Minimum Wage Law Summary

The Pennsylvania Minimum Wage Act establishes a fixed Minimum Wage and Overtime Rate for employees. It also sets forth compliance-related duties for the Department of Labor & Industry and for employers. In addition, the Minimum Wage Act provides penalties for noncompliance. This summary is for general information only and is not an official position formally adopted by the Department of Labor & Industry.

Overtime Rate:
Workers shall be paid 1½ times their regular rate of pay after 40 hours worked in a workweek (Except as Described).

Minimum Wage Rate:
$7.25 per hour
Effective
July 24, 2009
(Except as Described)

Tipped Employees:
An employer may pay a minimum of $2.83 per hour to an employee who makes $30.00 per month in tips. The employer must make up the difference if the tips and $2.83 do not meet the regular Pennsylvania minimum wage.

Keeping Records:
Every employer must maintain accurate records of each employee’s earnings and hours worked, and provide access to Labor & Industry.

Penalties:
Failure to pay the legal minimum wage or other violations may result in payment of back wages and other civil or criminal action where warranted.

Exemptions:
Overtime applies to certain employment classifications. (see pages 2 and 3)

Special Allowances For:
Students, learners and people with disabilities, upon application only.
Exemptions from Both Minimum Wage and Overtime Rates

- Labor on a farm
- Domestic service in or about the private home of the employer
- Delivery of newspapers to the consumer
- Publication of weekly, semi-weekly or daily newspaper with a circulation of less than 4,000 when the major portion of circulation is in the county where published or a bordering county
- Bona fide executive, administrative or professional capacity, (including academic administrative personnel or teacher in public schools) or in capacity of outside salesman. However, an employee of a retail or service establishment shall not be excluded from the definition of employee employed in a bona fide executive or administrative capacity because of the number of hours in the employee’s work not directly or closely related to the performance of executive, professional or administrative activities, if less than 40% of the employee’s hours worked in the workweek are devoted to such activities.
- Educational, charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization where no employer-employee relationship exists and service is rendered gratuitously
- Golf caddy
- In seasonal employment, if the employee is under 18 years of age or if a student under 24 years of age is employed by a nonprofit health or welfare agency engaged in activities dealing with handicapped or exceptional children or by a nonprofit day or resident seasonal recreational camp for campers under the age of 18 years, which operates for a period of less than three months in any one year
- In employment by a public amusement or recreational establishment, organized camp, or religious or nonprofit educational conference center, if (i) it does not operate more than seven months a year or (ii) during the preceding calendar year, the average receipts for any 6 months were not more than 33⅓% of its average receipts for the other 6 months of such year
- Switchboard operator employed by an independently-owned public telephone company which has no more than 750 stations
- Employees not subject to civil service laws who hold elective office or are on the personal staff of such an officeholder, are immediate advisers to the officeholder, or are appointed by the officeholder to serve on a policy making level

Allowances

Wages paid to any employee may include reasonable cost of board, lodging and other facilities. This may be considered as part of the minimum wage if the employee is notified of this condition and accepts it as a usual condition of employment at the time of hire or change of classification. The wages, including food credit plus tips, must equal the current minimum wage.

**Board:** Food furnished in the form of meals on an established schedule.

**Lodging:** Housing facility available for the personal use of the employee at all hours.

**Reasonable Cost:** Actual cost, exclusive of profit, to the employer or to anyone affiliated with the employer.
Exceptions from Minimum Wage Rates

- Learners and students (bona fide high school or college), after obtaining a Special Certificate from the Bureau of Labor Law Compliance, (651 Boas Street, Room 1301, Harrisburg, PA 17121-0750) may be paid 85% of the minimum wage as follows:

  **Learners:** 40 hours a week. Maximum eight weeks

  **Students:** Up to 20 hours a week. Up to 40 hours a week during school vacation periods

- Individuals with a physical or mental deficiency or injury may be paid less than the applicable minimum wage if a license specifying a rate commensurate with productive capacity is obtained from the Bureau of Labor Law Compliance, (651 Boas Street, Room 1301, Harrisburg, PA 17121-0750), or a federal certificate is obtained under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act from the U.S. Department of Labor.

Exemptions from Overtime Rates

- A seaman

- Any salesman, partsman or mechanic primarily engaged in selling and servicing automobiles, trailers, trucks, farm implements or aircraft, if employed by a non-manufacturing establishment primarily engaged in the selling of such vehicles to ultimate purchasers. (Example: 51% of business is selling as opposed to 49% in servicing such vehicles)

- Taxicab driver

- Any employee engaged in the processing of maple sap into sugar (other than refined sugar) or syrup

- Employment by a motion picture theatre
## For Questions/Complaints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact:</th>
<th>Counties Served:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Bureau of Labor Law Compliance | Armstrong  
Altoona District Office  
1130 12th Avenue  
Suite 200  
Altoona, PA 16601-3486  
Phone: 814-940-6224 or 877-792-8198 | Clinton  
Bedford  
Blair  
Cambria  
Cameron  
Centre  
Clarion  
Clearfield |
| Bureau of Labor Law Compliance | Jefferson  
McKean  
Mifflin  
Potter  
Somerset  
Warren  
Westmoreland |
| Harrisburg District Office | Adams  
Columbia  
Cumberland  
Dauphin  
Franklin  
Juniata  
Lancaster |
| Bureau of Labor Law Compliance | Lebanon  
Montour  
Northumberland  
Perry  
Snyder  
Union  
York |
| Philadelphia District Office | Bucks  
Chester  
Delaware  
Montgomery  
Philadelphia |
| Pittsburgh District Office | Allegheny  
Beaver  
Butler  
Crawford  
Erie |
| Scranton District Office | Greene  
Lawrence  
Mercer  
Venango  
Washington |
| Berks  
Bradford  
Carbon  
Lackawanna  
Lehigh  
Luzerne  
Lycoming  
Monroe  
Northampton  
Pike  
Schuylkill  
Sullivan  
Susquehanna  
Tioga  
Wayne  
Wyoming |

## More Information is Available Online

Additional information about the Minimum Wage Act is available online at: www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: Minimum Wage. From the Web site you can submit a complaint form, find answers to frequently asked questions and read more about the Minimum Wage Act.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program