

History of Washington Minimum Wage

These are the changes by year that have been made to the Washington State minimum wage since 1961.

Initiative 688, approved by Washington voters in 1998, requires L&I to make a cost-of-living adjustment to the minimum wage each year based on the federal Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

History of Minimum Wage in Washington State	
Effective date	Minimum wage per hour
January 1, 2015	\$9.47
January 1, 2014	\$9.32
January 1, 2013	\$9.19
January 1, 2012	\$9.04
January 1, 2011	\$8.67
January 1, 2010	\$8.55
January 1, 2009	\$8.55
January 1, 2008	\$8.07
January 1, 2007	\$7.93
January 1, 2006	\$7.63
January 1, 2005	\$7.35
January 1, 2004	\$7.16
January 1, 2003	\$7.01
January 1, 2002	\$6.90
January 1, 2001	\$6.72
January 1, 2000	\$6.50
January 1, 1999	\$5.70
(September 1, 1997)	\$5.15 (Federal minimum wage change)
January 1, 1994	\$4.90

January 1, 1990	\$4.25
January 1, 1989	\$3.85
January 1, 1976	\$2.30
September 1, 1975	\$2.00
January 1, 1974	\$1.80
January 1, 1968	\$1.60
January 1, 1962	\$1.25
June 30, 1961	\$1.15

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<http://www.lni.wa.gov/WorkplaceRights/Wages/Minimum/History/default.asp>