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## Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers

The Oregon Employment Department has information about the number of jobs paying minimum wage, the industry of the employer, and the location of the business. We rely on national demographic information about workers who earn the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour or less for other characteristics of minimum wage workers.

### Oregon's Minimum Wage Jobs by Industry

There were 103,500 jobs that paid Oregon's minimum wage of \$9.10 per hour during the first quarter of 2014. That's nearly 6 percent of all jobs, and the share has ranged from 5 to 6 percent since 2003. Leisure and hospitality had the highest number with 41,300 jobs paying \$9.10, followed by retail trade with 20,700 minimum wage jobs. Other industries with a large number of minimum wage jobs were professional and business services (9,600 jobs), natural resources and mining (7,600), and educational and health services (6,900).

### Oregon's Minimum Wage Jobs by County

Estimates show the share of jobs paying minimum wage ranged from 4 percent in Multnomah County where 19,400 jobs paid minimum wage or less, to 11 percent in Malheur County where 1,400 jobs paid minimum wage or less.

The share of jobs paying minimum wage is higher in rural counties, but since there are more jobs in metro counties, most minimum wage jobs are in metro areas. The Portland metro area had the lowest percentage of jobs paying minimum wage, but had the most minimum wage paying jobs. About 40 percent of minimum wage jobs in Oregon were in Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties.

Jobs Paying \$9.10 or Less, by County, 1st Quarter 2014					
	Jobs	% of Total		Jobs	% of Total
Oregon	103,470	5.7%			
Malheur	1,397	10.9%	Union	715	7.1%
Harney	221	10.6%	Douglas	2,564	7.1%
Wheeler	30	10.2%	Clatsop	1,215	6.9%
Sherman	67	9.3%	Umatilla	2,113	6.9%
Jefferson	550	8.6%	Jackson	5,820	6.9%
Polk	1,575	8.5%	Linn	2,995	6.7%
Klamath	1,846	8.4%	Lane	9,579	6.4%
Baker	418	8.3%	Coos	1,452	6.3%
Lincoln	1,508	8.3%	Benton	2,250	6.3%
Josephine	2,036	8.1%	Wallowa	142	6.2%
Yamhill	2,792	8.1%	Tillamook	550	6.2%
Grant	170	8.1%	Crook	347	6.0%
Curry	490	7.8%	Deschutes	4,139	5.9%
Columbia	793	7.5%	Clackamas	8,948	5.8%
Hood River	1,099	7.5%	Morrow	256	4.7%
Marion	11,001	7.5%	Washington	13,031	4.6%
Lake	168	7.3%	Gilliam	38	4.5%
Wasco	781	7.2%	Multnomah	19,389	4.0%

Source: Oregon Employment Dept., Unemployment Insurance Wage Records

## **Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers, 2013 (National Data)**

Among workers in the U.S. who are paid at hourly rates, 3.3 million workers had wages at or below the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour. They made up 4.3 percent of all hourly paid workers. The following summarizes the findings of the report Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers, 2013 from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Minimum wage workers tend to be young. Although workers under age 25 represented only about one-fifth of hourly paid workers, they made up about half of those paid minimum wage or less. Among employed teenagers (ages 16 to 19) paid by the hour, about 20 percent earned the minimum wage or less, compared with about 3 percent of workers age 25 and older.

### Share of minimum wage workers by age:

16 to 24 years: 50.4%

25 years and older: 49.6%

About 5 percent of women had wages at or below the prevailing minimum, compared with about 3 percent of men.

### Share of minimum wage workers by gender:

Men: 37.7%

Women: 62.4%

The percentage of hourly workers paid minimum wage was little different among the major race and ethnicity groups.

### Share of minimum wage workers by race:

White: 77.4%

Black or African American: 15.2%

Asian: 3.5%

### Share of minimum wage workers by ethnicity:

Hispanic or Latino: 19.5%

Not Hispanic or Latino: 80.5%

Among hourly workers age 16 and older, about 10 percent of those without a high school diploma earned minimum wage, compared with about 4 percent of those who had a high school diploma (with no college) and about 2 percent of college graduates.

### Share of minimum wage workers by educational attainment:

Less than a high school diploma: 28.1%

High school graduates, no college: 29.7%

Some college, no degree: 28.3%

Associate degree: 6.1%

Bachelor's degree and higher: 7.9%

Never-married workers, who tend to be young, were more likely (8 percent) than married workers (2 percent) to earn minimum wage.

Share of minimum wage workers by marital status:

Never married: 66.8%

Married, spouse present: 20.7%

Other marital status: 12.5%

About 10 percent of part-time workers (who usually work fewer than 35 hours per week) were paid minimum wage, compared with about 2 percent of full-time workers.

Share of minimum wage workers by full- and part-time status:

Full-time workers: 35.5%

Part-time workers: 64.4%

The highest percentage of hourly paid workers earning minimum wage was in service occupations, at about 11 percent. Almost two-thirds of minimum wage workers were employed in service occupations, mostly in food preparation and serving-related jobs.

Share of minimum wage workers by occupational group:

Food preparation and serving related: 46.7%

Sales and related occupations: 14.5%

Production, transportation, and material moving: 8.4%

Personal care and service: 6.9%

Office and administrative support: 5.9%

Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance: 5.5%

Professional and related: 3.6%

Natural resources, construction, and maintenance: 2.8%

Healthcare support: 2.6%

Protective service: 1.8%

Management, business, and financial operations: 1.2%

