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Minimum Wage?

By JEREMY ASHINGTON | FEB. 6, 2014

More than 4.8 million workers now earn the lowest legal pay. This calculator, for a single childless worker, shows the hard choices that have to be made living on the smallest paychecks.

Start by choosing your state:

The minimum wage in New York is **\$8.00** an hour. Tally your living expenses by entering what you think is the least you need for each item. You may find that even your rock-bottom expenses aren't met and that you have to work more hours, pay your bills late, borrow money or do without. [Related Editorial »](#)




Housing

Enter monthly rent or mortgage payments (and don't forget insurance, if this is paid separately) that you would expect to pay for a modest apartment or home in your area.

\$

1000

Monthly



Utilities and Services

Electricity, gas, heating oil, telephone, cable, Internet — add them up.


\$

100

Monthly

\$2,000 in debt per year
Or, **5** more **hours** a week at a second job

• Each box represents \$1 of debt



```
<div class="g-graphic">

<div class="g-main">

  <div class="g-statepicker">
    <p>
      More than 4.8 million workers now earn the lowest legal pay.
      This calculator, for a single childless worker, shows the hard
      choices that have to be made living on the smallest paychecks.
    </p>
    <p>
      Start by choosing your state: &nbsp;    
      <select class="g-state-select">
        <option disabled="disabled" selected="selected">Select a state</option>

        <option value="AL">Alabama</option>

        <option value="AK">Alaska</option>

        <option value="AZ">Arizona</option>

        <option value="AR">Arkansas</option>

        <option value="CA">California</option>

        <option value="CO">Colorado</option>

        <option value="CT">Connecticut</option>

        <option value="DE">Delaware</option>

        <option value="FL">Florida</option>

        <option value="GA">Georgia</option>

        <option value="HI">Hawaii</option>

        <option value="ID">Idaho</option>

        <option value="IL">Illinois</option>

        <option value="IN">Indiana</option>

        <option value="IA">Iowa</option>

        <option value="KS">Kansas</option>

        <option value="KY">Kentucky</option>
```