

Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers: 2002

According to Current Population Survey estimates for 2002, some 72.7 million American workers were paid at hourly rates, representing 59.6 percent of all wage and salary workers.¹ Of those paid by the hour, about 570,000 were reported earning exactly \$5.15, the prevailing Federal minimum wage, and another 1.6 million were reported with wages below the minimum.² Together, these 2.2 million workers with wages at or below the minimum made up 3.0 percent of all hourly-paid workers. [Tables 1 - 10](#) present data on a wide array of demographic and socioeconomic characteristics for these low-wage workers. The following are some highlights from the 2002 data.

- Minimum wage workers tend to be young. About half of workers earning \$5.15 or less were under age 25, and slightly more than one-fourth were age 16-19. Among teenagers, 10 percent earned \$5.15 or less. About 2 percent of workers age 25 and over earned the minimum wage or less. However, among those age 65 and over, the proportion was about 5 percent. (See tables 1 and 7.)
- About 4 percent of women paid hourly rates reported wages at or below the prevailing Federal minimum, compared with about 2 percent of men. (See table 1.)
- The proportion of hourly-paid workers receiving \$5.15 or less was about 3 percent for whites, blacks, and Hispanics. For whites and Hispanics, women were more likely than men to be low-wage earners. (See table 1.)
- Never-married workers, who also tend to be quite young, are more likely to earn the minimum wage or less than persons who are married. (See table 8.)
- The likelihood of a worker being paid the minimum wage or less is inversely related to the level of education attained. Among hourly-paid workers age 16 and over, a little over 2 percent of those who had a high school diploma but had not gone on to college earned the minimum or less, compared with less than 2 percent for those who had obtained a college degree. (See table 6.)
- Part-time workers (persons who usually work less than 35 hours per week) were much more likely than their full-time counterparts to be paid \$5.15 or less (about 8 percent versus about 2 percent). About 1 in 10 workers putting in fewer than 15 hours per week earned the minimum or less. (See tables 1 and 9.)
- By occupational group, the proportion of hourly-paid workers whose earnings were reported at or below \$5.15 ranged from a low of less than 1 percent for persons employed in managerial and professional specialty jobs and in precision production, craft, and repair positions, to a high of about 10 percent for those in service jobs. Roughly two-thirds of all low-wage workers in 2002 were in service-type occupations, mostly in food service jobs. (See table 4.)
- Among industry groups, the proportion of workers with reported hourly wages at or below \$5.15 was highest in retail trade (about 8 percent), agriculture (about 2 percent), and services (also about 2 percent). About three-fifths of all low-wage workers were employed in retail trade, and nearly one-fourth worked in services. It should be recognized that for many working in these two industries, tips and commissions might supplement the hourly wages received. (See table 5.)

- Among the four broad geographic regions, the West had the lowest proportion of hourly workers with earnings at or below \$5.15 (about 2 percent), while the South had the highest (about 4 percent). For a number of States, the proportion of hourly-paid workers earning at or below the Federal minimum wage exceeded the national average; in many other States, the proportion was much lower. Some States have minimum wage laws establishing minimum wage standards that exceed the Federal level of \$5.15 per hour. (See tables 2 and 3.)
- The proportion of hourly-paid workers earning the prevailing Federal minimum wage or less has trended downward since 1979, when data first began to be collected on a regular basis. (See table 10.)

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Bureau of Labor Statistics' data on minimum wage earners are derived from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a nationwide sample survey of households that includes questions enabling the identification of hourly-paid workers and their hourly wage rate. Data in this summary are 2002 annual averages.

Notes

1 Data are for wage and salary workers, excluding the incorporated self-employed, and refer to earnings on a person's sole or principal job.

2 It should be noted that 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 exemptions to the minimum wage provisions of the law. Indeed, the relatively large number of workers with reported wages below the minimum in 2002 includes almost 500,000 hourly-paid workers reported as earning exactly \$5.00 per hour; to some extent, this may reflect rounding in the responses of survey participants. 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 minimum is undoubtedly understated. Research has shown that a relatively smaller 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.

Table 1. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by selected characteristics, 2002 annual averages

Characteristic	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent distribution				Percent of workers paid hourly rates		
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
AGE AND SEX											
Total, 16 years and over.....	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
16 to 24 years.....	16,191	1,158	340	818	22.3	53.4	59.6	51.2	7.2	2.1	5.1
16 to 19 years.....	5,808	605	226	379	8.0	27.9	39.6	23.7	10.4	3.9	6.5
25 years and over.....	56,529	1,010	230	780	77.7	46.6	40.4	48.8	1.8	0.4	1.4
Men, 16 years and over.....	36,135	800	218	582	49.7	36.9	38.2	36.4	2.2	0.6	1.6
16 to 24 years.....	8,242	453	146	307	11.3	20.9	25.6	19.2	5.5	1.8	3.7
16 to 19 years.....	2,850	243	97	146	3.9	11.2	17.0	9.1	8.5	3.4	5.1
25 years and over.....	27,893	347	72	275	38.4	16.0	12.6	17.2	1.2	0.3	1.0
Women, 16 years and over...	36,585	1,368	352	1,016	50.3	63.1	61.8	63.6	3.7	1.0	2.8
16 to 24 years.....	7,949	705	194	511	10.9	32.5	34.0	32.0	8.9	2.4	6.4
16 to 19 years.....	2,958	361	128	233	4.1	16.7	22.5	14.6	12.2	4.3	7.9
25 years and over.....	28,636	663	158	505	39.4	30.6	27.7	31.6	2.3	0.6	1.8
RACE, SEX, AND HISPANIC ORIGIN											
White.....	59,199	1,781	452	1,329	81.4	82.1	79.3	83.2	3.0	0.8	2.2
Men.....	29,829	626	162	464	41.0	28.9	28.4	29.0	2.1	0.5	1.6
Women.....	29,370	1,155	290	865	40.4	53.3	50.9	54.1	3.9	1.0	2.9
Black.....	9,692	276	89	187	13.3	12.7	15.6	11.7	2.8	0.9	1.9
Men.....	4,469	129	44	85	6.1	6.0	7.7	5.3	2.9	1.0	1.9
Women.....	5,224	147	45	102	7.2	6.8	7.9	6.4	2.8	0.9	2.0
Hispanic origin.....	11,206	305	110	195	15.4	14.1	19.3	12.2	2.7	1.0	1.7
Men.....	6,624	144	47	97	9.1	6.6	8.2	6.1	2.2	0.7	1.5
Women.....	4,582	162	64	98	6.3	7.5	11.2	6.1	3.5	1.4	2.1
FULL- AND PART-TIME STATUS AND SEX											
Full-time workers.....	55,029	851	169	682	75.7	39.3	29.6	42.7	1.5	0.3	1.2
Men.....	30,472	367	82	285	41.9	16.9	14.4	17.8	1.2	0.3	0.9
Women.....	24,557	483	87	396	33.8	22.3	15.3	24.8	2.0	0.4	1.6
Part-time workers.....	17,568	1,309	401	908	24.2	60.4	70.4	56.8	7.5	2.3	5.2
Men.....	5,599	430	136	294	7.7	19.8	23.9	18.4	7.7	2.4	5.3
Women.....	11,969	879	265	614	16.5	40.5	46.5	38.4	7.3	2.2	5.1

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed. Detail for the above race and Hispanic-origin groups will not sum to totals because data for the "other races" group are not presented and Hispanics are included in both the white and black population groups. Also note that 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.

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, 2002 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 \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
Total, 16 years and over....	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
Northeast.....	13,164	408	83	325	18.1	18.8	14.6	20.3	3.1	0.6	2.5
New England.....	3,817	85	10	75	5.2	3.9	1.8	4.7	2.2	0.3	2.0
Middle Atlantic.....	9,347	323	73	250	12.9	14.9	12.8	15.6	3.5	0.8	2.7
Midwest.....	18,797	570	138	432	25.8	26.3	24.2	27.0	3.0	0.7	2.3
East North Central.....	12,955	403	92	311	17.8	18.6	16.1	19.5	3.1	0.7	2.4
West North Central.....	5,842	166	46	120	8.0	7.7	8.1	7.5	2.8	0.8	2.1
South.....	24,324	901	263	638	33.4	41.6	46.1	39.9	3.7	1.1	2.6
South Atlantic.....	12,500	411	66	345	17.2	19.0	11.6	21.6	3.3	0.5	2.8
East South Central.....	4,256	161	66	95	5.9	7.4	11.6	5.9	3.8	1.6	2.2
West South Central.....	7,568	329	131	198	10.4	15.2	23.0	12.4	4.3	1.7	2.6
West.....	16,436	288	85	203	22.6	13.3	14.9	12.7	1.8	0.5	1.2
Mountain.....	4,939	172	68	104	6.8	7.9	11.9	6.5	3.5	1.4	2.1
Pacific.....	11,497	116	17	99	15.8	5.4	3.0	6.2	1.0	0.1	0.9

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed. 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, 2002 annual averages

State	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent distribution				Percent of workers paid hourly rates		
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
Total, 16 years and over..	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
Alabama.....	1,054	36	11	25	1.4	1.7	1.9	1.6	3.4	1.0	2.4
Alaska.....	190	2	1	1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.5	0.5
Arizona.....	1,293	52	20	32	1.8	2.4	3.5	2.0	4.0	1.5	2.5
Arkansas.....	653	34	15	19	0.9	1.6	2.6	1.2	5.2	2.3	2.9
California.....	8,441	85	13	72	11.6	3.9	2.3	4.5	1.0	0.2	0.9
Colorado.....	1,141	34	5	29	1.6	1.6	0.9	1.8	3.0	0.4	2.5
Connecticut.....	882	15	3	12	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.8	1.7	0.3	1.4
Delaware.....	201	5	1	4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	2.5	0.5	2.0
District of Columbia.....	117	4	1	3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.4	0.9	2.6
Florida.....	3,851	145	20	125	5.3	6.7	3.5	7.8	3.8	0.5	3.2
Georgia.....	1,972	55	3	52	2.7	2.5	0.5	3.3	2.8	0.2	2.6
Hawaii.....	293	6	-	6	0.4	0.3	-	0.4	2.0	-	2.0
Idaho.....	378	15	4	11	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	4.0	1.1	2.9
Illinois.....	3,169	97	31	66	4.4	4.5	5.4	4.1	3.1	1.0	2.1
Indiana.....	1,802	54	5	49	2.5	2.5	0.9	3.1	3.0	0.3	2.7
Iowa.....	900	29	5	24	1.2	1.3	0.9	1.5	3.2	0.6	2.7
Kansas.....	784	24	9	15	1.1	1.1	1.6	0.9	3.1	1.1	1.9
Kentucky.....	1,061	49	17	32	1.5	2.3	3.0	2.0	4.6	1.6	3.0
Louisiana.....	1,034	54	23	31	1.4	2.5	4.0	1.9	5.2	2.2	3.0
Maine.....	391	11	2	9	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	2.8	0.5	2.3
Maryland.....	1,347	35	3	32	1.9	1.6	0.5	2.0	2.6	0.2	2.4
Massachusetts.....	1,682	38	3	35	2.3	1.8	0.5	2.2	2.3	0.2	2.1
Michigan.....	2,884	88	17	71	4.0	4.1	3.0	4.4	3.1	0.6	2.5
Minnesota.....	1,608	32	11	21	2.2	1.5	1.9	1.3	2.0	0.7	1.3
Mississippi.....	640	34	17	17	0.9	1.6	3.0	1.1	5.3	2.7	2.7
Missouri.....	1,610	48	10	38	2.2	2.2	1.8	2.4	3.0	0.6	2.4
Montana.....	241	7	5	2	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.1	2.9	2.1	0.8
Nebraska.....	515	18	6	12	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.8	3.5	1.2	2.3
Nevada.....	612	15	9	6	0.8	0.7	1.6	0.4	2.5	1.5	1.0
New Hampshire.....	383	10	1	9	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.6	2.6	0.3	2.3
New Jersey.....	1,920	72	11	61	2.6	3.3	1.9	3.8	3.8	0.6	3.2
New Mexico.....	488	23	14	9	0.7	1.1	2.5	0.6	4.7	2.9	1.8
New York.....	4,030	136	35	101	5.5	6.3	6.1	6.3	3.4	0.9	2.5
North Carolina.....	2,043	64	10	54	2.8	3.0	1.8	3.4	3.1	0.5	2.6
North Dakota.....	192	8	4	4	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.3	4.2	2.1	2.1
Ohio.....	3,323	125	33	92	4.6	5.8	5.8	5.8	3.8	1.0	2.8
Oklahoma.....	869	35	15	20	1.2	1.6	2.6	1.3	4.0	1.7	2.3
Oregon.....	924	11	2	9	1.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.2	1.0
Pennsylvania.....	3,397	116	27	89	4.7	5.4	4.7	5.6	3.4	0.8	2.6
Rhode Island.....	291	8	1	7	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	2.7	0.3	2.4
South Carolina.....	930	31	8	23	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	3.3	0.9	2.5
South Dakota.....	234	7	2	5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	3.0	0.9	2.1
Tennessee.....	1,499	43	21	22	2.1	2.0	3.7	1.4	2.9	1.4	1.5
Texas.....	5,013	207	78	129	6.9	9.5	13.7	8.1	4.1	1.6	2.6
Utah.....	644	17	8	9	0.9	0.8	1.4	0.6	2.6	1.2	1.4
Vermont.....	189	4	1	3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	2.1	0.5	1.6
Virginia.....	1,596	48	8	40	2.2	2.2	1.4	2.5	3.0	0.5	2.5
Washington.....	1,648	12	1	11	2.3	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.7
West Virginia.....	443	25	13	12	0.6	1.2	2.3	0.8	5.6	2.9	2.7
Wisconsin.....	1,776	39	6	33	2.4	1.8	1.1	2.1	2.2	0.3	1.9
Wyoming.....	141	5	2	3	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	3.5	1.4	2.1

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed. Users are reminded that these data are based on a sample and are therefore subject to sampling error; the degree of error may be quite large for less populous States. It is not possible to clearly 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 an hourly wage of \$5.15 may not in fact be covered by Federal or State minimum wage laws. 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. Dash represents zero.

Table 4. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by major occupation group, 2002 annual averages

Occupation	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent distribution				Percent of workers paid hourly rates		
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
Total, 16 years and over.....	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
Managerial and professional specialty.....	10,744	73	25	48	14.8	3.4	4.4	3.0	0.7	0.2	0.4
Executive, administrative, and managerial.....	4,531	34	6	28	6.2	1.6	1.1	1.8	0.8	0.1	0.6
Professional specialty.....	6,212	39	19	20	8.5	1.8	3.3	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.3
Technical, sales, and administrative support.....	22,594	331	174	157	31.1	15.3	30.5	9.8	1.5	0.8	0.7
Technicians and related support.....	2,801	11	6	5	3.9	0.5	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2
Sales occupations.....	7,467	205	108	97	10.3	9.5	18.9	6.1	2.7	1.4	1.3
Administrative support, including clerical.....	12,326	115	61	54	16.9	5.3	10.7	3.4	0.9	0.5	0.4
Service occupations.....	14,235	1,454	263	1,191	19.6	67.1	46.1	74.5	10.2	1.8	8.4
Private household.....	371	63	5	58	0.5	2.9	0.9	3.6	17.0	1.3	15.6
Protective service.....	1,655	18	3	15	2.3	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.2	0.9
Service, except private household and protective.....	12,209	1,373	254	1,119	16.8	63.3	44.6	70.0	11.2	2.1	9.2
Food service workers.....	5,839	1,141	166	975	8.0	52.6	29.1	61.0	19.5	2.8	16.7
Health service workers.....	2,416	44	12	32	3.3	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.8	0.5	1.3
Cleaning and building service workers.....	2,439	80	34	46	3.4	3.7	6.0	2.9	3.3	1.4	1.9
Personal service workers.....	1,514	109	42	67	2.1	5.0	7.4	4.2	7.2	2.8	4.4
Precision production, craft, and repair.....	9,535	55	12	43	13.1	2.5	2.1	2.7	0.6	0.1	0.5
Mechanics and repairers.....	3,157	17	2	15	4.3	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.1	0.5
Construction trades.....	3,846	22	4	18	5.3	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.5
Other precision, production, craft, and repair.....	2,532	17	7	10	3.5	0.8	1.2	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.4
Operators, fabricators, and laborers.....	14,170	217	80	137	19.5	10.0	14.0	8.6	1.5	0.6	1.0
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors.....	5,610	47	17	30	7.7	2.2	3.0	1.9	0.8	0.3	0.5
Transportation and material moving.....	3,745	49	11	38	5.1	2.3	1.9	2.4	1.3	0.3	1.0
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers.....	4,815	121	52	69	6.6	5.6	9.1	4.3	2.5	1.1	1.4
Farming, forestry, and fishing.....	1,443	37	15	22	2.0	1.7	2.6	1.4	2.6	1.0	1.5

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed.

Table 5. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by major industry group, 2002 annual averages

Industry	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent distribution				Percent of workers paid hourly rates		
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
Total, 16 years and over.....	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
Private sector.....	63,670	2,027	509	1,518	87.6	93.5	89.3	95.0	3.2	0.8	2.4
Goods-producing industries.....	17,909	135	46	89	24.6	6.2	8.1	5.6	0.8	0.3	0.5
Agriculture.....	1,220	29	10	19	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.2	2.4	0.8	1.6
Mining.....	286	1	-	1	0.4	-	-	0.1	0.3	-	0.3
Construction.....	5,049	39	5	34	6.9	1.8	0.9	2.1	0.8	0.1	0.7
Manufacturing.....	11,355	66	31	35	15.6	3.0	5.4	2.2	0.6	0.3	0.3
Durable goods.....	6,833	38	17	21	9.4	1.8	3.0	1.3	0.6	0.2	0.3
Nondurable goods.....	4,521	28	14	14	6.2	1.3	2.5	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3
Service-producing industries.....	45,760	1,891	463	1,428	62.9	87.2	81.2	89.4	4.1	1.0	3.1
Transportation and public utilities.....	4,209	39	8	31	5.8	1.8	1.4	1.9	0.9	0.2	0.7
Wholesale trade.....	2,230	13	4	9	3.1	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.4
Retail trade.....	15,874	1,340	294	1,046	21.8	61.8	51.6	65.5	8.4	1.9	6.6
Finance, insurance, and real estate.....	3,010	22	8	14	4.1	1.0	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.5
Services.....	20,436	476	148	328	28.1	22.0	26.0	20.5	2.3	0.7	1.6
Private households.....	414	66	6	60	0.6	3.0	1.1	3.8	15.9	1.4	14.5
Other services.....	20,022	412	143	269	27.5	19.0	25.1	16.8	2.1	0.7	1.3
Business, auto, and repair services.....	4,254	63	23	40	5.8	2.9	4.0	2.5	1.5	0.5	0.9
Personal services.....	1,829	114	42	72	2.5	5.3	7.4	4.5	6.2	2.3	3.9
Entertainment and recreation.....	1,391	69	17	52	1.9	3.2	3.0	3.3	5.0	1.2	3.7
Professional services.....	12,525	165	61	104	17.2	7.6	10.7	6.5	1.3	0.5	0.8
Forestry and fisheries.....	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public sector.....	9,050	142	61	81	12.4	6.5	10.7	5.1	1.6	0.7	0.9
Federal.....	1,786	22	7	15	2.5	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.2	0.4	0.8
State.....	2,382	50	23	27	3.3	2.3	4.0	1.7	2.1	1.0	1.1
Local.....	4,882	69	30	39	6.7	3.2	5.3	2.4	1.4	0.6	0.8

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed. Dash represents zero.

Table 6. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by educational attainment, 2002 annual averages

Educational attainment	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent distribution				Percent of workers paid hourly rates		
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
Total, 16 years and over.....	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
Less than a high school diploma.....	12,577	717	257	460	17.3	33.1	45.1	28.8	5.7	2.0	3.7
Less than 1 year of high school.....	3,389	120	42	78	4.7	5.5	7.4	4.9	3.5	1.2	2.3
1 to 3 years of high school.....	7,902	543	201	342	10.9	25.0	35.3	21.4	6.9	2.5	4.3
4 years of high school, no diploma.....	1,287	55	14	41	1.8	2.5	2.5	2.6	4.3	1.1	3.2
High school graduates or more.....	60,143	1,451	313	1,138	82.7	66.9	54.9	71.2	2.4	0.5	1.9
High school graduates, no college.....	27,428	655	161	494	37.7	30.2	28.2	30.9	2.4	0.6	1.8
Some college, no degree.....	16,376	535	118	417	22.5	24.7	20.7	26.1	3.3	0.7	2.5
Associate degree.....	6,911	94	17	77	9.5	4.3	3.0	4.8	1.4	0.2	1.1
Occupational program.....	3,867	53	9	44	5.3	2.4	1.6	2.8	1.4	0.2	1.1
Academic program.....	3,043	41	8	33	4.2	1.9	1.4	2.1	1.3	0.3	1.1
College graduates, total.....	9,428	167	16	151	13.0	7.7	2.8	9.4	1.8	0.2	1.6
Bachelor's degree.....	7,579	149	14	135	10.4	6.9	2.5	8.4	2.0	0.2	1.8
Master's degree.....	1,460	14	2	12	2.0	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.1	0.8
Professional degree.....	255	3	-	3	0.4	0.1	-	0.2	1.2	-	1.2
Doctoral degree.....	134	1	-	1	0.2	-	-	0.1	0.7	-	0.7

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed. Dash represents zero.

Table 7. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by age and sex, 2002 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 \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
BOTH SEXES											
Total, 16 years and over.....	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
Under 25 years.....	16,191	1,158	340	818	22.3	53.4	59.6	51.2	7.2	2.1	5.1
16 to 19 years.....	5,808	605	226	379	8.0	27.9	39.6	23.7	10.4	3.9	6.5
20 to 24 years.....	10,383	553	114	439	14.3	25.5	20.0	27.5	5.3	1.1	4.2
25 years and over.....	56,529	1,010	230	780	77.7	46.6	40.4	48.8	1.8	0.4	1.4
25 to 34 years.....	16,357	375	81	294	22.5	17.3	14.2	18.4	2.3	0.5	1.8
25 to 29 years.....	8,120	208	48	160	11.2	9.6	8.4	10.0	2.6	0.6	2.0
30 to 34 years.....	8,237	167	33	134	11.3	7.7	5.8	8.4	2.0	0.4	1.6
35 to 44 years.....	17,151	264	59	205	23.6	12.2	10.4	12.8	1.5	0.3	1.2
35 to 39 years.....	8,408	139	33	106	11.6	6.4	5.8	6.6	1.7	0.4	1.3
40 to 44 years.....	8,744	125	26	99	12.0	5.8	4.6	6.2	1.4	0.3	1.1
45 to 54 years.....	14,190	167	31	136	19.5	7.7	5.4	8.5	1.2	0.2	1.0
45 to 49 years.....	7,888	97	18	79	10.8	4.5	3.2	4.9	1.2	0.2	1.0
50 to 54 years.....	6,302	69	13	56	8.7	3.2	2.3	3.5	1.1	0.2	0.9
55 to 64 years.....	6,883	106	25	81	9.5	4.9	4.4	5.1	1.5	0.4	1.2
55 to 59 years.....	4,413	57	12	45	6.1	2.6	2.1	2.8	1.3	0.3	1.0
60 to 64 years.....	2,471	49	13	36	3.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.0	0.5	1.5
65 years and over.....	1,948	99	34	65	2.7	4.6	6.0	4.1	5.1	1.7	3.3
65 to 69 years.....	1,107	52	14	38	1.5	2.4	2.5	2.4	4.7	1.3	3.4
70 years and over.....	841	47	20	27	1.2	2.2	3.5	1.7	5.6	2.4	3.2
MEN											
Total, 16 years and over.....	36,135	800	218	582	49.7	36.9	38.2	36.4	2.2	0.6	1.6
Under 25 years.....	8,242	453	146	307	11.3	20.9	25.6	19.2	5.5	1.8	3.7
16 to 19 years.....	2,850	243	97	146	3.9	11.2	17.0	9.1	8.5	3.4	5.1
20 to 24 years.....	5,392	210	49	161	7.4	9.7	8.6	10.1	3.9	0.9	3.0
25 years and over.....	27,893	347	72	275	38.4	16.0	12.6	17.2	1.2	0.3	1.0
25 to 34 years.....	8,712	136	26	110	12.0	6.3	4.6	6.9	1.6	0.3	1.3
25 to 29 years.....	4,340	86	18	68	6.0	4.0	3.2	4.3	2.0	0.4	1.6
30 to 34 years.....	4,372	52	9	43	6.0	2.4	1.6	2.7	1.2	0.2	1.0
35 to 44 years.....	8,428	87	16	71	11.6	4.0	2.8	4.4	1.0	0.2	0.8
35 to 39 years.....	4,225	45	8	37	5.8	2.1	1.4	2.3	1.1	0.2	0.9
40 to 44 years.....	4,203	43	8	35	5.8	2.0	1.4	2.2	1.0	0.2	0.8
45 to 54 years.....	6,655	57	13	44	9.2	2.6	2.3	2.8	0.9	0.2	0.7
45 to 49 years.....	3,686	32	7	25	5.1	1.5	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.2	0.7
50 to 54 years.....	2,969	25	6	19	4.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.2	0.6
55 to 64 years.....	3,190	32	5	27	4.4	1.5	0.9	1.7	1.0	0.2	0.8
55 to 59 years.....	2,058	14	1	13	2.8	0.6	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.0	0.6
60 to 64 years.....	1,132	17	3	14	1.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.5	0.3	1.2
65 years and over.....	907	35	12	23	1.2	1.6	2.1	1.4	3.9	1.3	2.5
65 to 69 years.....	527	24	8	16	0.7	1.1	1.4	1.0	4.6	1.5	3.0
70 years and over.....	380	11	5	6	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.4	2.9	1.3	1.6
WOMEN											
Total, 16 years and over.....	36,585	1,368	352	1,016	50.3	63.1	61.8	63.6	3.7	1.0	2.8
Under 25 years.....	7,949	705	194	511	10.9	32.5	34.0	32.0	8.9	2.4	6.4
16 to 19 years.....	2,958	361	128	233	4.1	16.7	22.5	14.6	12.2	4.3	7.9
20 to 24 years.....	4,991	343	65	278	6.9	15.8	11.4	17.4	6.9	1.3	5.6
25 years and over.....	28,636	663	158	505	39.4	30.6	27.7	31.6	2.3	0.6	1.8
25 to 34 years.....	7,644	238	55	183	10.5	11.0	9.6	11.5	3.1	0.7	2.4
25 to 29 years.....	3,779	122	30	92	5.2	5.6	5.3	5.8	3.2	0.8	2.4
30 to 34 years.....	3,865	116	25	91	5.3	5.4	4.4	5.7	3.0	0.6	2.4
35 to 44 years.....	8,723	177	43	134	12.0	8.2	7.5	8.4	2.0	0.5	1.5
35 to 39 years.....	4,182	94	25	69	5.8	4.3	4.4	4.3	2.2	0.6	1.6
40 to 44 years.....	4,541	83	19	64	6.2	3.8	3.3	4.0	1.8	0.4	1.4
45 to 54 years.....	7,535	109	18	91	10.4	5.0	3.2	5.7	1.4	0.2	1.2
45 to 49 years.....	4,202	65	11	54	5.8	3.0	1.9	3.4	1.5	0.3	1.3
50 to 54 years.....	3,333	44	7	37	4.6	2.0	1.2	2.3	1.3	0.2	1.1
55 to 64 years.....	3,693	74	20	54	5.1	3.4	3.5	3.4	2.0	0.5	1.5
55 to 59 years.....	2,354	43	11	32	3.2	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.8	0.5	1.4
60 to 64 years.....	1,338	31	9	22	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.4	2.3	0.7	1.6
65 years and over.....	1,041	65	22	43	1.4	3.0	3.9	2.7	6.2	2.1	4.1
65 to 69 years.....	580	29	7	22	0.8	1.3	1.2	1.4	5.0	1.2	3.8
70 years and over.....	461	36	15	21	0.6	1.7	2.6	1.3	7.8	3.3	4.6

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed.

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, 2002 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 \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
BOTH SEXES											
Total, 16 years and over.....	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
Never married.....	24,983	1,366	380	986	34.4	63.0	66.7	61.7	5.5	1.5	3.9
16 to 24 years.....	14,167	1,074	319	755	19.5	49.5	56.0	47.2	7.6	2.3	5.3
25 years and over.....	10,815	292	61	231	14.9	13.5	10.7	14.5	2.7	0.6	2.1
25 to 54 years.....	10,340	277	57	220	14.2	12.8	10.0	13.8	2.7	0.6	2.1
Married, spouse present....	35,558	496	108	388	48.9	22.9	18.9	24.3	1.4	0.3	1.1
16 to 24 years.....	1,623	54	13	41	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.6	3.3	0.8	2.5
25 years and over.....	33,935	442	95	347	46.7	20.4	16.7	21.7	1.3	0.3	1.0
25 to 54 years.....	28,242	341	69	272	38.8	15.7	12.1	17.0	1.2	0.2	1.0
Other marital status.....	12,179	306	82	224	16.7	14.1	14.4	14.0	2.5	0.7	1.8
16 to 24 years.....	400	30	8	22	0.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	7.5	2.0	5.5
25 years and over.....	11,778	277	74	203	16.2	12.8	13.0	12.7	2.4	0.6	1.7
25 to 54 years.....	9,116	187	45	142	12.5	8.6	7.9	8.9	2.1	0.5	1.6
MEN											
Total, 16 years and over....	36,135	800	218	582	49.7	36.9	38.2	36.4	2.2	0.6	1.6
Never married.....	13,393	571	163	408	18.4	26.3	28.6	25.5	4.3	1.2	3.0
16 to 24 years.....	7,365	431	139	292	10.1	19.9	24.4	18.3	5.9	1.9	4.0
25 years and over.....	6,027	141	24	117	8.3	6.5	4.2	7.3	2.3	0.4	1.9
25 to 54 years.....	5,817	134	23	111	8.0	6.2	4.0	6.9	2.3	0.4	1.9
Married, spouse present....	18,107	159	35	124	24.9	7.3	6.1	7.8	0.9	0.2	0.7
16 to 24 years.....	721	13	4	9	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.6	1.8	0.6	1.2
25 years and over.....	17,386	146	31	115	23.9	6.7	5.4	7.2	0.8	0.2	0.7
25 to 54 years.....	14,248	101	21	80	19.6	4.7	3.7	5.0	0.7	0.1	0.6
Other marital status.....	4,635	70	20	50	6.4	3.2	3.5	3.1	1.5	0.4	1.1
16 to 24 years.....	155	9	3	6	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	5.8	1.9	3.9
25 years and over.....	4,479	60	17	43	6.2	2.8	3.0	2.7	1.3	0.4	1.0
25 to 54 years.....	3,730	45	11	34	5.1	2.1	1.9	2.1	1.2	0.3	0.9
WOMEN											
Total, 16 years and over....	36,585	1,368	352	1,016	50.3	63.1	61.8	63.6	3.7	1.0	2.8
Never married.....	11,590	794	217	577	15.9	36.6	38.1	36.1	6.9	1.9	5.0
16 to 24 years.....	6,802	644	180	464	9.4	29.7	31.6	29.0	9.5	2.6	6.8
25 years and over.....	4,788	151	37	114	6.6	7.0	6.5	7.1	3.2	0.8	2.4
25 to 54 years.....	4,523	142	34	108	6.2	6.5	6.0	6.8	3.1	0.8	2.4
Married, spouse present....	17,451	338	74	264	24.0	15.6	13.0	16.5	1.9	0.4	1.5
16 to 24 years.....	902	41	9	32	1.2	1.9	1.6	2.0	4.5	1.0	3.5
25 years and over.....	16,549	296	64	232	22.8	13.7	11.2	14.5	1.8	0.4	1.4
25 to 54 years.....	13,994	240	48	192	19.2	11.1	8.4	12.0	1.7	0.3	1.4
Other marital status.....	7,544	237	62	175	10.4	10.9	10.9	11.0	3.1	0.8	2.3
16 to 24 years.....	245	20	5	15	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	8.2	2.0	6.1
25 years and over.....	7,299	216	57	159	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	3.0	0.8	2.2
25 to 54 years.....	5,386	143	35	108	7.4	6.6	6.1	6.8	2.7	0.6	2.0

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed.

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, 2002 annual averages

Usual hours worked per week	Number of workers (in thousands)				Percent distribution				Percent of workers paid hourly rates		
	Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			Total paid hourly rates	At or below \$5.15			At or below \$5.15		
		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15		Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15	Total	At \$5.15	Below \$5.15
Total, 16 years and over.....	72,720	2,168	570	1,598	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	3.0	0.8	2.2
Hours vary.....	4,818	278	64	214	6.6	12.8	11.2	13.4	5.8	1.3	4.4
0 to 34 hours.....	15,651	1,147	358	789	21.5	52.9	62.8	49.4	7.3	2.3	5.0
0 to 4 hours.....	335	33	11	22	0.5	1.5	1.9	1.4	9.9	3.3	6.6
5 to 9 hours.....	864	82	34	48	1.2	3.8	6.0	3.0	9.5	3.9	5.6
10 to 14 hours.....	1,471	136	48	88	2.0	6.3	8.4	5.5	9.2	3.3	6.0
15 to 19 hours.....	2,153	175	57	118	3.0	8.1	10.0	7.4	8.1	2.6	5.5
20 to 24 hours.....	4,755	357	128	229	6.5	16.5	22.5	14.3	7.5	2.7	4.8
25 to 29 hours.....	2,120	150	39	111	2.9	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.1	1.8	5.2
30 to 34 hours.....	3,953	214	41	173	5.4	9.9	7.2	10.8	5.4	1.0	4.4
35 hours or more.....	52,250	743	148	595	71.9	34.3	26.0	37.2	1.4	0.3	1.1
35 to 39 hours.....	4,773	205	32	173	6.6	9.5	5.6	10.8	4.3	0.7	3.6
40 hours or more.....	47,478	538	116	422	65.3	24.8	20.4	26.4	1.1	0.2	0.9
40 hours.....	41,009	451	105	346	56.4	20.8	18.4	21.7	1.1	0.3	0.8
41 hours or more.....	6,469	87	11	76	8.9	4.0	1.9	4.8	1.3	0.2	1.2
41 to 44 hours.....	879	8	2	6	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.2	0.7
45 to 48 hours.....	2,353	28	4	24	3.2	1.3	0.7	1.5	1.2	0.2	1.0
49 to 59 hours.....	2,298	35	3	32	3.2	1.6	0.5	2.0	1.5	0.1	1.4
60 hours or more.....	939	17	2	15	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.9	1.8	0.2	1.6

NOTE: Data exclude the incorporated self-employed.

Table 10. Employed wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by sex, 1979-2002 annual averages

(Numbers in thousands)

Year and sex	Total wage and salary workers	Workers paid hourly rates					Total at or below prevailing Federal minimum wage	
		Total	Percent of total wage and salary workers	Below prevailing Federal minimum wage	At prevailing Federal minimum wage	Number	Percent of hourly paid workers	
BOTH SEXES								
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 ¹	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 ¹	104,876	63,172	60.2	² 2,132	¹ 2,096	³ 2,228	⁵ 5.1	
1991.....	103,723	62,627	60.4	² 2,377	² 2,906	⁵ 2,283	⁸ 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 ¹	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	¹ 1,863	¹ 2,861	³ 3,724	⁵ 5.4	
1997 ¹	114,533	70,735	61.8	² 2,990	¹ 2,764	⁴ 4,754	⁶ 7.7	
1998 ¹	116,730	71,440	61.2	2,834	1,593	4,427	6.2	
1999 ¹	118,963	72,306	60.8	2,194	1,146	3,340	4.6	
2000 ¹	122,292	73,638	60.2	1,853	870	2,724	3.7	
2001.....	122,401	73,467	60.0	1,615	638	2,253	3.1	
2002.....	122,009	72,720	59.6	1,598	570	2,168	3.0	
MEN								
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 ¹	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 ¹	55,553	32,104	57.8	² 712	³ 385	¹ 1,097	³ 4.4	
1991.....	54,618	31,639	57.9	² 795	¹ 1,114	¹ 1,909	⁶ 0.0	
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 ¹	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	⁶ 619	⁷ 55	¹ 1,374	³ 9.9	
1997 ¹	59,825	35,521	59.4	¹ 1,147	⁶ 73	¹ 1,820	⁵ 1.1	
1998 ¹	60,973	35,761	58.7	1,039	628	1,667	4.7	
1999 ¹	61,914	36,073	58.3	768	446	1,214	3.4	
2000 ¹	63,752	36,771	57.7	638	324	962	2.6	
2001.....	63,706	36,649	57.5	530	250	780	2.1	
2002.....	63,384	36,135	57.0	582	218	800	2.2	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 10. Wage and salary workers paid hourly rates with earnings at or below the prevailing Federal minimum wage by sex, 1979-2002 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
WOMEN							
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 ¹	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 ¹	49,323	31,069	63.0	² 1,420	² 711	² 2,131	² 6.9
1991.....	49,105	30,988	63.1	² 1,582	² 1,792	² 3,374	² 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 ¹	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	² 1,244	² 1,106	² 2,350	² 6.8
1997 ¹	54,708	35,214	64.4	² 1,843	² 1,092	² 2,935	² 8.3
1998 ¹	55,757	35,680	64.0	1,794	965	2,760	7.7
1999 ¹	57,050	36,233	63.5	1,426	700	2,126	5.9
2000 ¹	58,540	36,867	63.0	1,215	547	1,762	4.8
2001.....	58,695	36,818	62.7	1,085	388	1,473	4.0
2002.....	58,625	36,585	62.4	1,016	352	1,368	3.7

¹ 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 Explanatory Notes and Estimates of Error section of the February 2003 and subsequent issues of *Employment and Earnings*, a monthly BLS periodical.

² Data for 1990-91 and 1996-97 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 in April 1990, to \$4.25 in April 1991, to \$4.75 in October 1996, and to \$5.15 in September 1997. Data exclude the incorporated self-employed. Also note that 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. Indeed, the relatively large number of workers with reported wages below the minimum in 1998-2002 includes some hourly-paid workers reported as earning exactly \$5.00 per hour (about 1.4 million in 1998, about 900,000 in 1999, about 600,000 in 2000, about 500,000 in 2001 and almost 500,000 in 2002); to some extent, this may reflect rounding on the part of survey respondents.