

Can You Live on the Minimum Wage?

By JEREMY ASHKENAS FEB. 8, 2014

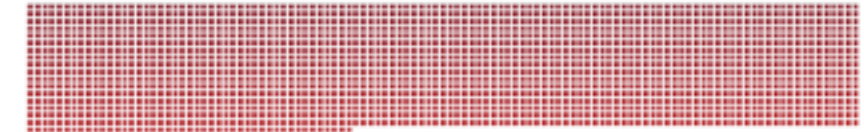
More than 4.8 million workers now earn the lowest legal pay. This calculator, for a single childless worker, shows the hard choices that have to be made living on the smallest paychecks.

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 »](#)

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

• Each box represents \$1 of debt



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.

\$



Utilities and Services

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

\$

Chrome

File

Edit

View

History

Bookmarks

People

Window

Help

Integrate

Image file

Sketch - F

My Aweso

McGraw-H

My Aweso

MarkShee

Sandeep

www.nytime

Stop

Force Reload This Page

Enter Full Screen

Actual Size

Zoom In

Zoom Out

Encoding

Developer

View Source

Developer Tools

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Other Bookmarks

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Minimum Wage?

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\$

1000

Monthly



Utilities and Services

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\$

100

Monthly

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