

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Percentage of Idaho's Minimum Wage Workers in 2012 Tops Nation

The share of Idaho's hourly workers making the minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour - or less - jumped to 7.7 percent in 2012, the highest percentage in the nation.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor statistics estimated that 31,000 of Idaho's 404,000 hourly workers were paid the minimum wage last year, an increase of 12,000 from 2011, when 5 percent of the state's hourly workforce made the minimum wage or less. That ranked the state 30<sup>th</sup> in 2011.

At 7.7 percent, it was the highest percentage of minimum wage workers the state has recorded in the decade that the bureau has been making estimates. The previous high was in 2010 at 7.6 percent, which ranked 16<sup>th</sup> among the states.

Three of every four jobs the Idaho economy created last year were in the service sector, where the minimum wage jobs are.

Nationally, 4.7 percent of all hourly workers made the minimum wage or less in 2012, down from 5.2 percent the year before.

Idaho led the 16 states and the District of Columbia that posted increases in the percentage of their hourly workforce at or below the minimum wage. Idaho's increase from 2011 was 63 percent followed by 25 percent in Vermont and the District of Columbia.

The rest of the states saw their percentage of minimum wage workers decline.

### Minimum Wage Earners By State, 2012

	Number of Minimum Wage Workers	Percent of All Hourly Workers	Rank By Percentage	Percent Change from 2011	Rank By Percentage
United States	3,550,000	4.7%		-7.3%	
Alabama	65,000	6.0%	11	-12.2%	33
Alaska	2,000	1.0%	51	-50.0%	50
Arizona	68,000	4.6%	32	-20.0%	39
Arkansas	50,000	6.9%	5	2.0%	14
California	127,000	1.4%	49	-8.6%	29
Colorado	42,000	3.4%	39	-14.3%	37
Connecticut	23,000	2.7%	45	-8.0%	27
Delaware	11,000	5.0%	25	0.0%	17
DC	5,000	4.9%	28	25.0%	2
Florida	214,000	5.1%	24	-13.0%	34

Georgia	136,000	6.4%	7	-30.6%	48
Hawaii	14,000	4.2%	34	-6.7%	24
Idaho	31,000	7.7%	1	63.2%	1
Illinois	85,000	2.8%	44	-22.0%	42
Indiana	93,000	5.2%	21	-13.9%	36
Iowa	46,000	5.0%	26	-13.2%	35
Kansas	44,000	5.6%	16	-21.4%	40
Kentucky	60,000	5.2%	22	-4.8%	22
Louisiana	74,000	7.1%	4	-1.3%	18
Maine	11,000	2.9%	43	-21.4%	41
Maryland	67,000	5.0%	27	3.1%	13
Massachusetts	62,000	4.0%	35	3.3%	12
Michigan	90,000	3.7%	37	-23.1%	44
Minnesota	60,000	3.9%	36	-23.1%	45
Mississippi	45,000	6.4%	8	-22.4%	43
Missouri	97,000	6.3%	9	-11.0%	32
Montana	4,000	1.5%	48	-60.0%	51
Nebraska	32,000	5.7%	13	10.3%	8
Nevada	23,000	3.2%	42	4.5%	10
New Hampshire	13,000	3.5%	38	-7.1%	25
New Jersey	103,000	5.8%	12	4.0%	11
New Mexico	23,000	4.7%	30	15.0%	5
New York	224,000	5.5%	17	12.6%	7
North Carolina	137,000	6.2%	10	-2.1%	20
North Dakota	7,000	3.4%	40	-36.4%	49
Ohio	147,000	4.5%	33	-2.0%	19
Oklahoma	64,000	7.2%	3	14.3%	6
Oregon	11,000	1.1%	50	-8.3%	28
Pennsylvania	195,000	5.7%	14	1.0%	16
Rhode Island	10,000	3.4%	41	-9.1%	30
South Carolina	59,000	5.4%	19	-25.3%	47
South Dakota	12,000	4.7%	31	-7.7%	26
Tennessee	86,000	5.5%	18	-14.9%	38
Texas	452,000	7.5%	2	-4.4%	21
Utah	37,000	4.9%	29	5.7%	9
Vermont	5,000	2.7%	46	25.0%	3
Virginia	123,000	6.8%	6	1.7%	15
Washington	29,000	1.7%	47	-6.5%	23
West Virginia	26,000	5.7%	15	-23.5%	46
Wisconsin	94,000	5.4%	20	20.5%	4
Wyoming	9,000	5.2%	23	-10.0%	31

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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