

Oregon's Economy: Wages

Oregon has the second highest minimum wage in the nation. As of 2015, the minimum wage is \$9.25 per hour. Oregon's minimum wage is adjusted annually by the increase in the U.S. Consumer Price Index. Washington has the highest minimum wage rate of any state at \$9.47 per hour. California's minimum wage is \$9.00 per hour, and Nevada's minimum wage is \$8.25 per hour. Idaho's minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour, which is equal to the federal minimum wage rate.

Although Oregon has a high minimum wage, workers in Oregon tend to work fewer hours per week and, as a result, average wage earnings are below the national level. Workers at Oregon businesses earned an average of \$759 in weekly earnings in 2013, which is below the national average earnings of \$825 per week.

Oregon workers earned an annual average of \$45,010 in 2013, but the pay workers earn can vary widely by industry. The average annual pay in the information industry was \$67,308, the most of any broad sector, followed by manufacturing (\$61,852) and financial activities (\$58,003). The lowest earnings were at jobs in leisure and hospitality, where pay averaged \$18,138 per year.

Of course, the average wage for an industry does not reveal how many low- or high-wage jobs are in an industry. Roughly 17 percent of Oregon jobs have an average wage of less than \$10 per hour, and another 26 percent are between \$10 and \$15 per hour. **This suggests that more than half of all jobs pay at least \$15 per hour.**