

Estimated Livable Wage by Region

Variations in livable wage across regions are due to underlying differences in rent and child care costs, the only budget lines for which regional data are available. In areas where rent and/or child care expenses are relatively high, higher income is required to cover costs, which in turn can increase tax burden. The combined effect on income needed to cover expenses can trigger a series of further adjustments to expenses and taxes that result in a differential in livable wage that is greater than the initial cost differential. This “cliff effect” is discussed in a following section.

| 2010 ESTIMATED LIVABLE WAGE in Maine Counties and Metropolitan Areas by Family Size (in dollars per hour) | | | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| COUNTY/REGION | Single adult | Single adult, 1 child ¹ | Single adult, 2 children ² | Two adults, (1 earner) 2 children | Two adults, (2 earners) 2 children per earner ³ |
| Statewide | 11.02 | 18.21 | 21.89 | 17.15 | 13.35 |
| Androscoggin | 10.22 | 16.78 | 17.37 | 15.20 | 12.64 |
| Lewiston-Auburn Metropolitan Area | 10.22 | 16.78 | 17.37 | 15.20 | 12.64 |
| Aroostook | 9.90 | 12.07 | 14.43 | 14.80 | 10.04 |
| Cumberland | 11.35 | 19.81 | 23.82 | 16.97 | 14.30 |
| Portland Metropolitan Area | 12.53 | 21.40 | 25.45 | 18.59 | 15.13 |
| Franklin | 10.25 | 13.08 | 15.51 | 15.22 | 11.98 |
| Hancock | 10.98 | 17.52 | 21.24 | 15.83 | 13.03 |
| Kennebec | 10.08 | 13.35 | 16.08 | 15.13 | 12.23 |
| Knox | 11.18 | 17.94 | 21.85 | 15.94 | 13.33 |
| Lincoln | 11.08 | 18.69 | 21.94 | 17.01 | 13.38 |
| Oxford | 10.37 | 13.28 | 16.21 | 15.61 | 12.27 |
| Penobscot | 10.18 | 14.00 | 17.11 | 15.60 | 12.55 |
| Bangor Metropolitan Area | 10.78 | 17.86 | 21.42 | 16.98 | 13.12 |
| Piscataquis | 10.67 | 17.31 | 17.53 | 16.57 | 12.71 |
| Sagadahoc | 11.43 | 18.83 | 22.78 | 17.49 | 13.79 |
| Somerset | 10.05 | 12.54 | 15.29 | 15.32 | 11.87 |
| Waldo | 10.94 | 17.50 | 21.54 | 16.79 | 13.18 |
| Washington | 10.26 | 17.88 | 21.14 | 15.67 | 12.98 |
| York | 11.14 | 19.04 | 23.03 | 17.54 | 13.92 |
| York-Kittery-South Berwick Metropolitan Area | 12.43 | 20.24 | 24.27 | 21.40 | 14.53 |

NOTE: Shaded cells denote households eligible for Maine's Cub Care health insurance program, reducing estimated health care costs by up to 49%.

¹ pre-school

² pre-school and school-age

³ This hourly wage is the average wage that each adult must earn in order to equal the required household annual income.

Source: Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Information, Dec 2011