# STATE FINDINGS

# DAHO

### IDAHO KEY FINDINGS

Key findings for Idaho are:

- The living wage for a single adult is \$9.22 an hour. This is based on what is needed to meet basic needs and provides some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead. The living wage for a single adult with two children is \$14.42 an hour.
- Almost half of all job openings (45 percent) pay less than the \$9.22 an hour living wage for a single adult. Three quarters of all job openings (75 percent) pay less than the \$14.42 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$9.22 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are four job seekers on average. For each job opening that pays at least the \$14.42 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 10 job seekers on average.

#### WHAT IS A LIVING WAGE?

Living wages for Idaho, which reflect family budgets as shown on the following page, are:

- For a single adult household, \$19,168 a year or \$9.22 an hour.
- For a single adult with one child, \$24,302 a year or \$11.68 an hour.
- For a single adult with two children, \$29,995 a year or \$14.42 an hour.
- For two adults, one of whom is working, with two children, \$26,024 a year or \$12.51 an hour.
- For two adults, both of whom are working, with two children, \$34,032 a year or \$16.36 an hour (which means that the combined wages of both working adults needs to total this amount).

These are statewide averages. In some areas, costs are higher (particularly for housing and child care) and, as a result, living wages are higher. In other areas, including most of the state's rural areas, costs and, therefore, living wages are lower. Living wages for higher cost and lower cost areas are:

Higher Cost Areas Lower Cost Areas
Single adult \$9.82/hour \$8.80/hour
Single adult with one child \$12.48/hou\$11.08/hour
Single adult with two children \$15.23/hou\$13.89/hour
Two adults (one working) with two children \$13.38/hou\$12.01/hour
Two adults (both working) with two children \$17.18/hour \$15.57/hour

Idaho's higher cost areas are Ada, Canyon, and Kootenai counties.



# IDAHO FAMILY BUDGETS (IN 1996 DOLLARS)

	<u>Householl</u> d	Househol@	<u>Household</u>	Household	Household 5
ල්) Food	141	263	331	462	462
Housing & Utilities	379	474	474	474	474
Transportation	386	333	378	346	405
Health Care	58	108	121	146	146
Child Care	0	128	414	0	414
SV 7 Household, Clothing					
& Personal	208	255	282	309	322
Savings	130	159	176	193	201
State, local & Federal T	axes 295	304	322	240	412
Gross Monthly Income Need	led 1,597	2,025	2,500	2,169	2,836*
Gross Annual Income Neede	ed 19,168	24,302	29,995	26,024	34,032*
Living Wage (at 2080 hrs/yr)	\$9.22	\$11.68	\$14.42	\$12.51	\$16.36*

Household 1 is a single adult

Household 2 is a single adult with a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 3 is a single adult with a toddler (12-24 months) and a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 4 is two adults (one of whom is working) with a toddler and a school-age child

Household 5 is two adults (both of whom are working) with a toddler and a school-age child

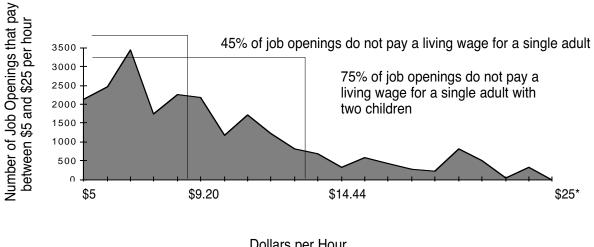
Idaho's minimum wage is less than 60 percent of the living wage for a single adult and less than 35 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children. The state's average annual wage (\$23,362 in 1996) is 122 percent of the living wage for a single adult and 78 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children.

# ARE WE CREATING ENOUGH JOBS THAT PAY A LIVING WAGE?

There were about 330,000 working age households in Idaho in 1996, but fewer than 275,000 jobs that could support a single adult and about 110,000 jobs that could support a single adult with two children.

<sup>\*</sup>Total amount earned by two working adults

#### IDAHO DISTRIBUTION OF JOB OPENINGS BY WAGE RATE



Dollars per Hour

\*There are few job openings in the economy that pay more than \$25 an hour. Due to lack of space they have not been included here.

Forty two percent of all jobs in the economy pay less than the \$9.22 an hour living wage for a single adult and 75 percent pay less than the \$14.42 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.

Of all job openings, almost half (45 percent) pay less than the \$9.22 an hour living wage for a single adult, as shown in the chart above. Three quarters of job openings (75 percent) pay less than the \$14.42 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children. It is important to note the distinction between jobs and job openings. Not all jobs come open during a year. Job openings are of particular interest because they provide employment opportunities to people looking for work.

In addition, there are more people looking for work than there are job openings that pay a living wage. As shown in the table on the following page, job gap ratios, which compare job seekers to job openings, are:

- For each job opening, regardless of pay, there are two job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$9.22 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are four job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$14.42 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 10 job seekers on average.

For those job openings that pay a living wage and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training, the competition may be even stronger. Fifty four percent of all job openings that pay at least the \$9.22 an hour living wage for a single adult require that amount of education and training. For those job openings that pay at least the \$14.42 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, the proportion is 16 percent.

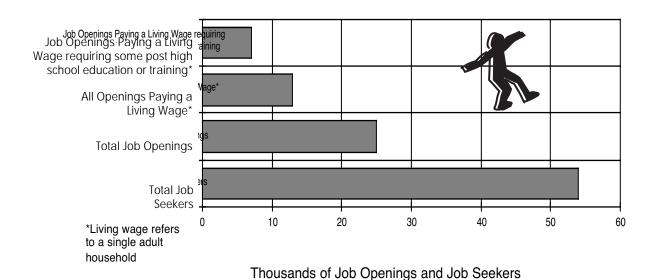
#### IDAHO JOB GAP RATIO All Job Household 1 Household 3 \$9.22 \$14.42 Openings Job Seekers 53,373 53,373 53,373 Job Openings 13,120 5,574 25,355 Job Seekers per Job Opening 2 to 1 4 to 1 10 to 1 Percent of all Job Openings paying less than a living wage 45% 75%

Job gap ratios are calculated by dividing the number of people who were looking for work at some point during 1996 by the number of job openings that year. Job seekers total 53,373, which equals about nine percent of total employment in the state. Job seekers include the unemployed (61 percent of the total), involuntary part-time workers (31 percent), and discouraged and marginally attached workers (eight percent).

Job openings total 25,355 and include job openings due to growth (about 53 percent of the total) and job openings due to net replacement (47 percent).

As shown in the chart below, 13,120 of the 25,355 job openings pay at least the \$9.22 an hour living wage for a single adult. And 7,043 of these job openings pay at least the \$9.22 an hour living wage for a single adult and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training.

### FINDINGS FOR IDAHO



# **M**ONTANA

# MONTANA KEY FINDINGS

Key findings for Montana are:

- The living wage for a single adult is \$9.02 an hour. This is based on what is needed to meet basic needs and provides some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead. The living wage for a single adult with two children is \$14.80 an hour.
- About half of all job openings (53 percent) pay less than the \$9.02 an hour living wage for a single adult. Over three quarters (81 percent) pay less than the \$14.80 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$9.02 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are six job seekers on average. For each job opening that pays at least the \$14.80 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 17 job seekers on average.

# WHAT IS A LIVING WAGE?

Living wages for Montana, which reflect family budgets as shown on the following page, are:

- For a single adult household, \$18,760 a year or \$9.02 an hour.
- For a single adult with one child, \$24,351 a year or \$11.71 an hour.
- For a single adult with two children, \$30,784 a year or \$14.80 an hour.
- For two adults, one of whom is working, with two children, \$25,559 a year or \$12.29 an hour.
- For two adults, both of whom are working, with two children, \$34,491 a year or \$16.58 an hour (which means that the combined wages of both working adults needs to total this amount).

These are statewide averages. In some areas, costs are higher (particularly for housing and child care) and, as a result, living wages are higher. In other areas, including most of the state's rural areas, costs and, therefore, living wages are lower. Living wages for higher cost and lower cost areas are:

	Higher Cost Areas	Lower Cost Areas
Single adult	\$9.10/hour	\$8.91/hour
Single adult with one child	\$11.88/hour	\$11.44/hour
Single adult with two children	\$14.94/hou\$14.64/hour	
Two adults (one working)with two children	\$12.47/hour	\$12.12/hour
Two adults (both working) with two children	\$16.72/hour	\$16.49/hour

Montana's higher cost areas are Yellowstone, Missoula, Cascade, Flathead, Gallatin, Lewis and Clark, Silver Bow, and Ravalli counties.



# MONTANA FAMILY BUDGETS (IN 1996 DOLLARS)

	<u>Household</u>	Househol@	<u>Household</u>	<u>Househol</u> ₫	<u>Household</u>
Food	141	263	331	462	462
Housing & Utilities	357	467	467	467	467
Transportation	386	333	378	346	405
Health Care	64	117	132	162	162
Child Care	0	152	482	0	482
Sy 7 Household, Clothing					
& Personal	205	255	283	310	323
Savings	128	159	177	194	202
State, local & Federal T	axes 282	283	315	190	371
Gross Monthly Income Needs Gross Annual Income Needs Living Wage (at 2080 hrs/yr)	ed 18,760	2,029 24,351 \$11.71	2,565 30,784 \$14.80	2,130 25,559 \$12.29	2,874* 34,491* \$16.58*

Household 1 is a single adult

Household 2 is a single adult with a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 3 is a single adult with a toddler (12-24 months) and a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 4 is two adults (one of whom is working) with a toddler and a school-age child

Household 5 is two adults (both of whom are working) with a toddler and a school-age child

Montana's minimum wage is less than 60 percent of the living wage for a single adult and less than 35 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children. The state's average annual wage (\$21,144 in 1996) is 113 percent of the living wage for a single adult and 69 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children.

# ARE WE CREATING ENOUGH JOBS THAT PAY A LIVING WAGE?

There were about 265,000 working age households in Montana in 1996, but fewer than 170,000 jobs that could support a single adult and fewer than 66,000 jobs that could support a single adult with two children.

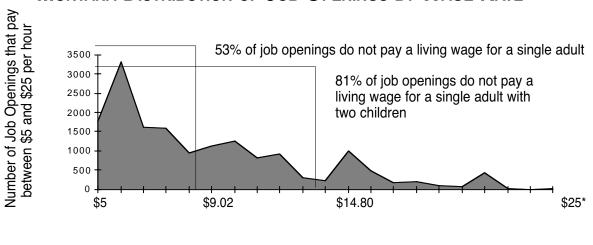
<sup>\*</sup>Total amount earned by two working adults

About 45 percent of all jobs in the economy pay less than the \$9.02 an hour living wage for a single adult and 73 percent pay less than the \$14.80 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.

Of all job openings, about half (53 percent) pay less than the \$9.02 an hour living wage for a single adult, as shown in the chart below. Over three quarters of job openings (81 percent) pay less than the \$14.80 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children. It is important to note the distinction between jobs and job openings. Not all jobs come open during a year. Job openings are of particular interest because they provide employment opportunities to people looking for work.

In addition, there are more people looking for work than there are job openings that pay a

### MONTANA DISTRIBUTION OF JOB OPENINGS BY WAGE RATE



Dollars per Hour

\*There are few job openings in the economy that pay more than \$25 an hour. Due to lack of space they have not been included here.

living wage. As shown in the table on the following page, job gap ratios, which compare job seekers to job openings, are:

- For each job opening, regardless of pay, there are three job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$9.02 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are six job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$14.80 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 17 job seekers on average.

For those job openings that pay a living wage and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training, the competition may be even stronger. Sixty one percent of all job openings that pay at least the \$9.02 an hour living wage for a single adult require that amount of education and training. For those job openings that pay at least the \$14.80 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, the proportion is 22 percent.

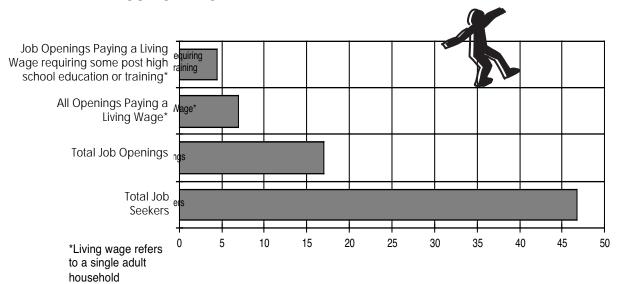
#### MONTANA JOB GAP RATIO Household 1 Household 3 All Job \$9.02 \$14.80 Openings Job Seekers 46.704 46.704 46.704 Job Openings 7,446 2,710 17,000 17 to 1 Job Seekers per Job Opening 6 to 1 3 to 1 Percent of all Job Openings paying less than a living wage 53% 81%

Job gap ratios are calculated by dividing the number of people who were looking for work at some point during 1996 by the number of job openings that year. Job seekers total 46,704, which equals about 11 percent of total employment in the state. Job seekers include the unemployed (58 percent of the total), involuntary part-time workers (31 percent), and discouraged and marginally attached workers (11 percent).

Job openings total 17,000 and include job openings due to growth (41 percent of the total) and job openings due to net replacement (59 percent).

As shown in the chart below, 7,446 of the 17,000 job openings pay at least the \$9.02 an hour living wage for a single adult. And 4,536 of these job openings pay at least the \$9.02 an hour living wage for a single adult and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training.

# FINDINGS FOR MONTANA



# **O**REGON

# **OREGON KEY FINDINGS**

Key findings for Oregon are:

- The living wage for a single adult is \$10.07 an hour. This is based on what is needed to meet basic needs and provides some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead. The living wage for a single adult with two children is \$16.36 an hour.
- About half of all job openings (47 percent) pay less than the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult. About three quarters of all job openings (77 percent) pay less than the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are six job seekers on average. For each job opening that pays at least the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 14 job seekers on average.

### WHAT IS A LIVING WAGE?

Living wages for Oregon, which reflect family budgets as shown on the following page, are:

- For a single adult household, \$20,943 a year or \$10.07 an hour.
- For a single adult with one child, \$27,202 a year or \$13.08 an hour.
- For a single adult with two children, \$34,019 a year or \$16.36 an hour.
- For two adults, one of whom is working, with two children, \$29,197 a year or \$14.04 an hour.
- For two adults, both of whom are working, with two children, \$37,404 a year or \$17.98 an hour (which means that the combined wages of both working adults needs to total this amount).

These are statewide averages. In some areas, costs are higher (particularly for housing and child care) and, as a result, living wages are higher. In other areas, including most of the state's rural areas, costs and, therefore, living wages are lower. Living wages for higher cost and lower cost areas are:

	Higher Cost Areas	Lower Cost Areas
Single adult	\$10.36/hour	\$9.45/hour
Single adult with one child	\$13.57/hour	\$12.31/hour
Single adult with two children	\$17.13/hour	\$15.37/hour
Two adults (one working) with two children	\$14.34/hour	\$13.32/hour
Two adults (both working) with two children	\$18.75/hour	\$17.05/hour

Oregon's higher cost areas are Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas, Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Benton, Lane, Deschutes, and Jackson counties.

Oregon's minimum wage is less than 60 percent of the living wage for a single adult and



# **OREGON FAMILY BUDGETS (IN 1996 DOLLARS)**

	Household 1	Household 2	Household 3	Household 4	Household 5
Food	141	263	331	462	462
Housing & Utilities	453	568	568	568	568
Transportation	372	321	364	333	390
Health Care	60	112	125	152	152
Child Care	0	146	498	0	498
S, S Household, Clothing					
& Personal	222	273	300	327	340
Savings ﴿ يَ عَلَيْكُ الْحَالِي ۗ الْحَالِي ۗ الْحَالِي ۗ الْحَالِي ۗ الْحَالِي ۗ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي َ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَلِي َ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَلِي ِ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَالِي ِ الْحَلِيلِي الْحَلِيلِيِيلِي الْحَلِيلِي الْحَلِيلِي الْحَلِيلِيلِيلِيِيلِي الْحَلِيلِي الْحَلِيلِيلِيلِيِيلِي الْحَلِيلِي الْحَلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيلِيل	139	171	188	205	212
State, Local & Federal T	axes 359	414	461	386	495
Gross Monthly Income Neede	ed 1,745	2,267	2,835	2,433	3,117*
Gross Annual Income Needed	d 20,943	27,202	34,019	29,197	37,404*
Living Wage (at 2080 hrs/yr)	\$10.07	\$13.08	\$16.36	\$14.04	\$17.98*

Household 1 is a single adult

Household 2 is a single adult with a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 3 is a single adult with a toddler (12-24 months) and a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 4 is two adults (one of whom is working) with a toddler and a school-age child

Household 5 is two adults (both of whom are working) with a toddler and a school-age child

less than 35 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children. The state's average annual wage (\$27,046 in 1996) is 129 percent of the living wage for a single adult and 80 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children.

# ARE WE CREATING ENOUGH JOBS THAT PAY A LIVING WAGE?

There were slightly more than 1 million working age households in Oregon in 1996, but fewer than 760,000 jobs that could support a single adult and only slightly more than 300,000 jobs that could support a single adult with two children.

<sup>\*</sup>Total amount earned by two working adults

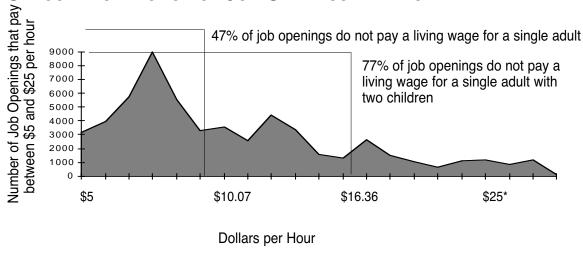
About 44 percent of all jobs in the economy pay less than the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult and 76 percent pay less than the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.

Of all job openings, about half (47 percent) pay less than the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult, as shown in the chart below. About three quarters of job openings (77 percent) pay less than the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.

It is important to note the distinction between jobs and job openings. Not all jobs come open during a year. Job openings are of particular interest because they provide employment opportunities to people looking for work.

In addition, there are more people looking for work than there are job openings that pay a

### OREGON DISTRIBUTION OF JOB OPENINGS BY WAGE RATE



\*There are few job openings in the economy that pay more than \$25 an hour. Due to lack of space they have not been included here.

living wage. As shown in the table on the following page, job gap ratios, which compare job seekers to job openings, are:

- For each job opening, regardless of pay, there are three job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are six job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 14 job seekers on average.

For those job openings that pay a living wage and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training, the competition may be even stronger. Fifty nine percent of all job openings that pay at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult require that amount of education and training. For those job openings that pay at least the \$16.36 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, the proportion is 23 percent.

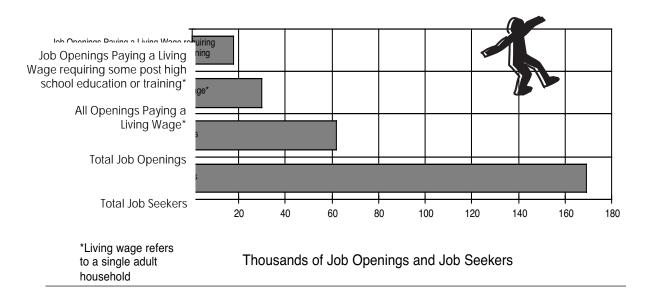
OREGON JOB GAP RATIO			
	Household 1 \$10.07	Household 3 \$16.36	All Job Openings
Job Seekers	166,926	166,926	166,926
Job Openings	30,190	11,947	61,796
Job Seekers per Job Opening	6 to 1	14 to 1	3 to 1
Percent of all Job Openings paying less than a living	wage 47%	77%	

Job gap ratios are calculated by dividing the number of people who were looking for work at some point during 1996 by the number of job openings that year. Job seekers total 166,926, which equals about 10 percent of total employment in the state. Job seekers include the unemployed (about 64 percent of the total), involuntary part-time workers (29 percent), and discouraged and marginally attached workers (seven percent).

Job openings total 61,796 and include job openings due to growth (about 48 percent of the total) and job openings due to net replacement (52 percent).

As shown in the chart below, 30,190 of the 61,796 job openings pay at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult. And 17,713 of these job openings pay at least the \$10.07 an hour living wage for a single adult and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training.

#### FINDINGS FOR OREGON



# **W**ASHINGTON

#### WASHINGTON KEY FINDINGS

Key findings for Washington are:

- The living wage for a single adult is \$10.25 an hour. This is based on what is needed to meet basic needs and provides some ability to deal with emergencies and plan ahead. The living wage for a single adult with two children is \$16.86 an hour.
- Forty one percent of all job openings pay less than the \$10.25 an hour living wage for a single adult. Seventy two percent pay less than the \$16.86 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$10.25 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are five job seekers on average. For each job opening that pays at least the \$16.86 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 12 job seekers on average.

## WHAT IS A LIVING WAGE?

Living wages for Washington, which reflect family budgets as shown on the following page, are:

- For a single adult household, \$21,322 a year or \$10.25 an hour.
- For a single adult with one child, \$27,288 a year or \$13.12 an hour.
- For a single adult with two children, \$35,079 a year or \$16.86 an hour.
- For two adults, one of whom is working, with two children, \$29,023 a year or \$13.95 an hour.
- For two adults, both of whom are working, with two children, \$38,369 a year or \$18.45 an hour (which means that the combined wages of both working adults needs to total this amount).

These are statewide averages. In some areas, costs are higher (particularly for housing and child care) and, as a result, living wages are higher. In other areas, including most of the state's rural areas, costs and, therefore, living wages are lower. Living wages for higher cost and lower cost areas are:

	Higher Cost Areas	Lower Cost Areas
Single adult	\$10.43/hour	\$9.50/hour
Single adult with one child	\$13.49/hour	\$12.16/hour
Single adult with two children	\$17.59/hour	\$15.47/hour
Two adults (one working) with two children	\$14.16/hour	\$12.89/hour
Two adults (both working) with two children	\$19.17/hour	\$17.11/hour

Washington's higher cost areas are King, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Clark, Kitsap, Yakima, Thurston, Whatcom, Benton, and Franklin counties.



# Washington Family Budgets (in 1996 Dollars)

	Household 1	Household 2	Household 3	Household 4	Household 5
Food	141	263	331	462	462
Housing & Utilities	488	615	615	615	615
Transportation	372	321	364	333	390
Health Care	64	117	132	162	162
Child Care	0	170	602	0	602
Sy 7 Household, Clothing					
& Personal	230	284	312	340	352
Savings	144	178	195	212	220
State, local & Federal Ta	axes 338	327	372	296	395
Gross Monthly Income Need	ed 1,777	2,274	2,923	2,419	3,197*
Gross Annual Income Neede	d 21,322	27,288	35,079	29,023	38,369*
Living Wage (at 2080 hrs/yr)	\$10.25	\$13.12	\$16.86	\$13.95	\$18.45*

Household 1 is a single adult

Household 2 is a single adult with a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 3 is a single adult with a toddler (12-24 months) and a school-age child (age 6-8 yrs)

Household 4 is two adults (one of whom is working) with a toddler and a school-age child

Household 5 is two adults (both of whom are working) with a toddler and a school-age child

Washington's minimum wage is about 50 percent of the living wage for a single adult and about 30 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children. The state's average annual wage (\$28,871 in 1996) is 135 percent of the living wage for a single adult and 82 percent of the living wage for a single adult with two children.

# ARE WE CREATING ENOUGH JOBS THAT PAY A LIVING WAGE?

There were about 1.8 million working age households in Washington in 1996, but only about 1.5 million jobs that could support a single adult and about 610,000 jobs that could support a single adult with two children.

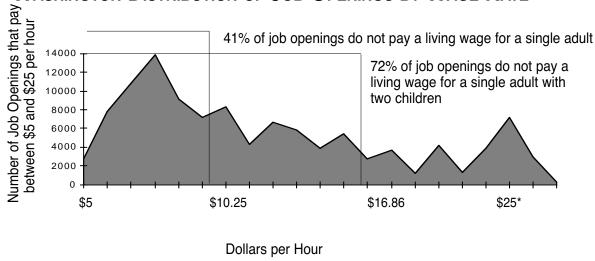
<sup>\*</sup>Total amount earned by two working adults

Thirty seven percent of all jobs in the economy pay less than the \$10.25 an hour living wage for a single adult and 73 percent pay less than the \$16.86 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.

Of all job openings, 41 percent pay less than the \$10.25 an hour living wage for a single adult, as shown in the chart below. Seventy two percent pay less than the \$16.86 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children.

It is important to note the distinction between jobs and job openings. Not all jobs come open during a year. Job openings are of particular interest because they provide employment opportunities to people looking for work.

### WASHINGTON DISTRIBUTION OF JOB OPENINGS BY WAGE RATE



\*There are few job openings in the economy that pay more than \$25 an hour. Due to lack of space they have not been included here.

In addition, there are more people looking for work than there are job openings that pay a living wage. As shown in the table on the following page, job gap ratios, which compare job seekers to job openings, are:

- For each job opening, regardless of pay, there are three job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$10.25 an hour living wage for a single adult, there are five job seekers on average.
- For each job opening that pays at least the \$16.86 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, there are 12 job seekers on average.

For those job openings that pay a living wage and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training, the competition may be even stronger. Fifty three percent of all job openings that pay at least the \$10.25 an hour living wage for a single adult require that amount of education and training. For those job openings that pay at least the \$16.86 an hour living wage for a single adult with two children, the proportion is 24 percent.

#### Washington Job Gap Ratio Household 1 Household 3 All Job <u>\$10.2</u>5 **\$16.86** Openings Seekers 357,243 357,243 357,243 Job Openings 68,382 30,606 120,765 Job Seekers per Job Opening 5 to 1 12 to 1 3 to 1 72% Percent of all Job Openings paying less than a living wage 41%

Job gap ratios are calculated by dividing the number of people who were looking for work at some point during 1996 by the number of job openings that year. Job seekers total 357,243, which equals about 13 percent of total employment in the state. Job seekers include the unemployed (about 59 percent of the total), involuntary part-time workers (30 percent), and discouraged and marginally attached workers (11 percent).

Job openings total 120,765 and include job openings due to growth (about 45 percent of the total) and job openings due to net replacement (55 percent).

As shown in the chart below, 68,382 of the 120,765 job openings pay at least the \$10.25 an hour living wage for a single adult. And 36,139 of these job openings pay at least the \$10.25 an hour living wage for a single adult and require at most some combination of a high school diploma, on-the-job training, work experience, and/or post-high school vocational training.

# FINDINGS FOR WASHINGTON

