

Minimum Wage 2013

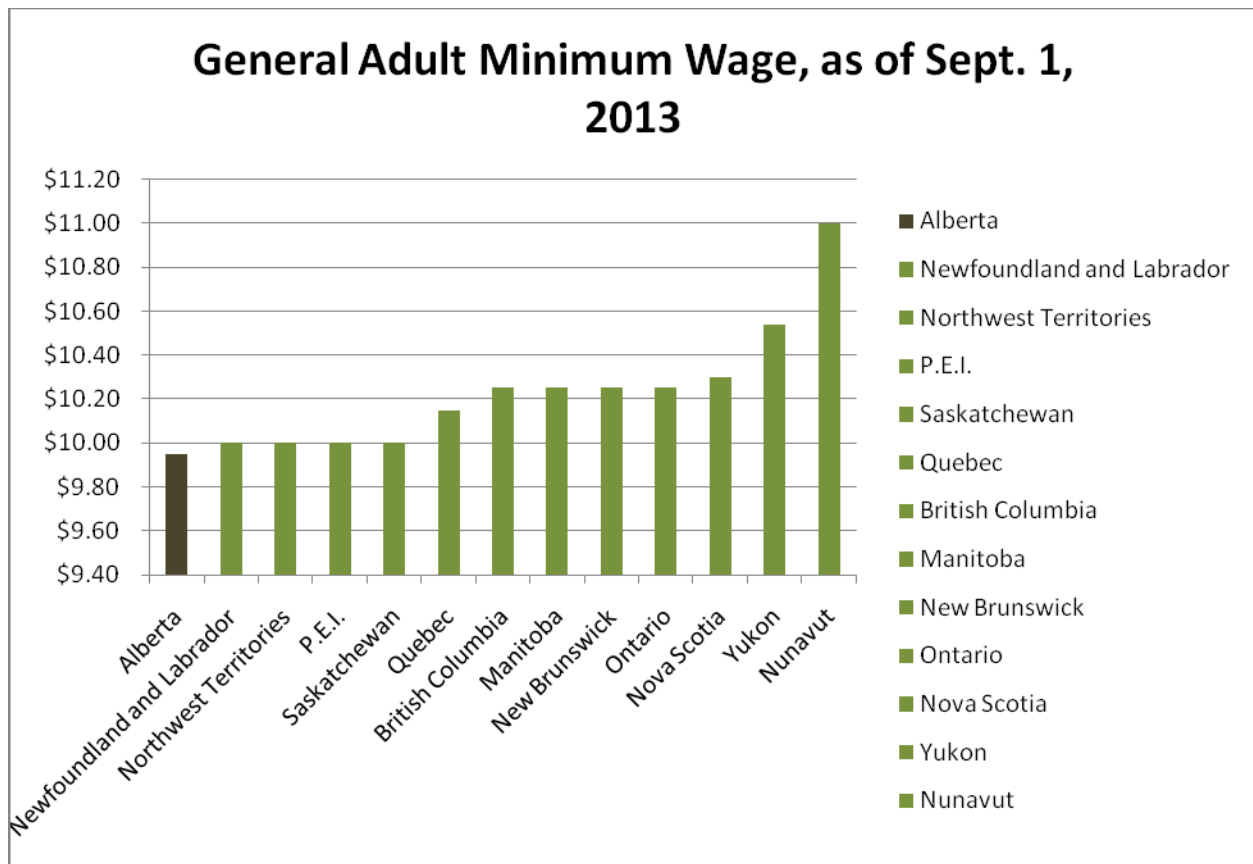
Alberta's general minimum wage will go up to \$9.95 an hour as of September 1, 2013. At that rate, it will remain the lowest general minimum wage in the country.

Living Wage

The Alberta Federation of Labour calls on the government to enact a Living Wage policy, one that allows minimum-wage workers to earn enough to remain at the Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) based on a 35 hour work week, 52 weeks a year.

For Alberta, this would be \$14.05 without benefits, or \$12.08 with benefits.¹

Even with the increase to Alberta's general minimum wage, workers would find themselves below the poverty line (LICO). Workers earning \$9.95 an hour would earn \$18,109 a year before taxes. The Low-Income Cut-Off for a single worker is \$23,298. Thus, a minimum-wage earner in Alberta earns \$5,189 less than the so-called poverty line.



¹ Figures calculated using Statistics Canada's Low-Income Cut-Off (LICO) for a single wage earner with no dependents working 35 hours/week, 52 weeks a year.

In today's dollars, Alberta's minimum wages were higher in the late 1970s than they are now.

| Year | Historic minimum wage | In today's dollars (adjusted for inflation) |
|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1974 | \$2.00 | \$9.43 |
| 1975 | \$2.50 | \$10.68 |
| 1976 | \$2.75 | \$10.88 |
| 1977 | \$3.00 | \$11.01 |