



For Release: Monday, April 21, 2014

14-404-DAL

SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas

Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest

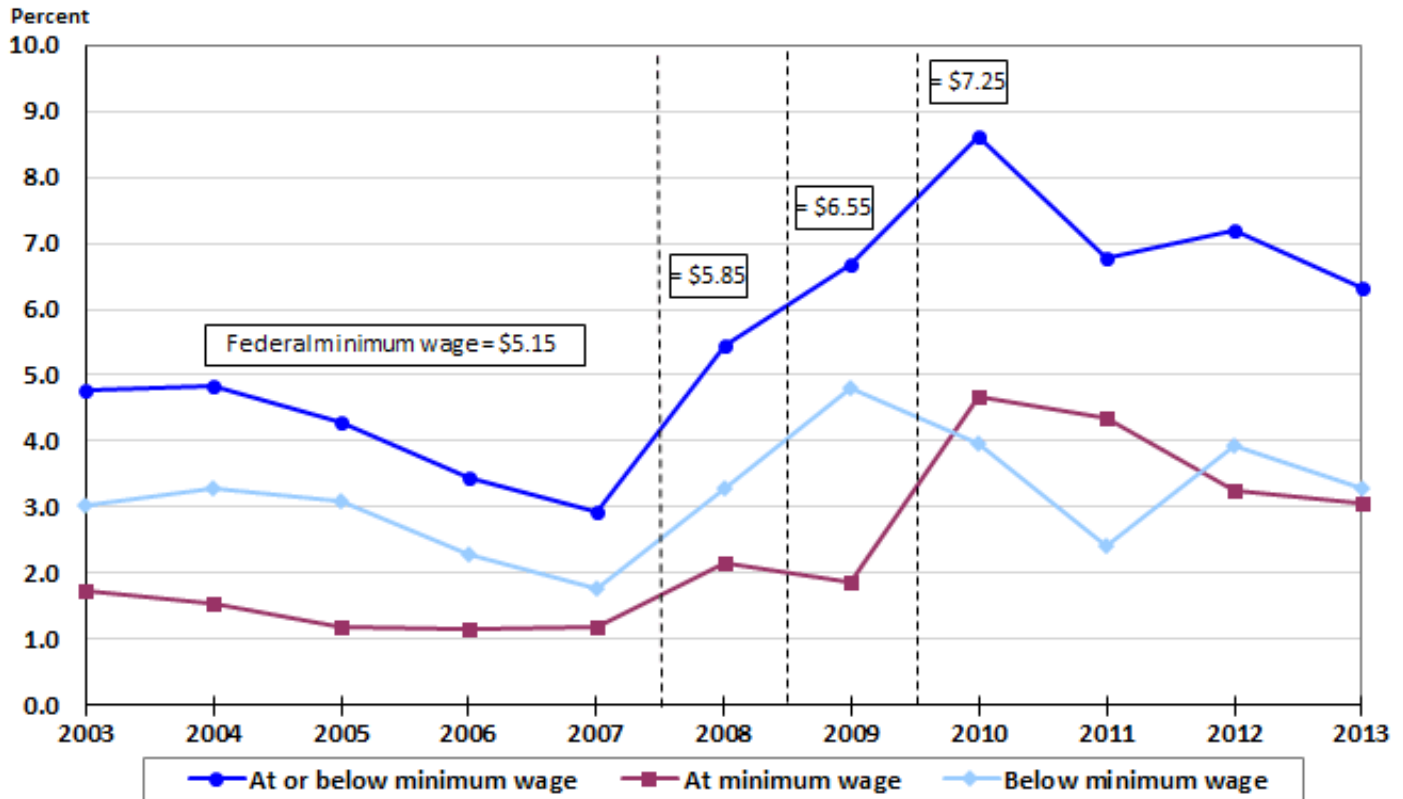
Media contact: (972) 850-4800

Minimum Wage Workers in Oklahoma – 2013

Of the 947,000 workers paid hourly rates in Oklahoma in 2013, 29,000 earned exactly the prevailing federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, while 31,000 earned less, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the 60,000 workers earning the federal minimum wage or less made up 6.3 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 Oklahoma minimum wage is equal to the prevailing federal minimum wage.)

In 2007, 25,000 hourly-paid workers earned the prevailing federal minimum wage or less in Oklahoma, the lowest level since data were first available in 2000. The 25,000 workers in this category accounted for 2.9 percent of all hourly-paid workers in the state. (See [chart 1](#).) It was also in 2007 that the federal minimum wage began increasing after holding steady for nearly a decade. Two additional increases in the federal minimum wage followed, resulting in more Oklahoma workers falling into this category, peaking at 72,000 in 2010. That number has fallen in two of the three years since the peak.

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

From 2012 to 2013, the portion of hourly-paid workers in Oklahoma who earned at or below the federal minimum wage declined from 7.2 to 6.3 percent. The percentage of workers earning less than the federal minimum fell 0.6 percentage point in 2013 to 3.3 percent, while the share earning exactly the minimum wage dipped 0.2 percentage point to 3.1 percent.

Of the 60,000 workers earning the federal minimum wage or less in Oklahoma in 2013, 36,000, or 60 percent, were women. These women represented 7.9 percent of all women paid hourly rates in the state. There were 23,000 men earning the minimum wage or less in Oklahoma, accounting for 4.7 percent of all men paid hourly rates in the state. (See [table A.](#))

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 Oklahoma, by sex, annual averages, 2003-2013

Year	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent of workers paid hourly rates			Median earnings (in dollars)
	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, both sexes								
2003	860	41	15	26	4.8	1.7	3.0	9.91
2004	849	41	13	28	4.8	1.5	3.3	9.87
2005	841	36	10	26	4.3	1.2	3.1	10.31
2006	869	30	10	20	3.5	1.2	2.3	10.24
2007	849	25	10	15	2.9	1.2	1.8	10.81
2008	878	48	19	29	5.5	2.2	3.3	11.48
2009	852	57	16	41	6.7	1.9	4.8	11.41

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 Oklahoma, by sex, annual averages, 2003-2013 - Continued

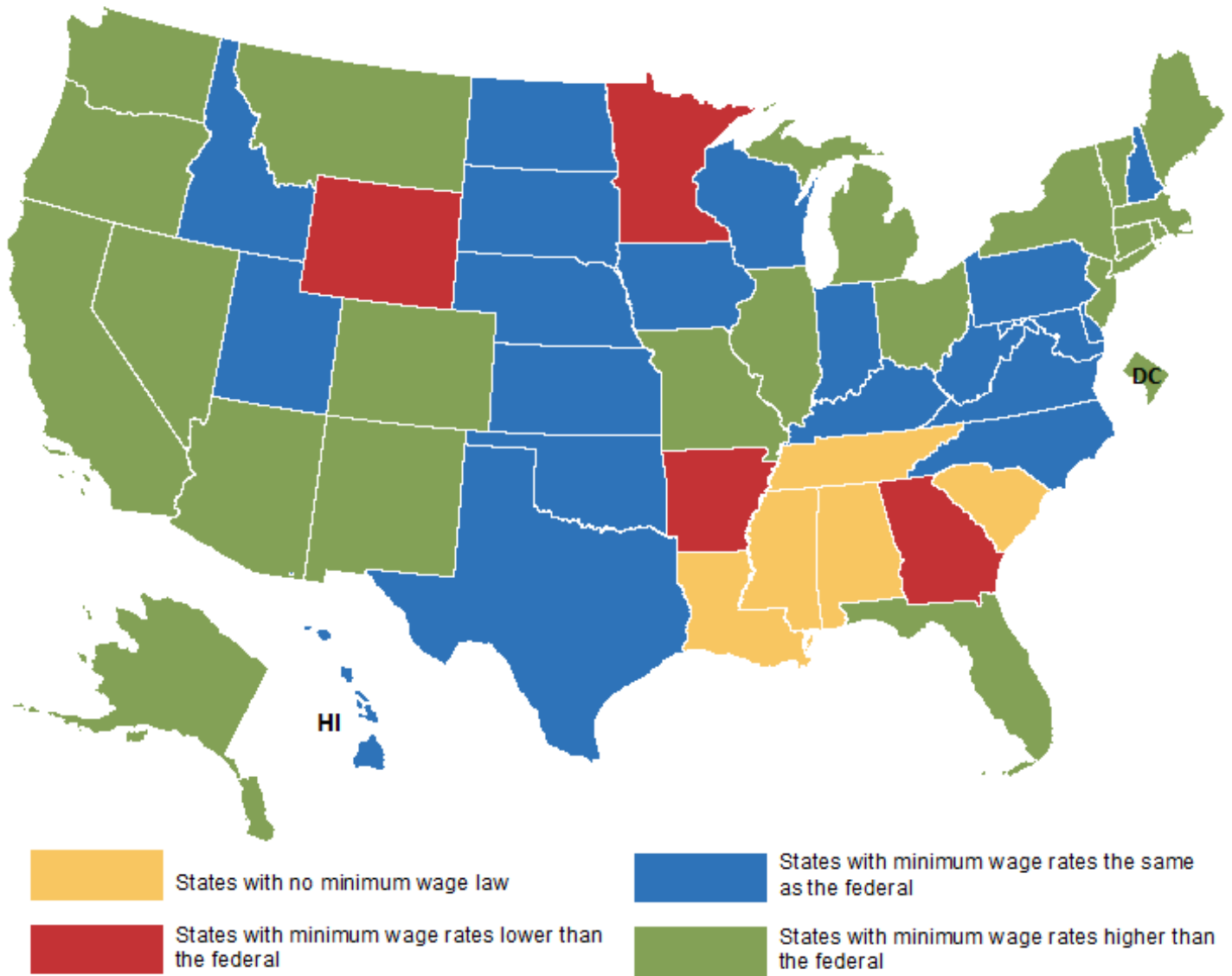
Year	Number of workers (in thousands)			Percent of workers paid hourly rates			Median earnings (in dollars)	
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below minimum wage			At or below minimum wage			
		Total	At minimum wage	Below minimum wage	Total	At minimum wage		Below minimum wage
2010	835	72	39	33	8.6	4.7	4.0	11.90
2011	828	56	36	20	6.8	4.3	2.4	11.98
2012	890	64	29	35	7.2	3.3	3.9	12.11
2013	947	60	29	31	6.3	3.1	3.3	12.46
Total, men								
2003	442	16	8	8	3.6	1.8	1.8	10.60
2004	411	10	4	6	2.4	1.0	1.5	10.41
2005	433	14	4	10	3.2	0.9	2.3	11.73
2006	433	9	5	4	2.1	1.2	0.9	11.89
2007	435	8	4	4	1.8	0.9	0.9	12.18
2008	458	16	5	11	3.5	1.1	2.4	12.72
2009	425	21	6	15	4.9	1.4	3.5	12.16
2010	413	29	14	15	7.0	3.4	3.6	13.96
2011	444	24	15	9	5.4	3.4	2.0	13.15
2012	465	27	12	15	5.8	2.6	3.2	13.48
2013	492	23	13	10	4.7	2.6	2.0	14.18
Total, women								
2003	418	25	7	18	6.0	1.7	4.3	9.07
2004	438	31	9	22	7.1	2.1	5.0	9.02
2005	408	23	7	16	5.6	1.7	3.9	9.57
2006	436	21	5	16	4.8	1.1	3.7	9.72
2007	414	17	7	10	4.1	1.7	2.4	9.90
2008	419	32	14	18	7.6	3.3	4.3	10.10
2009	427	37	10	27	8.7	2.3	6.3	10.85
2010	422	43	25	18	10.2	5.9	4.3	10.47
2011	384	31	20	11	8.1	5.2	2.9	10.86
2012	425	37	18	19	8.7	4.2	4.5	11.00
2013	455	36	15	21	7.9	3.3	4.6	11.14

(1) All self-employed persons are excluded, whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

In 2013, Oklahoma’s proportion of hourly-paid workers earning at or below the federal minimum wage ranked sixth among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Tennessee and Idaho had the highest percentages of hourly paid workers earning at or below the federal minimum wage, at 7.4 and 7.1 percent, respectively. Alabama and Arkansas tied for third highest, each at 6.8 percent. The states with the lowest percentage of hourly workers earning the minimum wage 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](#).)

Overall, wage and salary workers earning hourly rates in the state had median hourly earnings of \$12.46 in 2013; nationally, the median was \$12.93. The median hourly rates for men and women in Oklahoma in 2013 were \$14.18 and \$11.14, respectively. (See [table A](#).) For the nation, the comparable figures were \$14.00 per hour for men and \$12.12 per hour for women.

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 and 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.