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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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### **Federal Minimum Wage Increases to \$6.55; Alaska Still Ahead at \$7.15**

JUNEAU, Alaska—Effective July 24, the federal minimum wage will increase from \$5.85 to \$6.55 per hour. Alaska's current minimum wage is \$7.15 per hour.

Based on work activity, there are several classes of employees that are not subject to Alaska's minimum wage law. Typically, those classes of employees must be paid at least the federal minimum wage.

"It is important for Alaska's employers to take note of the change and ensure compliance," said Grey Mitchell, director of Labor Standards and Safety. "Perhaps the largest class of employees affected by the federal increase in Alaska is the group of workers under 18 who are employed not more than 30 hours per week. But other categories of employees, such as assistant hunting guides or workers engaged in commercial fishing, may also be affected."

Alaska's minimum wage was last increased on Jan. 1, 2003, from \$5.65 to \$7.15 per hour, and is currently in the median compared to Western states:

Wyoming	\$5.15
Nevada	\$6.33
Idaho	\$6.55
Montana	\$6.55
Arizona	\$6.90
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>\$7.15</b>
Hawaii	\$7.25
Oregon	\$7.95
California	\$8.00
Washington	\$8.07

On July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage will increase to \$7.25 per hour.

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