 807,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 285,000 workers. In northern and central California, heavy rains from the remnants of Typhoon Melor caused major fieldwork delays reducing demand for hired workers. In Florida, however, the reference week was much drier compared with last year when 2 to 3 inches of rain fell statewide, allowing fieldwork to progress rapidly.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.91 per hour during the October 2009 reference week, up 21 cents from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 39.0 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 6 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 2009						
	Lake Region ^{1/}			United States ^{2/}		
	October 12-18 2008	July 12-18 2009	October 11-17 2009	October 12-18 2008	July 12-18 2009	October 11-17 2009
Workers on Farms Hired Workers ^{3/}	1,000 Workers					
	66	76	67	804	875	807
Hours Worked Hired Workers ^{3/}	Hours Per Week					
	36.2	34.6	38.0	41.4	39.7	39.0
Workers By Work Type	Dollars Per Hour					
Field	11.43	10.55	11.03	10.05	10.04	10.25
Livestock	10.20	10.27	10.10	10.21	10.05	10.23
Field & Livestock	11.00	10.45	10.65	10.09	10.04	10.24
All Workers ^{3/}	11.49	11.04	11.24	10.70	10.66	10.91

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

2/ Excludes Alaska.

3/ Excludes agricultural service workers.