

TABLE 4**The Real Value of the Minimum Wage, 1947-2008**

Year	Nominal	Adjusted for Inflation (using CPI-U-RS)**	As a share of average private nonsupervisory wage
1947	\$0.40	\$3.42	35%
1948	\$0.40	\$3.16	33%
1949	\$0.40	\$3.20	31%
1950	\$0.75	\$5.93	56%
1951	\$0.75	\$5.50	52%
1952	\$0.75	\$5.39	49%
1953	\$0.75	\$5.35	47%
1954	\$0.75	\$5.31	45%
1955	\$0.75	\$5.33	44%
1956*	\$0.96	\$6.71	53%
1957	\$1.00	\$6.78	53%
1958	\$1.00	\$6.59	51%
1959	\$1.00	\$6.55	50%
1960	\$1.00	\$6.44	48%
1961*	\$1.05	\$6.69	49%
1962	\$1.15	\$7.26	52%
1963*	\$1.18	\$7.35	52%
1964	\$1.25	\$7.68	49%
1965	\$1.25	\$7.56	48%
1966	\$1.25	\$7.35	46%
1967*	\$1.39	\$7.93	49%
1968*	\$1.58	\$8.65	52%
1969	\$1.60	\$8.31	50%
1970	\$1.60	\$7.86	47%
1971	\$1.60	\$7.53	44%
1972	\$1.60	\$7.29	41%
1973	\$1.60	\$6.87	39%
1974*	\$1.87	\$7.23	42%
1975	\$2.10	\$7.44	44%
1976	\$2.30	\$7.70	45%
1977	\$2.30	\$7.23	42%
1978	\$2.65	\$7.98	45%
1979	\$2.90	\$7.97	46%
1980	\$3.10	\$7.67	45%
1981	\$3.35	\$7.57	45%
1982	\$3.35	\$7.14	43%
1983	\$3.35	\$6.85	41%
1984	\$3.35	\$6.58	39%
1985	\$3.35	\$6.36	38%
1986	\$3.35	\$6.24	38%
1987	\$3.35	\$6.04	37%
1988	\$3.35	\$5.83	35%
1989	\$3.35	\$5.59	34%
1990*	\$3.69	\$5.86	36%

1991*	\$4.14	\$6.35	39%
1992	\$4.25	\$6.36	39%
1993	\$4.25	\$6.20	38%
1994	\$4.25	\$6.07	37%
1995	\$4.25	\$5.93	36%
1996*	\$4.38	\$5.95	36%
1997*	\$4.88	\$6.50	39%
1998	\$5.15	\$6.76	40%
1999	\$5.15	\$6.62	38%
2000	\$5.15	\$6.40	37%
2001	\$5.15	\$6.23	35%
2002	\$5.15	\$6.13	34%
2003	\$5.15	\$6.00	34%
2004	\$5.15	\$5.84	33%
2005	\$5.15	\$5.65	32%
2006	\$5.15	\$5.47	31%
2007*	\$5.44	\$5.62	31%
2008*	\$6.14	\$6.14	34%

* Minimum wage changed during the course of the year; value reflects weighted average for the year.

** In first half 2008 dollars

Source: EPI analysis based on data from the U.S. Department of Labor.