

## **New Jersey's Minimum Wage Set to Increase Beginning January 1, 2026**

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*Source: Saiber Employment Law Alert*

New Jersey's new mandatory minimum wage requirement will be effective January 1, 2026.

For most employers, the 2026 minimum wage for compensating employees will increase by \$0.43 to \$15.92 per hour (up from \$15.49 per hour in 2025). For tipped employees, the minimum cash wage the employer must pay is \$6.05 per hour (up from \$5.62 per hour in 2025), with the maximum tip credit employers are able to claim remaining at \$9.87. If the minimum cash wage plus an employee's tips do not equal at least the state minimum wage, then the employer must pay the employee the difference.

As in years past, there are other exceptions to the \$15.92 per hour general minimum wage requirement. For example, employees of seasonal and small employers (fewer than six employees) will have their pay increased from \$14.53 to \$15.23 an hour. Agricultural workers will have their pay increased from \$13.40 to \$14.20, and direct care staff at long-term care facilities will receive a \$0.43 increase in pay to \$18.92 per hour.

The minimum wage increase goes into effect on January 1, 2026. The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development sets the minimum wage for the coming year based on any increase in Consumer Price Index (CPI) data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. These adjustments, effective January 1, 2026, reflect the ongoing implementation of the multi-year minimum wage increases adopted in 2019, when Governor Murphy approved legislation raising the State minimum wage to \$15, together with the New Jersey State Constitution's requirement that the statewide minimum wage rate be adjusted annually based on any increase in Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Saiber LLC discussed the 2019 law, which amended the New Jersey Wage and Hour law, in a February 7, 2019 alert [available here](#).

If you have any questions on the applicable minimum wage for your workforce, please contact Jennifer O'Connor of Saiber LLC's Employment & Labor Law practice group.