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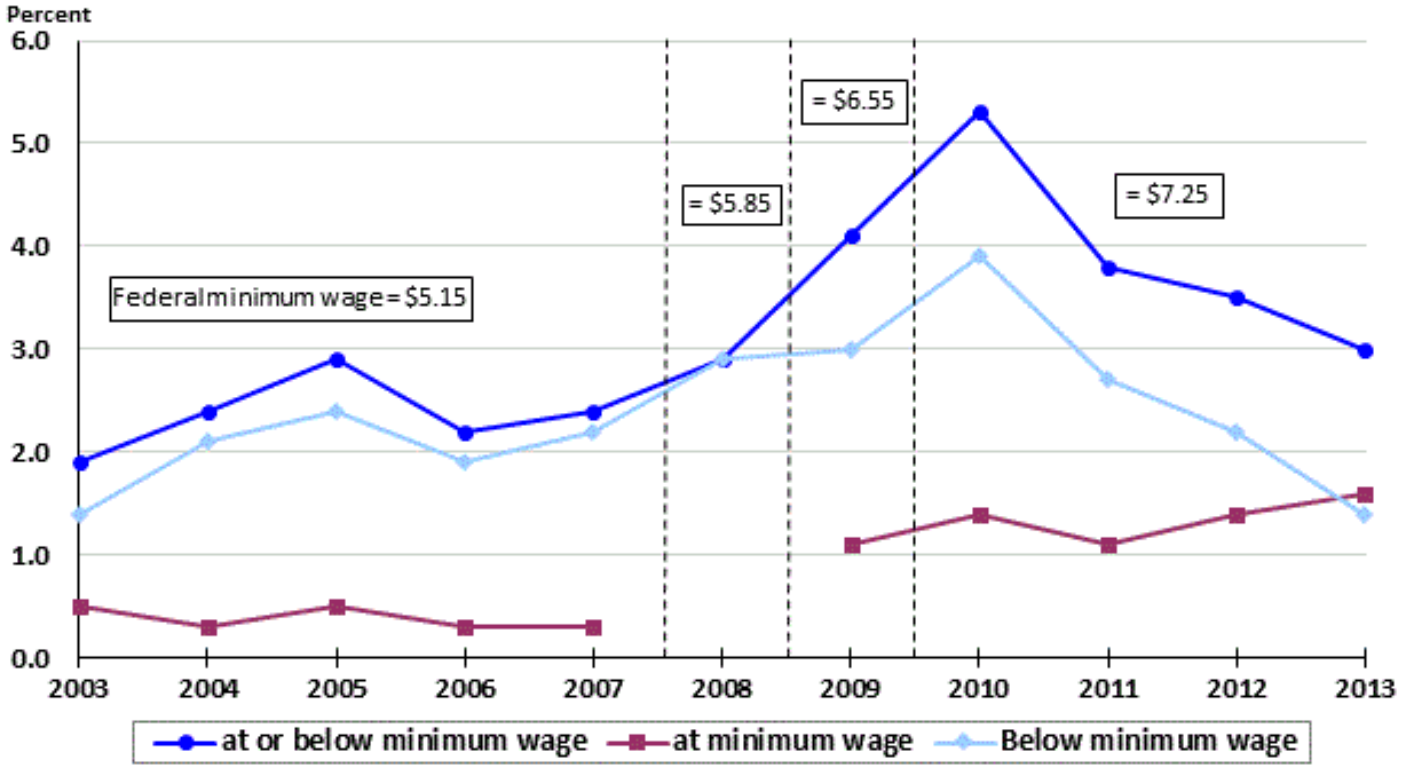
Minimum Wage Workers in New Hampshire-2013

Of the 369,000 workers paid hourly rates in New Hampshire in 2013, 6,000 earned exactly the prevailing federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour, while 5,000 earned less, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Deborah A. Brown noted that the 11,000 workers earning the federal minimum wage or less made up 3.0 percent of all hourly-paid workers in the state. Nationwide, those earning the federal minimum or less accounted for 4.3 percent of the hourly-paid workforce. (The New Hampshire minimum wage is equal to the prevailing Federal minimum wage.)

In 2003, 7,000 hourly-paid workers earned the prevailing federal minimum wage or less in the state–the lowest level since data were first available in 2000. In 2007, the federal minimum wage began increasing after holding steady for nearly a decade. The initial result was that more New Hampshire workers were earning the federal minimum wage or less, peaking at 19,000 in 2010.

Chart 1. Percentage of hourly-paid wage and salary workers with earnings at or below the prevailing federal minimum wage in New Hampshire, annual averages, 2003-2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Note: Missing data indicates no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.

From 2012 to 2013, the portion of hourly-paid workers in New Hampshire who earned at or below the federal minimum wage decreased from 3.5 to 3.0 percent. The percentage of workers earning less than the federal minimum dropped 0.8 percentage point in 2013, while the share earning exactly the minimum wage rose 0.2 point.

Of the 11,000 workers earning the prevailing federal minimum wage or less in New Hampshire in 2013, 8,000, or 72.7 percent, were women. These women represented 4.1 percent of all women paid hourly rates in the state. There were 4,000 men earning the prevailing minimum wage or less in New Hampshire; this number made up 2.3 percent of all men who were paid hourly rates in the state. (See table A.)

Overall, employed wage and salary workers earning hourly rates in the state had median hourly earnings of $14.56 in 2013; nationally, the median was $12.93. The median hourly rates for men and women in New Hampshire in 2013 were $15.25 and $13.57, respectively. For the nation, the comparable figures were $14.00 per hour for men and $12.12 per hour for women.

Table A. Employed wage and salary workers[1] paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage and median earnings of all hourly-paid workers in New Hampshire, by sex, annual averages, 2003-2013

New Hampshire	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent of workers paid hourly rates			Median earnings (in dollars)
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below prevailing Federal minimum wage			At or below prevailing Federal minimum wage			
		Total	At minimum wage[2]	Below minimum wage	Total	At minimum wage[2]	Below minimum wage	
Total, both sexes								

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

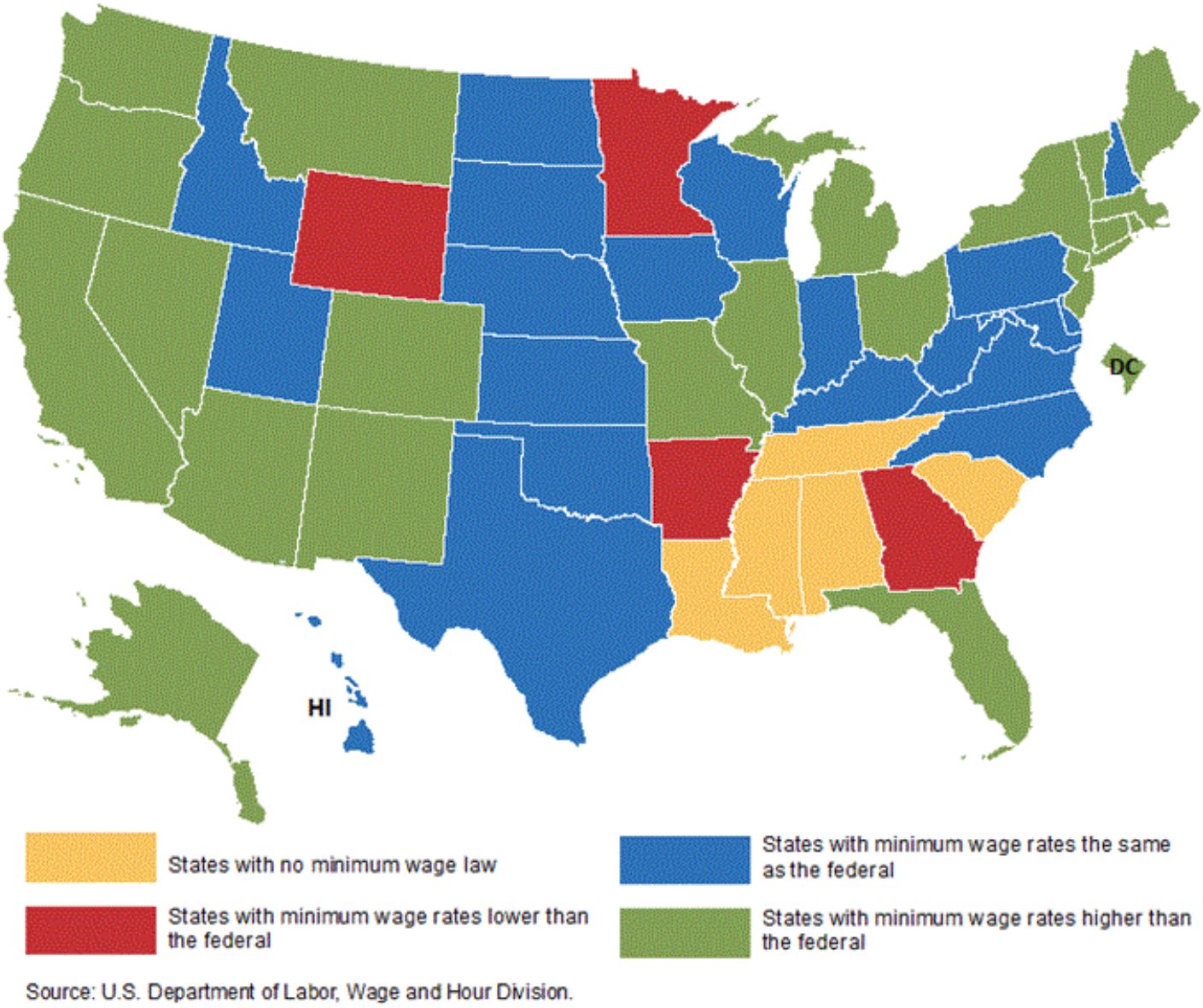
Table A. Employed wage and salary workers[1] paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage and median earnings of all hourly-paid workers in New Hampshire, by sex, annual averages, 2003-2013 - Continued

New Hampshire	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent of workers paid hourly rates			Median earnings (in dollars)
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below prevailing Federal minimum wage			At or below prevailing Federal minimum wage			
		Total	At minimum wage[2]	Below minimum wage	Total	At minimum wage[2]	Below minimum wage	
2003	367	7	2	5	1.9	0.5	1.4	12.01
2004	376	9	1	8	2.4	0.3	2.1	12.18
2005	377	11	2	9	2.9	0.5	2.4	12.89
2006	370	8	1	7	2.2	0.3	1.9	12.91
2007	372	9	1	8	2.4	0.3	2.2	12.93
2008	380	11	-	11	2.9	-	2.9	13.41
2009	364	15	4	11	4.1	1.1	3.0	13.93
2010	356	19	5	14	5.3	1.4	3.9	13.76
2011	368	14	4	10	3.8	1.1	2.7	14.12
2012	370	13	5	8	3.5	1.4	2.2	13.99
2013	369	11	6	5	3.0	1.6	1.4	14.56
Total, men								
2003	173	3	1	2	1.7	0.6	1.2	13.25
2004	174	3	1	2	1.7	0.6	1.1	13.94
2005	180	4	1	3	2.2	0.6	1.7	13.99
2006	173	2	-	2	1.2	-	1.2	14.34
2007	176	3	1	2	1.7	0.6	1.1	14.18
2008	176	2	-	2	1.1	-	1.1	14.96
2009	166	4	1	3	2.4	0.6	1.8	15.16
2010	164	5	1	4	3.0	0.6	2.4	14.83
2011	173	4	1	3	2.3	0.6	1.7	15.11
2012	171	4	2	2	2.3	1.2	1.2	14.91
2013	176	4	2	2	2.3	1.1	1.1	15.25
Total, women								
2003	193	5	1	4	2.6	0.5	2.1	11.13
2004	202	6	-	6	3.0	-	3.0	11.14
2005	197	7	1	6	3.6	0.5	3.0	11.98
2006	197	6	1	5	3.0	0.5	2.5	11.97
2007	196	6	-	6	3.1	-	3.1	12.03
2008	204	9	-	9	4.4	-	4.4	12.49
2009	198	11	3	8	5.6	1.5	4.0	12.84
2010	193	14	4	10	7.3	2.1	5.2	12.99
2011	195	11	3	8	5.6	1.5	4.1	13.41
2012	199	9	3	6	4.5	1.5	3.0	13.05
2013	193	8	4	4	4.1	2.1	2.1	13.57

Footnotes:
(1) All self-employed persons are excluded, whether or not their businesses are incorporated.
(2) Dash indicates no data or data that do not meet publication standard.

In 2013, New Hampshire's proportion of hourly-paid workers earning at or below the prevailing federal minimum wage was the seventh-lowest among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Tennessee had the highest proportion of hourly-paid workers earning at or below the prevailing federal minimum wage, 7.4 percent, followed by Idaho at 7.1 percent. The states with the lowest percentage of workers earning the federal minimum or below included Oregon, California, and Washington, all less than 2.0 percent. It should be noted that, as of January 1, 2014, 21 states and the District of Columbia had laws establishing minimum wage standards that exceeded the federal level of $7.25 per hour. (See table 1 and chart 2.)

Chart 2. Minimum wage laws in the states, January 1, 2014



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division.

Technical Note

The estimates in this release are obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides the basic information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. This survey is conducted monthly for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau, using a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 eligible households representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Information on earnings is collected from one-fourth of the CPS sample each month. Data in this summary are annual averages.

Statistics based on the CPS data are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. The differences among data for the states reflect, in part, variations in the occupation, industry, and age composition of each state?s labor force. In addition, sampling error for the state estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data.

Minimum wage worker data, particularly levels, for each year are not strictly comparable with data for earlier

years because of the introduction of revised population controls used in the CPS. For technical documentation and related information, including reliability of the CPS estimates, see www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm.

It should be noted that the presence of workers with reported wages below the federal minimum wage does not necessarily indicate violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as there are exemptions to the minimum wage provisions of the law. Estimates of the numbers of minimum and subminimum wage workers presented in this release pertain to workers paid at hourly rates; salaried and other non-hourly workers are excluded. Consequently, the actual number of workers with earnings at or below the prevailing minimum is likely understated.

The prevailing federal minimum wage was $2.90 in 1979, $3.10 in 1980, and $3.35 in 1981-89. The minimum wage rose to $3.80 in April 1990, $4.25 in April 1991, $4.75 in October 1996, and $5.15 in September 1997. On July 24, 2007, the federal minimum wage increased to $5.85 per hour; on July 24, 2008, to $6.55 per hour; and on July 24, 2009, to $7.25 per hour.

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings series in this release are described below:

Median hourly earnings. The median is the amount which divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median. The median is less sensitive to extreme wages than the mean; this makes it a better measure for highly skewed distributions.

Wage and salary workers. Workers age 16 and over who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates on their sole or principal job. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors. All self-employed workers are excluded whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing federal minimum wage by state, 2013 annual averages

State	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent distribution				Percent of workers paid hourly rates		
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below minimum wage			Total paid hourly rates	At or below minimum wage			At or below minimum wage		
		Total	At minimum wage	Below minimum wage		Total	At minimum wage	Below minimum wage	Total	At minimum wage	Below minimum wage
Total, 16 years & over	75,948	3,300	1,532	1,768	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.3	2.0	2.3
Alabama	1,125	77	44	33	1.5	2.3	2.9	1.9	6.8	3.9	2.9
Alaska	202	6	4	2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	3.0	2.0	1.0
Arizona	1,421	58	24	34	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9	4.1	1.7	2.4
Arkansas	651	44	30	14	0.9	1.3	2.0	0.8	6.8	4.6	2.2
California	8,915	118	48	70	11.7	3.6	3.1	4.0	1.3	0.5	0.8
Colorado	1,238	39	7	32	1.6	1.2	0.5	1.8	3.2	0.6	2.6
Connecticut	845	22	5	17	1.1	0.7	0.3	1.0	2.6	0.6	2.0
Delaware	203	11	5	6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	5.4	2.5	3.0
District of Columbia	108	4	1	3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	3.7	0.9	2.8
Florida	4,058	181	39	142	5.3	5.5	2.5	8.0	4.5	1.0	3.5
Georgia	2,162	103	54	49	2.8	3.1	3.5	2.8	4.8	2.5	2.3
Hawaii	325	15	10	5	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.3	4.6	3.1	1.5
Idaho	411	29	21	8	0.5	0.9	1.4	0.5	7.1	5.1	1.9
Illinois	3,026	96	22	74	4.0	2.9	1.4	4.2	3.2	0.7	2.4
Indiana	1,731	108	61	47	2.3	3.3	4.0	2.7	6.2	3.5	2.7
Iowa	921	50	30	20	1.2	1.5	2.0	1.1	5.4	3.3	2.2
Kansas	773	35	21	14	1.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	4.5	2.7	1.8
Kentucky	1,150	49	32	17	1.5	1.5	2.1	1.0	4.3	2.8	1.5
Louisiana	1,000	53	27	26	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.5	5.3	2.7	2.6
Maine	390	13	4	9	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5	3.3	1.0	2.3
Maryland	1,334	66	30	36	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.9	2.2	2.7
Massachusetts	1,573	54	12	42	2.1	1.6	0.8	2.4	3.4	0.8	2.7
Michigan	2,531	96	17	79	3.3	2.9	1.1	4.5	3.8	0.7	3.1
Minnesota	1,533	64	43	21	2.0	1.9	2.8	1.2	4.2	2.8	1.4
Mississippi	637	39	20	19	0.8	1.2	1.3	1.1	6.1	3.1	3.0
Missouri	1,561	73	31	42	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.4	4.7	2.0	2.7
Montana	285	6	2	4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.1	0.7	1.4
Nebraska	567	29	17	12	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.7	5.1	3.0	2.1
Nevada	757	20	8	12	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.7	2.6	1.1	1.6
New Hampshire	369	11	6	5	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3	3.0	1.6	1.4
New Jersey	1,908	92	34	58	2.5	2.8	2.2	3.3	4.8	1.8	3.0
New Mexico	460	20	2	18	0.6	0.6	0.1	1.0	4.3	0.4	3.9
New York	4,188	178	88	90	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.1	4.3	2.1	2.1
North Carolina	2,251	130	73	57	3.0	3.9	4.8	3.2	5.8	3.2	2.5
North Dakota	221	7	4	3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	3.2	1.8	1.4
Ohio	3,304	137	32	105	4.4	4.2	2.1	5.9	4.1	1.0	3.2
Oklahoma	947	60	29	31	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.8	6.3	3.1	3.3
Oregon	978	12	4	8	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	1.2	0.4	0.8
Pennsylvania	3,471	189	96	93	4.6	5.7	6.3	5.3	5.4	2.8	2.7
Rhode Island	286	12	2	10	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.6	4.2	0.7	3.5
South Carolina	1,128	65	40	25	1.5	2.0	2.6	1.4	5.8	3.5	2.2
South Dakota	254	12	6	6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	4.7	2.4	2.4
Tennessee	1,575	117	51	66	2.1	3.5	3.3	3.7	7.4	3.2	4.2
Texas	6,270	400	223	177	8.3	12.1	14.6	10.0	6.4	3.6	2.8
Utah	773	36	22	14	1.0	1.1	1.4	0.8	4.7	2.8	1.8
Vermont	182	7	2	5	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	3.8	1.1	2.7
Virginia	1,806	112	58	54	2.4	3.4	3.8	3.1	6.2	3.2	3.0
Washington	1,793	30	18	12	2.4	0.9	1.2	0.7	1.7	1.0	0.7
West Virginia	446	22	12	10	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.6	4.9	2.7	2.2
Wisconsin	1,728	91	59	32	2.3	2.8	3.9	1.8	5.3	3.4	1.9
Wyoming	176	9	5	4	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	5.1	2.8	2.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Note: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated. These data are based on a sample and therefore are subject to sampling error; the degree of error may be quite large for less populous states.