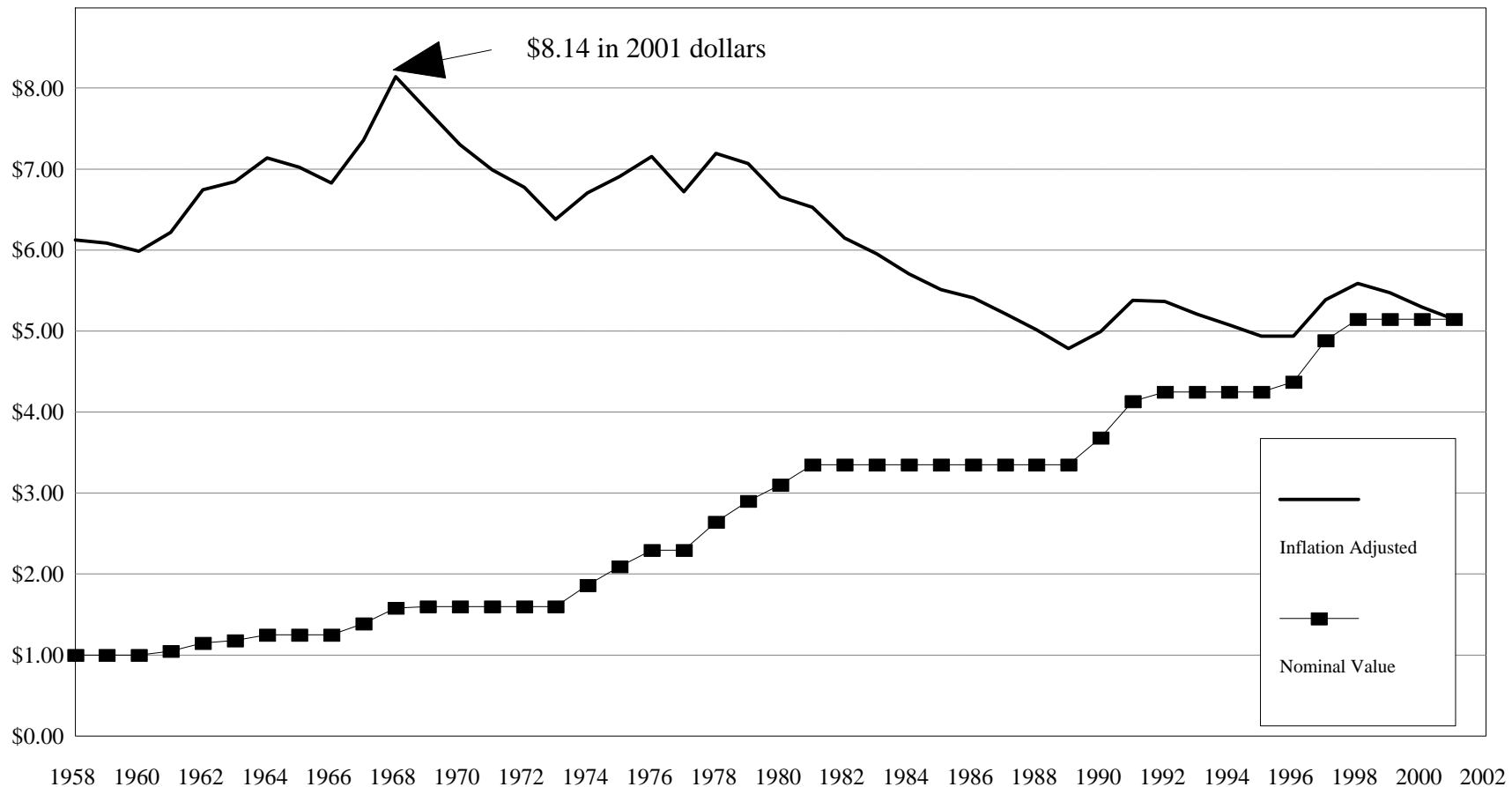


The purchasing power of the current \$5.15 per hour minimum wage is well below that of the 1960s and 1970s.

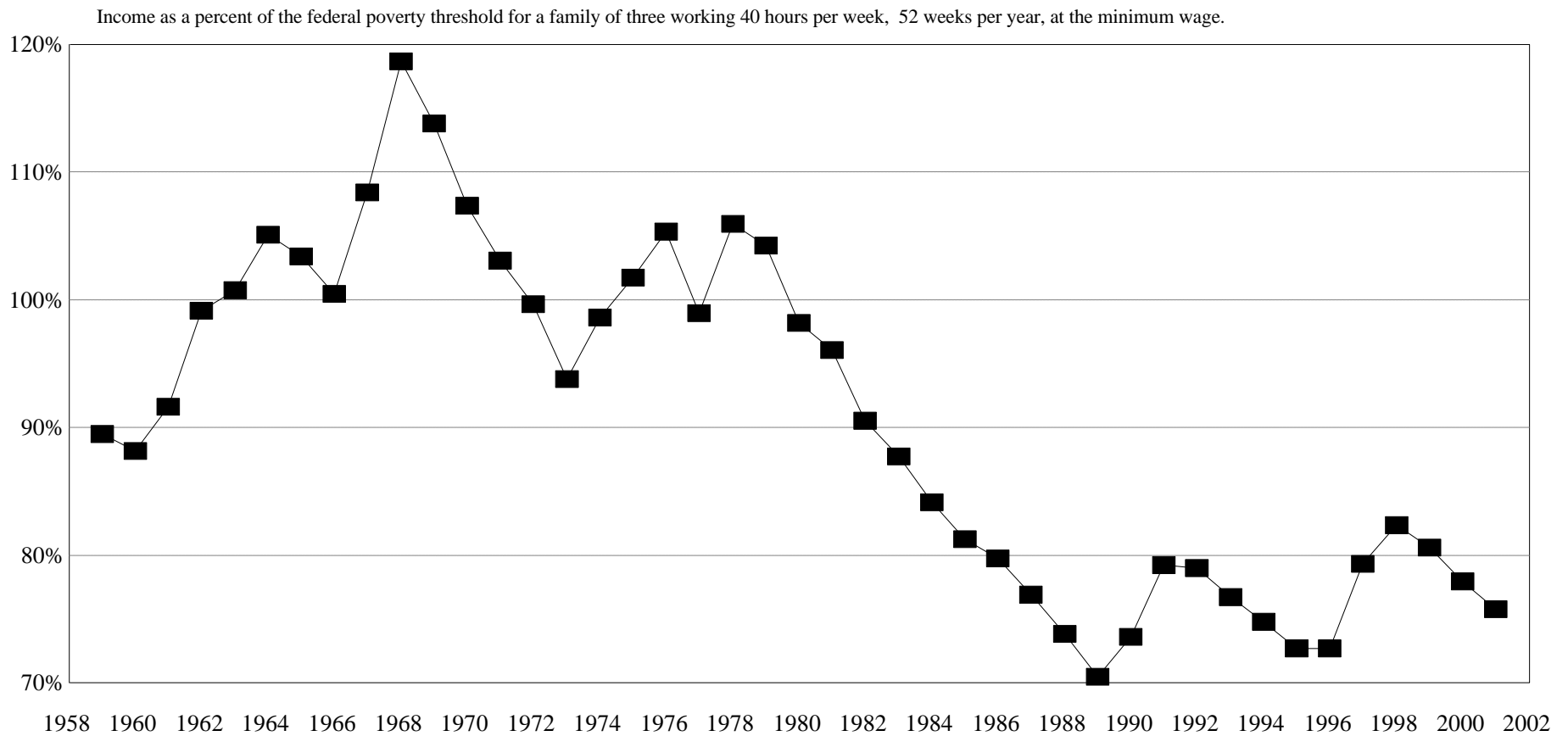
From its peak in 1968, the purchasing power of the minimum wage has declined over 36%.

Federal minimum wage, nominal and inflation-adjusted: 1958-2001.



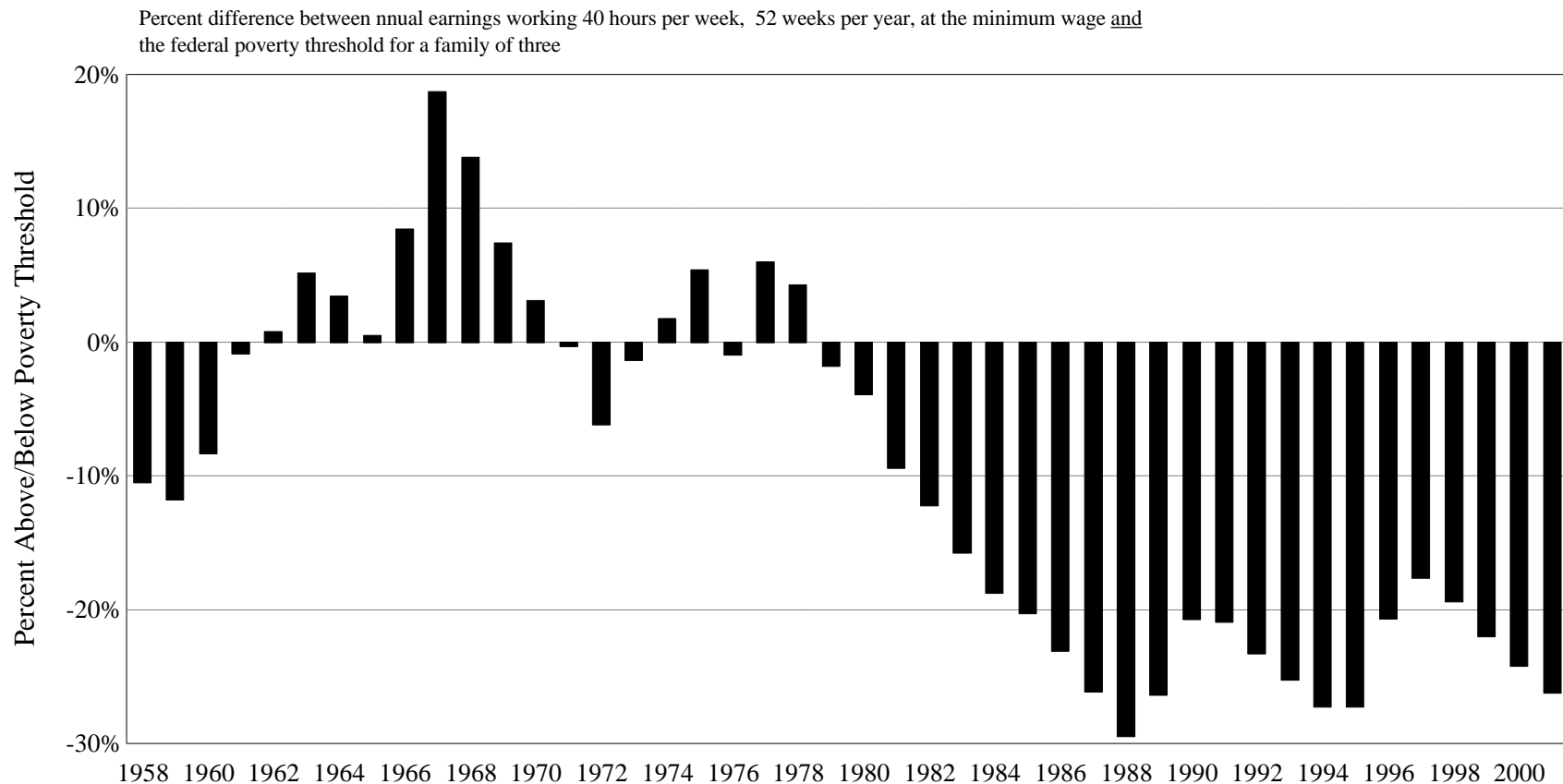
During most of the 1960s and 1970s, working at the minimum wage kept a family of three out of poverty.

Today such a family is 24% below the poverty level.



During most of the 1960s and 1970s, working at the minimum wage kept a family of three out of poverty.

Today such a family is 24% below the poverty level.



## New York Workers Who Would Benefit from a \$1.60 Increase in the Minimum Wage by County of Residence

	Average Annual Resident Employment: 2000*	Workers with Wages between \$5.15 and \$6.74 Who Would Benefit Directly**	
		Number	Percent
<b>STATEWIDE***</b>	<b>7,656,932</b>	<b>701,717</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
Albany	135,100	12,500	9.3%
Allegany	19,100	1,900	9.9%
Bronx	398,500	36,800	9.2%
Broome	84,300	9,200	10.9%
Cattaraugus	33,400	3,600	10.8%
Cayuga	31,900	3,300	10.3%
Chautauqua	56,200	6,200	11.0%
Chemung	36,800	4,000	10.9%
Chenango	20,300	2,200	10.8%
Clinton	33,300	3,200	9.6%
Columbia	29,800	2,700	9.1%
Cortland	18,700	2,000	10.7%
Delaware	17,600	2,200	12.5%
Dutchess	103,900	9,900	9.5%
Erie	385,400	42,200	10.9%
Essex	15,000	1,700	11.3%
Franklin	18,500	2,000	10.8%
Fulton	22,200	2,400	10.8%
Genesee	26,800	2,700	10.1%
Greene	17,900	2,000	11.2%
Hamilton	2,100	300	14.3%
Herkimer	26,300	3,000	11.4%
Jefferson	35,600	4,000	11.2%
Kings	833,000	81,800	9.8%
Lewis	10,000	1,100	11.0%
Livingston	29,200	2,500	8.6%
Madison	30,100	2,700	9.0%
Manhattan	730,300	58,300	8.0%
Monroe	325,500	30,200	9.3%
Montgomery	19,500	2,400	12.3%
Nassau	598,400	53,100	8.9%
Niagara	89,800	10,100	11.2%
Oneida	96,300	10,700	11.1%
Onondaga	199,500	18,700	9.4%
Ontario	45,700	4,100	9.0%
Orange	136,200	11,300	8.3%
Orleans	17,700	1,700	9.6%

## New York Workers Who Would Benefit from a \$1.60 Increase in the Minimum Wage by County of Residence

	Average Annual Resident Employment: 2000*	Workers with Wages between \$5.15 and \$6.74 Who Would Benefit Directly**	
		Number	Percent
<b>STATEWIDE***</b>	<b>7,656,932</b>	<b>701,717</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
Oswego	47,400	4,700	9.9%
Otsego	26,900	2,600	9.7%
Putnam	47,400	3,100	6.5%
Queens	875,100	75,600	8.6%
Rensselaer	67,700	6,200	9.2%
Richmond	175,700	13,200	7.5%
Rockland	125,400	10,000	8.0%
Saratoga	90,300	7,700	8.5%
Schenectady	61,600	6,700	10.9%
Schoharie	12,700	1,300	10.2%
Schuyler	7,500	800	10.7%
Seneca	13,100	1,500	11.5%
St. Lawrence	41,700	4,400	10.6%
Steuben	41,500	4,200	10.1%
Suffolk	621,600	50,900	8.2%
Sullivan	26,400	3,100	11.7%
Tioga	22,800	2,100	9.2%
Tompkins	44,400	3,200	7.2%
Ulster	71,200	7,200	10.1%
Warren	26,700	3,000	11.2%
Washington	24,200	2,500	10.3%
Wayne	42,200	3,600	8.5%
Westchester	384,800	33,000	8.6%
Wyoming	17,400	1,700	9.8%
Yates	11,700	1,100	9.4%

\* Excludes self-employed.

\*\* Assumes a \$1.60 increase in the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$6.75.

\*\*\* Statewide estimates provided by the Economic Policy Institute. County-specific estimates do not add to the statewide totals due to rounding.

Note: The number of workers in each county in each wage range was estimated using the Economic Policy Institute estimate of the number of workers statewide in each wage group and distributing them among the counties based on the 1996 distribution of low-income tax filers by county.

# Changes in the Federal and New York State Minimum Wages 1954 to the Present

<u>Year</u>	<u>Federal Minimum Wage</u>		<u>New York State Minimum Wage*</u>	
	Nominal Dollars*	2001 Dollars (Adjusted for Inflation)	Nominal Dollars*	2001 Dollars (Adjusted for Inflation)
1954	\$0.75	\$4.94		
1955	\$0.75	\$4.96		
1956	\$1.00	\$6.51		
1957	\$1.00	\$6.30		
1958	\$1.00	\$6.13		
1959	\$1.00	\$6.09		
1960	\$1.00	\$5.98	\$1.00	\$5.98
1961	\$1.05	\$6.22	\$1.00	\$5.92
1962	\$1.15	\$6.74	\$1.03	\$6.05
1963	\$1.18	\$6.85	\$1.15	\$6.66
1964	\$1.25	\$7.14	\$1.17	\$6.69
1965	\$1.25	\$7.03	\$1.25	\$7.03
1966	\$1.25	\$6.83	\$1.25	\$6.83
1967	\$1.39	\$7.36	\$1.50	\$7.95
1968	\$1.58	\$8.06	\$1.59	\$8.10
1969	\$1.60	\$7.72	\$1.60	\$7.72
1970	\$1.60	\$7.30	\$1.73	\$7.87
1971	\$1.60	\$7.00	\$1.85	\$8.09
1972	\$1.60	\$6.78	\$1.85	\$7.84
1973	\$1.60	\$6.38	\$1.85	\$7.38
1974	\$1.87	\$6.71	\$1.95	\$7.00
1975	\$2.10	\$6.91	\$2.10	\$6.91
1976	\$2.30	\$7.16	\$2.30	\$7.16
1977	\$2.30	\$6.72	\$2.30	\$6.72
1978	\$2.65	\$7.20	\$2.39	\$6.49
1979	\$2.90	\$7.07	\$2.90	\$7.07
1980	\$3.10	\$6.66	\$3.10	\$6.66
1981	\$3.35	\$6.53	\$3.35	\$6.53
1982	\$3.35	\$6.15	\$3.35	\$6.15
1983	\$3.35	\$5.96	\$3.35	\$5.96
1984	\$3.35	\$5.71	\$3.35	\$5.71
1985	\$3.35	\$5.51	\$3.35	\$5.51
1986	\$3.35	\$5.41	\$3.35	\$5.41
1987	\$3.35	\$5.22	\$3.35	\$5.22
1988	\$3.35	\$5.02	\$3.35	\$5.02
1989	\$3.35	\$4.78	\$3.35	\$4.78
1990	\$3.69	\$5.00	\$3.69	\$5.00
1991	\$4.14	\$5.38	\$4.14	\$5.38
1992	\$4.25	\$5.36	\$4.25	\$5.36
1993	\$4.25	\$5.21	\$4.25	\$5.21
1994	\$4.25	\$5.08	\$4.25	\$5.08
1995	\$4.25	\$4.94	\$4.25	\$4.94
1996	\$4.38	\$4.94	\$4.25	\$4.80
1997	\$4.88	\$5.39	\$4.25	\$4.69
1998	\$5.15	\$5.60	\$4.25	\$4.62
1999	\$5.15	\$5.47	\$4.25	\$4.52
2000	\$5.15	\$5.30	\$4.93	\$5.07
2001	\$5.15	\$5.15	\$5.15	\$5.15

\*For years in which the minimum wage was increased during the year, the numbers in these two columns represent the weighted average of the minimum wage during the year. For example, in 1974, the minimum wage was increased from \$1.60 to \$2.00 on May 1st. The nominal value shown (\$1.87) is the weighted average of four months at \$1.60 eight months at \$2.00

Values are adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U annual average deflater

## Changes in the Federal and State Minimum Wages. 1954 to the Present

<u>Chronology of Changes in Federal Minimum Wage</u>		<u>Chronology of Changes in State Minimum Wage</u>		<u>New York State Lead or Lag</u>
	<u>% Increase</u>			
1954				
1955				
1956	Increased from \$0.75 to \$1.00 on March 1, 1956	33.3%		
1957				
1958				
1959			Prior to October 1, 1960, NYS minimum wage rates varied from industry to industry.	
1960				
1961	Increased from \$1.00 to \$1.15 on September 3, 1961	15.0%		
1962			Increased from \$1.00 to \$1.15 on October 15, 1962	1 year, 1.5 month lag
1963	Increased from \$1.15 to \$1.25 on September 3, 1963	8.7%		
1964			Increased from \$1.15 to \$1.25 on October 15, 1964	1 year, 1.5 month lag
1965				
1966				
1967	Increased from \$1.25 to 1.40 on February 1, 1967	12.0%	Increased from \$1.25 to \$1.50 on January 1, 1967	1 year, 1 month lead
1968	Increased from 1.40 to \$1.60 on February 1, 1968	14.3%	Increased from \$1.50 to \$1.60 on February 1, 1968.	
1969				
1970			Increased from \$1.60 to \$1.85 on July 1, 1970	3 year, 10 month lead
1971				
1972				
1973				
1974	Increased from \$1.60 to \$2.00 on May 1, 1974	20.0%	Increased from \$1.60 to \$2.00 on May 1, 1974	
1975	Increased from \$2.00 to \$2.10 on January 1, 1975	5.0%	Increased from \$2.00 to \$2.10 on January 1, 1975	
1976	Increased from \$2.10 to \$2.30 on January 1, 1976	9.5%	Increased from \$2.10 to \$2.30 on January 1, 1976	
1977				
1978	Increased from \$2.30 to \$2.65 on January 1, 1978	15.2%	Increased from \$2.30 to \$2.65 on October 6, 1978	9 month lag
1979	Increased from \$2.65 to \$2.90 on January 1, 1979	9.4%	Increased from \$2.65 to \$2.90 on January 1, 1979	
1980	Increased from \$2.90 to \$3.10 on January 1, 1980	6.9%	Increased from \$2.90 to \$3.10 on January 1, 1980	
1981	Increased from \$3.10 to \$3.35 on January 1, 1981	8.1%	Increased from \$3.10 to \$3.35 on January 1, 1981	
1982				
1983				
1984				
1985				
1986				
1987				
1988				
1989				
1990	Increased from \$3.35 to \$3.80 on April 1, 1990	13.4%	Increased from \$3.35 to \$3.80 on April 1, 1990	
1991	Increased from \$3.80 to \$4.25 on April 1, 1990	11.8%	Increased from \$3.80 to \$4.25 on April 1, 1990	
1992				
1993				
1994				
1995				
1996	Increased from \$4.25 to \$4.75 on October 1, 1996	11.8%		
1997	Increased from \$4.75 to \$5.15 on September 1, 1997	8.4%		
1998				
1999				
2000			Increased from \$4.25 to \$5.15 on March 31, 2000.	3 year, 6 month lag
2001				

## Minimum Wage Earnings Relative to the Federal Poverty Threshold for a Family of Three

Calendar year	Federal Poverty Threshold for 3 Person Family	Federal Minimum Wage*	Annual Income**	Annual Income as a Percent of Federal Poverty Threshold	Percent Difference between Annual Income and Federal Poverty Threshold
1959	\$2,324	\$1.00	\$2,080	89.50%	-10.50%
1960	\$2,359	\$1.00	\$2,080	88.17%	-11.83%
1961	\$2,383	\$1.05	\$2,184	91.65%	-8.35%
1962	\$2,412	\$1.15	\$2,392	99.17%	-0.83%
1963	\$2,442	\$1.18	\$2,461	100.79%	0.79%
1964	\$2,473	\$1.25	\$2,600	105.14%	5.14%
1965	\$2,514	\$1.25	\$2,600	103.42%	3.42%
1966	\$2,588	\$1.25	\$2,600	100.46%	0.46%
1967	\$2,661	\$1.39	\$2,886	108.46%	8.46%
1968	\$2,774	\$1.58	\$3,293	118.72%	18.72%
1969	\$2,924	\$1.60	\$3,328	113.82%	13.82%
1970	\$3,099	\$1.60	\$3,328	107.39%	7.39%
1971	\$3,229	\$1.60	\$3,328	103.07%	3.07%
1972	\$3,339	\$1.60	\$3,328	99.67%	-0.33%
1973	\$3,548	\$1.60	\$3,328	93.80%	-6.20%
1974	\$3,936	\$1.87	\$3,883	98.64%	-1.36%
1975	\$4,293	\$2.10	\$4,368	101.75%	1.75%
1976	\$4,540	\$2.30	\$4,784	105.37%	5.37%
1977	\$4,833	\$2.30	\$4,784	98.99%	-1.01%
1978	\$5,201	\$2.65	\$5,512	105.98%	5.98%
1979	\$5,784	\$2.90	\$6,032	104.29%	4.29%
1980	\$6,565	\$3.10	\$6,448	98.22%	-1.78%
1981	\$7,250	\$3.35	\$6,968	96.11%	-3.89%
1982	\$7,693	\$3.35	\$6,968	90.58%	-9.42%
1983	\$7,938	\$3.35	\$6,968	87.78%	-12.22%
1984	\$8,277	\$3.35	\$6,968	84.19%	-15.81%
1985	\$8,573	\$3.35	\$6,968	81.28%	-18.72%
1986	\$8,737	\$3.35	\$6,968	79.75%	-20.25%
1987	\$9,056	\$3.35	\$6,968	76.94%	-23.06%
1988	\$9,435	\$3.35	\$6,968	73.85%	-26.15%
1989	\$9,885	\$3.35	\$6,968	70.49%	-29.51%
1990	\$10,419	\$3.69	\$7,670	73.62%	-26.38%
1991	\$10,860	\$4.14	\$8,606	79.24%	-20.76%
1992	\$11,186	\$4.25	\$8,840	79.03%	-20.97%
1993	\$11,522	\$4.25	\$8,840	76.72%	-23.28%
1994	\$11,821	\$4.25	\$8,840	74.78%	-25.22%
1995	\$12,158	\$4.25	\$8,840	72.71%	-27.29%
1996	\$12,516	\$4.38	\$9,100	72.71%	-27.29%
1997	\$12,802	\$4.88	\$10,157	79.34%	-20.66%
1998	\$13,003	\$5.15	\$10,712	82.38%	-17.62%
1999	\$13,290	\$5.15	\$10,712	80.60%	-19.40%
2000	\$13,738	\$5.15	\$10,712	77.97%	-22.03%
2001	\$14,129	\$5.15	\$10,712	75.82%	-24.18%

\*For years in which the minimum wage was increased during the year, the numbers in this column represent the weighted average of the minimum wage during the year. For example, in 1974, the minimum wage was increased from \$1.60 to \$2.00 on May 1st. The nominal value shown (\$1.87) is the weighted average of four months at \$1.60 eight months at \$2.00

\*\* Annual income calculated assuming full time work, 40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year at the minimum wage.