

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

FEBRUARY 20, 2009



REPORT NUMBER 09.155

WAGES AND THE MINIMUM WAGE IN ALASKA AND OTHER STATES

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE PETE PETERSEN

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You asked for information regarding the minimum wage. Specifically, you wished to know:

- ♦ How many employees in Alaska earn the minimum wage, and how many earn \$10 per hour or less,
- ♦ A brief history of the minimum wage in Alaska,

- ◆ Information regarding the minimum wage initiative proposed in 2001,
- ◆ What Alaska's minimum wage would be today if the minimum wage inflation-proofing provisions of HB 56 had not been repealed, and
- ◆ The current minimum wage rates in other states.

WAGES AND OCCUPATIONS IN ALASKA

According to Economist Brian Rae, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) produces estimates of the number of workers making less than a certain dollar amount using statistical measures of wage estimates.¹ As a result, precise figures of the number of workers earning the minimum wage and \$10 an hour or less are not available. Mr. Rae notes, however, in 2007 approximately 8,790 workers—or 2.9% of total employment in Alaska—earned less than \$7.75 an hour. Mr. Rea also notes that 22,254 workers—or 7.4% of total employment in Alaska—earned less than \$8.75 an hour. Table 1 provides the estimated number of workers in 2007 earning less than \$7.75 and \$8.75, in each of the major industry categories in Alaska.

¹ Brian N. Rae, Economist, Research and Analysis Section, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 907-465-5883.

Table 1: Estimated Employment in Alaska Below Certain Wages by Industry, 2007

Industry	Total Employment	Below \$7.75		Below \$8.75	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	361	0	0%	4	1.0%
Mining	13,300	19	0.1%	59	0.4%
Utilities	1,832	8	0.4%	25	1.4%
Construction	17,555	70	0.4%	124	0.7%
Manufacturing	9,885	648	6.6%	1,467	14.8%
Wholesale Trade	6,519	83	1.3%	244	3.7%
Retail Trade	36,006	1,138	3.2%	4,285	11.9%
Transportation and Warehousing	21,623	166	0.8%	631	2.9%
Information	6,964	147	2.1%	304	4.4%
Finance and Insurance	8,969	54	0.6%	174	1.9%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	4,885	216	4.4%	564	11.5%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical	12,146	90	0.7%	245	2.0%
Company and Enterprise Management	1,203	3	0.3%	13	1.1%
Administrative and Support and Waste	11,026	220	2.0%	446	4.0%
Educational Services	31,737	1,168	3.7%	1,953	6.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	36,245	372	1.0%	990	2.7%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4,066	355	8.7%	884	21.7%
Accommodation and Food Service	26,610	3,440	12.9%	8,309	31.2%
Other Services (except public)	9,425	358	3.8%	987	10.5%
Public Administration	41,561	235	0.6%	546	1.3%
Total Employment	301,918	8,790	2.9%	22,254	7.4%
Notes: This table includes nonfarm wage and salary employment and excludes self-employed workers, fishermen, domestic workers, unpaid family workers, and nonprofit volunteers. Sources: Brian Rae, Economist, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section, and U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. These estimates are as of January 20, 2009, and are based on information collected in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); they have not been reviewed or validated by the BLS. The Research and Analysis Section is responsible for the creation of these estimates. Mr. Rae can be reached at 907-465-5883.					

Table 2 provides the average hourly wage and average annual wage for all workers and all major occupational groups in Alaska for 2007. These data are based on information reported to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Table 2: Average Hourly and Annual Wage by Occupation for Alaska, May 2007

Occupation	Employment	Hourly Mean Wage	Annual Mean Wage
Management	23,620	\$36.02	\$74,910
Business and Financial Operations	9,510	\$29.36	\$61,070
Computer and Mathematical	3,850	\$30.91	\$64,290
Architecture and Engineering	6,600	\$34.85	\$72,490
Life, Physical, and Social Science	6,290	\$26.99	\$56,140
Community and Social Services	5,530	\$20.72	\$43,100
Legal	1,800	\$37.99	\$79,020
Education, Training, and Library	21,380	\$23.19	\$48,230
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	2,780	\$21.04	\$43,770
Healthcare Practitioner and Technical	13,350	\$36.34	\$75,580
Healthcare Support	6,090	\$16.49	\$34,290
Protective Service	8,590	\$20.05	\$41,710
Food Preparation and Serving Related	22,820	\$11.45	\$23,820
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	10,180	\$13.76	\$28,610
Personal Care and Service	11,190	\$13.41	\$27,890
Sales and Related	25,460	\$14.83	\$30,840
Office and Administrative Support	49,310	\$17.02	\$35,410
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	420	\$18.10	\$37,650
Construction and Extraction	21,990	\$27.09	\$56,350
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	16,020	\$24.86	\$51,710
Production	12,380	\$19.17	\$39,870
Transportation and Material Moving	22,760	\$21.92	\$45,590
Total - All Occupations	301,920	\$22.00	\$45,770
<p>Notes: Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers. Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by 2,080 hours; where an hourly mean wage is not published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.</p> <p>Sources: These data are from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program, which provides employment and wage estimates for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 801 detailed occupations. The OES produces data by occupation for the nation, states, metropolitan areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas, and by occupation and industry for the nation. Data are available on the OES homepage at http://www.bls.gov/oes/. Data extracted on February 12, 2009.</p>			

The BLS calculated the average annual wage by multiplying average hourly wages by a year-round, full-time estimate of 2,080 hours. As you can see, the lowest paid occupational groups were the food preparation and service group (\$11.45 per hour), the personal care and service occupations (\$13.41 per hour), and the building and grounds cleaning and maintenance group (\$13.76 per hour).

In Table 3, we show the occupational breakdown for those workers who earned \$11.00 per hour or less in 2007. As you can see from this table, the lowest paid workers were fast food cooks who earned about \$8.59 per hour.

Table 3: Average Hourly and Annual Wage by Occupation for Workers in Alaska Earning Less Than \$11 Per Hour, May 2007

Occupation	Employment	Hourly Mean Wage	Annual Mean Wage
Cooks, Fast Food	510	\$8.59	\$17,870
Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers	200	\$9.15	\$19,040
Gaming Change Persons and Booth Cashiers	Not Released	\$9.25	\$19,230
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	3,970	\$9.33	\$19,400
Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop	530	\$9.38	\$19,500
Motion Picture Projectionists	30	\$9.40	\$19,540
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	640	\$9.53	\$19,820
Waiters and Waitresses	4,200	\$9.67	\$20,120
Dishwashers	1,290	\$9.69	\$20,160
Counter Attendants, Cafeteria, Food Concession, and Coffee Shop	2,210	\$9.90	\$20,590
Education, Training, and Library Workers, All Other	Not Released	\$10.04	\$20,890
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	980	\$10.19	\$21,200
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	3,210	\$10.22	\$21,270
Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	570	\$10.42	\$21,670
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	520	\$10.58	\$22,010
Baggage Porters and Bellhops	230	\$10.72	\$22,290
Entertainment Attendants and Related Workers, All Other	90	\$10.75	\$22,360
Parking Lot Attendants	Not Released	\$10.80	\$22,460
Nonfarm Animal Caretakers	340	\$10.95	\$22,770
<p>Notes: Estimates do not include self-employed workers. Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by 2,080 hours; where an hourly mean wage is not published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.</p> <p>Sources: These data are from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program, which provides employment and wage estimates for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 801 detailed occupations. The OES produces data by occupation for the nation, states, metropolitan areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas, and by occupation and industry for the nation. Data are available on the OES homepage at http://www.bls.gov/oes/. Data extracted on February 18, 2009.</p>			

HISTORY OF THE MINIMUM WAGE

As you may know, the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), first passed by Congress in 1938, addresses many employment issues including overtime and the minimum wage. Congress set the first federal minimum wage at \$0.25 per hour.² States could also set their own minimum wages, and in 1959, the first Alaska legislature established the Alaska minimum wage at \$1.50 per hour—at that time, the federal minimum wage was \$1.00 per hour.³ As with the FLSA, Alaska law included several exemptions to coverage by the minimum wage requirement, including farmers, fishermen, domestic help, and public employees.⁴

In 1962, the Alaska legislature amended the minimum wage statute in Alaska to be at least \$0.50 per hour greater than the federal minimum wage, which at that time was \$1.25 per hour.⁵ In 1974, the Alaska legislature again amended minimum wage statute to be “not less than 50 cents an hour greater than the prevailing Federal Minimum Wage Law or \$2.60 an hour, whichever is greater.”⁶ In 1990, the legislature included a requirement that school bus drivers be paid a rate of not less than two times the minimum wage.⁷ Table 4 shows the amount of the minimum wage in Alaska from 1959 to the present.

² “Federal Minimum Wage Rates under the Fair Labor Standards Act,” Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U. S. Department of Labor, <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/chart.htm>.

³ Section 5, Chapter 171, SLA 1959.

⁴ Section 2, Chapter 171, SLA 1959. According to the U. S. Department of Labor, “The 1938 Act was applicable generally to employees engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for interstate commerce. The 1961 Amendments extended coverage primarily to employees in large retail and service enterprises as well as to local transit, construction, and gasoline service station employees. The 1966 Amendments extended coverage to State and local government employees of hospitals, nursing homes, and schools, and to laundries, dry cleaners, and large hotels, motels, restaurants, and farms. Subsequent amendments extended coverage to the remaining Federal, State, and local government employees who were not protected in 1966, to certain workers in retail and service trades previously exempted, and to certain domestic workers in private household employment.”

⁵ Section 4, Chapter 2, SLA 1962.

⁶ Section 1, Chapter 41, SLA 1974.

⁷ Sections 3 & 4, Chapter 12, SLA 1990.

Table 4: The Minimum Wage in Alaska and the Federal Minimum Wage

Year	Alaska	Federal
1959-1962	\$1.50	\$1.00
1963-1967	\$1.75	\$1.25
1968-1974	\$2.10	\$1.60
1975-1978	\$2.80	\$2.30
1979	\$3.40	\$2.90
1980	\$3.60	\$3.10
1981-1990	\$3.85	\$3.35
1991	\$4.30	\$3.80
1992-1996	\$4.75	\$4.25
1997	\$5.25	\$4.75
1998-2002	\$5.65	\$5.15
2003-2006	\$7.15	\$5.15
2007	\$7.15	\$5.85
2008	\$7.15	\$6.55
2009	\$7.15	\$7.25

Notes: Minimum wages are per hour.
The federal minimum wage provisions for covered, non-exempt employees are contained in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 included phased increases to the federal minimum wage. For work performed on or after July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage will be \$7.25 per hour. <http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/wages/minimumwage.htm>.
For 2009, we assume there will be no changes to the Alaska minimum wage rate.
The wages noted in this table may not have been in effect on January 1st of the year noted; however, the rate did take effect at some point during the year.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, <http://www.dol.gov/esa/WHDL/>.

As we note in Table 4, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007 included phased increases to the federal minimum wage rate. Assuming there are no changes to the law, for work performed on or after July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage will increase to \$7.25 per hour.

INITIATIVE 01MNWG

In 2001, representatives of both private and public sector unions proposed a voter initiative to raise the minimum wage in Alaska to \$7.15 per hour and to provide for annual inflation adjustments, based on 100 percent of the Anchorage Consumer Price Index (CPI).⁸ In addition, the initiative required that in subsequent years, if the minimum wage, as adjusted for inflation, was less than one dollar over the federal minimum wage, the Alaska minimum wage would be set at one dollar over the federal

⁸ "Petition ID: 01MNWG, Bill Increasing Alaska's Minimum Hourly Wage," Alaska Division of Elections. <http://tfgov.state.ak.us/elections/petitions/status.php#01mnwg>. We include a copy as Attachment A.

amount. Backers filed the petition with the Lieutenant Governor's Office on November 29, 2001, and the petition was certified on January 3, 2002, for placement on the 2002 general election ballot.⁹

During the legislative session in 2002, however, Alaska lawmakers passed CSHB 56(FIN), which was "substantially similar" to the petition, so the Lieutenant Governor declared the initiative void and it did not appear on the ballot. The backers of the petition did not challenge the Lieutenant Governor's decision.

The first version of HB 56, however, was substantially different than the petition. House Bill 56 introduced on January 12, 2001, called for a minimum wage of \$6.40 an hour for 2002, and \$6.90 for 2003. The bill ended the requirement that the minimum wage be 50 cents per hour greater than the federal minimum wage at the end of 2001, and did not include the inflation proofing required by the petition.¹⁰

A committee substitute was offered in the House Labor and Commerce Committee that was similar to the petition, except that the inflation adjustment would have been only 50 percent of the Anchorage CPI. The House Finance Committee then submitted its own version of the bill, which was essentially the same as the initiative, including a minimum wage of \$7.15 per hour and the requirement for adjusting the minimum wage for inflation each year based on 100 percent of the Anchorage CPI. In addition, the Finance Committee version included the requirement that the minimum wage each year should be set at either the adjusted minimum wage or \$1.00 over the federal minimum wage, whichever was greater. This version, CSHB 56(FIN), passed the House on March 1, 2002, by a vote of 33-6, with one excused.

CSHB 56(FIN) passed the Senate on reconsideration by a vote of 19-1 on May 16, 2002, after a failed attempt to amend the bill on the floor. The governor signed the bill into law on August 14, 2002.

The following year, the Rules Committee introduced HB 199 at the request of then-Governor Murkowski. This bill removed the inflation-proofing requirement for the minimum wage, with an effective date of September 30, 2003. The bill also deleted the statutory language stipulating that the Alaska minimum wage be at least \$1.00 more than the federal minimum wage. The amount of the minimum wage remained at \$7.15 per hour. The bill passed both chambers—in the House by a vote of 24-12, with two excused, and in the Senate by a vote of 12-8. The governor signed the bill on August 20, 2003.

INFLATION-PROOFING THE MINIMUM WAGE

As we noted above, an inflation-proofing provision was added to the Alaska minimum wage law through the enactment of HB 56 in 2002, which also raised the minimum wage from \$5.65 (which was

⁹ "01MNWG," Petition Status Report, Alaska Division of Elections, <http://www.lt.gov.state.ak.us/elections/petitions/status.php>. We also include a copy of this document as Attachment A.

¹⁰ As a point of interest, during 2001 several other bills were also introduced that addressed the minimum wage. For example, by request of the governor, the House Rules Committee introduced HB 75, which raised the minimum wage and provided for inflation-proofing. The same year, Senator Bettye Davis introduced SB 132 and SB 224. SB 132 raised the minimum wage to \$6.90 per hour, and SB 224 raised the amount to \$1.00 over the federal minimum wage. These bills were referred to the respective Labor and Commerce Committees, where they remained.

50 cents above the federal minimum wage) to \$7.15 per hour.¹¹ The bill, which took effect on January 1, 2003, also instructed the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD), by September 30 of each calendar year, to adjust Alaska's minimum wage for inflation.¹² The bill specified that the minimum wage shall be either the most recent minimum wage adjusted for 100 percent of the rate of inflation or \$1 more than the federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. The precise language from HB 56 is as follows.

The department shall, by regulation, not later than September 30 of each calendar year, adjust the minimum wage for inflation, effective for the following calendar year. The minimum wage shall be either the most recent wage adjusted for 100 percent of the rate of inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers for Anchorage, Alaska, prepared by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics or \$1 more than the federal minimum wage, whichever is greater. The department shall round the adjusted minimum wage up to the nearest one cent. The adjusted wage shall apply to work performed beginning on January 1 through December 31 of the year for which it is effective.

In 2003, however, House Bill 199 removed the annual minimum wage adjustment provisions implemented by HB 56. Because HB 199 passed prior to October 1, 2003, no adjustments have been made to the minimum wage because of HB 56.

As you may know, the annual rate of inflation for each calendar year is not available until January of the following year. Since the inflation-proofing provisions of HB 56 required the minimum wage be adjusted by October 1st of each year, we adjusted the minimum wage using the previous two semi-annual Anchorage Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures.¹³ Based on our calculations, if the minimum wage had been adjusted for inflation each year since October 2003, the current minimum wage would be \$8.46 per hour.

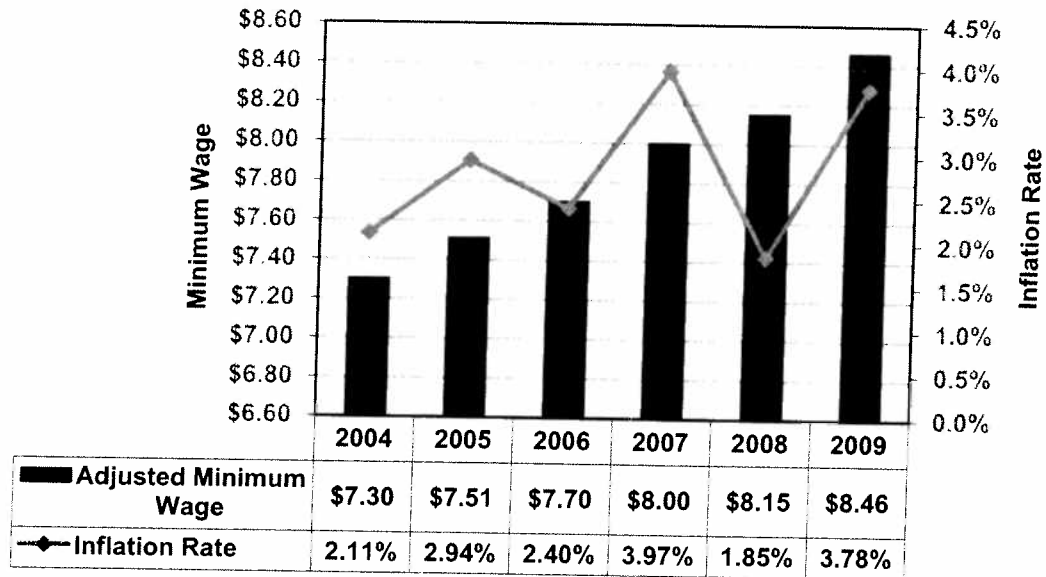
In Figure 1 we provide the inflation rate and the inflation adjusted minimum wage for each year since 2003.

¹¹ Prior to the enactment of HB 56, Alaska Statute 23.10.065(a), "Minimum wages," stated, "Except as provided under (b) of this section, an employer shall pay to each employee wages at a rate of not less than 50 cents an hour greater than the prevailing Federal Minimum Wage Law for hours worked in a pay period, whether the work is measured by time, piece, commission, or otherwise. An employer may not apply tips or gratuities bestowed upon employees as a credit toward payment of the minimum hourly wage required by this section. Tip credit as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 as amended does not apply to the minimum wage established by this section."

¹² Based on our cursory review of state minimum wage information provided by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Montana, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington currently have an inflation adjustment provision in their respective minimum wage laws.

¹³ In Alaska, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) only calculates the consumer price index for Anchorage.

Figure 1: The Inflation Rate and the Inflation-Adjusted Minimum Wage, 2004 through 2009



Notes: The 2003 minimum wage was \$7.15. We used this figure to base all subsequent adjustments. HB 56 required the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) to calculate an inflation adjusted minimum wage by October 1st of each year. This adjusted minimum wage was to go into effect January 1st of the following calendar year. Because HB 199, which removed the inflation-adjustment provision, passed prior to October 1, 2003, the DOLWD did not calculate inflation-related minimum wage increases.

The Inflation rate is based on the Anchorage Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is the rate used to adjust the minimum wage. Since the annualized CPI rate for each year is not available until January of the following year, and because the minimum wage was to be adjusted by October 1st of each year, we used the CPI for the first half of one year and the second half of the previous year, divided by two to get an average, and then calculated the percentage difference from the year before. This is the rate we applied to the minimum wage in order to make the adjustment for inflation.

Sources: Consumer Price Index information is from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, <http://almis.labor.state.ak.us/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=198>.

ALASKA'S MINIMUM WAGE COMPARED TO OTHER STATES

In Table 5 we compare state minimum wage rates in 2003 and 2009; we also include the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) rate. As you can see from Table 5, Alaska had the highest minimum wage of any state in 2003: \$7.15—\$0.14 greater than the second ranked state of Washington, and \$2.00 more than the federal minimum wage rate of \$5.15. By the beginning of 2009, however, Alaska, with its wage rate still at \$7.15, ranked 21st, \$1.40 behind the highest ranked state, Washington, but still ahead of the federal rate of \$6.55 by \$0.60. As you will note, we include only the states that have a higher minimum wage rate than the federal rate in Table 5.

Table 5: State Minimum Wage Rates, 2003 and 2009

2003			2009		
Rank	Jurisdiction	Minimum Wage	Rank	Jurisdiction	Minimum Wage
1	Alaska	\$7.15	1	Washington	\$8.55
2	Washington	\$7.01	2	Oregon	\$8.40
3	Connecticut	\$6.90	3	Vermont ^(c)	\$8.06
3	Oregon	\$6.90	4	California	\$8.00
5	California	\$6.75	4	Connecticut	\$8.00
5	Massachusetts	\$6.75	4	Massachusetts	\$8.00
7	Hawaii	\$6.25	7	Illinois ^(a)	\$7.75
7	Maine	\$6.25	8	District of Columbia	\$7.55
7	Vermont ^(c)	\$6.25	9	New Mexico	\$7.50
10	Delaware	\$6.15	10	Michigan ^(c)	\$7.40
10	District of Columbia	\$6.15	10	Rhode Island	\$7.40
10	Rhode Island	\$6.15	12	Ohio ^(f)	\$7.30
13	Federal (FLSA)	\$5.15	13	Colorado	\$7.28
			14	Arizona	\$7.25
			14	Hawaii	\$7.25
			14	Iowa	\$7.25
			14	Maine	\$7.25
			14	New Hampshire	\$7.25
			14	West Virginia	\$7.25
			20	Florida	\$7.21
			21	Alaska	\$7.15
			21	Delaware	\$7.15
			21	New Jersey	\$7.15
			21	New York	\$7.15
			21	Pennsylvania	\$7.15
			26	Missouri	\$7.05
			27	Montana ^(e)	\$6.90
			28	Nevada	\$6.85
			29	Federal (FLSA)	\$6.55

Notes: This table reflects requirements that were in effect as of January 1, 2009. The minimum wage in some state will increase later in 2009. In 2003, the minimum wage in Arkansas^(a), Colorado, Georgia^(b), Idaho, Illinois^(a), Indiana^(c), Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan^(c), Minnesota^(d), Missouri, Montana^(e), Nebraska^(a), Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma^(g), Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming was \$5.15 per hour. The minimum wage in New Mexico and Ohio^(f) was \$4.25 per hour. The minimum wage in Kansas was \$2.65 per hour. There was no state minimum wage law in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

In 2009, the minimum wage in Idaho, Indiana^(c), Kentucky, Maryland, Nebraska^(a), North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma^(g), South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Virginia is \$6.55 per hour. The minimum wage in Wisconsin is \$6.50. The minimum wage in Arkansas^(a) is \$6.25. The minimum wage in Minnesota^(d) is \$6.15. The minimum wage in Georgia^(b) and Wyoming is \$5.15 per hour. The minimum wage in Kansas is \$2.65 per hour. There is no state minimum wage law in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

^(a) Rates applicable to employers of four or more.

^(b) Rates applicable to employers of six or more.

^(c) Rates applicable to employers of two or more. In West Virginia, applicable to employers of six or more in one location.

^(d) Rates applicable to employers of two or more.


^(e) Minnesota sets a lower rate for enterprises with annual receipts of less than \$500,000 (\$4.90 in 2003 and \$5.25 in 2008).

^(f) Montana sets a lower rate for businesses with gross annual sales of \$110,000 or less (\$4.00 in 2003 and 2008).

^(g) Ohio set a lower rate for employers with gross annual sales from \$150,000 to \$500,000 (\$3.35 in 2003) and for employers with gross annual sales under \$150,000 (\$2.50 in 2003).

^(h) Oklahoma sets a lower rate for employers of fewer than 10 full-time employees at any one location and for those with annual gross sales of less than \$100,000 (\$2.00 in 2003 and 2008).

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Office of State Standards Programs, Wage and Hour Division, <http://www.dol.gov/es/whd/state/stateMinWageHis.htm>



I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

Attachment A

Petition ID: 01MNWG, Bill Increasing Alaska's Minimum Hourly Wage, Posted
10/24/01, Alaska Division of Elections,
<http://www.ltgov.state.ak.us/elections/petitions/status.php>

AG's File Number: 663-01-0147

Primary Sponsors: Jim Sampson, Mano Frey, and Bruce Ludwig

The petition application was received in the Lieutenant Governor's Office on February 15, 2001. A copy of the application and signatures were sent to the Department of Law and Division of Elections on February 16, 2001 for review and verification of signatures. The Division of Elections determined that there were a sufficient number of signatures on February 27, 2001. Legal review was received from the Department of Law on March 9, 2001. The application was certified on March 12, 2001. Petition booklets were distributed to the initiative committee on April 5, 2001. The initiative petition was filed on November 29, 2001. The Division of Elections verified the signatures of 30,475 qualified voters. The petition was determined to be properly filed and was certified on January 3, 2002 for placement on the 2002 general election ballot. On May 24, 2002, Lieutenant Governor Ulmer determined, in concurrence with the Attorney General's Office, that the Alaska Legislature passed a law, CS HB 56(FIN), which is substantially similar in nature to the initiative. Consequently, the initiative petition is void and will not appear on the ballot (AS 15.45.210).

Under Alaska Statute 15.45.240, within 30 days of the date on which notice of this determination of similarity was given, any person "aggrieved by a determination made by the Lieutenant Governor" may bring action in the superior court to have the determination reviewed. The deadline for action is June 24, 2002. The deadline has passed for challenge of the Lieutenant Governor's earlier actions on this initiative.

Click here for the C1MNWG proposed bill language as provided by the sponsors.



Initiative Petition Status Report



Alaska Division of Elections Home Page