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# Governor Murphy Marks Statewide Minimum Wage Increase Taking Effect Today

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2019

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today lauded New Jersey’s historic increase in the minimum wage from \$8.85 per hour to \$10 per hour taking effect today, July 1st, 2019, putting our state on a path to a \$15 minimum wage.

“Today marks a monumental step on our path to a stronger and fairer New Jersey,” said Governor Murphy. “Our economy grows when everyone can participate in it – every hardworking New Jerseyan deserves a fair wage that allow them to put food on the table and gas in their car. Together, we are making New Jersey more affordable and giving over a million New Jerseyans a pathway to the middle class.”

Under the law Governor Murphy signed in February, after today's increase, the statewide minimum wage will continue to increase by \$1 per hour every January 1st until it reaches \$15 per hour on January 1, 2024.

For seasonal workers and employees at small businesses with five or fewer workers, the base minimum wage will reach \$15 per hour by January 1, 2026. By January 1, 2028, workers in these groups will receive the minimum wage inclusive of inflation adjustments that take place from 2024 to 2028, equalizing the minimum wage with the main cohort of New Jersey workers.

For agricultural workers, the base minimum wage will increase to \$12.50 per hour by January 1, 2024. No later than March 31, 2024, the New Jersey Labor Commissioner and Secretary of Agriculture will jointly decide whether to recommend that the minimum wage for agricultural workers increase to \$15 per hour by January 1, 2027, as specified in the bill. If they cannot come to an agreement, a third member, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, will break the tie. If there is a recommendation to disapprove of the scheduled increases or suggest an alternative pathway, the Legislature will have the ability to implement that recommendation by passage of a concurrent resolution.

“Today’s minimum wage increase to \$10 per hour gives low-wage families firmer ground on which to stand and moves us closer to Governor Murphy’s vision of a stronger, fairer economy. The law’s multi-year phase-in to \$15 per hour gives the state’s businesses the time they need to adjust to the higher wage requirements,” said Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo.

“The fight for a living wage takes a step in the right direction today, when New Jersey’s minimum wage will be raised to \$10,” said Sue Altman, CEO of Working Families. “This is a long-fought victory by labor, grassroots activists, and advocates, and we commend Governor Murphy and legislative leadership for taking action. With every raise in the wage toward our fight for \$15, we secure greater economic justice for working people across New Jersey, who can now support their families by covering the basics and buying goods and services from New Jersey businesses.”

“New Jersey small business owners understand what’s good for their employees and businesses, and that starts by putting New Jersey workers on the road to be paid a livable wage,” said Raj Bath, Business Representative for the New Jersey Main Street Alliance. “Paying workers a decent livable wage means they will play a vital part in the local economy which is a win-win for Main Street. New Jersey will have a thriving economic future as long as we continue to invest in our middle-class workers and our Main Street.”



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NJ adds jobs in July; 7th consecutive months of gains. [nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/...](https://nj.gov/labor/lwdhome/)

Aug 19, 2021



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As of the latest reporting, more than \$33 billion in unemployment benefits have been sent to Garden State workers. With federal benefits set to expire on September 4, we encourage everyone to check your email and visit [MyUnemployment.nj.gov](https://myunemployment.nj.gov) for updates and available resources.



"As SEIU's flagship campaign, 32BJ SEIU worked tirelessly for years to see the minimum wage in New Jersey begin its rise to \$15.00," said Kevin Brown, SEIU 32BJ Vice President and New Jersey District Director. "Today our uphill battle finally pays off as the lowest paid people in our community earning \$8.85/hour take home \$10.00/hour instead. This is a real and meaningful change for the lives of over one million working families who will benefit from the long-lasting economic impacts of this legislation. Our union sisters and brothers rallied, canvassed and fought to raise the bar for the entire state because we know that a rising tide lifts all boats, and it starts from the bottom. We thank Governor Murphy, the legislature, and the support of labor allies behind us. We will celebrate again when the minimum wage increases to \$11.00 on January 1, 2020, and 32BJ will continue to lead in the fight for working people, immigrants and people of color who deserve better."

"At times, we don't even know if we'll be able to pay rent with what we make," said Rosa Fernandez of New Labor. "With a minimum wage raise now and every January until 2024, workers around New Jersey can make ends meet and breathe a little easier."

"As the minimum wage begins to increase on July 1, New Jersey is taking an historic step towards a dignity wage for about one million workers who are mostly people of color, women, and low-wage workers," said Renee Koubiadis, Executive Director of the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey. "With the increase to \$10 an hour, more individuals and families will be able to afford basic needs instead of going without."

"Raising New Jersey's minimum wage to \$15 an hour is one of the most consequential, pro-worker policies passed in decades," said Brandon McKoy, President of New Jersey Policy Perspective. "With the first increase to \$10.00 an hour, approximately half a million workers will see a boost in their take home pay. This will help alleviate poverty and promote spending in local communities, benefiting workers, their children, and businesses alike."

"This next increase in the minimum wage will help many more working families put food on the table and pay bills," said Dena Mottola Jaborska, Associate Director, New Jersey Citizen Action. "It's an important step forward to providing all New Jersey workers a livable wage. No one who works full time should struggle to make ends meet."

"At Foley Waite LLC, our New Jersey architectural woodworking firm has employed skilled cabinet makers, helpers and apprentices since 1978," said Kelly Conklin, Managing Partner at Foley Waite LLC. "We have supported raising the minimum wage from the start. Governor Murphy recognizes as we do, a living wage grows our economy, not in boardrooms and mansions, it grows the economy on Main Street. This increase is long overdue and we thank the Governor for his leadership on this critically important policy."

"We're very happy New Jersey's minimum wage is increasing," said Gail Friedberg, CEO of Zago Manufacturing. "We support a \$15 minimum wage because no one who works full-time should live in poverty. And we know from experience that fair pay is better for business. It brings low turnover, which helps us innovate. With a higher wage floor and more dependable workforce, business owners can think about ways to make the business better instead of spending time and money to replace people who left to find a job that pays the bills. I look forward to seeing the economic ripple effect our state will experience thanks to raising the minimum wage."

"Today's historic step toward \$15 minimum wage with an increase to \$10 dollars per hour from \$8.85 dollars per hour will give the working men and women the pay that they deserve," said Tony Sandkamp, CEO of Sandkamp Woodworks. "At Sandkamp Woodworks, we stand with the Governor's commitment to increase the wage so that every person in the state has the opportunity to improve their lives whether it be providing for their families or meeting their financial needs."

"At Bergen New Bridge, we have been committed to ensure that workers at our hospital are paid wages of \$15 per hour," said Deborah Visconi, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center. "We applaud the Governor for his efforts to bring this issue on a statewide level, providing every resident of New Jersey the compensation they deserve."

# Department of Labor and Workforce Development

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