



EUROSTAT: MONTHLY MINIMUM WAGES ACROSS EU MEMBER STATES IN JANUARY 2015

On 26 February 2015, Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU, published a news release regarding the monthly minimum wages across EU Member States in January 2015.

As of 1st January 2015, **22** out of the **28** Member States of the EU had national minimum wages (not in Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Italy and Sweden). They ranged from 184 € per month in **Bulgaria** to 1.923 € in **Luxembourg**.

Main findings

For those countries where the national minimum wage is not fixed at a monthly rate (i.e. **Germany, Ireland, France, Malta** and **the United Kingdom**), the level of the minimum wage is converted into a monthly rate according to a standard number of hours worked per month that may differ across countries.

The **22 EU Member States** that have national minimum wages can be divided into three main groups based on the level in euro. In January 2015, **10** Member States had minimum wages below 500 € per month: **Bulgaria** (184 €), **Romania** (218 €), **Lithuania** (300 €), **the Czech Republic** (332 €), **Hungary** (333 €), **Latvia** (360 €), **Slovakia** (380 €), **Estonia** (390 €), **Croatia** (396 €) and **Poland** (410 €). In **5** other Member States, minimum wages were between 500 € and 1.000 € per month: **Portugal** (589 €), **Greece** (684 €), **Malta** (720 €), **Spain** (757 €) and **Slovenia** (791 €). In the remaining **7** Member States, minimum wages were well above 1.000 € per month: **the United Kingdom** (1.379 €), **France** (1.458 €), **Ireland** (1.462 €), **Germany** (1.473 €), **Belgium** and **the Netherlands** (both 1.502 €) and **Luxembourg** (€1.923 €). For comparison, the federal minimum wage in **the United States** was just over 1.000 € per month (1.035 €) in January 2015.

Compared with 2008, minimum wages in 2015 expressed in national currency, increased in every Member State having a national minimum wage, except in **Greece** where it dropped by 14% and in **Ireland** where it remained unchanged. Between 2008 and 2015, the highest increases were registered in **Romania** (+95%), **Bulgaria** (+64%), **Slovakia** (+58%) and **Latvia** (+57%).

Minimum wages in the EU Member States, as of 1st January 2015
(in € per month)

