



Cornell University  
ILR School

Cornell University ILR School  
**DigitalCommons@ILR**

---

Federal Publications

Key Workplace Documents

---

3-2-2012

# Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers: 2011

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/key\\_workplace](http://digitalcommons.ilr.cornell.edu/key_workplace)

**Thank you for downloading an article from DigitalCommons@ILR.**

**Support this valuable resource today!**

---

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Key Workplace Documents at DigitalCommons@ILR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Federal Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@ILR. For more information, please contact [hlmdigital@cornell.edu](mailto:hlmdigital@cornell.edu).

---

# Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers: 2011

## **Abstract**

[Excerpt] In 2011, 73.9 million American workers age 16 and over were paid at hourly rates, representing 59.1 percent of all wage and salary workers. Among those paid by the hour, 1.7 million earned exactly the prevailing Federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. About 2.2 million had wages below the minimum. Together, these 3.8 million workers with wages at or below the Federal minimum made up 5.2 percent of all hourly-paid workers. Tables 1 through 10 present data on a wide array of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics for hourly-paid workers earning at or below the Federal minimum wage.

## **Keywords**

minimum wage, wage and salary workers, income, employment, demographics

## **Comments**

### **Suggested Citation**

U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2012). *Characteristics of minimum wage workers: 2011*. Washington, D.C.: Author.

## **Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers: 2011**

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
U.S. Department of Labor

March 2, 2012

In 2011, 73.9 million American workers age 16 and over were paid at hourly rates, representing 59.1 percent of all wage and salary workers.<sup>1</sup> Among those paid by the hour, 1.7 million earned exactly the prevailing Federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour. About 2.2 million had wages below the minimum.<sup>2</sup> Together, these 3.8 million workers with wages at or below the Federal minimum made up 5.2 percent of all hourly-paid workers. Tables 1 through 10 present data on a wide array of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics for hourly-paid workers earning at or below the Federal minimum wage. The following are some highlights from the 2011 data.

- 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 the Federal minimum wage or less. Among employed teenagers paid by the hour, about 23 percent earned the minimum wage or less, compared with about 3 percent of workers age 25 and over. (See table 1 and table 7.)
- About 6 percent of women paid hourly rates had wages at or below the prevailing Federal minimum, compared with about 4 percent of men. (See table 1.)
- About 5 percent of White hourly-paid workers earned the Federal minimum wage or less, compared with about 6 percent of Blacks and about 3 percent of Asians. Among hourly-paid workers of Hispanic ethnicity, about 5 percent earned the minimum wage or less. (See table 1.)
- Among hourly-paid workers age 16 and over, about 11 percent of those who had less than a high school diploma earned the Federal minimum wage or less, compared with about 5 percent of those who had a high school diploma (with no college) and about 2 percent of college graduates. (See table 6.)
- Never-married workers, who tend to be young, were more likely than married workers to earn the Federal minimum wage or less (about 9 percent versus about 2 percent). (See table 8.)
- Part-time workers (persons who usually work less than 35 hours per week) were more likely than full-time workers to be paid the Federal minimum wage or less (about 13 percent versus about 2 percent). (See table 1 and table 9.)
- By major occupational group, the highest proportion of hourly-paid workers earning at or below the Federal minimum wage was in service occupations, at 13 percent. About 6 in 10 workers earning the minimum wage or less in 2011 were employed in service occupations, mostly in food preparation and serving related jobs. (See table 4.)
- The industry with the highest proportion of workers with hourly wages at or below the Federal minimum wage was leisure and hospitality (22 percent). About one-half of all workers paid at or below the Federal minimum wage were employed in this industry, primarily in restaurants and other food services. For many of these workers, tips and commissions supplement the hourly wages received. (See table 5.)
- The states with the highest proportions of hourly-paid workers earning at or below the Federal minimum wage were Georgia, Mississippi, and Texas (all between 8 and 10 percent). The states with the lowest percentage of workers earning at or below the Federal minimum wage were Oregon, California, Washington, and Alaska (all under 2 percent). It should be noted that some states have minimum wage laws establishing standards that exceed the Federal minimum wage. (See table 2 and table 3.)
- The proportion of hourly-paid workers earning the prevailing Federal minimum wage or less declined from 6.0 percent in 2010 to 5.2 percent in 2011. This remains well below the figure of 13.4 percent in 1979, when data were first collected on a regular basis. (See table 10.)

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These data on minimum wage earners are derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly nationwide sample survey of households. Data in this summary are 2011 annual averages.

---

<sup>1</sup> Data are for wage and salary workers age 16 and over and refer to earnings on a person's sole or principal job. Hourly earnings for hourly-paid workers do not include overtime pay, commissions, or tips received. All self-employed persons are excluded whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

<sup>2</sup> The presence of a sizable number of workers with wages below the Federal minimum does not necessarily indicate violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as there are exemptions to the minimum wage provisions of the law. The estimates of the numbers of minimum and subminimum wage workers presented in the accompanying tables pertain to workers paid at hourly rates; salaried and other non-hourly workers are excluded. As such, the actual number of workers with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum is undoubtedly understated. Research has shown that a relatively small number and share of salaried workers and others not paid by the hour have earnings that, when translated into hourly rates, are at or below the minimum wage. However, BLS does not routinely estimate hourly earnings for non-hourly workers because of data concerns that arise in producing these estimates.

**Table 1. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by selected characteristics, 2011 annual averages**

Characteristic	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
<b>AGE AND SEX</b>											
Total, 16 years and over.....	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
16 to 24 years.....	14,436	1,896	893	1,003	19.5	49.5	53.2	46.6	13.1	6.2	6.9
16 to 19 years.....	3,936	899	491	408	5.3	23.5	29.3	19.0	22.8	12.5	10.4
25 years and over.....	59,490	1,933	784	1,149	80.5	50.5	46.8	53.4	3.2	1.3	1.9
Men, 16 years and over.....	36,457	1,433	648	785	49.3	37.4	38.6	36.5	3.9	1.8	2.2
16 to 24 years.....	7,290	787	388	399	9.9	20.6	23.1	18.5	10.8	5.3	5.5
16 to 19 years.....	1,872	373	212	161	2.5	9.7	12.6	7.5	19.9	11.3	8.6
25 years and over.....	29,167	647	260	387	39.5	16.9	15.5	18.0	2.2	0.9	1.3
Women, 16 years and over.....	37,469	2,395	1,029	1,366	50.7	62.5	61.4	63.5	6.4	2.7	3.6
16 to 24 years.....	7,147	1,109	505	604	9.7	29.0	30.1	28.1	15.5	7.1	8.5
16 to 19 years.....	2,064	526	279	247	2.8	13.7	16.6	11.5	25.5	13.5	12.0
25 years and over.....	30,323	1,286	524	762	41.0	33.6	31.2	35.4	4.2	1.7	2.5
<b>RACE, SEX, AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ETHNICITY</b>											
White <sup>1</sup> .....	59,314	3,006	1,258	1,748	80.2	78.5	75.0	81.2	5.1	2.1	2.9
Men.....	29,743	1,108	484	624	40.2	28.9	28.9	29.0	3.7	1.6	2.1
Women.....	29,571	1,898	774	1,124	40.0	49.6	46.2	52.2	6.4	2.6	3.8
Black or African American <sup>1</sup> .....	9,523	577	324	253	12.9	15.1	19.3	11.8	6.1	3.4	2.7
Men.....	4,252	222	117	105	5.8	5.8	7.0	4.9	5.2	2.8	2.5
Women.....	5,271	356	208	148	7.1	9.3	12.4	6.9	6.8	3.9	2.8
Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	3,037	99	36	63	4.1	2.6	2.1	2.9	3.3	1.2	2.1
Men.....	1,425	41	13	28	1.9	1.1	0.8	1.3	2.9	0.9	2.0
Women.....	1,612	58	23	35	2.2	1.5	1.4	1.6	3.6	1.4	2.2
Hispanic or Latino <sup>1</sup> .....	13,264	720	340	380	17.9	18.8	20.3	17.7	5.4	2.6	2.9
Men.....	7,703	326	154	172	10.4	8.5	9.2	8.0	4.2	2.0	2.2
Women.....	5,561	394	186	208	7.5	10.3	11.1	9.7	7.1	3.3	3.7
<b>FULL- AND PART-TIME STATUS AND SEX</b>											
Full-time workers <sup>2</sup> .....	53,594	1,274	522	752	72.5	33.3	31.1	34.9	2.4	1.0	1.4
Men.....	29,292	501	205	296	39.6	13.1	12.2	13.8	1.7	0.7	1.0
Women.....	24,302	773	317	456	32.9	20.2	18.9	21.2	3.2	1.3	1.9
Part-time workers <sup>2</sup> .....	20,199	2,545	1,153	1,392	27.3	66.5	68.8	64.7	12.6	5.7	6.9
Men.....	7,103	932	443	489	9.6	24.3	26.4	22.7	13.1	6.2	6.9
Women.....	13,096	1,615	711	904	17.7	42.2	42.4	42.0	12.3	5.4	6.9

<sup>1</sup> Estimates for the above race groups (White, Black or African American, and Asian) do not sum to totals because data are not presented for all races. Persons whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race.

<sup>2</sup> The distinction between full- and part-time workers is based on hours usually worked. These data will not sum to totals because full- or part-time status on the principal job is not identifiable for a small number of multiple jobholders. Full time is 35 hours or more per week; part time is less than 35 hours.

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

**Table 2. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by census region and division, 2011 annual averages**

Region and division	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....	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
Northeast.....	12,755	619	255	364	17.3	16.2	15.2	16.9	4.9	2.0	2.9
New England.....	3,629	128	26	102	4.9	3.3	1.6	4.7	3.5	0.7	2.8
Middle Atlantic.....	9,126	490	228	262	12.3	12.8	13.6	12.2	5.4	2.5	2.9
Midwest.....	18,135	910	354	556	24.5	23.8	21.1	25.8	5.0	2.0	3.1
East North Central.....	12,311	562	171	391	16.7	14.7	10.2	18.2	4.6	1.4	3.2
West North Central.....	5,823	349	183	166	7.9	9.1	10.9	7.7	6.0	3.1	2.9
South.....	25,652	1,845	912	933	34.7	48.2	54.4	43.4	7.2	3.6	3.6
South Atlantic.....	12,806	895	393	502	17.3	23.4	23.4	23.3	7.0	3.1	3.9
East South Central.....	4,365	297	158	139	5.9	7.8	9.4	6.5	6.8	3.6	3.2
West South Central.....	8,481	654	362	292	11.5	17.1	21.6	13.6	7.7	4.3	3.4
West.....	17,385	454	156	298	23.5	11.9	9.3	13.8	2.6	0.9	1.7
Mountain.....	5,450	252	83	169	7.4	6.6	4.9	7.9	4.6	1.5	3.1
Pacific.....	11,935	203	73	130	16.1	5.3	4.4	6.0	1.7	0.6	1.1

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

The four major regions and nine census divisions of the United States are as follows:

Northeast:

New England: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont

Middle Atlantic: New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania

Midwest:

East North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin

West North Central: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota

South:

South Atlantic: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia

East South Central: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Tennessee

West South Central: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas

West:

Mountain: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming

Pacific: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington

**Table 3. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by State, 2011 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..	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
Alabama.....	1,147	74	43	31	1.6	1.9	2.6	1.4	6.5	3.7	2.7
Alaska.....	212	4	1	3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.9	0.5	1.4
Arizona.....	1,517	85	20	65	2.1	2.2	1.2	3.0	5.6	1.3	4.3
Arkansas.....	746	49	33	16	1.0	1.3	2.0	0.7	6.6	4.4	2.1
California.....	8,706	139	53	86	11.8	3.6	3.2	4.0	1.6	0.6	1.0
Colorado.....	1,222	49	9	40	1.7	1.3	0.5	1.9	4.0	0.7	3.3
Connecticut.....	870	25	4	21	1.2	0.7	0.2	1.0	2.9	0.5	2.4
Delaware.....	213	11	3	8	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	5.2	1.4	3.8
District of Columbia.....	94	4	1	3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	4.3	1.1	3.2
Florida.....	3,891	246	73	173	5.3	6.4	4.4	8.0	6.3	1.9	4.4
Georgia.....	2,041	196	105	91	2.8	5.1	6.3	4.2	9.6	5.1	4.5
Hawaii.....	321	15	8	7	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	4.7	2.5	2.2
Idaho.....	379	19	12	7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.3	5.0	3.2	1.8
Illinois.....	3,095	109	29	80	4.2	2.8	1.7	3.7	3.5	0.9	2.6
Indiana.....	1,730	108	54	54	2.3	2.8	3.2	2.5	6.2	3.1	3.1
Iowa.....	941	53	28	25	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.2	5.6	3.0	2.7
Kansas.....	802	56	27	29	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.3	7.0	3.4	3.6
Kentucky.....	1,077	63	30	33	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.5	5.8	2.8	3.1
Louisiana.....	1,011	75	33	42	1.4	2.0	2.0	2.0	7.4	3.3	4.2
Maine.....	381	14	3	11	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	3.7	0.8	2.9
Maryland.....	1,274	65	27	38	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.8	5.1	2.1	3.0
Massachusetts.....	1,539	60	11	49	2.1	1.6	0.7	2.3	3.9	0.7	3.2
Michigan.....	2,550	117	29	88	3.4	3.1	1.7	4.1	4.6	1.1	3.5
Minnesota.....	1,544	78	47	31	2.1	2.0	2.8	1.4	5.1	3.0	2.0
Mississippi.....	686	58	37	21	0.9	1.5	2.2	1.0	8.5	5.4	3.1
Missouri.....	1,543	109	54	55	2.1	2.8	3.2	2.6	7.1	3.5	3.6
Montana.....	271	10	6	4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	3.7	2.2	1.5
Nebraska.....	532	29	15	14	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	5.5	2.8	2.6
Nevada.....	670	22	9	13	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	3.3	1.3	1.9
New Hampshire.....	368	14	4	10	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	3.8	1.1	2.7
New Jersey.....	1,795	99	41	58	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.7	5.5	2.3	3.2
New Mexico.....	459	20	6	14	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.7	4.4	1.3	3.1
New York.....	3,930	199	91	108	5.3	5.2	5.4	5.0	5.1	2.3	2.7
North Carolina.....	2,055	140	65	75	2.8	3.7	3.9	3.5	6.8	3.2	3.6
North Dakota.....	208	11	6	5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	5.3	2.9	2.4
Ohio.....	3,224	150	27	123	4.4	3.9	1.6	5.7	4.7	0.8	3.8
Oklahoma.....	828	56	36	20	1.1	1.5	2.1	0.9	6.8	4.3	2.4
Oregon.....	1,010	12	4	8	1.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.2	0.4	0.8
Pennsylvania.....	3,400	193	97	96	4.6	5.0	5.8	4.5	5.7	2.9	2.8
Rhode Island.....	289	11	3	8	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.4	3.8	1.0	2.8
South Carolina.....	1,078	79	42	37	1.5	2.1	2.5	1.7	7.3	3.9	3.4
South Dakota.....	253	13	7	6	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	5.1	2.8	2.4
Tennessee.....	1,455	101	48	53	2.0	2.6	2.9	2.5	6.9	3.3	3.6
Texas.....	5,896	473	259	214	8.0	12.4	15.4	9.9	8.0	4.4	3.6
Utah.....	765	35	15	20	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	4.6	2.0	2.6
Vermont.....	182	4	1	3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.2	0.5	1.6
Virginia.....	1,697	121	57	64	2.3	3.2	3.4	3.0	7.1	3.4	3.8
Washington.....	1,686	31	6	25	2.3	0.8	0.4	1.2	1.8	0.4	1.5
West Virginia.....	462	34	20	14	0.6	0.9	1.2	0.7	7.4	4.3	3.0
Wisconsin.....	1,711	78	32	46	2.3	2.0	1.9	2.1	4.6	1.9	2.7
Wyoming.....	167	10	5	5	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	6.0	3.0	3.0

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated. Users are reminded that 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. It is not possible to determine whether workers surveyed in the CPS are actually covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) or by individual State minimum wage laws. Thus, some workers reported as earning the prevailing Federal minimum wage may not in fact be covered by Federal or State minimum wage laws. Also, there are a number of States that have minimum wages that exceed the Federal minimum wage. At the same time, the presence of a sizable number of workers with wages below the prevailing Federal minimum wage does not necessarily indicate violations of the FLSA or applicable State laws, because there are numerous exclusions and exemptions to these minimum wage statutes. Hourly earnings do not include overtime pay, commissions, or tips.

**Table 4. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by occupation, 2011 annual averages**

Occupation	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.....	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
Management, professional, and related occupations.....	15,524	195	89	106	21.0	5.1	5.3	4.9	1.3	0.6	0.7
Management, business, and financial operations occupations.....	4,300	48	11	37	5.8	1.3	0.7	1.7	1.1	0.3	0.9
Professional and related occupations.....	11,224	147	78	69	15.2	3.8	4.7	3.2	1.3	0.7	0.6
Service occupations.....	17,800	2,322	742	1,580	24.1	60.6	44.2	73.4	13.0	4.2	8.9
Healthcare support occupations.....	2,700	98	52	46	3.7	2.6	3.1	2.1	3.6	1.9	1.7
Protective service occupations.....	2,028	61	22	39	2.7	1.6	1.3	1.8	3.0	1.1	1.9
Food preparation and serving related occupations.....	6,710	1,653	422	1,231	9.1	43.2	25.2	57.2	24.6	6.3	18.3
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations.....	3,618	211	111	100	4.9	5.5	6.6	4.6	5.8	3.1	2.8
Personal care and service occupations.....	2,745	299	135	164	3.7	7.8	8.1	7.6	10.9	4.9	6.0
Sales and office occupations.....	19,987	856	617	239	27.0	22.4	36.8	11.1	4.3	3.1	1.2
Sales and related occupations.....	7,813	600	441	159	10.6	15.7	26.3	7.4	7.7	5.6	2.0
Office and administrative support occupations.....	12,174	257	177	80	16.5	6.7	10.6	3.7	2.1	1.5	0.7
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.....	8,221	96	48	48	11.1	2.5	2.9	2.2	1.2	0.6	0.6
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations.....	675	42	24	18	0.9	1.1	1.4	0.8	6.2	3.6	2.7
Construction and extraction occupations.....	4,332	28	13	15	5.9	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3
Installation, maintenance, and repair occupations.....	3,214	26	11	15	4.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.3	0.5
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations.....	12,394	360	181	179	16.8	9.4	10.8	8.3	2.9	1.5	1.4
Production occupations.....	6,485	100	53	47	8.8	2.6	3.2	2.2	1.5	0.8	0.7
Transportation and material moving occupations.....	5,909	260	128	132	8.0	6.8	7.6	6.1	4.4	2.2	2.2

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated. Effective with January 2011 data, occupations reflect the introduction of the 2010 Census occupational classification system into the Current Population Survey, or household survey. This classification system is derived from the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC). No historical data have been revised. Data for 2011 are not strictly comparable with earlier years.



**Table 5. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by industry, 2011 annual averages**

Industry	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.....	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
Private sector.....	64,525	3,625	1,577	2,048	87.3	94.7	94.0	95.2	5.6	2.4	3.2
Agriculture and related industries.....	775	41	20	21	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.0	5.3	2.6	2.7
Nonagricultural industries.....	63,750	3,584	1,557	2,027	86.2	93.6	92.8	94.2	5.6	2.4	3.2
Mining.....	489	3	2	1	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.4	0.2
Construction.....	4,304	41	15	26	5.8	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.0	0.3	0.6
Manufacturing.....	8,556	91	47	44	11.6	2.4	2.8	2.0	1.1	0.5	0.5
Durable goods.....	5,264	41	18	23	7.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.4
Nondurable goods.....	3,292	50	29	21	4.5	1.3	1.7	1.0	1.5	0.9	0.6
Wholesale and retail trade.....	12,423	669	463	206	16.8	17.5	27.6	9.6	5.4	3.7	1.7
Wholesale trade.....	1,689	27	17	10	2.3	0.7	1.0	0.5	1.6	1.0	0.6
Retail trade.....	10,734	642	446	196	14.5	16.8	26.6	9.1	6.0	4.2	1.8
Transportation and utilities.....	3,069	46	22	24	4.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.5	0.7	0.8
Information.....	1,273	36	18	18	1.7	0.9	1.1	0.8	2.8	1.4	1.4
Financial activities.....	3,228	40	25	15	4.4	1.0	1.5	0.7	1.2	0.8	0.5
Professional and business services.....	5,857	157	85	72	7.9	4.1	5.1	3.3	2.7	1.5	1.2
Education and health services.....	12,636	355	185	170	17.1	9.3	11.0	7.9	2.8	1.5	1.3
Leisure and hospitality.....	8,943	1,963	610	1,353	12.1	51.3	36.4	62.9	22.0	6.8	15.1
Other services.....	2,970	183	86	97	4.0	4.8	5.1	4.5	6.2	2.9	3.3
Public sector.....	9,401	204	100	104	12.7	5.3	6.0	4.8	2.2	1.1	1.1
Federal.....	1,770	20	12	8	2.4	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.1	0.7	0.5
State.....	2,604	65	37	28	3.5	1.7	2.2	1.3	2.5	1.4	1.1
Local.....	5,026	119	50	69	6.8	3.1	3.0	3.2	2.4	1.0	1.4

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

**Table 6. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by educational attainment, 2011 annual averages**

Educational attainment	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.....	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
Less than a high school diploma.....	9,562	1,061	582	479	12.9	27.7	34.7	22.3	11.1	6.1	5.0
Less than 1 year of high school.....	2,794	182	95	87	3.8	4.8	5.7	4.0	6.5	3.4	3.1
1 to 3 years of high school.....	5,631	773	427	346	7.6	20.2	25.5	16.1	13.7	7.6	6.1
4 years of high school, no diploma.....	1,137	106	60	46	1.5	2.8	3.6	2.1	9.3	5.3	4.0
High school graduates or more.....	64,364	2,767	1,094	1,673	87.1	72.3	65.2	77.7	4.3	1.7	2.6
High school graduates, no college.....	25,710	1,179	532	647	34.8	30.8	31.7	30.1	4.6	2.1	2.5
Some college or associate degree.....	25,858	1,309	500	809	35.0	34.2	29.8	37.6	5.1	1.9	3.1
Some college, no degree.....	17,178	1,057	422	635	23.2	27.6	25.2	29.5	6.2	2.5	3.7
Associate degree.....	8,680	253	79	174	11.7	6.6	4.7	8.1	2.9	0.9	2.0
Occupational program.....	4,021	93	35	58	5.4	2.4	2.1	2.7	2.3	0.9	1.4
Academic program.....	4,659	158	43	115	6.3	4.1	2.6	5.3	3.4	0.9	2.5
Bachelor's degree and higher.....	12,796	279	62	217	17.3	7.3	3.7	10.1	2.2	0.5	1.7
Bachelor's degree.....	9,984	248	55	193	13.5	6.5	3.3	9.0	2.5	0.6	1.9
Master's degree.....	2,230	24	6	18	3.0	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.8
Professional degree.....	293	6	-	6	0.4	0.2	-	0.3	2.0	-	2.0
Doctoral degree.....	289	1	1	-	0.4	0.0	0.1	-	0.3	0.3	-

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated. Dash indicates no data or data that do not meet publication criteria.

**Table 7. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by age and sex, 2011 annual averages**

Age and sex	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
<b>BOTH SEXES</b>											
Total, 16 years and over.....	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
Under 25 years.....	14,436	1,896	893	1,003	19.5	49.5	53.2	46.6	13.1	6.2	6.9
16 to 19 years.....	3,936	899	491	408	5.3	23.5	29.3	19.0	22.8	12.5	10.4
20 to 24 years.....	10,501	997	402	595	14.2	26.0	24.0	27.6	9.5	3.8	5.7
25 years and over.....	59,490	1,933	784	1,149	80.5	50.5	46.8	53.4	3.2	1.3	1.9
25 to 34 years.....	17,155	808	299	509	23.2	21.1	17.8	23.7	4.7	1.7	3.0
25 to 29 years.....	9,229	460	170	290	12.5	12.0	10.1	13.5	5.0	1.8	3.1
30 to 34 years.....	7,926	348	129	219	10.7	9.1	7.7	10.2	4.4	1.6	2.8
35 to 44 years.....	14,168	399	161	238	19.2	10.4	9.6	11.1	2.8	1.1	1.7
35 to 39 years.....	6,889	205	75	130	9.3	5.4	4.5	6.0	3.0	1.1	1.9
40 to 44 years.....	7,279	194	86	108	9.8	5.1	5.1	5.0	2.7	1.2	1.5
45 to 54 years.....	15,331	382	159	223	20.7	10.0	9.5	10.4	2.5	1.0	1.5
45 to 49 years.....	7,793	208	82	126	10.5	5.4	4.9	5.9	2.7	1.1	1.6
50 to 54 years.....	7,537	175	78	97	10.2	4.6	4.7	4.5	2.3	1.0	1.3
55 to 64 years.....	10,046	221	117	104	13.6	5.8	7.0	4.8	2.2	1.2	1.0
55 to 59 years.....	6,135	123	66	57	8.3	3.2	3.9	2.6	2.0	1.1	0.9
60 to 64 years.....	3,911	98	51	47	5.3	2.6	3.0	2.2	2.5	1.3	1.2
65 years and over.....	2,790	123	48	75	3.8	3.2	2.9	3.5	4.4	1.7	2.7
65 to 69 years.....	1,569	68	27	41	2.1	1.8	1.6	1.9	4.3	1.7	2.6
70 years and over.....	1,220	55	21	34	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.6	4.5	1.7	2.8
<b>MEN</b>											
Total, 16 years and over.....	36,457	1,433	648	785	49.3	37.4	38.6	36.5	3.9	1.8	2.2
Under 25 years.....	7,290	787	388	399	9.9	20.6	23.1	18.5	10.8	5.3	5.5
16 to 19 years.....	1,872	373	212	161	2.5	9.7	12.6	7.5	19.9	11.3	8.6
20 to 24 years.....	5,418	413	175	238	7.3	10.8	10.4	11.1	7.6	3.2	4.4
25 years and over.....	29,167	647	260	387	39.5	16.9	15.5	18.0	2.2	0.9	1.3
25 to 34 years.....	9,132	278	96	182	12.4	7.3	5.7	8.5	3.0	1.1	2.0
25 to 29 years.....	4,893	157	53	104	6.6	4.1	3.2	4.8	3.2	1.1	2.1
30 to 34 years.....	4,238	122	43	79	5.7	3.2	2.6	3.7	2.9	1.0	1.9
35 to 44 years.....	7,036	142	56	86	9.5	3.7	3.3	4.0	2.0	0.8	1.2
35 to 39 years.....	3,471	74	26	48	4.7	1.9	1.6	2.2	2.1	0.7	1.4
40 to 44 years.....	3,565	67	30	37	4.8	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.9	0.8	1.0
45 to 54 years.....	7,167	113	55	58	9.7	3.0	3.3	2.7	1.6	0.8	0.8
45 to 49 years.....	3,689	61	30	31	5.0	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.7	0.8	0.8
50 to 54 years.....	3,477	51	24	27	4.7	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.5	0.7	0.8
55 to 64 years.....	4,491	72	36	36	6.1	1.9	2.1	1.7	1.6	0.8	0.8
55 to 59 years.....	2,814	42	23	19	3.8	1.1	1.4	0.9	1.5	0.8	0.7
60 to 64 years.....	1,677	30	13	17	2.3	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.8	0.8	1.0
65 years and over.....	1,341	42	17	25	1.8	1.1	1.0	1.2	3.1	1.3	1.9
65 to 69 years.....	754	21	10	11	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	2.8	1.3	1.5
70 years and over.....	587	22	7	15	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.7	3.7	1.2	2.6
<b>WOMEN</b>											
Total, 16 years and over.....	37,469	2,395	1,029	1,366	50.7	62.5	61.4	63.5	6.4	2.7	3.6
Under 25 years.....	7,147	1,109	505	604	9.7	29.0	30.1	28.1	15.5	7.1	8.5
16 to 19 years.....	2,064	526	279	247	2.8	13.7	16.6	11.5	25.5	13.5	12.0
20 to 24 years.....	5,083	583	226	357	6.9	15.2	13.5	16.6	11.5	4.4	7.0
25 years and over.....	30,323	1,286	524	762	41.0	33.6	31.2	35.4	4.2	1.7	2.5
25 to 34 years.....	8,024	528	202	326	10.9	13.8	12.0	15.1	6.6	2.5	4.1
25 to 29 years.....	4,336	303	117	186	5.9	7.9	7.0	8.6	7.0	2.7	4.3
30 to 34 years.....	3,688	225	85	140	5.0	5.9	5.1	6.5	6.1	2.3	3.8
35 to 44 years.....	7,132	257	105	152	9.6	6.7	6.3	7.1	3.6	1.5	2.1
35 to 39 years.....	3,418	131	49	82	4.6	3.4	2.9	3.8	3.8	1.4	2.4
40 to 44 years.....	3,714	126	56	70	5.0	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	1.5	1.9
45 to 54 years.....	8,164	270	105	165	11.0	7.1	6.3	7.7	3.3	1.3	2.0
45 to 49 years.....	4,104	146	51	95	5.6	3.8	3.0	4.4	3.6	1.2	2.3
50 to 54 years.....	4,060	123	53	70	5.5	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.0	1.3	1.7
55 to 64 years.....	5,555	150	81	69	7.5	3.9	4.8	3.2	2.7	1.5	1.2
55 to 59 years.....	3,321	80	42	38	4.5	2.1	2.5	1.8	2.4	1.3	1.1
60 to 64 years.....	2,233	68	38	30	3.0	1.8	2.3	1.4	3.0	1.7	1.3
65 years and over.....	1,448	81	31	50	2.0	2.1	1.8	2.3	5.6	2.1	3.5
65 to 69 years.....	815	46	16	30	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.4	5.6	2.0	3.7
70 years and over.....	633	33	14	19	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	5.2	2.2	3.0

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

**Table 8. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by marital status, age, and sex, 2011 annual averages**

Marital status, age, and sex	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
<b>BOTH SEXES</b>											
Total, 16 years and over....	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
Never married.....	26,703	2,462	1,097	1,365	36.1	64.3	65.4	63.4	9.2	4.1	5.1
16 to 24 years.....	12,847	1,751	835	916	17.4	45.7	49.8	42.6	13.6	6.5	7.1
25 years and over.....	13,855	711	262	449	18.7	18.6	15.6	20.9	5.1	1.9	3.2
25 to 54 years.....	12,827	660	239	421	17.4	17.2	14.3	19.6	5.1	1.9	3.3
Married, spouse present..	34,624	836	358	478	46.8	21.8	21.3	22.2	2.4	1.0	1.4
16 to 24 years.....	1,143	89	40	49	1.5	2.3	2.4	2.3	7.8	3.5	4.3
25 years and over.....	33,481	748	318	430	45.3	19.5	19.0	20.0	2.2	0.9	1.3
25 to 54 years.....	25,347	605	252	353	34.3	15.8	15.0	16.4	2.4	1.0	1.4
Other marital status.....	12,599	531	222	309	17.0	13.9	13.2	14.4	4.2	1.8	2.5
16 to 24 years.....	446	56	18	38	0.6	1.5	1.1	1.8	12.6	4.0	8.5
25 years and over.....	12,153	475	204	271	16.4	12.4	12.2	12.6	3.9	1.7	2.2
25 to 54 years.....	8,481	324	128	196	11.5	8.5	7.6	9.1	3.8	1.5	2.3
<b>MEN</b>											
Total, 16 years and over....	36,457	1,433	648	785	49.3	37.4	38.6	36.5	3.9	1.8	2.2
Never married.....	14,132	1,019	457	562	19.1	26.6	27.3	26.1	7.2	3.2	4.0
16 to 24 years.....	6,575	734	363	371	8.9	19.2	21.6	17.2	11.2	5.5	5.6
25 years and over.....	7,557	285	94	191	10.2	7.4	5.6	8.9	3.8	1.2	2.5
25 to 54 years.....	7,072	262	85	177	9.6	6.8	5.1	8.2	3.7	1.2	2.5
Married, spouse present..	17,462	279	131	148	23.6	7.3	7.8	6.9	1.6	0.8	0.8
16 to 24 years.....	518	33	16	17	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.8	6.4	3.1	3.3
25 years and over.....	16,944	245	115	130	22.9	6.4	6.9	6.0	1.4	0.7	0.8
25 to 54 years.....	12,765	188	85	103	17.3	4.9	5.1	4.8	1.5	0.7	0.8
Other marital status.....	4,864	137	61	76	6.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	2.8	1.3	1.6
16 to 24 years.....	197	20	9	11	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	10.2	4.6	5.6
25 years and over.....	4,666	116	51	65	6.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	1.1	1.4
25 to 54 years.....	3,497	82	36	46	4.7	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3	1.0	1.3
<b>WOMEN</b>											
Total, 16 years and over....	37,469	2,395	1,029	1,366	50.7	62.5	61.4	63.5	6.4	2.7	3.6
Never married.....	12,571	1,444	641	803	17.0	37.7	38.2	37.3	11.5	5.1	6.4
16 to 24 years.....	6,273	1,018	473	545	8.5	26.6	28.2	25.3	16.2	7.5	8.7
25 years and over.....	6,298	426	168	258	8.5	11.1	10.0	12.0	6.8	2.7	4.1
25 to 54 years.....	5,754	399	154	245	7.8	10.4	9.2	11.4	6.9	2.7	4.3
Married, spouse present..	17,162	557	227	330	23.2	14.5	13.5	15.3	3.2	1.3	1.9
16 to 24 years.....	625	55	24	31	0.8	1.4	1.4	1.4	8.8	3.8	5.0
25 years and over.....	16,537	502	203	299	22.4	13.1	12.1	13.9	3.0	1.2	1.8
25 to 54 years.....	12,582	415	166	249	17.0	10.8	9.9	11.6	3.3	1.3	2.0
Other marital status.....	7,736	394	161	233	10.5	10.3	9.6	10.8	5.1	2.1	3.0
16 to 24 years.....	249	37	9	28	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.3	14.9	3.6	11.2
25 years and over.....	7,487	357	152	205	10.1	9.3	9.1	9.5	4.8	2.0	2.7
25 to 54 years.....	4,983	242	92	150	6.7	6.3	5.5	7.0	4.9	1.8	3.0

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated. Other marital status includes married, spouse absent; divorced; separated; and widowed persons.

**Table 9. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by usual hours worked per week on primary job, 2011 annual averages**

Usual hours worked per week on primary job	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.....	73,926	3,829	1,677	2,152	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	5.2	2.3	2.9
Hours vary.....	4,962	491	198	293	6.7	12.8	11.8	13.6	9.9	4.0	5.9
0 to 34 hours.....	18,127	2,251	1,029	1,222	24.5	58.8	61.4	56.8	12.4	5.7	6.7
0 to 4 hours.....	411	59	22	37	0.6	1.5	1.3	1.7	14.4	5.4	9.0
5 to 9 hours.....	992	146	63	83	1.3	3.8	3.8	3.9	14.7	6.4	8.4
10 to 14 hours.....	1,550	211	128	83	2.1	5.5	7.6	3.9	13.6	8.3	5.4
15 to 19 hours.....	2,284	363	184	179	3.1	9.5	11.0	8.3	15.9	8.1	7.8
20 to 24 hours.....	5,272	673	337	336	7.1	17.6	20.1	15.6	12.8	6.4	6.4
25 to 29 hours.....	2,610	314	121	193	3.5	8.2	7.2	9.0	12.0	4.6	7.4
30 to 34 hours.....	5,006	484	173	311	6.8	12.6	10.3	14.5	9.7	3.5	6.2
35 hours or more.....	50,837	1,087	450	637	68.8	28.4	26.8	29.6	2.1	0.9	1.3
35 to 39 hours.....	6,050	343	134	209	8.2	9.0	8.0	9.7	5.7	2.2	3.5
40 hours or more.....	44,787	743	316	427	60.6	19.4	18.8	19.8	1.7	0.7	1.0
40 hours.....	39,231	653	286	367	53.1	17.1	17.1	17.1	1.7	0.7	0.9
41 hours or more.....	5,557	90	30	60	7.5	2.4	1.8	2.8	1.6	0.5	1.1
41 to 44 hours.....	659	12	3	9	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.4	1.8	0.5	1.4
45 to 48 hours.....	1,885	31	9	22	2.5	0.8	0.5	1.0	1.6	0.5	1.2
49 to 59 hours.....	2,038	26	6	20	2.8	0.7	0.4	0.9	1.3	0.3	1.0
60 hours or more.....	975	20	11	9	1.3	0.5	0.7	0.4	2.1	1.1	0.9

NOTE: Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated. Estimates of usual hours worked presented in this table differ from usual full- or part-time status (as shown in table 1) because of a sizable number of workers whose usual hours vary on the primary job.

**Table 10. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by sex, 1979-2011 annual averages**

(Numbers in thousands)

Year and sex	Total wage and salary workers	Workers paid hourly rates					
		Total	Percent of total wage and salary workers	Below prevailing Federal minimum wage	At prevailing Federal minimum wage	Total at or below prevailing Federal minimum wage	
						Number	Percent of hourly paid workers
<b>BOTH SEXES</b>							
1979.....	87,529	51,721	59.1	2,916	3,997	6,912	13.4
1980.....	87,644	51,335	58.6	3,087	4,686	7,773	15.1
1981.....	88,516	51,869	58.6	3,513	4,311	7,824	15.1
1982.....	87,368	50,846	58.2	2,348	4,148	6,496	12.8
1983.....	88,290	51,820	58.7	2,077	4,261	6,338	12.2
1984.....	92,194	54,143	58.7	1,838	4,125	5,963	11.0
1985.....	94,521	55,762	59.0	1,639	3,899	5,538	9.9
1986 <sup>1</sup> .....	96,903	57,529	59.4	1,599	3,461	5,060	8.8
1987.....	99,303	59,552	60.0	1,468	3,229	4,698	7.9
1988.....	101,407	60,878	60.0	1,319	2,608	3,927	6.5
1989.....	103,480	62,389	60.3	1,372	1,790	3,162	5.1
1990 <sup>1</sup> .....	104,876	63,172	60.2	<sup>2</sup> 1,132	<sup>1</sup> 1,096	<sup>3</sup> 2,228	<sup>5</sup> 1.1
1991.....	103,723	62,627	60.4	<sup>2</sup> 2,377	<sup>2</sup> 2,906	<sup>5</sup> 5,283	<sup>8</sup> 4.4
1992.....	104,668	63,610	60.8	1,939	2,982	4,921	7.7
1993.....	106,101	64,274	60.6	1,707	2,625	4,332	6.7
1994 <sup>1</sup> .....	107,989	66,549	61.6	1,995	2,132	4,128	6.2
1995.....	110,038	68,354	62.1	1,699	1,956	3,656	5.3
1996.....	111,960	69,255	61.9	<sup>1</sup> 1,863	<sup>1</sup> 1,861	<sup>3</sup> 3,724	<sup>5</sup> 4.4
1997 <sup>1</sup> .....	114,533	70,735	61.8	<sup>2</sup> 2,990	<sup>1</sup> 1,764	<sup>4</sup> 4,754	<sup>6</sup> 7.1
1998 <sup>1</sup> .....	116,730	71,440	61.2	2,834	1,593	4,427	6.2
1999 <sup>1</sup> .....	118,963	72,306	60.8	2,194	1,146	3,340	4.6
2000 <sup>1</sup> .....	122,089	73,496	60.2	1,752	898	2,650	3.6
2001.....	122,229	73,392	60.0	1,518	656	2,174	3.0
2002.....	121,826	72,508	59.5	1,579	567	2,146	3.0
2003 <sup>1</sup> .....	122,358	72,946	59.6	1,555	545	2,100	2.9
2004 <sup>1</sup> .....	123,554	73,939	59.8	1,483	520	2,003	2.7
2005.....	125,889	75,609	60.1	1,403	479	1,882	2.5
2006.....	128,237	76,514	59.7	1,283	409	1,692	2.2
2007.....	129,767	75,873	58.5	<sup>1</sup> 1,462	<sup>2</sup> 267	<sup>1</sup> 1,729	<sup>2</sup> 3.0
2008 <sup>1</sup> .....	129,377	75,305	58.2	<sup>1</sup> 1,940	<sup>2</sup> 286	<sup>2</sup> 2,226	<sup>3</sup> 0.0
2009 <sup>1</sup> .....	124,490	72,611	58.3	<sup>2</sup> 2,592	<sup>3</sup> 980	<sup>3</sup> 3,572	<sup>4</sup> 9.0
2010.....	124,073	72,902	58.8	2,541	1,820	4,361	6.0
2011.....	125,187	73,926	59.1	2,152	1,677	3,829	5.2

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 10. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by sex, 1979-2011 annual averages -- Continued**

(Numbers in thousands)

Year and sex	Total wage and salary workers	Workers paid hourly rates					
		Total	Percent of total wage and salary workers	Below prevailing Federal minimum wage	At prevailing Federal minimum wage	Total at or below prevailing Federal minimum wage	
						Number	Percent of hourly paid workers
<b>MEN</b>							
1979.....	49,400	28,392	57.5	846	1,353	2,199	7.7
1980.....	48,700	27,709	56.9	983	1,696	2,678	9.7
1981.....	48,844	27,576	56.5	1,119	1,533	2,652	9.6
1982.....	47,591	26,481	55.6	697	1,587	2,284	8.6
1983.....	47,856	26,831	56.1	585	1,658	2,243	8.4
1984.....	50,022	28,140	56.3	490	1,626	2,116	7.5
1985.....	51,015	28,893	56.6	440	1,544	1,984	6.9
1986 <sup>1</sup> .....	51,942	29,666	57.1	408	1,336	1,743	5.9
1987.....	52,938	30,474	57.6	364	1,283	1,647	5.4
1988.....	53,912	31,058	57.6	311	1,066	1,377	4.4
1989.....	54,789	31,687	57.8	379	733	1,112	3.5
1990 <sup>1</sup> .....	55,553	32,104	57.8	<sup>2</sup> 712	<sup>3</sup> 385	<sup>2</sup> 1,097	<sup>3</sup> 3.4
1991.....	54,618	31,639	57.9	<sup>2</sup> 795	<sup>2</sup> 1,114	<sup>2</sup> 1,909	<sup>2</sup> 6.0
1992.....	54,826	32,155	58.6	653	1,231	1,885	5.9
1993.....	55,475	32,337	58.3	573	1,091	1,664	5.1
1994 <sup>1</sup> .....	56,570	33,528	59.3	674	891	1,565	4.7
1995.....	57,669	34,420	59.7	542	796	1,338	3.9
1996.....	58,473	34,838	59.6	<sup>2</sup> 619	<sup>2</sup> 755	<sup>2</sup> 1,374	<sup>2</sup> 3.9
1997 <sup>1</sup> .....	59,825	35,521	59.4	<sup>2</sup> 1,147	<sup>2</sup> 673	<sup>2</sup> 1,820	<sup>2</sup> 5.1
1998 <sup>1</sup> .....	60,973	35,761	58.7	1,039	628	1,667	4.7
1999 <sup>1</sup> .....	61,914	36,073	58.3	768	446	1,214	3.4
2000 <sup>1</sup> .....	63,662	36,720	57.7	582	319	901	2.5
2001.....	63,647	36,544	57.4	497	247	744	2.0
2002.....	63,272	36,000	56.9	582	217	799	2.2
2003 <sup>1</sup> .....	63,236	35,853	56.7	493	213	706	2.0
2004 <sup>1</sup> .....	64,145	36,806	57.4	470	210	680	1.8
2005.....	65,466	37,652	57.5	459	189	648	1.7
2006.....	66,811	38,193	57.2	422	146	568	1.5
2007.....	67,468	37,790	56.0	<sup>2</sup> 460	<sup>2</sup> 86	<sup>2</sup> 546	<sup>2</sup> 1.4
2008 <sup>1</sup> .....	66,846	37,334	55.9	<sup>2</sup> 638	<sup>2</sup> 90	<sup>2</sup> 728	<sup>2</sup> 1.9
2009 <sup>1</sup> .....	63,539	35,185	55.4	<sup>2</sup> 990	<sup>2</sup> 368	<sup>2</sup> 1,358	<sup>2</sup> 3.9
2010.....	63,531	35,498	55.9	943	669	1,612	4.5
2011.....	64,686	36,457	56.4	785	648	1,433	3.9

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 10. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by sex, 1979-2011 annual averages -- Continued**

(Numbers in thousands)

Year and sex	Total wage and salary workers	Workers paid hourly rates					
		Total	Percent of total wage and salary workers	Below prevailing Federal minimum wage	At prevailing Federal minimum wage	Total at or below prevailing Federal minimum wage	
						Number	Percent of hourly paid workers
<b>WOMEN</b>							
1979.....	38,129	23,329	61.2	2,070	2,644	4,714	20.2
1980.....	38,944	23,626	60.7	2,104	2,990	5,095	21.6
1981.....	39,672	24,294	61.2	2,394	2,778	5,172	21.3
1982.....	39,777	24,365	61.3	1,651	2,561	4,212	17.3
1983.....	40,433	24,989	61.8	1,492	2,603	4,095	16.4
1984.....	42,172	26,003	61.7	1,348	2,499	3,847	14.8
1985.....	43,506	26,869	61.8	1,198	2,356	3,554	13.2
1986 <sup>1</sup> .....	44,961	27,863	62.0	1,192	2,125	3,317	11.9
1987.....	46,365	29,078	62.7	1,105	1,946	3,051	10.5
1988.....	47,495	29,820	62.8	1,008	1,542	2,550	8.6
1989.....	48,691	30,702	63.1	994	1,056	2,050	6.7
1990 <sup>1</sup> .....	49,323	31,069	63.0	<sup>2</sup> 1,420	<sup>2</sup> 711	<sup>2</sup> 2,131	<sup>2</sup> 6.9
1991.....	49,105	30,988	63.1	<sup>2</sup> 1,582	<sup>2</sup> 1,792	<sup>2</sup> 3,374	<sup>2</sup> 10.9
1992.....	49,842	31,454	63.1	1,286	1,751	3,036	9.7
1993.....	50,626	31,937	63.1	1,133	1,534	2,667	8.4
1994 <sup>1</sup> .....	51,419	33,021	64.2	1,322	1,241	2,563	7.8
1995.....	52,369	33,934	64.8	1,157	1,161	2,318	6.8
1996.....	53,488	34,418	64.3	<sup>2</sup> 1,244	<sup>2</sup> 1,106	<sup>2</sup> 2,350	<sup>2</sup> 6.8
1997 <sup>1</sup> .....	54,708	35,214	64.4	<sup>2</sup> 1,843	<sup>2</sup> 1,092	<sup>2</sup> 2,935	<sup>2</sup> 8.3
1998 <sup>1</sup> .....	55,757	35,680	64.0	1,794	965	2,760	7.7
1999 <sup>1</sup> .....	57,050	36,233	63.5	1,426	700	2,126	5.9
2000 <sup>1</sup> .....	58,427	36,777	62.9	1,170	579	1,749	4.8
2001.....	58,582	36,848	62.9	1,021	409	1,430	3.9
2002.....	58,555	36,508	62.3	997	350	1,347	3.7
2003 <sup>1</sup> .....	59,122	37,093	62.7	1,062	332	1,394	3.8
2004 <sup>1</sup> .....	59,408	37,133	62.5	1,013	310	1,323	3.6
2005.....	60,423	37,957	62.8	944	290	1,234	3.3
2006.....	61,426	38,321	62.4	861	263	1,124	2.9
2007.....	62,299	38,082	61.1	<sup>2</sup> 1,002	<sup>2</sup> 181	<sup>2</sup> 1,183	<sup>2</sup> 3.1
2008 <sup>1</sup> .....	62,532	37,972	60.7	<sup>2</sup> 1,302	<sup>2</sup> 196	<sup>2</sup> 1,498	<sup>2</sup> 3.9
2009 <sup>1</sup> .....	60,951	37,426	61.4	<sup>2</sup> 1,603	<sup>2</sup> 612	<sup>2</sup> 2,215	<sup>2</sup> 5.9
2010.....	60,542	37,404	61.8	1,598	1,151	2,749	7.3
2011.....	60,502	37,469	61.9	1,366	1,029	2,395	6.4

<sup>1</sup> The comparability of historical labor force data has been affected at various times by methodological and conceptual changes in the Current Population Survey (CPS). For an explanation, see the Historical Comparability section of the documentation provided at [www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#comp](http://www.bls.gov/cps/documentation.htm#comp).

<sup>2</sup> Data for 1990-91, 1996-97, and 2007-09 reflect changes in the minimum wage that took place in those years.

NOTE: 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 on April 1, 1990, to \$4.25 on April 1, 1991, to \$4.75 on October 1, 1996, to \$5.15 on September 1, 1997, to \$5.85 on

July 24, 2007, to \$6.55 on July 24, 2008, and to \$7.25 on July 24, 2009. Data exclude all self-employed persons whether or not their businesses are incorporated. The presence of a sizable number of workers with reported wages below the minimum does not necessarily indicate violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, as there are numerous exemptions to the minimum wage provisions of the law. In addition, the relatively large number of workers with reported wages below the minimum in some years may reflect rounding on the part of survey respondents.