

WASHINGTON D.C.

District of Columbia's Minimum Wage Rate to Increase on July 1, 2026

The District of Columbia's Office of Wage and Hour recently [announced](#) that the District's hourly minimum wage will increase to **\$18.40 per hour on July 1, 2026**. The new rate will apply to all employers, regardless of the number of individuals they employ.

The District of Columbia's Minimum Wage Rate

On June 27, 2016, the District enacted the Fair Shot Minimum Wage Amendment Act, which increased the minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2020 and included provisions for future increases. The District's minimum wage rate is adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In 2025, the CPI in the Washington Metropolitan Area increased by 2.4%. As a result, starting July 1, 2026, the minimum wage in the District will increase from \$17.95 per hour to \$18.40 per hour.

Tipped Employees

Additionally, the base minimum wage for tipped employees will increase from \$10 per hour to **\$10.30 per hour as of July 1, 2026**. Tipped employees are those who receive gratuities or tips from guests, patrons or customers for their services. If an employee's hourly tip earnings plus base minimum wage do not equal the District's full minimum wage, the employer must pay the difference. Similar to the District's full minimum wage, the minimum wage for tipped employees will keep rising each year according to the CPI.

Updated Minimum Wage Poster

The District's Department of Employment Services has updated the District's [minimum wage poster](#) to reflect the minimum wage increases.

Impact on Employers

District employers should update their payroll processes and procedures by July 1, 2026, to comply with the new minimum wage rate.

Provided to you by **Employco USA, Inc.**

Important Dates

July 1, 2026

The District's minimum wage rate will increase from \$17.95 per hour to \$18.40 per hour and from \$10 per hour to \$10.30 per hour for tipped employees.

The District of Columbia's minimum wage rate will increase to \$18.40 per hour on July 1, 2026.