



**The Wisconsin Opportunity Minimum Wage and Agricultural Employee Wage Rates
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On July 24, 2009, Wisconsin increased its minimum wage rates for almost all categories of employees (adults and minors) except for the opportunity employee. An “opportunity employee” means an employee who is not yet 20 years old and who has been in employment status with a particular employer for 90 or fewer consecutive calendar days from the date of initial employment.

The minimum wage rate for an opportunity employee will remain at the old rate of \$5.90 per hour. The opportunity wage covers both non-agricultural and agricultural employees. After 90 days, an employer (non-agriculture and agriculture) will pay the opportunity employee not yet 20 years old the non-opportunity minimum wage rates effective on July 24, 2009. Wisconsin’s minimum wage rates for non-opportunity agricultural employees are as follows:

- **The agriculture minimum wage rate for workers age 18 and over** will increase from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour
- **The agricultural minimum wage rate for workers age 17 and under** will increase from \$4.25 per hour to \$7.25 per hour

The rates have also increased when meals or lodging (or both) are furnished by the agricultural employer (and accepted/received by the employee). A deduction from the employee’s cash wages may be made, but cannot exceed the following amounts:

All Employees (Adults and Minors)

	Non-Opportunity Employee	Opportunity Employee
Meals	\$87.00 per Week \$4.15 per Meal	\$70.80 per Week \$3.35 per Meal
Lodging	\$58.00 per Week \$8.30 per Day	\$47.20 per Week \$6.75 per Day

Employers with questions concerning the opportunity minimum wage rates may contact the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development’s Equal Rights Division for more information either at the Madison office (608-266-6860) or at the Milwaukee office (414-227-4384) or the Department’s website at www.dwd.state.wi.us/.