

## **Oregon's Minimum Wage Jobs: Facts, Figures and Context**

To download the full publication, visit [www.QualityInfo.org](http://www.QualityInfo.org)

### **Executive Summary**

- Oregon's 2016 minimum wage is \$9.25 per hour. The minimum wage is adjusted annually to account for inflation.
- The national minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. It was last increased in 2009.
- Oregon's 2016 minimum wage is the eighth highest state minimum. Oregon had the second highest minimum wage in the nation for years, behind Washington State, but that changed in 2016.
- The purchasing power of Oregon's minimum wage today is similar to the purchasing power of the minimum wage in the late-1970s, while nationally the minimum wage has lost purchasing power.
- Five percent of Oregon workers in 2015 worked at or below the minimum wage of \$9.25.
- Two out of every five Oregon jobs pay less than \$15.00 per hour and could potentially be affected by one or more of the minimum wage adjustments currently under debate.
- Low-wage jobs are concentrated in food service, retail, recreational, and office occupations and in the leisure and hospitality, retail, and natural resource industries.
- Low-wage employment makes up differing shares of employment in local areas of Oregon. Therefore, the impact of increases in the minimum wage would vary by location.
- Studies have found that moderate increases in the minimum wage substantially increase the earnings of those at the bottom of the income distribution and reduce wage inequality. Negative employment effects of such policies are too small to have meaningful consequences for public policy.
- The effects of large increases in the minimum wage are untested.

### Oregon Jobs by Wage Group, Counties

	Levels				Share			
	\$9.25 or less	\$9.26 - \$13.49	\$13.50 - \$14.99	\$15.00 or more	\$9.25 or less	\$9.26 - \$13.49	\$13.50 - \$14.99	\$15.00 or more
Baker	420	1,760	381	2,581	8.2%	34.2%	7.4%	50.2%
Benton	2,299	9,318	2,247	23,592	6.1%	24.9%	6.0%	63.0%
Clackamas	8,330	43,463	10,290	99,423	5.2%	26.9%	6.4%	61.6%
Clatsop	1,141	6,085	1,208	9,731	6.3%	33.5%	6.7%	53.6%
Columbia	799	3,608	732	5,934	7.2%	32.6%	6.6%	53.6%
Coos	1,631	7,451	1,714	12,621	7.0%	31.8%	7.3%	53.9%
Crook	351	1,695	463	3,365	6.0%	28.9%	7.9%	57.3%
Curry	535	2,232	460	3,295	8.2%	34.2%	7.0%	50.5%
Deschutes	4,260	23,180	5,554	42,993	5.6%	30.5%	7.3%	56.6%
Douglas	2,633	11,912	2,566	20,036	7.1%	32.1%	6.9%	53.9%
Gilliam	41	204	39	528	5.1%	25.1%	4.8%	65.0%
Grant	179	614	185	1,239	8.1%	27.7%	8.3%	55.9%
Harney	214	703	164	1,096	9.8%	32.3%	7.5%	50.4%
Hood River	1,093	5,455	1,079	6,937	7.5%	37.5%	7.4%	47.6%
Jackson	5,426	27,909	6,394	47,834	6.2%	31.9%	7.3%	54.6%
Jefferson	521	2,309	586	3,432	7.6%	33.7%	8.6%	50.1%
Josephine	1,971	9,301	2,199	12,569	7.6%	35.7%	8.4%	48.3%
Klamath	1,854	7,727	1,628	11,080	8.3%	34.7%	7.3%	49.7%
Lake	151	749	189	1,249	6.5%	32.0%	8.1%	53.4%
Lane	9,794	46,244	10,857	88,335	6.3%	29.8%	7.0%	56.9%
Lincoln	1,502	6,924	1,291	8,984	8.0%	37.0%	6.9%	48.0%
Linn	3,221	14,764	3,081	25,333	6.9%	31.8%	6.6%	54.6%
Malheur	1,454	4,518	844	6,291	11.1%	34.5%	6.4%	48.0%
Marion	9,155	46,215	9,434	88,802	6.0%	30.1%	6.1%	57.8%
Morrow	211	1,465	365	4,010	3.5%	24.2%	6.0%	66.3%
Multnomah	19,070	114,170	29,078	338,891	3.8%	22.8%	5.8%	67.6%
Polk	1,291	6,877	1,594	10,085	6.5%	34.7%	8.0%	50.8%
Sherman	48	265	50	415	6.2%	34.0%	6.4%	53.4%
Tillamook	558	2,953	686	5,255	5.9%	31.2%	7.3%	55.6%
Umatilla	2,087	11,317	2,533	15,179	6.7%	36.4%	8.1%	48.8%
Union	685	2,917	735	5,645	6.9%	29.2%	7.4%	56.6%
Wallowa	154	746	207	1,308	6.4%	30.9%	8.6%	54.2%
Wasco	685	4,032	853	5,597	6.1%	36.1%	7.6%	50.1%
Washington	12,667	71,691	16,027	196,445	4.3%	24.2%	5.4%	66.2%
Wheeler	28	98	27	162	8.9%	31.2%	8.5%	51.4%
Yamhill	2,583	12,082	2,529	19,494	7.0%	32.9%	6.9%	53.1%

Source: Unemployment Insurance Wage Records