

SECTOR DISTRIBUTION OF WASHINGTON'S MINIMUM WAGE JOBS

BRIEFLY

Washington Employment Security Department data show that the accommodation and food services (hotels and restaurants), retail trade, and agricultural sectors would bear the brunt of proposals to increase the minimum wage.

In “[County Distribution of Washington’s Minimum Wage Jobs](#),” we discussed the geographical distribution of minimum wage jobs in the state and current proposals to increase the already high minimum wage. The data also show that the accommodation and food services (hotels and restaurants), retail trade, and agricultural sectors would bear the brunt of those proposals.

Sector Data

Based on data from the Washington Employment Security Department, of minimum wage full time equivalent (FTE) jobs in King County in 2012, 39.7 percent were in the accommodation and food services sector, 21.6 percent were in the retail trade sector and 0.6 percent were in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting. Of minimum wage jobs in the rest of the state, 36.1 percent were in accommodation and food services, 18.8 percent were in retail, and 16.9 percent were in agriculture.

In every county, the accommodation and food services and retail trade sectors represented two of the top three minimum wage sectors. Together the two sectors ranged from 29.6 percent of minimum wage jobs (in Okanogan) to 79.2 percent (in Pend Oreille). The counties with the lowest percentages in the accommodation and food services and retail sectors had very high percentages of minimum wage jobs in agriculture.

These sectors also made up a large share of jobs paying under \$12 or \$15. In King

County in 2012, of jobs paying under \$12, 23.6 percent were in accommodation and food services and 20.9 percent were in retail. Of jobs paying less than \$15, 19.3 percent were in accommodation and food services and 17.9 percent were in retail.

In the rest of the state, of jobs paying under \$12, 16.4 percent were in accommodation and food services, 21.6 percent were in retail, and 16.6 percent were in agriculture. Of jobs paying under \$15, 12.7 percent were in accommodation and food services, 20.0 percent were in retail, and 13.2 percent were in agriculture.

Health care and social assistance jobs made up only 4.6 percent of minimum wage jobs in King County and 6.6 percent of minimum wage jobs in the rest of the state. Of King County jobs under \$12, they accounted for 12.0 percent; of King County jobs under \$15, they accounted for 12.3 percent; of jobs under \$12 in the rest of the state, they accounted for 12.3 percent; and of jobs under \$15 in the rest of the state, they accounted for 12.7 percent.

Comment

An increase of the minimum wage to \$12 statewide, as has been proposed in the Legislature, or to \$15, as has been proposed in Seattle, would be an especially heavy burden on employers in the accommodation and food services, retail, and agricultural sectors. It would also have a significant impact on health care and social assistance workers.

Chart 1: FTE Jobs at Minimum Wage, King County, 2012. Total FTE employment in King County was 940,597.

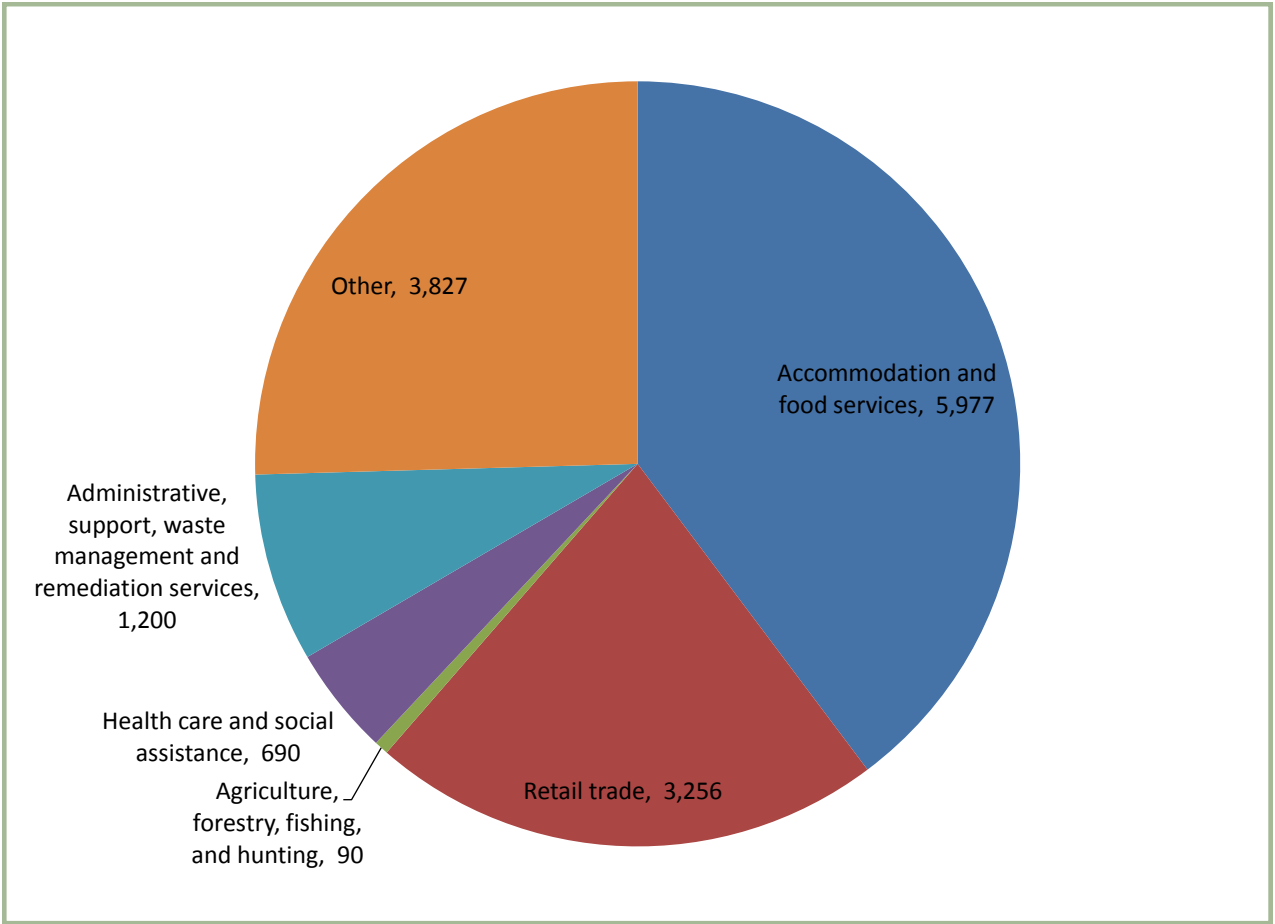


Chart 2: FTE Jobs at Minimum Wage, State Excluding King County, 2012. Total FTE employment in the state excluding King County was 1,324,556.

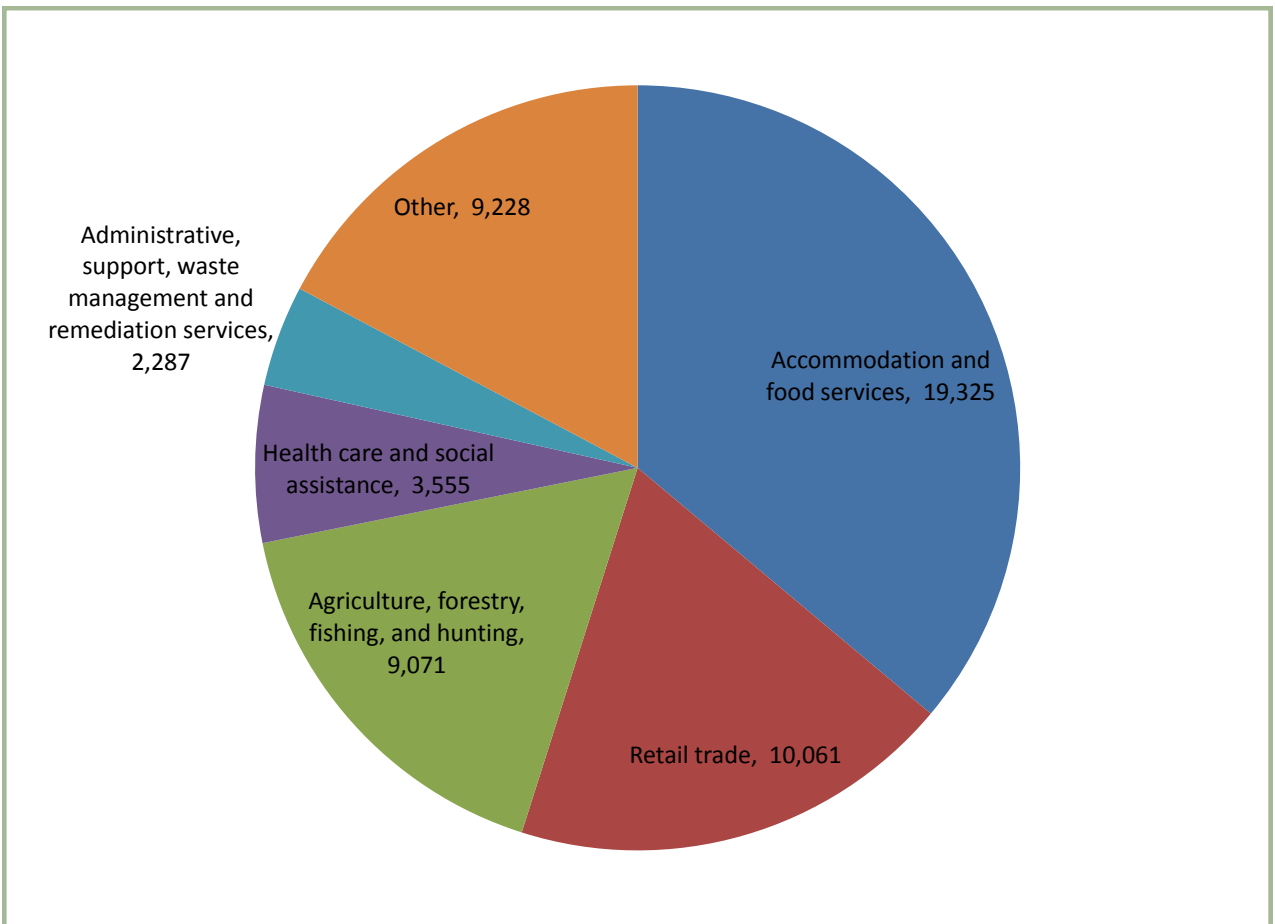


Table 1: King County, 2012

Industry	Total FTE Employment	Minimum Wage FTE Jobs	FTE Jobs Between:							
			\$9.04	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$20.00+
			\$9.99	\$10.99	\$11.99	\$12.99	\$14.99	\$15.99	\$19.99	
Total	940,597	15,043	34,233	33,722	27,841	28,974	54,995	28,757	108,629	613,492
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	2,859	90	281	240	176	166	242	115	291	1,189
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Utilities	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	41,258	63	161	315	339	563	1,366	1,056	4,435	32,879
Manufacturing	103,439	536	1,643	2,209	2,190	2,434	5,089	3,205	13,876	71,860
Wholesale trade	56,035	194	683	989	1,114	1,541	3,380	1,976	7,579	38,504
Retail trade	86,018	3,256	9,351	6,115	4,509	4,398	7,768	3,526	11,937	36,696
Transportation & warehousing	37,370	617	1,270	1,089	1,064	1,233	2,510	1,468	5,684	22,601
Information	77,785	291	433	322	227	299	784	542	2,450	72,502
Finance and insurance	37,827	130	447	944	856	807	1,562	911	4,096	28,023
Real estate, rental and leasing	19,007	304	646	705	672	787	1,748	1,016	3,250	9,921
Professional, scientific, and technical services	90,401	190	622	838	869	903	2,315	1,611	6,679	76,045
Management of companies and enterprises	24,420	40	138	195	294	337	745	405	1,786	20,459
Administrative, support, waste management and remediation services	53,279	1,200	3,208	3,875	2,957	3,329	6,004	2,404	6,513	24,450
Educational services	10,552	114	189	184	224	259	558	383	1,615	6,977
Health care and social assistance	92,068	690	2,238	5,228	4,000	3,647	7,024	3,749	14,728	50,868
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	11,556	712	1,145	910	768	683	1,084	520	1,679	4,324
Accommodation and food services	59,820	5,977	10,086	7,181	5,305	4,879	7,161	2,696	7,082	12,847
Other services (except public administration)	25,594	501	1,392	1,877	1,383	1,375	2,191	1,061	3,460	12,313
State government	40,903	36	65	100	235	309	1,305	1,110	5,572	32,143
Local government	68,731	99	234	404	656	1,022	2,152	994	5,864	57,291

*Data cannot be disclosed for confidentiality reasons.

Table 2: State excluding King County, 2012

Industry	Total FTE Employment	Minimum Wage FTE Jobs	FTE Jobs Between:							
			\$9.04	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$12.00	\$13.00	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$20.00+
			\$9.99	\$10.99	\$11.99	\$12.99	\$14.99	\$15.99	\$19.99	
Total	1,324,556	53,524	106,873	85,554	64,271	60,393	108,914	55,140	187,091	630,203
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	78,023	9,071	19,519	14,297	8,704	6,043	7,632	2,826	6,583	9,102
Mining	2,030	4	7	14	14	19	55	44	298	1,577
Utilities	4,776	4	6	11	18	16	49	25	145	4,497
Construction	65,273	185	526	1,183	1,074	1,729	3,539	2,601	9,514	44,857
Manufacturing	175,091	1,294	3,839	5,450	5,542	6,236	12,390	6,553	23,171	110,847
Wholesale trade	58,411	881	2,362	2,378	2,107	2,283	4,850	2,628	9,572	31,797
Retail trade	157,678	10,061	27,328	16,354	11,857	10,832	18,660	8,553	25,033	34,951
Transportation & warehousing	36,139	370	1,030	1,506	1,469	1,586	3,242	1,821	7,504	17,452
Information	19,963	571	813	538	463	504	1,097	597	2,600	13,062
Finance and insurance	43,346	156	558	1,393	1,639	1,782	3,608	1,904	7,205	25,064
Real estate, rental and leasing	14,945	428	945	1,078	912	1,079	1,982	967	2,817	4,820
Professional, scientific, and technical services	56,514	463	1,056	1,361	1,452	1,475	3,025	1,793	6,167	39,847
Management of companies and enterprises	10,497	53	208	161	180	240	545	326	1,431	7,363
Administrative, support, waste management and remediation services	61,658	2,287	6,305	6,402	4,455	4,096	6,296	3,053	7,471	21,951
Educational services	10,871	148	294	323	310	385	822	537	1,841	6,212
Health care and social assistance	162,498	3,555	9,100	13,382	8,977	7,987	14,687	7,769	25,906	72,641
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	11,604	1,461	2,153	1,283	876	759	1,162	518	1,487	2,715
Accommodation and food services	81,694	19,325	24,354	10,899	6,756	5,350	6,835	2,637	7,310	9,385
Other services (except public administration)	31,315	1,568	3,088	2,686	2,119	1,993	3,055	1,545	4,837	11,155
State government	67,572	201	460	431	625	864	3,262	2,528	11,817	47,151
Local government	167,386	1,064	2,814	4,324	4,604	5,029	11,227	5,650	21,085	111,443
Unknown	8,945	377	108	102	121	110	903	272	3,350	3,910