

**Key Metro Region Findings and Analysis\***  
**From JOBS NOW's Updated *Cost of Living in Minnesota* Research\*\***

- The average annual cost of meeting basic needs for a family of four with two workers in the Metro area is about \$61,500. To cover these costs each worker must earn \$14.78 per hour.
- **Thirty-six percent of jobs in the Metro area—over 560,000 jobs—pay less than a family-supporting wage of \$14.78 per hour.\*\*\***
- At the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, a couple with two children would have to work 163 hours a week to meet basic needs.
- If one parent stays home with the children in a family of four, the other must find a job that pays \$18.32 per hour to cover basic needs. Forty-eight percent of Metro area jobs pay less.
- If the purchasing power of the minimum wage had kept pace with inflation since the late 1960s, it would be \$9.95 per hour. **In the Twin Cities Metro area, 15 percent of jobs—more than 235,000 jobs—pay less than \$9.95 per hour. \*\*\*\***
- A single person with no dependents must earn \$12.08 per hour to meet basic needs. Twenty-six percent of Metro area jobs pay less.
- The annual cost of basic needs for a single person with one child is about \$40,000—more than \$25,000 higher than the federal poverty line. To cover these costs a person must earn \$19.34 per hour.

For more information, contact Kevin Ristau at 651-290-0240 or [kristau@jobsnowcoalition.org](mailto:kristau@jobsnowcoalition.org)

---

\* The Twin Cities Metro Region consists of the following counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington.

\*\* For a PDF version of the 2009 *Cost of Living in Minnesota* report, go to [www.jobsnowcoalition.org](http://www.jobsnowcoalition.org).

\*\*\* Wage data were compiled by the Labor Market Information Office of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for the second quarter of 2009.

\*\*\*\* At \$7.25 per hour, the minimum wage has lost more than a quarter of its purchasing power since 1968, when it was \$1.60 per hour. If it had kept pace with inflation, it would be \$9.95 per hour in 2009 dollars. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator is on the following web site: <http://www.bls.gov/bls/inflation.htm>