

Federal Minimum Wage Through History

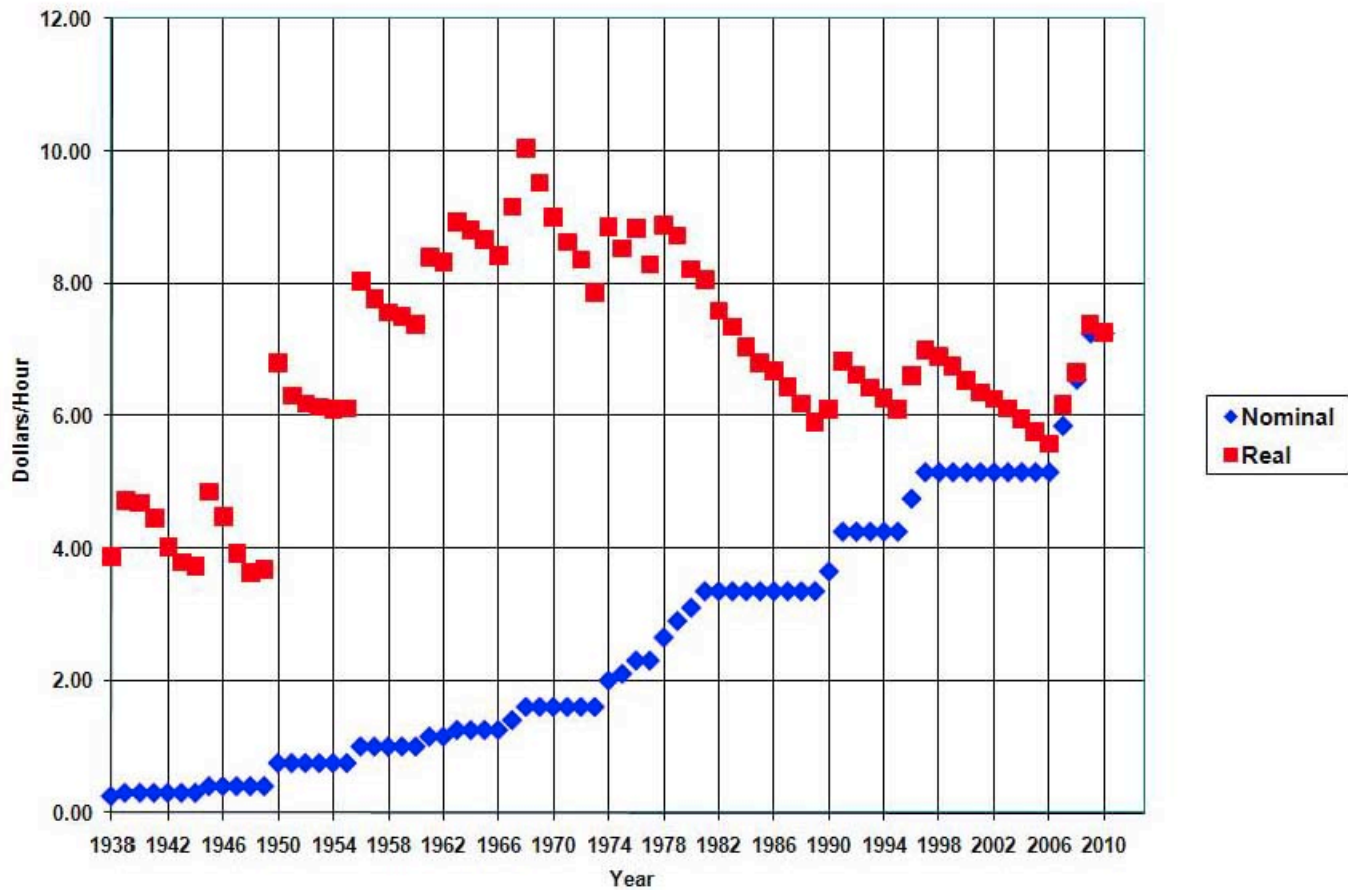
Let's remind ourselves of what the federal minimum wage numbers have been throughout history. Here's a table showing the actual minimum wage between 1939 up to the current year:

Year	Wage	Year	Wage
1939	30 cents	1976	\$2.20 / \$2.30
1945	40 cents	1977	\$2.30
1950	75 cents	1978	\$2.65
1956	\$1.00	1979	\$2.90
1965	\$1.25	1980	\$3.10
1967	\$1.00 / \$1.40	1981	\$3.35
1968	\$1.15 / \$1.60	1990	\$3.80
1969	\$1.30	1991	\$4.25
1970	\$1.45	1996	\$4.75
1971	\$1.60	1997	\$5.15
1974	\$1.90 / \$2.00	2007	\$5.85
1975	\$2.00	2008	\$6.55
Year			Wage
2009 – Current			\$7.25

There are two numbers for some years as these figures applied to different types of employees and work categories.

Year	CPI Index	Equivalent of \$30,000 in 2011	Annual Inflation Rate	Year	CPI Index	Equivalent of \$30,000 in 2011	Annual Inflation Rate
1913	9.9	\$ 1,315	na	1962	30.3	\$ 4,024	1.0%
1914	10.0	\$ 1,328	1.0%	1963	30.7	\$ 4,077	1.3%
1915	10.1	\$ 1,341	1.0%	1964	31.1	\$ 4,130	1.3%
1916	10.8	\$ 1,434	6.9%	1965	31.6	\$ 4,196	1.6%
1917	12.8	\$ 1,700	18.5%	1966	32.5	\$ 4,316	2.8%
1918	15.1	\$ 2,005	18.0%	1967	33.4	\$ 4,435	2.8%
1919	17.4	\$ 2,311	15.2%	1968	34.9	\$ 4,634	4.5%
1920	20.8	\$ 2,762	19.5%	1969	36.8	\$ 4,887	5.4%
1921	17.7	\$ 2,350	-14.9%	1970	39.0	\$ 5,179	6.0%
1922	16.8	\$ 2,231	-5.1%	1971	40.7	\$ 5,405	4.4%
1923	17.2	\$ 2,284	2.4%	1972	41.9	\$ 5,564	2.9%
1924	17.1	\$ 2,271	-0.6%	1973	44.3	\$ 5,883	5.7%
1925	17.7	\$ 2,350	3.5%	1974	49.4	\$ 6,560	11.5%
1926	17.5	\$ 2,324	-1.1%	1975	54.2	\$ 7,197	9.7%
1927	17.3	\$ 2,297	-1.1%	1976	57.1	\$ 7,582	5.4%
1928	17.1	\$ 2,271	-1.2%	1977	61.0	\$ 8,100	6.8%
1929	17.3	\$ 2,297	1.2%	1978	65.7	\$ 8,724	7.7%
1930	16.6	\$ 2,204	-4.0%	1979	73.1	\$ 9,707	11.3%
1931	15.1	\$ 2,005	-9.0%	1980	82.7	\$ 10,982	13.1%
1932	13.6	\$ 1,806	-9.9%	1981	91.6	\$ 12,163	10.8%
1933	13.1	\$ 1,740	-3.7%	1982	97.5	\$ 12,947	6.4%
1934	13.4	\$ 1,779	2.3%	1983	99.9	\$ 13,266	2.5%
1935	13.7	\$ 1,819	2.2%	1984	104.1	\$ 13,823	4.2%
1936	13.9	\$ 1,846	1.5%	1985	107.8	\$ 14,315	3.6%
1937	14.5	\$ 1,925	4.3%	1986	109.5	\$ 14,540	1.6%
1938	14.1	\$ 1,872	-2.8%	1987	113.8	\$ 15,111	3.9%
1939	13.8	\$ 1,832	-2.1%	1988	118.5	\$ 15,736	4.1%
1940	14.0	\$ 1,859	1.4%	1989	124.4	\$ 16,519	5.0%
1941	14.7	\$ 1,952	5.0%	1990	130.4	\$ 17,316	4.8%
1942	16.4	\$ 2,178	11.6%	1991	136.2	\$ 18,086	4.4%
1943	17.4	\$ 2,311	6.1%	1992	140.5	\$ 18,657	3.2%
1944	17.7	\$ 2,350	1.7%	1993	144.4	\$ 19,175	2.8%
1945	18.1	\$ 2,403	2.3%	1994	148.4	\$ 19,706	2.8%
1946	19.8	\$ 2,629	9.4%	1995	152.5	\$ 20,250	2.8%
1947	22.2	\$ 2,948	12.1%	1996	157.0	\$ 20,848	3.0%
1948	24.4	\$ 3,240	9.9%	1997	160.5	\$ 21,313	2.2%
1949	23.7	\$ 3,147	-2.9%	1998	163.2	\$ 21,671	1.7%
1950	24.1	\$ 3,200	1.7%	1999	166.7	\$ 22,136	2.1%
1951	25.9	\$ 3,439	7.5%	2000	172.8	\$ 22,946	3.7%
1952	26.7	\$ 3,545	3.1%	2001	177.5	\$ 23,570	2.7%
1953	26.8	\$ 3,559	0.4%	2002	180.1	\$ 23,915	1.5%
1954	26.9	\$ 3,572	0.4%	2003	183.9	\$ 24,420	2.1%
1955	26.8	\$ 3,559	-0.4%	2004	189.4	\$ 25,150	3.0%
1956	27.4	\$ 3,638	2.2%	2005	195.4	\$ 25,947	3.2%
1957	28.3	\$ 3,758	3.3%	2006	203.5	\$ 27,023	4.1%
1958	29.0	\$ 3,851	2.5%	2007	208.3	\$ 27,660	2.4%
1959	29.2	\$ 3,877	0.7%	2008	220.0	\$ 29,209	5.6%
1960	29.6	\$ 3,931	1.4%	2009	215.4	\$ 28,596	-2.1%
1961	30.0	\$ 3,984	1.4%	2010	218.0	\$ 28,950	1.2%
				2011	225.9	\$ 30,000	3.6%

SOURCE: Consumer Price Index: All Urban Consumers - (CPI-U), U.S. city average for all items. Base: 1982-84=100. U.S. Department Of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 2012. Release of March 21, 2012. Values shown in Department Of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 2012. Release of March 21, 2012. Values shown in table are for July of each year. Web Source: <ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/special.requests/cpi/cpi.txt> accessed on December 7, 2011.



Real Annual Wage

20000
15000
10000
5000
0

1938 1941 1944 1947 1950 1953 1956 1959 1962 1965 1968 1971 1974 1977 1980 1983 1986 1989 1992 1995 1998 2001 2004 2007

Year

Min Wage
Poverty

