

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: Feb. 27, 2013

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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 30th 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 16th 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 Percent- age | Percent Change from 2011 | Rank By Percent- age | | | |
| 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 | | | |

| 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 5.7% 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 | Georgia | 136,000 | 6.4% | 7 | -30.6% | 48 |
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| 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 | , , | | 5.270 | 20 | 10.070 | 01 |

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