

A minimum-wage job cant pay the rent anywhere in U.S.

by STEPHEN JOHNSON

 Article Image

What you'd need to earn per hour in each U.S. state to afford a standard 2-BR apartment. (Image: National Low Income Housing Coalition)

A full-time minimum wage isn't enough money to rent an averagely priced one-bedroom home anywhere in the U.S., according to an [annual report](#) issued this week by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

The report illustrates stark realities facing some low-income workers in the U.S. For instance, someone working full time at \$7.25 per hour, the federal minimum wage, would need to put in 122 hours a week to afford a modest two-bedroom rental home, priced at the national average fair market rent of \$1,149, and still have money left for other necessities.

(It's worth noting that researchers used a budgeting standard that says people shouldn't spend more than 30 percent of gross income on rent and utilities. [Not everyone agrees](#) that this standard, which stems from the New Deal era, is useful.)

“The same worker needs to work 99 hours per week for all 52 weeks of the year, or approximately two and a half full-time jobs, to afford a one-bedroom home at the national average fair market rent,” the report [reads](#). “In no state, metropolitan area, or county can a worker earning the federal minimum wage or prevailing state minimum wage afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent by working a standard 40-hour week.”