

# Information Sheet



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## The Living Wage v The Minimum Wage

*The Living Wage* is the minimum pay which full time working individuals, with no other sources of income require if they are to have adequate income that ensures that they have the minimum acceptable standard of living. This wage provides for needs, not wants.

- The Living Wage is not legally binding. It is a concept.
- The Living Wage in Ireland is estimated to be €11.70 per hour. This is an increase of 20 cent per hour on last year's Living Wage figure (this increase is blamed on the increase in the cost of housing). This amounts to a gross yearly salary of €23,750.56.
- The Living Wage takes into account such costs as food, clothing, personal care etc.
- Studies have found that paying the Living Wage leads to increased worker morale and better quality of service.



*The Minimum Wage* is the lowest remuneration that employers can legally pay for their work. In other words, it's the price floor in terms of the price of labour. In Ireland, the minimum wage is €9.25 per hour. Reduced rates exist in certain situations. Examples of such can be found [here](#).

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- The Minimum Wage is legally binding i.e. employers legally have to pay this rate.
- The minimum Wage in Ireland is €9.25 per hour. This is a gross pay of €19,240 per annum.
- Ireland has the second highest minimum wage in Europe. Only Luxembourg has a higher minimum wage. Although France's minimum wage is higher per hour, French workers work fewer hours every week than the average Irish person.