

**Key Region 5 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 is about \$50,700. To cover these costs each worker must earn \$12.20 per hour.
- **Forty-five percent of jobs in Region 5—almost 30,000 jobs—pay less than a family-supporting wage of \$12.20 per hour.\*\*\***
- At the minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, a couple with two children would have to work 135 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 \$14.41 per hour to cover basic needs. Fifty-seven percent of jobs in Region 5 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 North Central Minnesota, 29 percent of jobs—more than 19,000 jobs—pay less than \$9.95 per hour.\*\*\*\***
- A single person with no dependents must earn \$10.64 per hour to meet basic needs. Thirty-five percent of jobs in Region 5 pay less.
- The annual cost of basic needs for a single person with one child is about \$32,000—more than twice the federal poverty line. To cover these costs a person must earn \$15.41 per hour.

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\* Economic Region 5 consists of the following North Central Minnesota counties: Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena.

\*\* 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>