



NEWS

JB Pritzker, Governor

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Illinois Department of Labor Issues Minimum Wage Hike Reminder *Minimum Wage Increases to \$11 an hour New Year's Day*

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois' minimum wage is set to increase to \$11 an hour on Friday, January 1, 2021. The Illinois Department of Labor is encouraging employees to watch their paychecks to ensure that time worked in 2021 is paid at the new rate.

Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation into law in 2019 providing a path to a \$15 minimum wage by 2025. Minimum wage earners received two increases in 2020 to \$9.25 an hour on January 1 followed by an increase to \$10 an hour on July 1. The minimum wage will continue to increase an additional \$1 an hour each January 1 until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2025.

Prior to the 2020 increases, the last time Illinois increased its minimum wage was more than a decade ago in 2010 when it was raised to \$8.25. Cook County has a higher minimum wage than the state, currently \$13 an hour. The current city of Chicago minimum wage is \$13.50 an hour for small employers (4 to 20 employees) and \$14 an hour for large employers (21 or more employees).

The new law maintains provisions for employers to count gratuities to offset wages for workers such as food servers who regularly earn tips. Tipped employees may be paid 60 percent of the hourly minimum wage. These workers must still earn the minimum wage after receiving tips or the employer must make up the difference.

Workers who are under 18 years old and work fewer than 650 hours in a year will earn a minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour beginning January 1. The youth minimum wage rate will gradually rise to \$13 an hour by 2025.

All Illinois employers are required to post the "Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws" in a conspicuous location on the premises of the employer where notices to employees are customarily posted. The color poster, which also covers other Illinois labor laws, can be found here in English and Spanish: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Employers/Pages/posters.aspx>

Employees with problems regarding the minimum wage can file a complaint with IDOL at the following link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Pages/Complaints.aspx> or call 312-793-2800.