

July 1, 2003

Under Oregon law, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries publishes the state's prevailing wage rates twice annually, in January and July, with quarterly updates in April and October. The rates are determined using a statewide construction industry wage survey of occupations and crafts performing commercial, heavy and highway construction in 14 specific geographic regions of the state. The 2002 survey collected over 990,000 hours of construction employment wage information reported by contractors for a peak week of employment between June 23 and August 17, 2002.

Prevailing wage rates are the minimum wages that must be paid to all workers employed in the construction, reconstruction, major renovation or painting of all public works, unless specifically exempted by state law. Copies of these rates must be incorporated into all bid specifications when the advertisement for such public works contracts is issued. A provision that prevailing wage rates must be paid must also appear in the contract. The rates in effect at the time the bid specifications are first advertised are those that apply for the duration of the project, with one exception: If, during the bidding process, the prevailing wage rates change, the public contracting agency has the option of amending the bid specifications to reflect such changes.

If you identify any errors in the rates published, please bring them to the attention of the Prevailing Wage Rate Coordinator in Portland at (503) 731-4709. If you have any questions about the manner in which the prevailing wage rates are enforced, contact the Wage and Hour Division in Portland at (503) 731-4074, or any of the bureau's field offices.

Dan Gardner
Commissioner
Bureau of Labor & Industries